

is sometimes difficult to get old hens quite even in color but I do not think this of so much importance in breeding as size and shape."

Oakland Farm, than whom no one has done more for the buff Cochin interests in America, say: "We are bitterly opposed to mating extremes. You can never hope to get birds that will breed true by so doing. We believe the female should be nearly as possible the color of the male's breast, in fact the male and female should be as nearly alike in color as it is possible to get them. What we are after is a nice, even surface color and we do not care very much about under color so long as it is sound, that is without white or blue, too strong an under color we have found is very apt to give an uneven or mealy surface color, and oftentimes fades more quickly than birds' lighter and softer in under color. This may or may not be true, but it is an experience, and I assure you we have tried all kinds. We have avoided using dark under color in our yards for four years. We make but the one mating for male and female and we use but very few females and those few are our very best."

Summary, use birds with good yellow beaks and legs, bay eyes, even colored plumage as near the Standard shade as you can obtain free from mealiness or mottled in any way, with as sound wings and tail as you have and you will never regret it.

[Dr. Bell illustrated his remarks with feathers from various birds and also with an excellent buff Cochin from his own yard. Ed.]

VENTILATION AND DISEASE.

BY J. L. PAGE, WOODSTOCK, ONT.

REWING that a great deal has been said and written on the above subject by older and more experienced heads than myself, it was only after consulting one very high in authority on all things pertaining to poultry that I decided to give the readers of the REVIEW my experience with the subject mentioned. Last spring I noticed in the REVIEW a query from a reader asking the Editor the cause of colds among his fowl, saying he had a top ventilator in his house. Mr. Editor says, "top ventilator and colds, cause and effect, my friend." Well, having seen a great many houses where common flocks were housed, and having noticed that they were provided with both top and bottom ventilation by a careless carpenter (the hot air going out at the top and the cold coming in at the bottom), and the fowls apparently healthy, I could not see the

force of the argument, and so decided to put in a top ventilator for use as long as the weather was mild, intending to put a pipe down the wall near the floor afterwards. This worked all right by regulating it according to temperature, until a very cold snap came on and I had to close it entirely most of the time, and being busy I neglected to put in the other pipe until I noticed dirty noses on several of my fowl, and then got a move on to put things right. I made a pipe four inches square inside, with an opening the same size at each end and two at equal distances between, all provided with slides to open and close at will. Having got everything ready I went out at night to put my pipe in place, taking a large tin lamp with me. I went inside the poultry house and my light went out at once. I set it on a shelf and lit it, and it would burn until I put the glass on and then it would go out very quickly. I set it on the floor and tried it, and it was worse. The placing of the glass in position caused the foul air to pass up through the burner close to the flame. After getting my pipe arranged and the house full of pure air, the lamp burned perfectly. Very soon the cases of cold(?) disappeared, the house became dry and comfortable, and everything went on all right. My theory was this: A poultry house should never be entirely closed. It should have a ventilator that can be opened at the top, bottom or part way up; for in using a top ventilator only, you are forced to close it sometimes, then the house quickly fills with foul air (poison), which causes an inflammation in the air passages and throat, a discharge following as a matter of course—hence the colds complained of. I have proved it to my own satisfaction and would like to hear what others think of it. I might just add that my coop is built double all around, matched stuff with paper inside each wall, leaving an air-tight space and double windows and doors. Birds don't get frosted in my coop. I use drop boards, and the sun never looks in on any dirt in my house.

[Will our correspondent kindly give next month the page in which the advice he refers to is given. Doubtless there will be some explanation not apparent now.—Ed.]

CANADIAN WILD GEESE.

Editor Review:

We have an inquiry from one of our customers for twelve *Canadian geese eggs*, and will you kindly inform us who is the breeder of this stock in your section, and also the price. We wish that you would give this matter your prompt attention and oblige,

Yours very respectfully,
EXCELSIOR WIRE AND POULTRY SUPPLY CO.

New York, April 20th, 1897.

Who can supply these? Ed.