

Dressed Fowls at Poultry Shows.

BY J. J. LENTON.

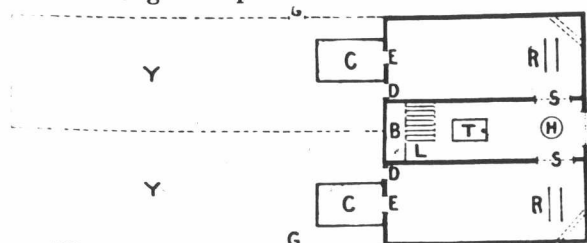
Seldom, if ever, do we see fanciers raising their fowls with the intention of making their market qualities of high degree. All that they seem to think necessary is to have their birds correspond as nearly as possible with the American Standard of Perfection. How often do we see a large, robust-looking specimen sacrificed for a much weaker one, simply because the latter conforms more closely to the standard in some minor points? True, some fanciers are beginning to advertise the laying properties or the great size of the fowls they keep; but how is it we so seldom see these specimens exhibited at our shows as "dressed poultry"? There are hundreds who visit poultry shows who do not know a good bird from a bad one in the show pen, but they "reckon" they know a good fowl when it is dressed. Many of these same people would willingly re-stock their yards with some good breed if they knew how they looked when dressed, or what kind and how many eggs they would lay per year. Now, if there were dressed specimens of the larger varieties on exhibition, these people could easily see for themselves; or if a dozen or two of eggs from the great laying varieties were shown with a placard on them testifying how many of this quality of eggs were laid by a certain number of hens during the year, it would be plainly evident to spectators what variety would suit them. The "real thing" can make a far greater impression than any amount of talking.

The late Port Hope poultry show had a great display of dressed fowls; in fact, ahead of anything seen along that line in Canada before. It was a credit to the exhibitors, the show, and the whole Province. The specimens of chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, etc., were large, well fattened and grandly dressed. It is not always the largest birds that attract the most attention. It is the most enticing to the eye. It is almost useless trying to describe any of these specimens, but special mention might be made of some chicks of the Indian game—B. P. Rock cross—that weighed 13½ pounds per pair. The manner in which they were dressed would make any one feel hungry. Now, fanciers, do you suppose farmers, who want something with market qualities, would care any more for your 94-point birds than these cross-breeds, if they don't weigh as much or dress as well? We know that every one likes a thing as near perfection as possible, and, therefore, will not the farmer feel more interested in the 94-point "pointer" if he will dress as nice or nicer than any cross-bred. Fanciers could find good customers in farmers for their surplus stock if they would take pains to cultivate and breed more for useful properties.

A Convenient Poultry-house for the Farm.

BY MRS. IDA E. TILSON.

W. H. Hudson, the naturalist, says (what we all will admit) that young birds have no instinctive dread of enemies, and, at first, take food readily from man; but fear is gradually taught them by their experienced parents, or, alas! too often, by man's own harshness. My fowls being familiar pets, lightens the work of marketing, feeding, or doctoring. Many are known by name, and have their individual traits, which draw out no little study and interest on our part. Indeed, we get much entertainment, as well as profit, from our untaxed property vested in hens. Though with the Institutes six weeks, last summer, my older fowls evidently knew me on my return, because they clustered round me as they were said not to have done by any one while I was gone. I have heard of a hen so tame that she made her nest under a loom used daily; and of another which laid in an open bureau-drawer. Still another laid on a bed; and one aspiring biddy chose the top of a bookcase. As there are birds of various ages, appetites and dispositions in nearly every flock, the poultryer can best become acquainted with and regulate small groups. Just imagine the ungoverned, unkempt mobs of 200 or 300 fowls, all running together, I have seen on some farms. Being often asked about the proper size of a flock, I say not over 50 fowls; and feel that is almost giving license instead of liberty, because a smaller number is really better. Often, the next request is for an apartment-house which will be cheaper than separate buildings for the division of a flock. The most convenient double house I have seen has its ground plan below:



In this diagram, O is the owner's entrance from outside, and H, his oil heater; SS are two large, slatted doors which, in winter, let warmth into both rooms, and particularly upon the roosts, marked RR; this central hall has space for some barrels or bins of grain, at B, and a trap-door, T, which admits to the cellar beneath, where their vegetables are kept; a ladder, L, leads to the attic floor, on which sawdust is now scattered, to make the ceiling still warmer, and where the owner thinks it will be convenient to put things from time to

time; EE are small entrances to CC—low, covered runs, designed for severe weather; DD are small doors leading to YY—yards where the fowls can be confined during garden-making. Although we give our flock free range, with little loss or trouble, I admit that a garden, at its early stages, before seeds are rooted, would be benefited by having the hens retired to a respectful distance. By means of doors, SS and O, or gates, GG, the owner can let either one or both flocks have freedom of his entire premises, as he often does at suitable times. The one window in each room is above and higher than covered run and entrance to latter. The window is hung on hinges, which fit it for summer or winter use, at pleasure. On my visit, there was no wire netting over windows in rooms nor runs, but I advised it, as without, fowls are sure, sooner or later, to fly against and break the glass, and through unprotected open windows, owls and dogs may enter; but lath slats, often used instead of open-work wire, are too darkening. If the house were mine, I should try placing the movable roosts across corners, on dotted lines, thus nearly facing both window and door, in either room. A front draft is generally safest, striking where the great organs are specially centered for resistance; one on the back is next, and poorest of all is a side current of air, which cools or heats one-half of body faster than the other half, and thus destroys equilibrium of the system. God's creation is so joined together, so evinces one mighty hand, that this, like many other things, is equally true for man. In some parts of Minn., tamarack poles are at hand for roosts, but I tried not to talk about them on the prairies, where only battens, with sharpness of edges taken off, are available. A former dealer in trees and shrubs, told me if tamaracks are cut in winter, when there is little flow of sap, the poles will not check. A sort of blue beech, growing along streams here, is hard and durable. In house above described, the roosts, shaped like frame of a table, are bolted and hinged together, so they can be taken apart or swung up out of way. I have in one house, sharpened 2 x 4 pieces driven into the earthen bottom. With auger and chisel, a groove was made on top of each, and within these grooves rest fitted battens, which lift up and out when we wish to clean. Though the posts are stationary, we can thus go all round among them. Cross-pieces, slipped under leather loops, afford fowls a passage-way from one perch to another, which reminds me that a punster, talking about the ground space per fowl, said each biddy certainly required a perch at night. Saw-horses make very complete roosts, if the braces are put on inside, and serve as cleats for dropping boards. Or saw horses may themselves be grooved, and serve as supports to receive other roosts. At one place where I found immovable roosts, it was said in justification, "The carpenter made them so;" but a carpenter is not a poultryman. Most of us have learned by sad experience that without some knowledge and directions on our part, things do not get properly done of themselves. An aunt used to say outside show and inside shabbiness often went together. All the biddies would gladly join her in asking for inside comfort rather than outside ornament, but outside neatness is not without effect on sales. More than once, people have told me they liked the looks of my houses and liked to eat eggs out of them.

The owner of the diagrammed house is a druggist, who uses, to crack wheat for his chicks and grind their charcoal in, a discarded mill from his store. My father has broken wheat for chicks by running it through our family coffee-mill. When parched, as a lady suggested to me, it would go through still easier, and make a wholesome change. Could one get hold of a second-hand, large coffee-mill, such as used in grocery stores, he would have a fine thing.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[In order to make this department as useful as possible, parties enclosing stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail, in cases where early replies appear to us advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquirers must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

Legal.

DAMAGES.

"TENANT." 1. "A rented from B a farm on shares for two years. B was to have the use of one-half of the pasture land; and he did turn in on the pasture a number of cattle; but when the pasturing was done B was dissatisfied and claimed he did not get his half. He was not, however, prevented from putting the number of animals on the pasture to use his half. Is he now entitled to make A pay him for the proportion of his share which he may not have got?"

[No.]

2. "B was also to have the right to turn in seven head of cattle during each of the two winters, to use up his share of the straw, and A was to feed and take care of the cattle. The first winter B sold to A his share of the straw, and in the second winter B, instead of turning in his cattle to be fed as provided by the agreement, came on the first of

January and took away all the straw that was there at the time. Can A recover any damages from B for this?"

[If B took more than his half of the straw, of course A is entitled to recover the reasonable cost of replacing upon the premises the straw wrongfully taken. If, however, B took only his half of the straw, then, as it was the last winter of the tenancy, and A, we suppose, lost no value of the manure, we do not see that A suffered damage, and if he lost nothing, he, of course, can recover nothing. If however, A's term did not expire till the following season's crop was taken off, and he so lost the benefit of the manure, he would be entitled to damages.]

3. "There was no agreement that B should have the right to do fall ploughing in the last fall of the term, but B did send a man immediately after harvest who ploughed up some pasture and who used a part of the stable and buildings on the farm, notwithstanding that A did object at the time. What are the legal rights of the parties as to this?"

[B was a trespasser and should not have been allowed to do the work at that time, and he is liable for all damages A sustained by reason of it; and he should be compelled also to pay a reasonable amount for the use by him of the buildings, etc., during the time.]

SOLICITORS' COSTS.

SUBSCRIBER:—"A appealed from the rating charged against his farm as fixed by the Township Engineer for the construction of a drain across several farms, and on the appeal the Judge advised a settlement, and the Judge's advice was acted on without him giving a judgment. Who will have to pay the costs of the solicitors for each of the parties?"

[In the absence of any direction by the Judge, each party must pay his own solicitor's costs.]

FIXTURES.

READER:—"I. 'A having sold his farm to B, has A, after the sale, the right to remove hay-slings, car and track,—the track being hung on hooks and not bolted to the building?"

[Yes.]

2. "Can A, in such a case, legally remove a pump out of the well and take it away?"

[No.]

REMOVING CORNSTALKS.

SUBSCRIBER:—"A tenant by his lease, which is in writing, agreed not to remove from the farm any straw or manure. In the absence of anything further, would cornstalks be considered as straw?"

[No.]

Veterinary.

RESULT OF GARGET OF THE UDDER.

W. W. EVERETT, Chatham:—"I have a young cow three years old; calved five weeks ago, but one front quarter of udder seems to be shrinking away and gives very little milk. There does not seem to be any hardness or soreness, and what milk she gives comes easy. After her first calf she became very much fevered, and we had some difficulty with her udder, but it came 'round all right."

[In heavy milkers it is the rule that the udder becomes enlarged, hot, and tender to the touch, and is known as one form of healthy inflammation; this passes off in a few days. Should it become bruised or subject to cold, it may pass on to another stage and become truly inflamed; this condition is known as garget or mammitis, and if properly attended, recovery ensues. When this process terminates in suppuration, then an abscess forms; in this case the parts were not so much destroyed, and in consequence absorption of the material took place, and we have what is known as atrophy—shrinking or drying up of the substance of the udder, and known as a blind quarter. In these cases very little can be done to restore the parts; constant hand-rubbing with some mild, stimulating ointment is the only remedy.]

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ABSCESS IN SHOULDER.

JNO. PAGET, Sundridge:—"I have a valuable horse which has bruised the centre of his off shoulder with the collar; it is now very sore. I have tried everything that I know of—to no avail. What would be best to do in this case?"

[Well foment the parts bruised, with hot flannels, for three days, then have mixed by the chemist the following ointment: Biniodide of mercury, one drachm; lard, one ounce; oil of origan, 20 drops; apply the whole of it around the parts after clipping off the hair, and in two or three days you will have an abscess ready to lance; make an opening into the softest part, and keep open until thoroughly healed by a pledget of cotton wool.]

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INFLUENZA.

2. "There is a disease among the horses of this vicinity which commences like a cold, with cough and discharge from the nostrils. Horses affected with it become poor, and are easily played out. What would you advise as a remedy for the above?"

[This disease presents itself in a variety of forms, and in many cases requires special treatment. Keep the animal warm, and in a comfortable, loose box; give light, nourishing food: warm bran and flaxseed mash, a few carrots, etc. Give the following draught: Solution of acetate of ammonium, two ounces; spirits of nitrous ether, one ounce; whiskey, four ounces; twice a day in half a pint of water. On the first symptoms of this disease stop the animal from work, or it frequently happens that the animal does not recover.]

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