

# Canada Poultry Journal.

*Devoted to the*

BREEDING, MANAGING, AND MARKETING OF POULTRY, PIGEONS,  
BEES, AND PET STOCK.

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Vol. I.      BROOKLIN, ONT., CANADA, JULY, 15th, 1876.      No. 11

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*Silver Pencilled Hamburgs.*

The above cut is a correct representation of the Silver Pencilled Hamburgs. They differ from the Silver Spangled only in their markings, and perhaps by being a trifle smaller bird. They are thought by many, to be the prettiest of any of the Hamburg class. Our experience with them for the last eight years, is, that they are better layers than any other variety of the Hamburg class, at least; but they lay a little smaller

egg. They have been bred in Canada and the States for a good many years, and were formerly called Chittiprats; and by some Bolton Grays; and even now they are so-called by some. But the proper name for them is Silver Pencilled Hamburgs. During the last few years, there have been some fine specimens imported from England, which no doubt will have the effect of very much improving our stock in Canada.

### *Diseases of Canaries.*

*Continued from Page 148.*

The cause of birds moulting the second time, is that they are kept in too warm a situation. Birds are very often kept in a kitchen, where there is a great deal of steam and foul air, which is injurious to their health, and generally brings on a second moulting sickness. Hang your birds as low down as possible, as all foul air and steam ascends up, and this is very unhealthy. Insects though not a disease are often the cause of some. The most annoying of these minute parasites, are the red mites, a kind of bug, as great a torment to birds as the bed bug is to human beings. If once suffered to get into a cage they can seldom, if ever, be driven out again—as the most minute hole and corner suffices for them to harbour and breed in. Like their namesakes, they make their attack in the night; it is then that they come forth and seize on their victims, piercing their tender skin, and sucking their blood, so as to harass and annoy them very seriously. As darkness approaches, the birds may be observed to become restless and uneasy, and to peck frequently at their bodies, at which time if minutely examined, some of their tormentors may be found lurking close to their skin. One way to dislodge these pests is to sprinkle a good pinch of Scotch snuff under the wings and about the legs of your bird; but a more effectual way is to wash over those parts with a solution of white precipitate, care fully drying the bird by the fire or sun. It will also be necessary to well fumigate, or change its habitation, in fact it may as well be burned, for a cage once infested with the red mites, can

rarely, if ever be thoroughly ridden of them. For this reason it is we recommend hard-wood cages, or all wire cages preferable, as they are not so often infested with either the red mites, or the yellow lice, another insect tormentor, for extirpating which the same means as previously prescribed, may be applied generally with success.

Plain and practical directions for breeding and rearing Canaries will be (continued.) W. BARBER, Ottawa.

### *On the Breeding & Management of Fancy Pigeons.*

*Continued from page 153.*

Along the top of partition is nailed a strip of wood three inches wide, to furnish a perch or landing, between the boxes. The two compartments will be used in the following way: when the first pair of young ones are able to be left to the care of the male bird, the hen will go over into the other, in which the owner should have provided another nest pan, and lay her eggs there. She will then sit quite undisturbed, while the cock feeds the young ones, and these latter, not being able to see the mother, on account of the partition, will remain in their own nest quite contented, until they are able to get upon the partition, by which time, as it is eight inches high, they will be able to manage for themselves. For all highly bred pigeons, I prefer these nests being upon the floor, for this reason, when a highly bred hen is on the point of laying, she will citen be unable to fly up to it, and the cock in his anxiety to drive her to nest, will pick at her until she lays on the floor, unless the fancier should happen to see her and lift her up to the nest. Again

the hen also becomes weak some days before hatching, so that she cannot get to her eggs, and on account of having a certain amount of soft meat in her crop, is unable to reach them before the young perish in the eggs. I have had numbers of young birds die, and could not account for it, until I put my breeding boxes on the floor, after doing that I had no trouble in raising young birds; and again, when the nest is built high up, when the young are able to leave, they are liable to fall out of the nest, and perhaps get a leg broken, or, still worse get killed. The best general plan for a moderate sized loft, and what I have used and found to be a great addition to the appearance of the loft, is the following, suitable for keeping any of the high class varieties except Carriers, for which supply a separate loft from the rest.

The nest boxes I have already spoken of. First it is desirable to have, at one end of the loft, a mating or pairing cage, to mate the birds properly before putting them into the loft. My perches are arranged thus, and are suitable for all kinds of pigeons except the breed mentioned. They are formed by nailing on triangular brackets, fastened to the wall, if the wall is of any hard substance, the best plan is to nail perpendicular pieces to the wall, and then fasten the brackets to them: then boards 12 inches wide, planed smooth on the upper surface. The triangular brackets will then secure them in a slanting position, and on the top edges of these boards, are nailed or screwed slips of wood, about five inches long, by 3 wide with the corners well rounded off, so as to prevent the birds hurting themselves, while flying. These strips must not be less than ten inches apart, so that one

bird cannot possibly get at another. The number of perches must not be less than there is birds, so that each bird will take its own perch at night. These perches are good for two fold purposes, first, they can be easily cleaned off in the morning, with a scraper, and scatter a little sand upon them; Second, they keep the droppings from falling on the birds that are underneath on the floor, while the slant prevents the birds from roosting on the board; they also add to the appearance of the loft.

Yours truly,

H. COOPER.

TO BE CONTINUED.

### *Breeding of Rabbits.*

*Continued From page 151.*

The number at birth varies from two or three, up to eight, ten, and even fourteen young ones. In general, the larger the breed, the fewer at a birth. As many as eighteen have been known in extreme cases. But eight or nine are a much better average; some breeders prefer to have no more than five or six, and take away those that are in excess. When it can be done without too much disturbance, the plan is a good one, especially when the doe has lost or destroyed her former litters. Sometimes, when she is weak or exhausted at the time of littering, and feels that she can only suckle a limited number, she herself will save her owner the trouble of killing the supernumeraries, and will calculate according to her strength how many ought to be spared. All take six as the average number of little ones to be produced at each of six litters. and we have thirty-six rabbits in the course of a twelvemonth has

the produce of a single doe. More than that; at six months old, the young rabbit is fully capable of becoming a parent in its turn. In two years, therefore, we should have four successive generations of rabbits all the while that the fecundity of the original ancestress is still going on; thereby interweaving amongst themselves intricate degrees of relationship, which would puzzle the most learned genealogist to define accurately, and amounting to such a multitudinous rabbit population as no arithmetician can accurately calculate, from the impossibility of seeing the accidental checks to which so redundant an increase is liable. Pennant's sum-total will suffice as a specimen. Rabbits, he says, will breed seven times a year, and bring eight young ones each time. On a supposition that this happens regularly during four years, their number will amount to one million, two hundred and seventy four thousand, eight hundred and forty head.

#### MANAGEMENT OF BREEDING DOE.

The breeder ought to know by his stud-book (for he will probably give names to his favourites) the day on which each doe is to bring forth. A few days before-hand, he will throw in to the hutch a large handful of coarse but sweet hay. She will immediately make use of it to form her nest, and will employ for the same purpose any scraps, shreds, or odd bits that she can lay hold of. This first outside structure arranged, she then strips off the fur from beneath her belly, and devotedly denudes herself to secure a soft warm couch for her expected young. At this period neglect may be fatal; she must at the same time be kept quiet, and well fed to support her in nursing. The mis-

sion of a single meal may check their milk, and occasion the death of several young. Few things are better for them than carrots & oats. Wet vegetables are especially injurious. During the first week let her have plenty of bran, mingled with a little salt.—*E. L. Delamer.*

TO BE CONTINUED

### *The Egyptian Incubator.*

(TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH FOR THE "CANADA POULTRY JOURNAL.")

BY H. L. CLAPP.

The people of India were, probably, the first to make use of artificial hatching, and they were accustomed to employ the heat produced by organic substances in decomposing. It appears, moreover, that this is the method followed by the modern Chinese for hatching ducks. From India, this method passed into Egypt. Aristotle, and after him, Pliny, the naturalist, tells us that the ancient Egyptians placed their eggs in vessels, which they buried in the earth; and that they warmed them by means of smoke. But this primitive process has been replaced by artificial incubation, by the aid of the famous *manuals*, which still exist in modern Egypt, and of which so much is said now-a-days. The *Manual* is a rectangular structure, crossed lengthwise by a corridor; on each side of which are ovens for hatching. Those ovens have two storeys; the lower is a metre, about 39 inches in height, 2 broad and 3 long. It is furnished with a door, opening towards the corridor, and a round hole communicating with the upper storey, which has five openings, two in the side communicating with the neighboring

ovens, one above giving access to the air outside, then one opening in to the corridor, and finally, below the round hole common to the two storeys. Adjoining the place which confines the oven, is the shop where the burning embers are prepared, from clods of straw, mixed with sheep, horse, or cow dung. Near is a room to receive the newly hatched chicks, a store-room for eggs, and a bedroom for the keeper, completes the Egyptian *Manual*.

Passing now to the details of the operation, let us designate the oven situated on each side of the corridor by numbers, those on the right by 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, and those on the left by 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11. We will begin by using the numbers 2, 6, and 10 on side and 1, 5, and 9 on the other. We put into the lower stories of these ovens, three layers of eggs upon a bed of chopped straw and dust. Then we put into the upper storeys some of the burning embers which are placed in a trench running all around the round hole connecting the two storeys together. The fire is suitably kept up for ten days. This is the first stage of the operation. At the end of these ten days, the fire is put out and the eggs in the lower storey are transferred to the upper storey. At the same time the intermediate ovens are brought into play. 7, 8, and 12 on the right, 3, 7, and 11 on the left, which hitherto have been empty; in these, as in the first, eggs are placed in the lower storey, and the embers in the upper storey. This is the second stage of the operation, which likewise continues ten days when the chicks from the first eggs are hatched by means of the continued heat from the side opening common to all the compartments of the upper stor-

ey. The chicks hatched are taken from the oven and put aside for a time, before being sent to the persons who rear them, in a room where a suitable temperature prevails. The first series of ovens being free, a new batch of eggs is placed in the lower storey, and embers in the upper. It is then that the eggs of the second series of ovens are changed, and so on. The whole operation occupies from twenty to twenty-four days, divided into two periods, and every ten or twelve days the manual produces a certain number of chickens. This process of artificial incubation has the merit of being exactly copied from nature. The reader already will have perceived that the eggs are not warmed from below upward. For the first ten days they receive the heat of the upper storey, that is to say from above downward as under a hen, and during the second part of the operation, they are kept in a suitable atmosphere by means of the warm air which arrives sidewise from the neighboring ovens in the upper storey, from which the fire had been extinguished.

### *The Ontario Poultry Society.*

*Continued from Page 156.*

BANTAMS.—W Corbet, Guelph, for best Black Breasted Red Game Cock, \$3, W M Campbell. W A Suddaby, Guelph, for best Black-breasted Red Game Hen, \$2, D Allan. J C MaLagan, Guelph, for best Duckwing Game Cock, \$2, D Kay, N Higinbotham, M P, for best Duckwing Game Hen, \$2, A E Goodfellow, for best White Clean legged Cock. \$2, W M Campbell. D Allen, Galt, for best Silver Duckwing



Game Cockerel, \$1, D Allen. D Allen, Galt, for best Black African Cock, \$1, D Allen. D Allen, for best Black African Hen, \$1, J B Johnson. D Allen, for best Black African Pullet, \$1, W M Campbell. D Allen, for best Black African Cockerel, \$1, W M Campbell. James Anderson, Guelph, for the heaviest Cockerel, any breed, \$2, J W Coulson.

**TURKEYS.**—W Sunley, tinsmith, Guelph, for the best Turkey Cock, \$5, George Hood. John Robertson, Bank of Montreal, Guelph, for the best Turkey Hen, \$5, J W Bussel.

**GEESE.**—S Myers, for the best Bremen or Toulouse Gander, Box of cigars value, \$5, A Terrill, Jas Hazelton, furniture dealer, Guelph, for the best Bremen or Toulouse Goose, a table, value, \$3, Jarvis & Lamb. L G Jarvis, for best pair common Geese, bred in 1875, \$2, no prize. U L Brown, for best pair Toulouse Geese, bred in 1875, \$2, Jarvis & Lamb.

**DUCKS.**—H Clearihue & Co. wholesale grocery merchants, Guelph, for the best 4 pairs of Ducks, one pair each of Aylesbury and Rouen, bred prior to 1875 and in 1875, a bronze ornament, value, \$10, F Sturdy. H B B Alley London, for the best pair of Aylesbury Ducks, \$2, John Bogue. W M Smith, gives the Canada Poultry Journal for 1 year, for best pair Muscovy Ducks, no entries. F. Sturdy, Guelph, for the best plumage Rouen Drake, \$2.50, D Allen. F Sturdy, for most perfect billed Aylesbury Duck, \$2.50, John Bogue. W J Patterson, Insurance Agent, Guelph, for best Pekin Drake, \$2, Jas Main.

**PIGEONS.**—L G Jarvis, London, for best pair of Black Carriers, \$2. No prize. Messrs. Morris & Goldie, Guelph

for the best collection of Fancy Pigeons \$10, H Cooper. Messrs. W Bell & Co. organ manufacturers, and dealers in Pianos, Guelph, for the second best collection of Fancy Pigeons, \$5, J B Johnson. W G Smith, druggist, Guelph, a piece of Coral, for the best collection of Pheasants, value, \$3.50, Jas. Goldie G Sleeman, Brewer of Guelph, for the best long bred Cock Canary. \$2 W A Suddaby. T Y Greet, Banker, Guelph, for best long bred Hen Canary, \$2, Jas Goldie. W G Smith, Druggist, Guelph, Ornamental Box of Perfume, for the best Singing Bird, value, \$2.50, W A Suddaby. John Anderson, bookseller, Guelph, pair of Vases for best Cock Goldfinch, value, \$2.50, W A Suddaby. E Morris, Banker, of Guelph, Tegetmeier, Poultry Book, for the best pair of Fowls, pair of Ducks, pair of Turkeys or Geese, bred by a farmer, (not a professional breeder) owned in the County of Wellington, value, \$6, Geo. Hood. Burr & Skinner, furniture manufacturers, Guelph, for best 4 pairs of fowls, any age or breed, owned by an amateur in the County of Wellington. an Otoman, value, \$8, Jno Crowe.

When singing birds are sold, the cage is not given with it.

#### EXTRA SPECIAL PRIZES.

Levi Cossitt, Guelph, agricultural implement manufacturer, for the best collection of Asiatics, a lawn mower, value \$16, H M Thomas.

W M Campbell, Brooklin, for the best collection of Games, \$10. Not yet awarded.

James Massie, merchant, Guelph, one half dozen solid silver tea spoons (value \$12) for the best pair Golden Spangled Hamburg Hens and best pair of Golden Spangled Hamburg Pullets, not yet

awarded.

Richard McMillan, Galt, for the best Golden Pencilled Hamburg Pullet, \$5, R McMillan.

Richard McMillan, Galt, for the best Spanish Cockerel, \$5, L G Jarvis.

Duncan McKay, Galt, for the best Silver Pencilled Hamburg Cockerel, \$5, D Kay.

The Judges were, for Dorkings, Plymouth Rocks, Polands, Creve Cœurs, and LaFleche—Mr. J Plummer, of London. For Cochins, Brahmas, Spanish, Leghorns, Games, Hamburgs and Houdans—Mr. J. Y. Bicknell, Westmoreland, Oneida County. N. Y.; and for Bantams, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, Rabbits, Pigeons, Pheasants and singing and fancy birds, Mr. S. Butterfield, of Wright & Butterfield Sandwich, Ont.

### *Bees in July.*

All bees, that have been allowed to cast their own swarms, will, if they have not already done so, swarm during the fore part of this month; and will, if in a good locality, yet gather enough to winter on, and in some cases make a surplus to spare. All drawers that have already been filled, should be taken off at once and replaced by empty ones. All second swarms after this time in the season, should be returned to the old stock, as the grand secret in successful bee-keeping, is to keep your stocks *strong*. Thus far, although the honey season was late in starting, bees have done as well in this section, if not better, than we ever remember having known them do. The last week in June we removed one drawer of 56 lb from an Italian stock; which, for this country,

we call good work. Keep your stocks strong if you want surplus honey.

### *A Remarkable Pullet.*

EDITORS CANADA POULTRY JOURNAL.

I have a pullet which began to lay on 30th January and laid during the next 110 days, eighty five eggs. The last forty-one were laid in succession, missing only one day, when the thirty-third was laid, there is no mistake, as her eggs are very peculiar and *all alike*, being small with a little excrescent on the small end, as if the deposit of lime were greater than the shell required. I have told a gentleman here, who is a local authority in poultry management, of the facts and he says I *must* be mistaken, as no hen can lay more than twelve or fifteen eggs in succession without missing a day and live. Please ventflate this in your Journal, and tell if you ever heard of such a case before. Yours truly,

TYRO,

St. Catharines, Ont.

We do not doubt the above in the least, although seemingly almost incredible. In the first No. of the Canada Poultry Journal will be found an account of a D. Brahma Hen owned by Mrs. William Green, which layed 25 eggs in the last 30 days without missing a single day. In *Poultry World* for March, 1874, will be found an account of 40 Brown Leghorn Hens, owned by W E. Boney, averaging 20 eggs each every month for six months in succession, beginning with January 1873. In *Poultry Record*, for May, 1873, will be found an account of a L. Brahma Pullet, owned by B. N. Pierce, laying 83 eggs in 114 days before wanting to sit.

—THE—  
**Canada Poultry Journal.**

H. M. THOMAS & E. R. GRANT,  
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 L. C. THOMAS, Associate Editor and Publisher.

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Parties sending advertisements, will please designate the space to be occupied. All money for subscriptions, or advertisements, when sent by P. O. order, or in registered letters, will be at our risk, and will receive prompt attention.

Advertisements to appear in any number, should be sent in, not later than the fifth of the month.

Communications on Poultry, Pigeons, Bees and other pet animals invited. Also accounts of Importations, questions and answers, Receipts accounts of success with Imported Eggs, Poultry Shows to occur, Lists of prizes awarded, &c., &c. all of which should be mailed to reach us by the first of each month.

All letters and communications should be addressed to either

H. M. THOMAS, OR E. R. GRANT,  
 Brooklin, Ont. Port Hope, Ont.

**Poultry Shows for 1876 and 1877.**

Official Notices of Shows Solicited.

The regular Centennial Exhibition will open May 10, and close November 10, 1876.

Provincial Exhibition, Hamilton, September 18 to 22.

Western Fair, London, September 26 to 29.

Central Exhibition, Guelph, October 2 to 5.

Buffalo International Poultry Association, Buffalo, N. Y., February 1 to 8,

inclusive, 1877. Geo. W. White, Esq., Secretary

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 Editors and Proprietors.

*United States Centennial Commission.*

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE,  
 PHILADELPHIA, May 15, 1876. }

SIR: The exhibition of Poultry will open on October 17th, and close on November 6th.

The display will be made in coops, provided by the Commission, and located under the shelter of the cattle stalls, which will be prepared for their reception.

To meet the expense of coops and feeding, an entry fee of one dollar upon each bird of the Gallinaceous division, and two dollars upon each pair of the Aquatic division, must be paid to the Commission before the Chief of Bureau finally signs the permit of entry.

Transportation and terminal charges must all be paid in advance, or the Commission will not receive consignments.

Full information relative to transportation will be furnished upon application.

Each coop used in the transportation of birds must be of sufficient strength to serve for their return, and must be marked with the proper shipping directions. Numbers alone will distinguish birds



in the show yards preceding the award of prizes.

All specimens except Games, and Game Bantams, must be exhibited in natural condition, pulling, splicing, or inserting feathers, coloring, or otherwise altering the appearance of birds, will bar them against entry.

Misstatements as to age, or breed, will cause the exclusion of birds from the stock yard.

Birds of evident inferiority will be denied admittance even though the owners may have received a permit.

Birds may be sold at private sale any time during their exhibition; but no bird, in the event of being sold, will be allowed to be removed prior to November 7th.

Special premiums from societies and individuals, must be awarded through the hands of the Centennial Commission.

Application for entry must be accompanied by a certificate from a recognized Poultry Society, to the effect that birds offered are considered to be worthy of competition.

Application forms for space can be had from this office. Entries are now being made, and will be in order till July 1st.

Yours respectfully,

BURNET LANDRETH, *Chief of Bureau.*  
per C. HENRY ROONEY.

### *More Hints to Beginners*

#### FEEDING AND CARE OF CHICKENS,

EDITORS CANADA POULTRY JOURNAL.

In your June No. just received, I notice an article upon the above subject. I quite agree with the writer in his method, but as he has only advised the care

of the chicks after they are ten days old, perhaps the beginner might like to know how to have them attain that, their most difficult age. I consider that if I get a brood of chicks along until they are a week or ten days old, I am very sure of having them mature.

The first step after they have hatched, is to remove all the shells from the nest and then allow them to remain on the nest from 12 to 24 hours, so as to allow them time to gain strength, which they will do much better than if removed. Then remove them to a coop made of suitable size with slats in front far enough apart to only allow the chicks to come and go when they please. I prefer the coop to have a board bottom which prevents the hen from scratching dirt into the chicks eyes and in many cases burying them alive.

Then the feeding for the first ten days, or even longer, I should advise the free use of hard boiled eggs mixed with oat-meal, three times each day, and also with boiled corn or wheat, at least twice each day, giving only what will be eaten at once. I always have a trough of cracked corn where my chicks can get it at any time, with plenty of fresh water, for I consider *fresh* water as important as their feed. Another very important thing to be looked after is to see that your hens and chicks are free from lice, for should the chicks become infested with vermin, all the care and extra feeding that you can give will not prevent their being stunted, and if you once get a chick stunted, you had better dispose of him, for his room will be of more profit than his company. A very important thing is to have a good *rich* grass run for your chicks, they require richness as well as cattle, and will

thrive much better than if allowed only a sand hill to roam over, and they also require plenty of shade. If you have not the growth of trees, cut some branches from a pine tree and place in front of your coop, or a suitable shade can be made of a piece of old sacking. I have had good success in following the above directions and commend them to others.

CHAS. E. PERRY,  
Wollaston, Mass.

### *Ontario Poultry Society.*

We are just in receipt of notice from Secretary of the above society, calling a meeting of the Executive Committee, on 5th July, at Galt; to advise in regard to Centennial matters. We were in hopes that the meeting would have been called for the whole Society, as we think that business of so much importance should be laid before all the members. Perhaps there may yet be a special meeting of the society called soon. If not, we think the parties having the power to do so will make a big mistake, thereby preventing a large number of Birds being entered for the Centennial, that would be, provided such a meeting were called, and the entire arrangements laid before the members and Fanciers and so perfected that all would be satisfied with them. Then, and not until then, will there be a good show of birds secured for exhibition at the Centennial.

### *Centennial.*

Galt, June 26, 1876.

EDITORS *Canada Poultry Journal.*

DEAR SIRs.—I was rather surprised to see a letter signed an Office Bear-

er, in the last number of your paper, blaming the Executive Committee for arranging &c., in connection with the proposed Centennial Show. The fact is that they have never been called together, as there was nothing requiring their immediate attention. The circular was sent out, if an office bearer would take the trouble to look at it, by myself as President of the Ontario Poultry Society, and endorsed by W. H. Fraser, Esq., Secretary Ontario Advisory Board, to give and get information from all concerned, previous to the Executive Committee having a meeting, which I believe, has been called by our Secretary for the 5th day of July, when I expect to have something to lay before the Committee, upon which they can act. Our Secretary has gathered quite a large amount of information as to the prospect of poultry likely to be forth-coming. This information was absolutely necessary, as our Society will have to make all entries some time previous to the birds being selected, and do not wish to put the Government to any unnecessary expense. Yours truly,

DANIEL ALLEN.

Pres't. Ont. Poultry Society.

### *Chicken Cholera.*

We have recently received a letter from a correspondent in Virginia, in which he says he has been having some rather unpleasant experience with the above named malady, and, having successfully tried a new remedy, he communicates the result to us in the following paragraph:—

“Since writing to you last, I have lost eight valuable chickens with that almost incomprehensible disease called chicken

cholera, and still have four very sick fowls on hand. The latter I have some hope of saving, and they seem some what better than they did yesterday. I have been doctoring them with carbonate of soda (washing soda), given either in small lumps of the size of an English pea, or beaten to a powder and fed to them in Indian meal dough. I have fed my ailing fowls three times a day on this medicated food, and all the others but once a day, besides keeping alum and red oak bark in their drinking water. I believe that soda, if given to chickens, when the first symptoms of the disease appear, will cure them. I have cured several of mine by attacking the malady in its earliest development—that is, as soon as a fowl showed any unnatural looseness of the bowels, or a tardiness in getting off the roost in the morning. After the discharges assume a sulphur color or yellowish color, I think the diseased fowl is in a well-nigh incurable condition.”—*Poultry Bulletin*

### *Hints on Breeding.*

BY JAMES BEST,

MR. EDITOR :—Since the issue of your January number of the *Bulletin* containing my article on Light Brahmas, I have been receiving letters from different parts of the country, asking how I mate and feed, and how many I put in a yard when breeding ; and as these are pertinent questions, I consider it better to give my experience through the *Bulletin*, than to answer the different parties by letter, as it may benefit some others of your readers who have not had much experience :

1st—In mating my birds I have some point in view in which my fowls have

not come up to my expectations, and I make my selection so as to bring out the point wanting in the fowls I am breeding from. For instance, I have my pullets or hens much lighter in the hackle than I wish them, I mate with a dark necked cock, using judgment not to have the cock too dark lest there should be scattering black feathers down the backs. I would rather use two seasons in bringing out the point desired than to overdo it in one season. Again, I find that fowls from eighteen to twenty months old throw better chicks than at any other time of their existence.

But as it is not always convenient to have old fowls, I would have an old cock with young hens, or old hens with a young cock, as I am very much opposed to breeding from chickens till they are twelve months old. Again, I do not believe in very large cocks for breeding, as I have found them less reliable than smaller ones. Last spring I had two young cocks, in my yard, the one weighed thirteen pounds at ten months, and the other weighed ten pounds at the same age ; and the largest cock was the handsomest in form, color and general appearance, but he lacked energy and activity, and so I chose the other, because he possessed these qualities, and I was not mistaken in my judgement, as this cock fathered, to my own knowledge, over one thousand chicks in 1873, some of the cockerels weighing ten pounds at five and one-half months old. And this brings me to the number that may be kept in one yard. I mated him with twenty seven hens and pullets, and kept him and no other with this number all spring and Summer, and, in all my experience in hatching, I never had so large a percentage of chicks from eggs as I have had from that flock. I hope that your readers will not infer from this that they can put twenty seven hens with any light Brahma cock, as we do not mean to convey such an impression, as I have several cocks in my yard now, some of which would serve thirty hens much better than others of them would serve ten. The size I like for breeding is

eight to ten pounds for young hens, and nine to ten for old hens, and young cocks ten pounds, and old ones twelve pounds. I have invariably larger and stronger chicks from fowls of this size than I have had when I bred from larger ones. In regard to feeding, allow me to say, I change my feed almost daily with bread, corn, wheat, and mashed potatoes, with corn meal made into a stiff dough. I am satisfied, however, that there is more in the care and attention given, and in the place you keep them while young, than in mating or strains.—*Poultry Bulletin*.

### General Items.

**THE STANDARD.**—We are now prepared to fill orders for the new edition of "The American Standard" at Publishers price,—\$1.00 per copy. All Fanciers should have it.

**REMEMBER.**—Parties writing for publication, should be VERY PARTICULAR, to write plain, the words in full, not close, but leaving space between them, and only on one side of the paper.

**CUTS:**—Advertisers will please remember, that we are prepared to furnish splendid cuts, all sizes, of nearly all the varieties of Fancy Fowls, Pigeons, and Rabbits: and at very low prices. They are suitable for illustration of Circulars, Envelopes, or Advertisements. Or we will furnish the cuts ourselves, and illustrate your Advertisements free, except for the space they occupy.

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W. L. Brown, Esq., of Hyde Park, London, Ont., says "Poultry should and will stand as high in national importance as cattle, sheep and pigs, which the skill and perseverance of Canadian agricultural enterprise have made so eminent and perfect.—*Southern Poultry Journal*."



The above cut represents a pair of Brown Leghorns, bred and owned by C. A. Keefer, Sterling, Ill. The Brown Leghorns are a fine Fowl, and should be in the yards of every Fancier.

### Executive Meeting at Galt.

We have just returned from the above meeting, and only have time to say, before going to press, that although the President had been presented with a petition to call a special meeting of the members of the Ontario Poultry Society, as well as of the Fanciers who are not members, to satisfactorily arrange for the exhibit of Fowls at the Centennial, he refused to do so, but left the matter to the Executive Committee; and they voted to shelve the petition and not call a meeting at all. Feeling unwilling to leave matters thus, we called on the Advisory Board at Toronto, and found that the arrangements were not being carried out in accordance with the wishes or intentions of that

Board, who will now take the matter into their own hands and arrange it, we trust, satisfactory to all.

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