

if not too cold and are always healthy. In the first mentioned house I have had birds for twenty-six years and they do well. Yes.

Doon.

JOSEPH KINSEY.

Our question for next month is "How do you feed laying hens in winter, with the object of getting the greatest number of eggs, and under what conditions are they kept?"

We should like to see a much larger number of answers than we are able to publish in this issue.

NOTES.

THE Silver cup offered by Mr. Wagner, for competition at the Ontario, has been on view at the REVIEW office for some days. It is an exceedingly handsome cup standing on an ebony base and is surmounted by a newly hatched chick; over all is a glass globe or case. We envy the lucky winner.

Noticing in the REVIEW articles on cock feathered hen, we might also say, we have one of that tribe. She is a brown Léghorn, her comb stands perfectly straight, has a first class hackle for a cock, also large tail and long sickles. She first received her cock feathers three years ago, and has never laid an egg since that time. We don't know how old she is but we expect she is somewhere near her teens, her age being the reason we have always accounted for her cock feathers. The reason we have kept her is simply for curiosity. Don't you think Mr. Editor, you should have ours and try and breed from the pair. If this is of any use to you, you can make use of it as you please.

We are yours truly,

ALLIN BRO'S,
Newcastle.

Cases of this kind appear to be much more usual than we had any idea of. We should be pleased to view the bird and report in its internal formation. No doubt "Science" would be glad to help us on this point.

"Science" has kindly supplied us with the following facts: At the November meeting of the Linnean Society of England, Mr. G. N. Douglas exhibited the train of a pea hen which had assumed the male plumage, the bird was believed to be about 30 years old at the time of death and for some years previously had not laid any eggs. In the

opinion of the exhibitor and some others, this peculiarity was associated with disease of the ovaries. Similar cases had occurred with fowls, pheasants and black game but not so far as was known with pea fowl.

The *British Fancier* informs us that Mrs. Entwisle has sent out to Dr. W. W. Walkem, of Nanaimo, B. C., a trio of black-red Game Bantams, and a trio of duckwings.

A WEEK AT BIRMINGHAM.

BY MR. W. COOK.

THE Crystal Palace Show is of course the great event of the day, but the Bingley Hall Show is thought most of in the midland counties. As far as I am concerned, I am always very much interested in the Birmingham Show, because I meet with people from all parts, many of whom give me an account of how they have got on with their birds during the year, the number of chickens they have hatched, and how many eggs they have produced. I was more particularly interested this year in the results of the Orpington. A number of people said they never had such birds for laying, and many of them said they were going in only for Orpingtons, as not only were the laying qualities praised very much, but they told me the old hens had shed their feathers and were in full lay again. One thing may be said to account for that, we have had a very mild season, though it has been wet. The Orpington will stand cold and wet better than any other variety I have had, and I find this to be the general opinion all round. Although the weather has been so mild many Poultry keepers told me their egg list was lower this November than last. It would take too much space to put down all my Poultry friends told me, but nearly everyone failed to a great extent early in the season. Not more than two out of every twenty were successful with their early eggs. Most of them said that they never had their birds grow faster than they had done this season, and I was asked several times why this was, but of course I could not say without seeing the birds, but the probabilities are that in previous years the fowls were thicker upon the ground, as there were more of them than there were this year. In many cases, too, the farmers divided their chickens into two or three lots, and kept them from the hens entirely. Now, this is one step in the right direction, and would greatly assist in helping the owners to make their Poultry pay. The old fashioned way of rearing chickens is to bring them up with the old hens all running together, and in many cases sleeping together.