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# THE CANADIAN Poultry Chronicle.

Vol. 1.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1870.

No. 3.

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### ON THE FECUNDATION OF TURKEY EGGS.

Time and again has it been stated by writers of high repute that one connection is sufficient to render fertile all the eggs which a turkey hen will lay at one season, and numerous cases are cited in support of the assertion, while others hold the contrary opinion, and are equally positive of its truthfulness. Tegetmeier in his Poultry Book, quotes on this subject from the essay of Mr. Trotter, published in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, as follows: "One fecundation is sufficient to render fertile all the eggs which are of one laying. This has been strongly denied by some, but the fact is undoubted; for, in this district, many people keep hens

only, and have to send them to some neighbor's cock. The hen is sent once only, yet, it is known that nothing more is generally required to insure the fertility of all the eggs of that laying;" and to this opinion it would appear Mr. Tegetmeier himself strongly inclines.

Again: Wright, in his "Practical Poultry Keeper," says, "it does appear indisputable that one visit to the cock is sufficient to render fertile all the eggs laid by a turkey hen." Other English writers whom we have consulted, are either silent on this subject or their language is so guarded as to be considered non-committal; nor are American writers, of any note, one whit more explicit on this point. The mode of treatment of young turkeys is sufficiently treated of, but little or nothing said about fecundation. It may therefore be considered an unsettled question, with a strong feeling in favor of but one fecundation being necessary for the laying.

We shall give our experience on the subject. In the fall of 1869, we purchased two common turkeys, one a bird of that year, the other an old hen, we do not know whether two, three or four years old. In the spring of this year, they were, before laying, placed with a wild gobbler, then the property, and in possession of Colonel Hassard, for a few days, but for some reason unknown to us, none of the eggs proved

fertile. They laid each twenty eggs before incubation. On the 8th of May we set the older of the two turkey hens on hen eggs, and on the 29th she brought out her young brood, which she tended carefully for about two weeks, when she again commenced laying a second time. We then borrowed a neighbor's gobbler, which remained with her for a week. She had laid one egg previous to the gobbler's arrival, which, with the one laid the morning after, were handed over for culinary purposes; all the others of that laying, until the number of forty was reached, were preserved for hatching. They were placed under hatching hens nearly as soon as laid; and now for the results: Of these forty eggs, the first two proved to be unfertile, that is, the second two of the laying, the first two, as before stated, having been handed over for culinary purposes. The next seventeen were fertile, and produced birds, while the remaining nineteen proved unfertile: in other words, the third egg laid after the carresses of the gobbler was fecundated and fecundation extended to seventeen eggs. At the time we now write, nearly the end of August, this turkey has laid her fifty-third egg, and, as yet, shows no sign of incubation. Such are the results.

It is quite evident that in this case the laying of eggs is much in excess of the ordinary number. The authorities already quoted say that from fifteen to twenty eggs are the usual number laid by a turkey before hatching. It is therefore clear that one fecundation for that number is quite sufficient, but beyond that its influence does not extend. Here, then, is a point for discussion. At present we offer no opinion ourselves. We have stated facts which have come to our knowledge, not by hearsay, but by actual experience, and for the truthfulness of which we pledge ourselves.

## POULTRY EXHIBITIONS.

There is nothing which tends so much to the benefit and improvement of all kinds of stock and produce as does a good wholesome competition, and for this purpose exhibitions were established and shows inaugurated. When we look back for only a comparatively few years and contemplate the rapid progress that has been made, not only in live stock, but also in every other branch of industry, we are led to reflect on the many causes which have conspired towards the production of this desirable state of things, and place exhibitions in the front rank. The advantage to the breeder, the manufacturer, or the producer, as the case may be, of being able to view, side by side, his own particular stock or product with that of his neighbors, and to contrast its merits or demerits with that of the others—is incalculable. New ideas are inculcated, new views are obtained, and new purposes are formed and carried out. What before seemed perfection, is now shown to be in many points imperfect. What heretofore had no equal is now far outstripped in the race of competition, and the disappointed exhibitor goes to work with renewed energy to produce a better article for next year's exhibition, with the full purpose and determination of being a prize taker in the first class: and thus it progresses from year to year.

There is perhaps no class of animals to which exhibitions have been more beneficial, or tended more towards the development and improvement of their respective breeds than that of poultry; and now that the Fall shows are fast coming on, we trust breeders will not be backward in taking advantage of the opportunity thus afforded them of exhibiting their stock, as well for the benefit of those who attend at such exhibitions, as for the purpose of competing for prizes. In this Province there

is a well organized system of Township and County agricultural societies. These societies hold their annual exhibitions, and offer prizes for poultry, as well as other live stock; and yet, strange to say, we find in the returns to the Commissioner of Agriculture, made by some of the societies, that in the poultry class no prizes were awarded because there was no competition, or that the fowls exhibited were of an inferior quality, and, consequently, not such as ought to receive a money prize. This state of affairs we hope no longer exists. We know that a great many persons have imported largely both hatching eggs and birds this year: and we look forward to much greater competition at our local shows this fall than has taken place at previous exhibitions of a similar kind. There is, however, on the part of some breeders, a reluctance to send their fowls to exhibition, lest they should not take first prize, and therefore keep them at home; or, mayhap, at some former show, they considered their birds entitled to a prize which was given to others, in their opinion, much inferior, and doggedly determined never to exhibit again. Perhaps so. Judges are not immaculate, and are no doubt frequently in error in their awards, arising, no doubt, in some instances, through incapability, yet, we believe, oftener for want of time. But, is this a reason why breeders should not again become exhibitors? Certainly not. Let every breeder and fancier send his birds to exhibition. In so doing, he not only benefits himself in comparing his own stock with the stock of other breeders, but confers a like benefit on the public, and may be the means of inducing others to enter the list of competitors next season. To such as can not send their birds to the Provincial Exhibition, then, by all means, send them to the local exhibition, be it township or county. The surest means

of success in poultry breeding, as in other things, is competition and comparison.

### THE INFLUENCE OF THE MALE BIRD.

This subject, so full of interest to all breeders of pure poultry, is one on which too much attention cannot be bestowed, nor too much discussion elicited, until proved to a demonstration what amount of influence the cock bird exercises on fecundation of eggs and the reproduction of his own distinctive breed. With our present knowledge so limited, and the field for experiment so wide, the wonder is that more attention has not long since been given, and more practical information obtained on the subject. We are glad, however, to see that some of our many American breeders have lately taken up, and are now warmly discussing it, that others have actually commenced a series of experiments, to be published when finally completed, and that, altogether, we are in a fair way of having a new, and, we trust, satisfactory light thrown upon this interesting and, to poultry-breeders, important subject.

In all experiments to be made on this subject, it ought to be borne in mind that there are two distinctive objects to be attained; and writers as well as breeders would do well to keep this steadily in view, as we see, on the part of some correspondents, an inclination to treat the two points of the subject as if the one was a natural consequence of the other. They are: first, The length and duration of the cock's influence in the fecundation of eggs of the same laying, with a hen of his own or any other breed of the same species; and secondly, The cock's influence in the reproduction of chickens with a hen of a different kind, showing all or some of the distinctive markings of his own particular breed, in the same or any

subsequent laying, after it was clearly ascertained that fecundation of the eggs by him had ceased, and that another cock of the same distinctive breed of the hen had had intercommunication with her; and, in both cases, that none but pure bred pullets should be experimented upon. These are the points on which our knowledge is now so limited, and to which recently the attention of poultry breeders is being directed. To be successfully carried out, we hold that they ought to be engaged in by different breeders, not only in different parts of the same country, but in different countries, and at different seasons of the year, as we are of opinion that the influence of climate and temperature ought to be taken into consideration in all such experiments. We trust, therefore, to hear of some of our more extensive Canadian breeders engaging in this matter, and at the end of another breeding season, to be able to publish and compare their experience with the ascertained results of others. To a writer in the *Poultry Bulletin*, is, we believe, due the credit of not only calling the attention of his brother fanciers to the subject, but of also commencing experiments himself. Let others join him in endeavoring to solve this abstruse question; and such assistance as we can give shall be freely extended to all who may engage in the matter.

#### TRANSPORTATION OF EGGS.

In the July number of this Journal we made some comments on the manner in which eggs ordered from Mr. Beldon, of Yorkshire, England, for hatching purposes, were packed, and the condition in which they arrived in Toronto. These eggs, altogether about fifty dozen, were ordered through Mr. Howard, the Vice-President of the Ontario Poultry Association, a well-known breeder and fancier, and one who imports largely both eggs and fowls; the eggs were chiefly for

members of the Society, and were carried by the Canadian Express Company. The bad state of the boxes while in transit attracted the attention of the Superintendent, Mr. Cheney, of Montreal, who addressed a letter on the subject to his Toronto Agent. Mr. Cheney says: "It has become quite customary for fowl breeders in this country to bring out eggs for hatching, and we have carried quite a number this spring. In almost every case the box has been so light that it has gone to pieces; I believe we have not as yet broken any eggs, but the greatest care is necessary. If you know of any parties in Toronto who are in this business, please confer with them or drop them a note, asking them to order the eggs to be packed better in Europe."

This letter was forwarded to Mr. Howard, as the principal importer of eggs in Toronto, from England, and he in due course replied to it.

He admitted the force of the observation in respect of the lightness of the boxes in which the eggs were packed, but regretted he could not agree with Mr. Cheney's remarks as to the breakage and loss of eggs. "There did not," Mr. Howard says, "appear to me to have been that care and attention taken by the employes of the (Express) Company in the handling of the packages one would have expected, considering the nature of their contents. In many cases where the lids of the boxes were broken, an egg or two would be *found missing*, and in at least two instances, through carelessness, the person charged with the delivery let several of the eggs fall on the floor of my office."

In reply to this letter, Mr. Cheney, through his agent, enters into a somewhat lengthy explanation, and for the benefit of parties in Europe, as well as breeders in Canada, and also in justice to the Express Company, we publish it in full:—

"In reply to the enclosed, I beg to say that my former note was written with a view to further protection of these valuable eggs. In my opinion, the difficulty has mostly been caused through the bad package of the eggs. One thing is certain: the boxes are not strong enough. I think the Association should be satisfied with results thus far, as the number broken has been small, notwithstanding the bad packing, considering the distance they are carried and the handling they are subjected to. I am of the opinion that they can be forwarded with even less breakage, if they were properly packed and ventilated, also marked in some prominent way "eggs, with care." If those which have already come through have been pilfered, I feel certain it must have been done before they reached us at Liverpool, as our freights are so stowed on the steamers that they cannot be tampered with, and I feel certain that our messengers between Quebec and Toronto would not tamper with them. If parties will seal them same as boxes of specie, it would be very little trouble, and in case the seals were broken, we would be enabled to determine where the difficulty occurred; as we would give instructions at Liverpool and here to have the seals examined, same as those on money parcels.

"We should be happy to do all in our power to carry this business satisfactorily, but an experience of 25 years has shown that neither the Express nor any other Company can guarantee the forwarding of articles like eggs without breakage, from the fact of their passing through so many hands, and the Express Company having no control over the packing of them, etc.

"I think it would be well for you to submit this letter to the gentleman in person, and explain matters as you understand them, and it is possible that the Association will adopt some plan by which shippers will be requested to pack and seal the boxes well. This, with a prominent mark on the boxes, to show what contents is, I think, will secure

safe transit; at all events we will do our best."

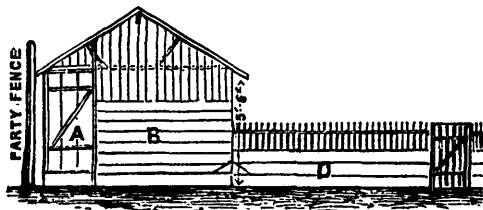
We trust that the suggestions contained in Mr. Cheney's letter will be well considered by English breeders, and when forwarding eggs to Canada in future, will be adopted. We have every reason to think the Express Company will hereafter see that packages containing hatching eggs receive special care and attention, and that nothing will be wanting on their part to ensure safe transit.

#### NEW YORK STATE POULTRY SOCIETY.

We are glad to learn that this Society is fast approaching its former flourishing condition, and that its management is in the hands of parties who are interested not only in its affairs, but also in the improvement of poultry generally. In the August number of the *Poultry Bulletin* is an account of the semi-annual meeting just held, at which considerable business relating to the Society was transacted, the Constitution amended, and a reduced scale of fees for initiation and annual and life membership adopted. It was also decided to hold the Society's annual Exhibition and Fair in the month of December next, commencing on the 14th and continuing until the 22nd of the month, and a liberal prize list is in course of preparation, in which we see Canadian exhibitors are not likely to be overlooked. The show will include Poultry of all kinds, Pigeons, Rabbits, Fish, and the several appliances adapted to their keeping and propagation." A Pony, Dog, and Pet Animal show, may also be held at a later day, but on this point the Society have not yet finally decided. The Society, also, approved the action of the Executive Committee in the publication of the *Poultry Bulletin*, thus insuring its continuance and success, the benefits arising from which poultry-breeders cannot fail to appreciate.

### PLAN OF POULTRY HOUSE.

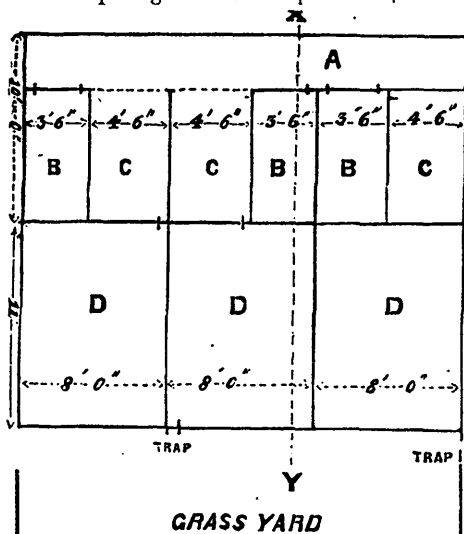
In compliance with numerous requests, we give the accompanying Plan of a Poultry House, showing covered and Gravel Runs, and Grass Yard, which for



warmth and comfort of the fowls in the winter season, as well as suitability to the Canadian climate, cannot be surpassed.

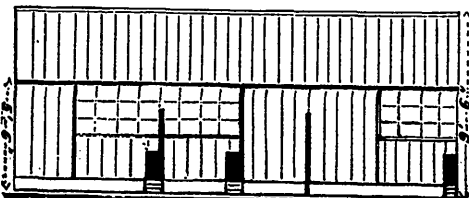
In the plan given room is provided

for about eighteen or twenty hens and three cocks, but it is capable of extension, in a direct line, to afford accommodation for any number of fowls and breeds that the owner may think fit to keep, always bearing in mind, however, to devote a space of about ten feet square, at regular distances, for hatching-rooms; these rooms may also, when not thus used, be devoted to the storing of grain for food for the fowls. The yards may also be increased in size, to such extent as the space devoted to poultry-keeping will admit of. A square plot of ground might thus be surrounded, with space for an artificial pond of water left in the centre, for the use of water fowls.



In the inside elevation, the interior arrangement of the building may be seen; the gates, which lift off from two cleats instead of hinges, are left off to show the covered run, with glass front, more clearly. In the part C there is no flooring, and it ought to be kept well covered with fresh clay, or wood ashes, to prevent vermin, and from which, as well as the roosting places, the droppings should be removed daily. Grain may be thrown into this run during severe weather, and soft food and water may be placed in the passage outside the bars, through which it can be easily reached by the fowls. No windows in the back wall are required or necessary, the light admitted through the glass front of the covered run being sufficient.

The building may be constructed of rough inch lumber, and battened on the outside; the roof may be battened or shingled; a shingled roof



A. Covered Passage.  
C. Covered Yard.

B. Roosting and Laying.  
D. Gravel Yard.

is of course the more preferable of the two. Ventilators ought to be erected on the top, at distances of about fifteen feet apart, to insure good ventilation, an essential not to be lost sight of in all plans of poultry buildings. The yard fences may be made of laths, and nailed to pieces of inch by inch and a-half stuff, secured to posts driven in the ground, and of any height, from four feet upwards, as may be rendered necessary; Hamburgs and other of the smaller breeds of fowls necessitating the construction of much higher fences than do Brahmans or Cochins, &c.

There is much to be said in favor of this plan of a poultry building. The fowls can at all seasons, and in all kinds of weather, be seen without going out of doors in front of the covered run, or having to pass through the roosting places, the yards running alongside of the latter, a thing much to be desired in this Canadian climate, especially during the winter season. There are other advantages which might be mentioned as peculiarly belonging to it, but we have already devoted as much space to the subject as we can afford in this number.

### LITERARY NOTICES.

PREASANTS AND POULTRY; HOW TO BREED AND REAR THEM SUCCESSFULLY. By "Path Finder," of the "Field." London: McCorquedale & Co., Printers, 6 Cardington Street, N. W. pp. 24.

The author of this little work has favored us with a copy. It contains much that is useful on the subject of which it treats, and embraces many practical hints, the knowledge of which to breeders of this beautiful variety of fowl would prevent much of the loss and disappointment in the rearing of poults which annually takes place. The work is divided into six chapters, and treats of the following subjects in the

order in which they are here given: "The Phasianidæ—Constructing a Pheasantery—Incubation of the Eggs—The Feeding—Gapes and Roup—How to



Rear Poultry Successfully. In his preface the author says: "In offering the following suggestions and remarks, the writer is actuated by but one feeling—the wish of seeing the success of other breeders commensurate with his own. Of nearly 50,000 pheasants, whose rearing and breeding he has superintended, the loss has not averaged *five per cent.*, and this is attributable to the fact, that for the past twenty years most careful observations have been made and many experiments tried. The method of rearing, and results, are now placed before the reader. If the instructions given are carried out in a proper manner, complete success is guaranteed." Bound up with, and indeed forming a portion of the work, are a large number of testimonials, speaking in the highest terms of the author's (Mr. Dear) "Prize Game and Poultry Food." The benefits to fowls in the use of it, when out of condition, is universally admitted.

### POULTRY AT THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

We have received from members of the Ontario Poultry Association and others, residing at a distance from Toronto, several communications asking if an arrangement could be made with the Council of the Agricultural Association, whereby the Executive Commit-



tee of the Poultry Society would receive and attend to fowls sent by them to the Exhibition, during the time they would remain there, as it would greatly tend towards the increase in the number of entries, and be an inducement to many to send their birds who otherwise will not do so. We regret to say such an arrangement can not be made. The Executive Committee of the Society have, on more than one occasion, brought this subject under the notice of the Agricultural Association, and urged on that body, both by letter and deputation, the necessity of adopting the course now suggested by our correspondents, but failed to convince those gentlemen of the benefits to the Exhibition or the convenience to exhibitors, such a course, if adopted, would produce or confer. As a body, therefore, the Executive Committee are powerless to aid exhibitors in the manner suggested, because they would, as such, be neither recognized or permitted to act on behalf of the Poultry Association. Individually, however, members of the Committee will be glad to render such assistance as they can to exhibitors residing at a distance from the city.

In connection with this matter, we might also again direct attention to the Auction Sale of Poultry, to take place on the Fourth Day of the Exhibition (the 6th of October), and say that the Secretary of the Association will be glad to receive and take charge of the fowls, and tend them during the sale,—the conditions of which will be duly advertised by the Auctioneer who may be employed by the Association. We may further add that from information now in possession of the Society, they have every reason to think that not only will there be a large number of fowls sent to the sale, of the very best kind, but also a large number of buyers from different places outside the Province will attend the sale.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The following letter from Mr. Beldon of Yorkshire, England, has been handed us for publication, and is evidently written in reply to an article which appeared in the July number of this Journal. We gladly give it publicity, inasmuch as we consider this gentleman has a right to be heard in his own behalf. We also publish one on the same subject from Mr. Howard:

"I notice account of the receiving of the first batch of eggs. I certainly feel a little annoyed, as I thought we had packed them sufficiently well to travel the distance. The boxes must have received very rough usage, indeed, to be in the state they were, according to description. The wonder is that any of the eggs hatched at all. It appears that my mode of packing, after all, can not be a bad one. From experience I find that rough seeds, that is, the husks dressed from oats, make the best packing. This material packs very tight, and, being elastic, never settles down like sawdust. I never wrap paper round the eggs. I can not see what purpose it serves, except when packed in sawdust, to keep off the bad effects of the same. It must be apparent to anyone that eggs pack more compact and tight without paper. With respect to the substitution of other eggs in place of some of those ordered, I am sorry it was not agreeable; but your friend should remember that it is a long distance from Canada to England, and too far to wait for a reply; and those eggs ordered that were not sent, were of sorts that I do not keep. The reason, I fancy, that the few Black Hamburgs were marked Houdans, was, that they stood in place of Houdans. I was under the impression that I wrote on the eggs, "Black Hamburgs" instead of "Houdans." However, if your friends wish to have their orders executed strictly to instructions, I will see

to it being done ; and as it is found the packages are not strong enough, will have them packed in stronger boxes. You will find I sent a few dozen over and above, to make up for replacing some of the sorts.

“ I am glad to see that Mr. Patterson was very successful with the fourteen dozen received. The packing in this case appears to have been very satisfactory; yet, I can assure you, as much care was taken with yours as with those. However, there is nothing like experience.

HENRY BELDON.”

*To the Editor of THE CANADIAN POULTRY CHRONICLE :*

SIR : As the remarks in your article on the importation of eggs have had a tendency to reflect on Mr. Beldon, the gentleman from whom they were procured, I think it only just to him to make the following explanation. In the spring of 1869 I decided to procure three dozen eggs from Mr. Beldon, merely as an experiment, having had no faith in eggs hatching after such a long carriage. They arrived here all in good order about the 1st of May. To my surprise and gratification, I obtained from the three dozen eighteen chickens. I was so much pleased with the results, not only as regards the numbers but also the quality of the birds hatched, that I was not slow to publish it, which induced a number of parties to apply to me this spring, to procure eggs for them from the same source. Having a desire to encourage the fancy, I undertook to comply with their request, and included their orders with my own, to the extent of some fifty dozen. Among those so ordered were included some varieties which Mr. Beldon did not advertise, which were principally for myself, and which I supposed he might be able to procure for me ; but he was disappointed in so doing, which he afterwards wrote me, and

asked to substitute other eggs for them, to which I did not object. The first disappointment was experienced in the non-arrival of the first batch until a week later than ordered, as the parties were desirous of having the chickens as early hatched as possible. The next disappointment was the arrival of several subsequent packages in a most dilapidated state, with the loss of quite a number of eggs, owing, in my opinion, to a want of proper care on the part of the express agents. It is quite true the boxes were slight, but with proper care a handbox might be brought across the Atlantic without breaking. However, as we can not insure safe treatment, for the future I would advise Mr. Beldon using stronger boxes. The next disappointment arose from the fact that the principal part of the eggs so destroyed were those first ordered for other parties, while those Mr. Beldon was allowed to substitute for my own order came safe, and were obliged to be applied to make up the deficiency in the eggs so destroyed. Notwithstanding the loss by breakage, all the parties got their full supply of eggs, though not, in some instances, exactly what was ordered, from the causes above mentioned, we being enabled to do so from the fact that Mr. Beldon sent a few dozen over and above those ordered.

I trust the above remarks will exonerate Mr. Beldon in this matter, whom I have always found perfectly reliable, and from whom I intend to order eggs for myself next year.

A. McLEAN HOWARD.

#### ON THE HAMBURGH FOWLS.

MR. EDITOR:—I avail myself of your invitation to poultry fanciers to express their views by writing to you a few lines on the above subject, which, if you think worth a place in the CHRONICLE, you are welcome to insert. It has often struck me that the present accepted

varieties of Hamburgs is not sufficiently large to embrace all that might very reasonably be claimed under that head. According to Tegetmeier and most modern English writers and fanciers, they are divided into five varieties, viz: Gold and Silver, Spangled, and Gold and Silver Penciled, and Black, which latter seems to have become very generally established, and which has grown in public estimation very much lately, being in some respects superior to the first four mentioned. I would also add to the above, what I should call White Hamburgs, and Dominique Hamburgs, the former not unlike the White Dorking, without the fifth toe, and more of the general characteristics of the Hamburg. The Dominique is not unlike the Cuckoo coloured Dorking, lacking, as in the White, the fifth toe, and altogether a different bird from the single combed Dominique, which is, I think, the real Dominique. I have seen the Rose Combed Dominique exhibited in the any other variety class, as Canadian Greys. I am not in favor of enlarging the varieties of fowls too much; but when birds are found to breed true to feather and other characteristic points, they should be classed either as a distinct breed or a variety of a recognized breed, and not classed as Dunghills. Now, I have bred both of the above last-named kinds, and find no birds breed more true to feather and markings, and with much less deterioration than the four recognized varieties first mentioned. I would therefore suggest that they should be included in the Hamburg class.

#### A LOVER OF HAMBURGHES.

##### PRACTICAL HINTS.

**SCURFY LEGS.**—The best cure for scurf in the scales of the legs, if, indeed, there be any cure, is a good country grass walk, with plenty of green food. Toast steeped in port wine or sherry is good. Some use a potash (potassa) or soda wash for the

legs. Vinegar is also often used as a wash for scurfy scales of legs.

**BREEDING GAME FOWLS.**—Pure-bred black-breasted Reds seldom or never throw chickens with any brown on the breast. When this occurs, it is generally from a cross of the brown-breasted or ginger-breasted breeds. Cock-fighters' breeds will always stand better than birds not bred for cock-fighting, as they match them in breeding for this purpose, and their birds are harder. Some Exhibition birds are bred from cockers' strains, and stand remarkably well, and are more showy than the pit birds, and also larger and heavier. Exhibition birds are softer and more fleshy than the cockers' birds. Game may be easily bred hard feathered by choosing hard, short-bodied stock, and putting only a few hens to the cock choosing spurred hens.

**FRENCH VARIETIES OF FOWLS.**—There are three varieties of French Fowls, which possess superior qualities. The La Flèche, Houdan, and Crève Cœur. The La Flèche lay the largest eggs, and, we think, the greatest number, but they are, if not beaten, certainly hard run by the Houdans, which lay very freely. They do not sit. All three are good table fowls, the greatest objection to them being their black legs. The La Flèche is most esteemed in France. Breeders of large experience in all these breeds place the Houdans first on account of their health and good constitutions. They never ail anything, and they are good in all particulars. The La Flèche are placed next: they lay eggs that are unrivalled by any other fowl. They are all valuable introductions to the poultry yard.

**ANDALUSIAN FOWLS** are a variety of the Spanish, and are good layers. They do well in a confined space, and are good table birds, but have black legs. They are of the non-sitting class.

**FOWLS LAYING SOFT EGGS.**—When soft eggs are laid by fowls they intimate usually that the egg organs are inflamed, which is occasioned by the birds being over-fed, or too fat. Spare diet, and plenty of green food, especially lettuce leaves, is the best treatment for fowls in such condition.

### THE DRAGOON PIGEON.

The following description of the Dragoon Pigeon has been furnished by the Birmingham (England) Columbarian Society, and recently published in the *Journal of Horticulture*.

There are in Dragoons five acknowledged colors—blue, silver, red, yellow, and white. The first and last named are the most numerous classes; but, in speaking of all the colors, we do not wish to show a preference for any one kind, but to advocate the claims of all collectively, and to further describe the chief points of difference separately.

One chief object, and also the great difficulty, especially to the uninitiated, is in severing them from their allies, the Carriers, whose name must inevitably crop out when describing Dragoons; but let it be understood there is, and should be, a marked difference between the matured birds of each; yet, notwithstanding this difference, the young Carrier is often very improperly placed in competition with the Dragoon, and, too frequently, gentlemen who are called upon to adjudicate at some of our shows, appear so perplexed by the comparison, that they are occasionally beguiled into the error of placing young Carriers upon the prize list in the Dragoon class, which is rather discouraging to those who have from time to time pointed out in what particulars the great dissimilarity exists.

Dragoons should not be large birds, but of moderate size, neat and compact in form; tight in feather; have sharp pointed wings: be broad in shoulder, with butts well displayed, and narrow rumped. The head should be long and straight; skull narrow, well developed at the back. The eye should be large and prominent; the lash, cere, or flesh wattle, uniform, equal, white, and circular, with but little of it. The wart upon the beak should be small, and not overhanging. The neck should be long, slender, and graceful; the carriage erect; the legs, long, clean, and angular; the feet large. The general bearing of these birds is of a timid, tremulous kind, invariably displaying a shaking and nervous temperament. The Blues, Silvers, and Whites, are prolific birds, good nurses, and are swift and good flying Pigeons; but this cannot be said of their brethren of the Reds and Yellows, whose constitution seems to have suffered by close breeding, in order not

only to perfect, but to keep pure, their beautiful uniform color, and, in consequence, they are not to be trusted from home; otherwise, they will probably be lost.

These are our compressed views of the essential points of show Dragoons collectively. Taking them separately, they may be described thus:

**BLUE DRAGOONS** should be of a good sound color upon the sides of the wings, head, belly, thighs, back and tail. The head is generally of rather a darker hue: the neck also dark and gorgeous, illuminated with bright iridescent colors, and terminating in a distinct and circular line upon the shoulders, breast and back, thereby producing a pleasing contrast with the lighter and less brilliant parts of the body; the lower extremity of the wing coverts have two narrow and jet black bars, running obliquely, and terminating just above the thigh; the tail, also, has a band of black, about an inch wide, and within a quarter of an inch of its end; the flight feathers are dark. The beak also must be dark; the eyes of a bright red color; the legs and feet red, and with dark nails.

**SILVER** are frequently bred from and crossed with Blues; but it is better not to do so: for, as a consequence, too often the produce of such a mixture is a muddle of both, resulting chiefly in the production of birds of a silver color, with black bars and dark flights, which are, therefore, not regarded as Silvers, but are looked upon as washed-out Blues. True Silvers may be simply described as follows: Their color is a sort of whity brown, or very light drab, with darker drab bars, neck, and flights; they should have light horny bills and nails; the hackle is not so beautifully resplendent as in the Blues, the iridescence being greatly diminished by the drab tint, of which their color consists. The eyes of this variety partake of a rich pearlsh kind, without a particle of yellow observable in them. They are a very attractive variety, and good specimens are very scarce, more especially cock birds.

**YELLOW**s are rather a scarce variety, as they are difficult to breed pure in color, and good in shape as well, for, with close breeding they are sure to degenerate, or, if fresh blood is infused, they will as surely show the white feather, or the slaty rump or thigh; there-

fore, they are by no means numerous. Good Yellows should be of an entirely uniform color, and not yellow, as their name signifies, but of a rich sienna brown; the eye should be of a bright red color; the beak flesh-colored (pinkish white). In other respects they should answer the general description of a Dragon; but in one or two points they often differ, being generally coarser in wattle and broader in skull, two points which materially detract from their otherwise admirable appearance. As before said, birds of this variety are not usually good breeders. Their young are very delicate and difficult to rear. The eyes of the young ones of this variety present a singular appearance when about a fortnight old, being of a transparent pink color, but they gradually change until the birds are full fledged, when they soon assume the usual color.

REDS, like the Yellows, are scarce, and still more difficult to obtain of a good rich color. They are generally tinged with blue upon the rump, belly and thighs; the beak should be darkish; the eyes, bright red. There are some, although few, excellent specimens of this kind, which are very beautiful, and ought to be prized, the neck, like that of the Archangel, being beautifully enlivened with a rich copper bronze, which adds greatly to its appearance.

WHITES are very beautiful and very numerous, but perfect specimens are scarce. They should be pure white; have dark eyes, with white lash; with white beak and nails. Indeed, they should be quite colorless. Any color upon them, with the exception of their legs, amounts to a disqualification. This variety is not so extensively kept, from the fact that they are so difficult to keep clean.

### THE CHINA RABBIT.

THE CHINA RABBIT is a very pretty and curious variety of the fancy Rabbit, and is generally supposed to have been brought from China or the Himalayan Mountains. Hence, we sometimes hear it spoken of as the "Himalayan" Rabbit. By some fanciers it is considered to be of African descent, and by others, merely the result of a cross; but for our part, we believe it to be a distinct variety. We have known those who have bred many generations of them; and as they have invariably produced

young resembling themselves in every point, we take this very convincing ground as the proof of our belief. A writer states that he bred some from "Silver Sprigs." We do not deny, for one moment, the possibility of such a fact; but this we do think, that if the breed we recognize as "Himalayas" were thus produced, we should frequently be having foul or irregularly-marked young ones in our litters. The pure strain should always be white in color, with dark extremities and snout, and a dingy fawn seems to be more frequently met with as the color of the extremities than any other. The ears are carried erect, as in the common rabbit, with which this variety also corresponds in size, general conformation, and habit. We have never seen a specimen of the pure breed that did not answer to this description, and we have seen many, though we have never bred them ourselves.

### RABBIT HUTCHES.

Rabbit Hutches should be about four feet long, two and a half feet wide, and from twenty to twenty-four inches high, and one-third of the length should be taken off for a breeding or dark room for the doe to litter in. The other portion should be of perpendicular three-eighth inch meshed strong wire, to exclude all vermin, and prevent the young rabbits being strangled by pushing their heads through. This space is for medium sized rabbits, as Himalayan, Angora, and Silver-grey. Belgian Hare Rabbits, Patagonians, and Lop-eared should have two feet more superficial extent of hutch; and for the Dutch, one foot less will do. A large hutch may be had for the weaned rabbits to live in until, say four or five months old, when they are to be separated. Each doe will thrive best if in her own hutch, but if intended to be in a semi-wild state, three or four boxes may be placed in a four feet square room; yet, the fear is, all would not be "peace and harmony." Three hundred rabbits may be reared every year until four months old, in properly arranged hutches, covering not less than one hundred and fifty square feet, in stacks of three in height, say with a breeding stock of twenty does and four bucks. If one hundred or one hundred and eighty square feet can be given to them, all the better. For fine-

ness of breed and exhibition, rabbits should be kept from the ground, and their hutches placed at least one foot from it.

#### FORTHCOMING POULTRY EXHIBITIONS.

Secretaries of Agricultural Societies will please forward prize lists of their intended exhibitions, for insertion.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL FAIR of the New York State Agricultural Society will be held on the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th days of September next, at the City of Utica. Entries close on 31st August, and must be made with the Secretary personally or by letter at the Agricultural Rooms, Albany, N. Y. The following prizes in the poultry class are offered:

Prizes are not to be awarded for birds impaired in value for breeding purposes. Until further ordered, the standard of excellence of the London Poultry Club is to be the guide in judging.

Best trio grey dorkings \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio white dorkings \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio black Spanish \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio white Polands \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio black Polands \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio golden Polands \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio silver Polands \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio Bolton Greys \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio Earl Derby game \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio black-breasted red game \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio other red game \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio gray duck-wing game \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio other gray game \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio pile game \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio Leghorns \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio African Bantams \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio gold-laced Bantams \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio silver-laced Bantams \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio Cochins \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio Brahmans (light) \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio Brahmans, dark \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio Hamburgs \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio Houdans \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio Crèvecoeurs \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio La Flèche \$5, 2nd do \$3; best trio Sultans \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair bronze turkeys \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair pure wild turkeys \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair common black or brown turkeys \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair white turkeys \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair Muscovy ducks \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair Aylesbury ducks \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair Rouen ducks \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair Cayuga ducks \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair Bremen geese \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair brown China geese \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair white China geese \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair African geese \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair Toulouse geese \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair wild geese \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair Guinea

fowls \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair Pea fowls \$5, 2nd do \$3; best and greatest variety pigeons \$5, 2nd do \$3; best pair common rabbits \$3, 2nd do \$2; best pair lop-eared or Madagascar rabbits \$5, 2nd do \$3.

#### OUR LETTER-BOX.

BREEDING FROM PULLETS: THE INFLUENCE OF THE COCK.—("Subscriber, Albion") asks the following questions: "Which is the best to breed from, an April or June chick?" 2d. "How long should a pure hen of one breed remain in a pen of another pure breed, to be made impure?" 3d. "How many of such eggs should be discarded for hatching purposes.?"

1. We would prefer to hatch from the April bird, as it ought to be the largest and strongest, and this holds good to all other breeds of fowls as well as hens. Table birds may be hatched at any time, but breeders should be chosen from out of those hatched early. There is an absurd saying about the eggs of June chickens not hatching, the grounds for which we have never been able to ascertain; but our remarks are not in any way biased by it. Our own experience is, never to hatch from pullets when it can be avoided. A two year old hen and a year old cock, produce, to our mind, the strongest chicks.

2d and 3d. We will take together, which we understand to mean the "influence of the cock," a subject now occupying a good deal of attention among poultry breeders, and about which a good deal has been said and written, but apparently little actually known. We refer our correspondent to a letter from "A Canada Amateur," in our last number, and also to an article on the fecundation of turkey eggs in this, and add that we shall watch the discussion now going on in other poultry journals, and when a definite result seems to be ascertained, will not fail to give it publicity. On this subject we would be glad to be informed of the results of any carefully executed experiments that may have been made.

WHITE LEGHORN FOWL.—("D. A., Gall"). The following are the points of white Leghorn fowls, as given by W. B. Tegetmeier, in a late number of the *Field* newspaper: "White Leghorns are birds of the Spanish type, but with white in the place of black plumage. Their legs are bright yellow, and perfectly free from feathering on the shanks. The faces are red, the ear lobes only being white. The comb in the cock is thin, erect, and evenly serrated. In the hen it falls over, like that of a Spanish hen. The tail in the cock is exceedingly well furnished with side sickle feathers, and in both sexes is

carried particularly erect. The birds are active, good foragers, and have a very sprightly and handsome carriage.

**DO THUNDER-STORMS KILL CHICKENS BEFORE THEY ARE HATCHED.**—This interesting query still continues to create discussion, and draw from poultry-breeders their experience on the subject.

*W. H. Doel, Toronto,* writes: My experience has been for many years as follows: When I make the nest above the ground, that is, in a box or basket, I almost always find my chickens dead in the shell, if a thunder-storm occurs during the last week of hatching; but when I have placed the nest on the ground, with only an inch or so of soft straw for the eggs to lie on, I have invariably had my birds hatch out well. I am entirely at a loss to account for it, for we find that great unnatural noises, as the firing of cannon, does not hurt the chicks in the shell, but the slamming of a door will kill the young canary before it is hatched.

**THE BRAHMA FOWL,** BY L. WRIGHT. (*Subscriber*).—A member of the Ontario Poultry Association ordered from the publishers in England a few copies of this work, one of which he can spare. By enclosing two dollars (the price of the book), and the postage, in Canada funds, or an equivalent, it will be mailed to your address. The money may be sent to the editor of this journal.

**IMPORTATION OF DARK BRAHMAS.**—(*Subscriber, Albion*).—The Express Company charges by weight. The cost of importing a trio of Dark Brahma fowls will therefore depend upon the size and weight of the box in which they are penned. We think, however, that from \$12 to \$15 would cover the amount. This is, of course, in addition to the price to be paid in England for them, and which we think, for really good birds, would not be less than \$50. The two year old cock and the four pullets will throw good chickens, but we would prefer to breed from the year old cock and four hens. We purpose soon to give an illustration of an Exhibition coop, suitable either for a trio or a pair of fowls.

**WHITE LEGHORNS.**—(*Mr. E. Medberry, Chicago*), writes as follows: I have four White Leghorn hens which have laid in the last 4 months (or 122 days), ending 31st July, 362 eggs, an average of nearly 3 eggs daily. They are great favorites in the East, and should be here. The only objection that I can see to them is that, like the Spanish, they are not hardy enough for this northern climate, except they are in the hands of those who can afford, and do provide them with warm quar-

ters in the winter, and I think they amply repay a person for the trouble and expense of furnishing such quarters. Their chicks mature early, and are not subject to any disease. If Mr. Medberry would kindly furnish us with a description of the fowl, giving points, &c., we would gladly publish it, to compare with that furnished by Mr. Tegemeier. The breed of Leghorn fowl is a new one, and any information obtained respecting it would be of benefit to amateurs.—Ed.

**HATCHING EGGS.** (*Thomas Bog, Pi-ton*), writes us the results of his hatching experience from eggs imported from Mr. J. C. Cooper, Limerick, Ireland. He says: "Out of 12 dark Brahma eggs I had only 2 chickens, 6 La Félche eggs produced none, 10 Cochin eggs gave 1, 6 Rouen Duck eggs produced three, and six Aylesbury duck eggs resulted in no produce." The Rouen ducks, he says, are magnificent. Mr. Bog omitted to say whether there were dead birds in the shells or not, and as so much depends on the care and attention bestowed not only by the owner but also by the hen during process of incubation, it would be unfair, in the absence of this knowledge, to form any opinion as to the fertility of the eggs sent. Mr. Cooper is a breeder of high repute, and we have no reason to suppose his eggs were not fecundated, as the result of Mr. Bog's experience would lead one to suppose.

**HARDY TABLE FOWLS.**—(*S. G. F., Ontario*).—Pure Brahmans are hardier and easier to rear than any cross-bred birds. We know no bird so hardy, and few so useful.

**FLEAS IN POULTRY HOUSE.** (*W. D. M., Toronto*.) It is no unusual thing to have fleas in a poultry house. Your fowls lack the proper dust bath. Ordinary dust will not provide against them; it must be wood ashes, or very fine limestone gravel; mix with it the flour of sulphur, and put it under a shed or in a corner of the poultry house where it can not be wetted; you will see your fowls burying themselves in it, raising their wings and throwing the dust into their feathers. This is a cure. It is supposed the exertion of moving over and among the particles of grit, is no more comfortable to the parasites than used to be a pilgrimage to a distant shrine, with half a pint of peas in the boots, and they give in. Thoroughly cleanse your house, then wash it with a strong solution of carbolic acid, and when thoroughly dry, lime white it thickly.

**POINTS IN AN AYLESBURY DUCK.** (*A Subscriber*).—Bill of a delicate pale flesh color, perfectly free from black or dark marks; color, pure white; weight, the heavier the better.

**ONE EGG ENCLOSED WITHIN ANOTHER.**—A correspondent says:—I send you a singular hen egg. It was boiled for my breakfast, and on breaking the shell and removing some of the white and milk which it contained, I was surprised by the spoon coming in contact with another shell oregg. I passed the spoon all round, and, being convinced it was another and distinct large egg in its shell, I did not like to press further, fearing I might do it an injury, but had it boiled hard, that it would bear the carriage to you better. The egg is from a coloured Dorking pullet, of last year. I thought the egg so singular a one that I would send it to you, never myself having seen anything of the sort before, though now near the age allotted to man. The weight of the egg before being cooked was exactly five oz.

### Advertisements:

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Eggs in the season, carefully and securely packed, at \$3 per setting, package included and carriage paid to Liverpool. Also, Pigeons of almost every variety.

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Package (wire cages), 50 cents per pair, delivered at express office. Address Drawer 244, P. O., Montreal.

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R. I., Breeder and Dealer in Fancy Fowls, from the best selections of imported and premium Stock, of the following varieties: Partridge Cochins, Crève Coeurs, Buff Cochins, Dark Brahmans, La Fleche, Houdans, Silken Fowls, Light Brahmans.

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