

My Poultry House

(Continued.)

FRIEND FULLERTON.—In my last I gave cost of poultry house &c. It will be noticed that no estimate was made of labor. Having done the work myself before and after regular working hours, I find it impossible to do so. But any farmer can do the work himself much more cheaply than by making use of skilled labor, which costs money, and is not requisite to the erection of such a place.

I might add that 2½ feet high behind, or three at most, would be high enough. I shall build another in the spring, and shall have it only that height behind.

I can recommend to any person about to build, "Poultry Architecture," by H. H. Stoddard, of *Poultry World*.

Again, in the space in front not occupied by windows I shall have doors about two feet from the ground, with hinges at the bottom, opening outwards, so that upon a fine day the house can be changed into a shed, which will not only be enjoyable to the fowls, but will do much to keep the house pure and sweet, and also save cost of providing such a place, which I understand many do. Louis Wright, Esq., in his contributions to American *Poultry Journal* on the subject of poultry farming, says that "sheds should be provided in addition to houses." Now, when the day is fit for birds to be out in a shed, why should not the poultry-house be open to the purifying effects of the sun's rays? and then why shall it not perform the part of both shed and house? At present, on a sunny day, no matter how cold the wind may be from north, west or east, when the windows of my house are let down it is really comfortable inside, and the birds express their appreciation of it by kicking up a dust and having a general rollic.

I shall state for the benefit of a large class in Canada, that for the past year, the first in many, I have enjoyed a perfect respite from dyspepsia and the host of other ills consequent upon a sedentary employment. I find in the care of a yard of fancy poultry just the exercise required by those whose employment furnishes too much mind work and not enough physical exercise. It is not the physical exercise alone which it furnishes that makes it so valuable, but the interesting and pleasant mind work which is also supplied. It does seem rather paradoxical to assert that by taking the mind from one kind of work only to engage it in another is beneficial to it, yet such is the case. It is the overexercise of the mind without any of the body that is so fatal to both. Our colleges understand this and supply the want by furnishing a gymnasium and requiring gymnastical exercises. But any business man or any student is aware how

much the mind is rested and capacitated by a change of subject. I took the usual amount of drags, also the orthodox exercise of gardening, walking, &c., but they failed to effect any permanent improvement, because, in my opinion, the mind was unengaged. It is well known how tenaciously the mind will cling to the business details of the day, or to any disagreeable subject, going over it again and again, till a man forgets all about hoeing and weeding, and comes to himself to find that plants and weeds have been suffering destruction alike.

Now, to the business man, or to all who are similarly situated, I would say, try a few fowls, attend to them yourself; have the best if possible, or at least strive to excel, and you will find, I am confident, that they are worth more to you for a means of recreation than all they cost.

I am yours fraternally,

GALINZE.

Lefroy, Dec. 30th, 1880.

Cross-bred Table Fowl.

Anything coming from the pen of Mr. Tegetmeier regarding poultry or pigeons is always read by me with much pleasure. He stands amongst the first in Britain as a fancier and naturalist; he is a practical man, and almost everything he writes and the information he gives is that which he has himself gained by actual experience. The *London Field*, just to hand, contains a letter from him, giving his experience this year in crossing the Dorking and Brown-red game hen for producing a large and fine table fowl. So interesting do I consider this to the numerous readers of the REVIEW that I cannot do better than append it verbatim, which I do at the foot of this. If an early maturing fowl can be bred, superior in size to the game and not inferior to him in flavor, it would certainly be a step in advance in producing fowls for the table. It is quite interesting to note the successful result of Mr. Tegetmeier's crossing the Dorking cock on the Game hen, and the unsuccessful experiment of his friend who mated the Game cock with the Dorking hen. This would, so far as these experiments are concerned, go to show that the chicks partake more of the mother's side than they do of the cock. Mr. T. seems to have a hesitation in breeding brother and sister to continue the crossed strain, to see what they would again produce. It is almost a pity he did not raise two clutches, bred in the same manner, so that he would for next season be able to match a cock and hen of the cross, which would not be so nearly related. I am a believer in in-breeding, and am of the opinion the nearer the second cross is bred to the first the better, and the more likely it is to show the qualities of that side of the first cross