

comes on with a sort of swelling, and goes on, if not stopped, till the foot suppurates, and off drop the claws and sometimes the foot. I found out a cure for it: In one-fourth of the solution of chloride of soda and three parts of boiled rain water, with just the chill off, put into a little galley pot, and the bird's feet put in twice or thrice a day. The same water will do for a day or so; but it must be kept corked up, as this solution is a solution of soda impregnated with chlorine gas, and not, as many of the chemists will tell you, common salt. I have known this to cure birds after one or two of the claws had dropped off.

Our Letter Box.

VERMIN IN POULTRY HOUSES.—(*A Subscriber* writes:—I frequently see receipts for destroying vermin, or shall I say lice, in poultry houses. I have a remedy as simple as it is effectual, which I have not yet seen published. Take green boughs of cedar and place them in the roosting houses and coops, and they will utterly exterminate everything in the shape of vermin. I once had my poultry house so bad that the chickens were perfectly covered with insect vermin, and were actually driven out of it, and by this means I destroyed every one of the insects. Let anyone who is troubled with lice in their poultry houses just try this.

MATCHING FOWLS.—(*Young Beginner.*) The cock has most influence on the fancy points, and the hen most upon the form and size. It is therefore better to breed from small cocks and large hens, than *vice versa*. Large chickens may be raised from Brahma fowls of moderate size. The rapidity with which young Brahma chicks grow, is truly astonishing. In matching Light Brahmas for breeding, it is always better to have the hen with a darker hackle than the cock; by this means you will the more readily secure perfectly pencilled hackles in the chickens. The cream colour in the white of the Light Brahmas has its admirers as well as the pure white, but the former must not be confounded with the yellow patches of feathers so frequently seen in the Light Brahmas, and which are a decided disqualification.

VULTURE HOCKS IN FOWLS.—*Amateur* asks us "What are vulture hocks?" Take a Brahma or Cochins fowl—as it is only in these large breeds vulture hocks are to be found—and place it on the ground with the tail towards you, examine its legs, and

if you see long feathers projecting straight outwards from the lower part of the thigh so that the hock of the bird may be seen, then this fowl is called vulture hocked, in contra-distinction to one whose feathers curl softly round the hock and completely hide it from view. Vulture hocks, according to the Standard of Excellence, are objectionable, but not a disqualification, yet at all the English poultry shows lately held, judges disqualify birds having vulture hocks.

EGG-EATING HENS.—(*W. F. G., Toronto.*)—In reply to your question, we cannot do better than give you the following answer, which we clip from the *Journal of Horticulture*:—"Break an egg and dust the contents nicely with fine Cayenne pepper, afterwards turning the egg round so as to get the pepper below the yolk, if possible, and leave the egg in the offender's nest; or, if he catches her in the act of eating an egg, let him drive her away quietly and place pepper in the remainder of the egg, endeavouring, as stated before, to get the pepper underneath. He will very soon see her running furiously about with distended beak. If one dose is not sufficient, administer another, a little stronger; but I think once will be enough, for I saw the remedy tried, and it turned out to be A PERFECT CURE."

PLAN OF POULTRY HOUSE.—(*A Subscriber.*) On page 38 will be found plan of a poultry house, which you would do well to study. The plan may be enlarged to suit any number of fowls you choose to keep, and if built as directed will be quite warm enough for your poultry in the winter season, provided you keep them in the covered run during very severe weather. Large fowls not supplied with roosts should have a good clean bed of straw to sleep on, which should be well shaken up and the droppings taken away every morning.

Advertisements.

EGGS FOR HATCHING.—From stock containing some imported, and many prize birds:—Dark Brahma and Partridge Cochins, \$5 per dozen; Buff and White Cochins, and Houdans, \$3 per dozen; Black Hamburg, White Leghorn, Black Spanish, and Silver Grey Dorking, \$2 per dozen. Also, a pair of White Cochins, and a trio of Black Spanish Fowls for sale.

J. W. ACRES, Box 143, Paris, Ontario.

FOR SALE.—ONE IMPORTED
Buff Cochins Cock. Splendid bird. JOHN
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Imported Dark Brahma and Buff Cochins
Fowl at \$20 a pair. A. McLEAN HOWARD, Toronto.