

known at present than boiled rice, alternated with dry oatmeal, avoiding soft, sloppy food of all kinds, and feeding small wheat as the chief diet as soon as they are old enough to eat it. A fair allowance of milk, sweet or sour, is desirable after three weeks from the shell, but previous to that, especially in confinement, has a tendency to diarrhoea. Curd made from sour milk is good food for the chicks at any age. As the young birds grow older, say three months old, those intended for the block should be separated if possible from the pullets intended for the laying stock, and fed largely on corn, which will fatten them much more readily than most other grains, but which, with the pullets, is not desirable, as it retards the development of the ovarian organs. On the contrary, they should be fed chiefly on wheat and oats, with a feed of scalded bran in the morning. As winter comes on it is best to keep all in the house, if sufficient room is available; if not, they must have the run of a shed or some other place where they will not have wet, cold feet. In winter, laying hens should be fed scalded bran in the morning and whole grain later on in the day. The latter should not be thrown to them, as is so frequently done, but scattered in short straw or chaff from six inches to a foot in depth. This gives them exercise which is almost indispensable to health and productiveness. Two laying seasons should be the life of fowls; while they may lay fairly the third, they will not equal the first or second, nor even approach it, and at the end of the second laying season they will be in very good shape for the table, while if kept another season they will be decidedly inferior. In every department the most rigid economy must be practised, and every person of taste will find many things to feed not specified in this short essay, such as cabbage, turnips, scraps of meats, etc., etc., and in all cases feed only what will be consumed, and better not quite enough than too much.

A Step Backward.

At the meeting of the American Poultry Association last winter a motion was passed admitting pit games to the standard, but the good sense of the Association prevailed, and the question was reconsidered and rescinded.

And yet the Directors of the Ontario Poultry Association have seen fit (as will be seen from the minutes of the last meeting) to place pit Games on the prize list of the show to be held the second week in January next. Surely Canadian sentiment has outgrown the barbarous pastime of cock-fighting; and if the Directors are not awake to the fact, it is time for some one to touch them with a sharp stick. Standard games are a majestic bird, graceful and handsome, being bred for color, size and utility, and are entitled to rank high as to economic value; but the pit bird, bred for the purpose of fighting, and fighting only, or at least that is the *ne plus ultra* of the breeders' aim—any other merit being secondary—and dollars in economic merit would be sacrificed for cents, in fighting powers. It is to be hoped that the next Board of Directors will be men of sufficient stamina and pride to reconsider this step and undo it.

Tarred paper is excellent for covering the inside of buildings. There is no doubt but it prevents the accumulation of lice and parasites within the house, besides the smell is healthful and counteracts bad odors.

The Advantages Possessed by the Farmer to Raise Poultry.

BY C. G. PETER.

I firmly believe that the farmer is pre-eminently the man, and the farm just the spot of all others, for successful and remunerative poultry raising. In conversation with a farmer at a late exhibition I expressed this opinion, as I often have before, and he remarked: "It may pay you; but my fowls do not pay me." "Are they thoroughbred?" I asked. "No!" he replied, emphatically; "you don't catch me wasting my time feeding a lot of fowls." And, strange as it may appear, I often get a reply similar to the above. And this false idea, that good stock needs very different every-day care and food from common fowls is so prevalent, that I will just say a few words about it. Let us take the above man's objection: "Wasting time feeding a lot of fowls." Are we to suppose that he did not feed those he had? At all events, they must procure enough food or die; and what will sustain life in a mongrel will do the same office for pure stock. And if it should ever be that farmers in Canada will investigate the matter without prejudice, they will find in thoroughbred poultry a source of wealth that has been too much neglected, and, I might say, despised. In the first place, there is nothing on the farm which will give so quick returns as poultry; and any man of any business intelligence whatever looks out for "quick returns" as one of the great avenues of profit. Then there is little or no risk of any appreciable value. Besides this, the waste of the farm and the insects they destroy, will keep a large flock, which will only need feeding during the severe months of winter. The food they search and consume is not useful for any other purpose, and the destruction of insects is a help which cannot be estimated. As I have referred to thoroughbred stock as being preferable, I will state the reasons:—

1. The different breeds are strong in one or more points which tend to profit; they are extra egg producers; or large-bodied for table purposes, and quick to form flesh and reach the killing stage; some are active and fly high, others could not fly over a three-foot fence, and are quiet, &c.

2. By having a certain breed and keeping them pure, one is certain of what he is doing. He knows what to expect of every bird he has. There is no "guessing" about it. Besides, the flock being uniform in appearance, tends to a beauty which is sure to please the eye of the most careless beholder. It is surprising that such an intelligent, careful, thrifty people as farmers are, will not look into this question, or that such a source of income has been at their hands unnoticed, or nearly so. There are many who think that the beautiful specimens seen at our exhibitions could not be bred and raised by any but a fancier, who is thought to have some peculiar knack of manufacturing prize birds, and who has, it is supposed, superior and curiously-constructed habitations for them. To judge by the remarks made, such as: "The expense you fanciers go to;" or, "If I had a place like you;" or, "If I could breed such birds as those, I would have thoroughbreds," &c. But the fact is, that the fancier in nearly every case has not a quarter the chance to raise superior stock that the farmer has; for the advantages of the latter, which he enjoys by the very nature of his sur-

roundings, viz., having an unlimited range for his birds, a great variety of food for them, and an opportunity of being often (at least daily) among his birds, are only attainable to most fanciers through unceasing thought and care, to imitate those gifts of nature possessed by the farmer.

In this letter I have endeavored to create some interest for pure-bred birds. In my next contribution I shall take up their feeding.

Another.

Still another new breed. This time, however, not from American brains, but of English origin. They are called Orpingtons, and described as large, black, meaty birds, and prolific layers, being made up of a combination of Plymouth Rock, Minorca and Langshan blood. We shall watch this new acquisition with interest. They have not yet reached this continent; but, doubtless, some of the English firms that have been exporting so largely during the last three seasons will call the attention of Canadian fanciers to these in the near future.

Poultry Association of Ontario.

Following are the principal changes made in the prize list and other business done so far as it would interest our readers. In view of the application to place Black and Golden Wyandottes on the list, it will in future read Laced Wyandottes and Wyandottes any other variety. (This is fair, as it will place the laced varieties in one class and the solid varieties in another.) Javas was changed to Black Javas; any other variety Bantams changed to Polish Bantams; Laflèche and Crevecours cut off, and a class for any other French variety substituted (a wise course). A class was added for pet game. The date of exhibition was fixed for the second week in January (at St. Catharines), and the annual meeting for Thursday of the show week. Following are the judges and their respective varieties:—Asiatics, Games, Hamburgs, all varieties of Bantams and Ducks—Sharp Butterfield, Sandwich, Leghorns, Dorkings, Polands, Houdans, Wyandottes, Turkeys, Geese—L. C. Jarvis, Port Stanley. Langshans, Javas, Spanish, Plymouth Rocks, Minorcas, Andalusians, and other variety French and any other variety fowls—T. H. Smelt, Guelph. Pigeons, rabbits and pets—Ham. Cooper, Hamilton.

Small eggs from hens indicate a diseased state of the ovaries, the oviduct alone discharging its functions.

By keeping your poultry yard tidy, it will go a great way toward making sales and increasing the reputation of the breeder.

The spring time is the season of development, and the chicken that commences its development with nature, makes the most perfect one, both physically and as a breeder.

H. Ehey writes in the Ohio Farmer:—On March 8, 1888, I penned up fifteen hens of last year's hatch. Seven Wyandotte hens laid 828 eggs in 184 days; seven Leghorns laid 796 eggs, and one Langshan laid 124 eggs in the same time. The hens were all confined 184 days and all fared alike. This is an exact statement.

It is somewhat strange that an old breed like the Dorking, the pride of the English cottager and farmer, should suffer from unfavorable impressions regarding their adaptation to our climate. They are a good sized fowl, fair layers and superior in flesh qualities, and are fairly hardy. We consider them among the best, if not the best, fowl for Canadian farmers.