

practical experience, and many trials of other kinds of floors, I am convinced one of boards is by far the best. It is all very well if there is a man able to cart the top off and renew with fresh earth every month or two, to have an earth floor, but it is a laborious process, and one that is almost sure to be neglected, and the odor from it in spring, as soon as the snow begins to go and the earth get warm, is very hurtful to the stock. I do not like either concrete or plaster walls; they strike so cold, although the frost may not be able to effect an entrance, but as you have the warmth of the bank on one side, it will not be so surrounded by the concrete, and the cold will be as it were broken. Don't make the mistake of putting in small windows. Let what you have allow a good flood of light to come in; it has a most wonderful effect on the health (I had almost said the spirits) of the birds. They are so lively and vigorous in the light.

#### Marking of the Brown Leghorns.

**S**TEPHEN Green: The Brown Leghorn cock's head is short and deep, and his color is a dark bay, shading into a lighter tint of red on the neck. The beak is yellowish and the eyes full and bright, inclining to red. The face is also red, and, unlike many birds, free from wrinkles. The comb is single or rose. If single, it is firm and nicely placed with five or six points. If the comb be a rose, it should be square in front, evenly placed on the head and the top moderately flat. The ear lobes are white and fit closely to the head except where they are pendant, and the wattles are long and thin and the same color as the face. The neck should be lengthy and arched and the hackle well spread over the front upper part of the body. The back must be of medium length the saddle rising in an upward rounded curve toward the tail. The wings are large and well folded; the tail upright, large and handsome. The hen is much like the cock, though not so showy, and is modified about in proportion as the females of other breeds are less pretentious in their dress than the males. A good work for you to obtain on this subject is the American Standard of Excellence, furnished by this office; \$1 postage paid.

If neighbor's hens are troublesome  
And steal across the way  
Don't let your angry passions rise  
But fix a place for them to lay.

For the Poultry Weekly.

#### Toronto Bantam, Pigeon and Pet Stock Club.

**O**N TUESDAY, May 21st, 1889, the above club held its usual monthly meeting, the president in the chair. There was a fair attendance of members. The annual report was handed in by the late secretary and was accepted. Two more specials were given by Mr. A. J. Groves, viz., one for best young Short Face Antwerp and one for best young Barb. There was a good show of Carriers, Barbs, Tumblers and lop ear Rabbits. The prizes were:—Pigeons 1st W. Fox, Dun Carrier hen; 2nd, E. F. Doty, Black Carrier cock; 3rd, A. J. Groves, Black Carrier hen, Rabbits Lop Ear, 1st and 2nd W. Fox. Judges, Messrs. Barber and Donovan. As no further business remained to be transacted, the meeting adjourned.

E. F. DOTY, Secy.

#### Report of the Poultry Manager of the Government Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

##### INCUBATOR TRIAL.

**O**N THE 10th of May last a Bessey Incubator of 100 egg capacity was put into operation with a small number of eggs for our first attempt. Twenty-eight chickens were the result. Three died soon after being hatched. The remaining twenty-five were transferred at the proper time to the brooder and made rapid headway.

##### CROSSES.

Among the chickens so hatched were five male birds of a cross between a Brahma cockerel and Plymouth Rock hens. This cross was made with the view of ascertaining what sort of market fowl it would produce, and was successful. A cockerel of this cross (hatched on the 31st of May) weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. on the 17th of October following, showing a gain of nearly 1½ lbs. per month.

Another trial was made of a cross between a Black Cockerel and Black Minorca hens and resulted in the production of several very fine, large dark pullets, which ought to make an excellent fowl for the farmer, embracing as they should the egg laying properties of the Minorca with the hardiness and size of the Brahma. The pullets will lay in a few days.

##### NEW POULTRY HOUSE COMPLETED.

By the middle of November the new poultry house was completed and the chickens were removed into it. Briefly sketched the building is 100 feet long, running north and south, with a middle compartment 20x29 feet, from which