each class has received at former exhibitions, and this support made the standard for succeeding prize lists. When a decided tendency to a falling off in the entries of any particular class takes place, it should then be struck out of the list and numbered with the Any Variety class; while on the other hand, any breed of fowls previously shown only in the Any Variety class, indicating by the number of entries made in the latter class that the breed was becoming popular, and the entries sufficient to warrant the increased outlay in prizes, that variety should be allotted a separate class in the catalogue of prizes. In this way have many of our Asiatic varieties risen from comparative insignificance to be the most prominent classes at our leading English shows. We refer more particularly to Brahmas and Cochins; whilst others again have lost prestige, take for instance the Malays, Polish, &c. There is no surer indication of the worth and merits of a fowl than the estimation in which it is held by the public; and no surer index of this than by the number of entries at exhibitions.

We trust, therefore, ere long, our poultry societies and others having charge of exhibitions, will see the necessity and desirability of altering their present mode of preparing prize lists; and instead of pairs and trios, let us have nothing but classes for single birds.

EGG TESTERS.

Under this heading, some time since, we described how to make one of these useful and necessary accessories to the kitchen and the hatching-room. *The National Live Stock Journal*, Chicago, for July, takes exception to the machine and our remarks as to its applicability in rendering more distinct to the view the internal structure of the egg, by the addition of a lens. We will not cavil with our friend of the *Live Stock Journal* as to the form or size of the machine itself, he having generously admitted that it will "perform the work as well as any other." But we do take exception to his definition of the structure of the shell of the egg, and the views which he promulgates in reference to the sun's rays passing through the shell, and not reflecting the image of the internal structure on the reflector placed inside the Tester.

The materials of the shell do not form an uniform layer, but are arranged in such manner as to leave pores or minute apertures, through which the moisture of the egg can evaporate, the external air gain entrance, to support the breathing of the unhatched chicken, and warmth to be communicated to the embryo. Through these pores or apertures the rays of the sun's light freely pass when the egg is placed on the Tester, in a position to receive them, and reflected on the mirror within. In the transmission of the rays, they do not become "intermingled and confused," so as to render the internal structure without "perception" or "form," but as we have previously stated, with the assistance of a magnifying instrument, each change which takes place within the egg during the process of incubation can be distinctly noticed. There is nothing new in this statement; again and again have all the chemical changes which take place during the period of incubation been noted and published, and the assertion of the editor of the *Live Stock Journal* has somewhat astonished us. We accept his statement, however, that "he has not experimented on eggs undergoing the process of incubation," as a sufficient excuse for his making it."

We will now inform our Chicago friend why it is we prefer the size and shape of the Egg Tester previously described, by us to that which he describes and illustrates:—notwithstanding that he has termed it "clumsy