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# THE CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW

DEVOTED TO  
POULTRY, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

PUBLISHED BY H. B. DONOVAN.

VOL. XVII.

118 VICTORIA STREET, TORONTO, JANUARY, 1894.

No. 1.

## Tenth Annual Exhibition of the Eastern Ontario Poultry and Pet Stock Association,

TO BE HELD AT

Ottawa, February 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, 1894.

PIGEON JUDGE,  
James Ainslie, Montreal.

POULTRY JUDGE,  
J. Y. Bicknell, Buffalo, N.Y.

SECRETARY,  
Alfred Geddes, 344 Stewart Street, Ottawa

Send for Premium List.

194

### THE PORT HOPE

## Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Association,

WILL HOLD THEIR

### SECOND GRAND ANNUAL EXHIBITION,

IN THE NEW AND COMMODIOUS TOWN HALL, PORT HOPE,

**JANUARY 23RD, 24TH, 25TH, AND 26TH, 1894.**

J. L. MARGACH, *President.*

JOSEPH HOOPER, *Secretary-Treasurer,*

1293

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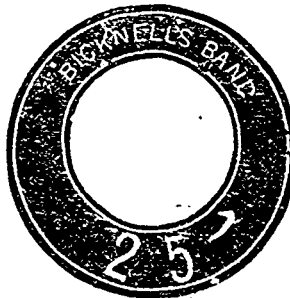
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# THE CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW

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PUBLISHED BY H. E. DONOVAN.

Vol. xvii.

118 VICTORIA STREET, TORONTO, JANUARY, 1894.

No. 1.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

**A** HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Generally, at this time of the year publishers are expected to say a few words as to the policy of the journal or journals that they may control. We have but this to state: THE REVIEW, as in the past, will continue, we hope, to act as the mouthpiece and mentor of the fancy in Canada. Where praise is desirable it shall not be stinted, nor, on the other hand shall censure, when we feel that such is necessary. This is an honest journal, fearless in opinion, without enmity, and we look to our readers and subscribers to support us in our efforts to benefit the fancy in the Dominion. We have very many friends, and we suppose a few enemies. To the latter, as well as to the former we heartily wish

A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR.

### WORLD'S FAIR PRIZE-MONEY.

The following extract from a letter from Mr. Seeger will interest those exhibitors who, like ourselves, can find a place for every convenient dollar, especially at this season. Mr. Seeger says, writing from Lafayette, Ind.:

"Yours was forwarded to me here, and in answer to same will say premium orders for all the premiums have been made out and are awaiting the action of the National Committee on them after they meet and approve of them. Then

the Treasurer of the Exposition Company will commence to pay the premiums.

"I arrived home on the 6th inst. Have the honor of having the best report in Live Stock Department. Mr. Buchanan was high in his praise of my management, and also of exhibition."

MR. ALLAN BOGUE, LONDON,

has been nominated by the Patrons of Industry for South Middlesex as their candidate for the Local Legislature. We know of nothing which would advance the poultry interests in this Province more than the election to its governing body of a practical breeder, and holding such an opinion, we of course most heartily wish Mr. Bogue success.

MR. L. G. JARVIS

has been asked by Prof. Mills, of the Guelph Agricultural College, to deliver a course of twenty lectures at the coming meetings of the Farmers' Institutes. Mr. Jarvis has the matter under consideration.

### WHAT IS QUEBEC DOING?

We have asked several times lately what the sister Province of Quebec is doing in this way, but we can learn of no active movement. This, we regret, as we are sure does the devoted band of fanciers in the East.

MR. R. McCURDY, LONDON,

has just sent a pair of black Langshan chicks to the President of the American Langshan Club, who resides at Charleston, South Carolina. Canadian birds *will* come to the top.

### PORT HOPE SHOW.

The Secretary, Mr. Hooper, writes:

"Please alter our dates to Jan'y 23, 24, 25 and 26; as we

cannot get judge only on those dates. Mr. Sharp Butterfield is secured. Applications for prize lists are pouring in, and a big show is certain."

THE ONTARIO SHOW.

This will be too late to do the Association any good, but it will probably be read by many before they leave for New Hamburg. The Secretary, Mr. T. A. Browne, writes: "Going to have a great meeting. Nine or ten addresses, and the entries are twenty-five per cent. more than at same time last year." This is good, and an immense show may be looked for.

MR CHARLES SARNEY,

Editor of the *Thamesville Herald*, has had, to him, a novel experience in raising chicks, and asks our opinion. He writes:

"This spring I selected four dozen of the finest eggs I could find in the grocery stores and hatched forty-one chicks, which I tended and raised for the table. Two of them, roosters, on killing I found to have almost black skins and a black skin under the flesh on the bones. Although they did not look as well as white or yellow skins the meat was of excellent gamey flavor. The birds were of dark plumage, large black eye, good size, black combs when young, turning a red-black. A short time before killing they had a kind of hairy muff round the face, no wattles or ear lobe, tail feathers like a hen. What kind are they? They were always perfectly healthy."

From this description, dark flesh, dark comb, and hen tail feathers, the two birds mentioned had undoubtedly a cross of Silky blood, sometimes called Japanese fur fowls.

THE "WORLD'S" POULTRY REVIEW.

Our mail one week this last month contained letters from England, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and Colombia, in addition to our regular Canadian & U.S. packages, we have serious thoughts of changing the name of this journal to the "WORLD'S" POULTRY REVIEW. Canadian fanciers don't know or don't appreciate what a good thing they have.

EXPORTING TURKEYS.

A long article will be found in another column on this subject from the pen of Mrs. T. C. Smith, Clogher, Ballaghaderim, Ireland. Send your dollars to Canada, Mrs. Smith, no trouble will be found in getting agents here quite ready

to undertake the shipping, and you will get good value. We shall be pleased to hear from you again.

SEÑOR JUAN MANUEL MARIN,

of Ocana, Colombia, now reads the *REVIEW*, we hope with greater ease than we do his letters written in Spanish. To this gentleman we are Señor Don H. B. Donovan. Stand back! ye handleless editors.

MR. H. THOMAS,

of Timaru, Canterbury, New Zealand, who breeds the popular brown Leghorn exclusively, is anxious to get a really good colored plate of this breed, suitable for framing. Can any of our readers oblige us with such a plate, or even a good photograph taken from life? We should be glad to send it on to Mr. Thomas. We have already sent black and white engravings to him.

MR. HERBERT RAINES,

of Filey, England, the author of "The Wyandotte," a copy of the revised edition of which has just reached us, writes thus warmly:

"Very many thanks for your most excellent papers (two) you so kindly sent me. The picture of my silver Wyandotte pullet is one of the very best I have ever seen and throws great credit on your paper. I shall forward you a copy of the second edition of the "Wyandotte" (the first was sold out in under a year). Wishing you all good luck and a continuance of such excellent portraits."

We thank Mr. Raines for his kind expression of opinion, and hope to continue to merit it.

OTTAWA SHOW.

Lists are now ready and may be had from the Secretary. Mr. Bicknell judges all poultry classes, and Mr. James Ainslie, Montreal, all pigeon.

MR. J. SAGE

writes us the corrections we made in his wins in last *REVIEW* should have applied to the Western Fair, and not to the Columbian Exposition.

MESSRS. OLDRIEVE & NICOL, KINGSTON,

we hear, have just received from the Rev. Fred Cooper, England, a grand pair of black-red Game Bantams, and from Messrs. Ainscongh a black-red Game stag.

# POULTRY

## NOTES OF THE DAY.

BY BLACK WYANDOT.

IT is the duty of every fancier to materially encourage poultry shows. He may do this by attending personally and advising others to attend; by entering his fowls at his nearest show, or at as many as he can conveniently attend, and by donating special premiums. The poultry shows foster the fancy poultry business and are therefore the fanciers friends.

It is a matter for congratulation that silver Wyandots are again returning to the type which should never have been abandoned, viz., wide open lacing. This is the truly beautiful type and the nearer the plumage of the breed can be made to approach that of the best silver Sebright Bantam the better.

Something good can be said of nearly every breed, but no breed is the *ne plus ultra*. The great variety we now have in the different breeds gives a wide scope for the satisfaction of various tastes. It is a good thing we don't all fancy a single breed.

Eggs in winter are not so much an object to the fancier as to the market poulturer. The former will likely prefer to have his fowls store their strength for the spring breeding season, and no doubt fowls which have had a long winter of rest and recuperation will produce the strongest and most vigorous chicks.

It pays to look after the winter comfort of the flocks. The birds will now stand considerable crowding as far as the roosting space is concerned, but the more protected scratching space they can have the better. If farmers who have plenty of straw would build straw sheds for the winter comfort of the farm flock they would find the small outlay most profitably spent. A few poles and plenty of straw are the materials required, and no cash outlay is necessary, the entire cost of such protection being represented by the labor.

It was not known until recently that the black Wyandot was admitted to the Standard at the Chicago meeting, but

such was in fact the case. The name of the breed was not printed with the others admitted, by some oversight. One thing is certain, no better qualified breed has ever been admitted, as the black Wyandot is a perfectly established breed and will produce as large a percentage of fine chicks as any variety of the Wyandot race.

The Standard will call for same size, shape, weights, and general characteristics as the other Wyandots, except color, which is glossy black throughout. Shanks black, shaded with yellow, bottoms of feet black. It is safe to predict a great demand for this breed which has few equals for beauty and practical value. It has nine years of careful breeding behind it and is no new and mongrel breed. Its admission to the Standard will give it greater weight with the fancy than heretofore.

## IMPORTING FOWLS.

BY F. C. SMITH, CLOGHER, BALLAGHADERIN, IRELAND.

THERE are many on both sides of the ocean who imagine that importing fowls is a simple matter—plain sailing. Few are aware how much trouble and anxiety there is in getting birds from America. I am in the habit of importing one or two coops of prize turkeys every year. My experience may, I hope, be worthy of a corner in your valuable paper.

My first importation was made ten years ago, a valuable gobbler. He was a great winner in America, 45 lbs. weight, for which I paid a high price. After a long, rough journey of about thirty-five days he came to hand with sciatica in one leg, from which he never recovered. It was not very severe, just enough to lame him thoroughly. He was mated with three hens. Their first batches were all infertile. One of them laid a second batch, and I reared a pair of nice little pullets from these. The grand old giant died the following August, so I paid dearly for my first venture. My courage was not good enough to try again until 1888. This time I imported the first prize young pair, *Cincinnati*. They were forwarded by an express company. They came in thirty-one days, the 'tom' more like a crane than a turkey. His neck stiff so that he could not pick and one of his wings half powerless. With great care I got him round. The pullet was in good health, but with neither back nor tail feathers. The "tom" rallied and bred a good flock. The pullet laid a few eggs and died of ovary trouble. Her birds came out very well, but were soft and never had any stamina. All died within the first week. However, I was very well

pleased with this importation. I got another pair from their breeder two years later. They came in exactly the same time by the same express company. Both were in good form. Each had lost exactly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. on the way. I fear both lots must have lain in the shipping office several days. I imported four prize birds in 1891, two in 1892, and have four winners on their way at present—two of them winners at the World's Fair. All since 1890 took about three weeks to cross. Some took twenty-three days. I should say I got five birds in 1891. The single bird crossed from Boston in twenty days, and only lost three pounds en route.

Importing is far more difficult for us than for Americans. Our fast steamships will take fowls to America. They cross in seven or eight days. But there is no line of fast steamships which will bring us fowls from America. The shipping agents on the American side are most disagreeable in this matter, they won't take fowls on any terms, so we must get them by slow freight steamships, which take almost eighteen days to make the voyage. I think American breeders and the American press should have something to say on this matter, whereby both breeder and importer are injured. We send hundreds of fowls to America and get a mere dribble in return, no doubt owing to this treatment by American shipping agents. I may add that the steamship companies are not hostile to carrying fowls. All I wrote to offered to take them, but told me to arrange with the agent on the American side, and my reply from the American in every case was a decided no.

I may say I found American breeders honourable except one man. That man I won't name at present. He sold me a bird which he said was under two years old and weighed 46 lbs. I thought him a great bird, and as his price, \$15, was low, I sent him the money. Afterwards I found this bird was offered the previous February to an Englishman, and that he was over two years, perhaps over three years old. When one finds a breeder to lie there is no trusting him afterwards. I wrote, pointing out what I heard. He replied that he would send me a grand young bird, 30 lbs, early in December. He said this bird would make 60 lbs. if I fed him well. Next mail brought me a letter that he was started, and stated that he was an early bird and looked like an old one. He came safely not a feather broken, 3 lbs. less in weight than when he started. I went down my avenue to meet him, but to my surprise the first note I heard was his angry tones, he trying to bite the driver through the wires. I opened his door, and out came a short, worn-legged old fellow with one spur off, the other very well developed, his brush or tuft evidently cut during the autumn. He was so vicious that he had to be shut in a

pen till I sold him for a trifle to a man to breed market birds. But here he failed. Though mated with a few good hens he failed to breed a single bird. The following Christmas he went to the poulterer at \$2.50, still under 30 lbs, who sold him to a good customer, who returned him cooked to show that he was so tough and old and dark that he was unfit for food. The poulterer saw he was worthless and returned the money. So ended the only case in which I was cheated by an American breeder. My loss on him was \$22.

The cost of shipping varies greatly. I paid \$20 on a pair, \$15 on another, and \$25 on another. A friend of mine paid \$47.50 on four turkeys. I find it better to prepay, I also find the attendant on board should be well paid, the usual charge is \$1 25. I give him \$2, one dollar on the American side and another in Liverpool if he brings the birds in good condition. This works admirably. Since I adopted this plan all my birds came in splendid condition.

I have only another remark to make. The birds should be in the shipping office a few days before the day of sailing. Frequently these freight ships start a day before the advertised time. Often they sail a day or two late. It is better to be in good time, for an hour late means a week or ten days in port, with the very poorest care. On board they get good care if arranged properly, but in an agent's office it is otherwise.

#### EARLY EGGS.

BY H. S. BABCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R.I.

**M**ANY complaints arise from the failure of early eggs to hatch well. Year after year the same story is told, varied only in the strength of language. The seasons when the complaints are the most numerous are usually those following the darkest and most stormy winters. Lack of sunshine seems to have a more deleterious effect than severe cold, though anything which depresses the system of the fowls probably injuriously affects the fertility of eggs. As the past winter has been one characterized by some cold and many stormy days, it is quite probable that the eggs laid early in the season will not be as fertile as one could wish.

Buyers will insist upon ordering eggs early in the season, because they know that early chickens are very desirable. They get the growth, size, strength and feathering that enables them to go through their first winter successfully, and he pullets make good winter layers and excellent breeders.

But buyers ought to remember that when ordering very early eggs, they are assuming a risk and should not find fault if the hatches are not satisfactory. They should be reasonable in all things.

Breeders, knowing that early eggs will be ordered, should do what they can to have them fertile. They should not have too many females with male birds, as the cold weather diminishes his salacious desires and he will fertilize the eggs of fewer hens than he would if the weather were more temperate. They should so feed as to keep their fowls in vigorous health, a varied grain diet, with some vegetable and meat additions. They should gather the eggs frequently to prevent them from becoming injuriously chilled, though an egg will bear more cold and remain unharmed than many suppose. As an example of this I remember of shipping some eggs for hatching to Canada in the very early spring one season. The day they were shipped the weather was fair and mild, but a cold wave came on, the thermometer dropped to forty degrees below zero, at some of the points where these eggs had to pass, and I expected to learn that they were received frozen solid. To my surprise, the purchaser later on reported a fairly good hatch from them. The eggs were very carefully packed and probably received as good care as could be given in an express car on the way, but they must have been subjected to a degree of cold that would have made a breeder despair of their hatching. But despite such an example, a breeder owes it to his customers to keep the eggs from chilling so far as he reasonably can do so.

Early eggs probably often fail to hatch because they receive a chill during the process of incubation. Such a chill is really more injurious than one of an equal degree of cold, before the activities of the eggs have been aroused by warmth. At certain stages of incubation it does not take a very great degree of cold to seriously injure or destroy the developing chick. And this may often be done when the owner of the egg is wholly unaware of the fact. Hens sometimes roll an egg out from beneath them, let it get thoroughly chilled, and then roll it back, and the owner will be none the wiser for it. And this might happen in turn to every egg in the clutch, the vitality of the whole being thus destroyed. I remember of discovering some years ago by the merest accident, one very cold night in early spring, that one of my sitting hens had cooled some of her eggs. They were so effectually cooled that they did not hatch. The next morning she was covering all the eggs as carefully as if none had been thus exposed. If I had not happened to discover her in the very act I should have wondered why so careful a sitter as she was, did not hatch the eggs.

I like early chickens after they are developed, but the risks are so great that I seldom try to get them out very early. April, May and June are good months, and perhaps the very best of them all is May. But if one will have early chicks, let him be prepared to expect a smaller number from a sitting than later in the year, when the weather indicates that the natural breeding season has arrived.

#### TURKEYS, FEEDING AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

(Continued.)

WHEN young turkeys are four months old they will do better in trees at night than in either house or shed. Here they will be quite free from colds and roup. I never knew of roup breaking out among fowl roosting out. Cold comes on generally from an overheated roosting house, where the birds are kept in an extra warm state during the night, and let out into the cold in the morning. The only difficulty in letting turkeys roost out is their safety. Thieves must be guarded against. Foxes are not very troublesome in Ireland: one is hardly ever seen now. The best trees are laurels or fir, or any broad tree covered with ivy.

From the beginning of September, the best food for turkeys is grain. I begin in the early morning with a small feed of Indian meal and pollard; about nine o'clock I give a moderate feed of grain, usually Indian corn, and in the evening I give a full feed of the best oats I can get. They like oats better than Indian corn, but I consider oats have too much husk to give as their entire food. If they get, say, half their food in the form of oats, the other half in Indian corn and meal, it will be found a very good arrangement.

Turkeys should also have an abundant supply of green food. They are fond of white cabbage, and if they are allowed to get at growing cabbages they will devour large quantities. They are also fond of lettuce and borecole. If turkeys have been well fed from the first, they will be quite fat enough without being put up and fattened. I have frequently seen people advised to put them into a dark house and fatten them. I always find that turkeys pine when closed up in this way. Too much liberty does not help them, perhaps; but I think I am correct in saying there is a medium.

If a well fenced garden is at their service, say a rood or so, where they will have plenty of shelter, they will fatten better here than either roaming at full liberty or pining in a house.



I would not like to put turkeys into either a house or a small pen to fatten. I tried both, and failed; but I never failed when I fed well with grain and gave them moderate liberty. Fed in this way they will be quite fat enough; but if extra fat is required, I would give two meals of soft food, and I would wet both with new warm milk. Every one will be the best judge of the meal that suits; some will prefer Indian, some oat, some barley meal. I have found a mixture of Indian meal, oatmeal and pollard (equal parts) all that could be desired. If the Indian meal is put in a bucket, and the boiling milk poured on it to make it wet enough to make the oat meal and pollard into a crumbly mass, the birds will eat it greedily, and thrive rapidly on it.

I would give the first feed as early as possible; then a few handfuls of grain an hour afterwards; a second feed about two o'clock, and a full feed of grain in the evening. There is another point I should not neglect to mention—that is, to keep the birds to their food. Some complain that their turkeys won't eat—that they only take a few pecks and ramble away. Yes: they get their throats filled and cannot eat for a few minutes, and they go from their food and don't return. The proper thing to do is to keep them at their food for ten or fifteen minutes, and they will eat quite enough. They are greedy birds, and not unfrequently half choke themselves when they begin to feed; then they ramble away. But if they are not allowed to go away they will begin again and take a good meal.

I would advise all birds intended for stock to be selected early in October, and, if possible, separated from those intended for table. Stock birds should never be allowed to get fat, particularly if they are good ones. Good turkeys are inclined to put on flesh rapidly. Like highly-bred cattle they must be kept in store condition if they are to breed. Bad ones may be feed ever so well: it won't injure them. Birds intended for exhibition are generally fattened. My plan has always been to feed them on grain as much as they would eat, and let them have full liberty. Large frames and good plumage, with a fair amount of flesh, is what good judges require.

There is only one point more, make exhibition birds as tame as possible. I remember showing an afterwards famous bird, and, to my surprise, he was as wild in his pen as if he had been caught in the woods. During the three days of the show he ate almost nothing. Before he made his second appearance he had to learn how to conduct himself. Turkeys, when properly handled, are quite easily tamed. They will soon learn to pick from the hand. I have found it a good plan to give them a little grain for a

few days, and they will follow you for it, and, after a little hesitation, they will pick out of the measure held in your hand, and, after a few days more, they will pick from the hand. I consider this a better way to train a bird than putting him in an exhibition pen kept for that purpose. As soon as a bird is tame enough to pick grain from the hand, he will not be afraid of the crowd in the show room.—BREEDER, in *The Kennel, the Poultry Yard, etc.*

#### INCUBATION—ARTIFICIAL v. NATURAL.

BY WILLIAM HAY, CORRIE, ARRAN, SCOTLAND.

WITH the view of meeting our ever-increasing demand for poultry produce, or at least of making ourselves less dependant upon our neighbours for a supply, we consider it is the duty of those who have a practical knowledge of poultry matters and are able to speak in favor of poultry keeping, to endeavour to awaken the public interest in behalf of this industry.

With the extensive circulation of poultry literature, the diffusion of books on fowls, and the institution in all our large towns of poultry societies, it is a matter of wonder and regret that such crude notions on the management of fowls still exist, and that the antiquated customs of our ancestors in the treatment of fowls have not now been dispelled.

For the information of those who have some knowledge of the hatching and rearing of chickens, but who have not yet used an incubator, we beg to contrast the two methods and to point out some of the advantages the artificial system gives.

Let us first consider the old method of hatching—the Natural method.

Broody hens—even of the best sitting breeds—often give us great trouble by leaving their eggs for hours, imperilling the safety of the embryo chicks. Not only does the long exposure of the eggs weaken the future chickens, but the duration of incubation is thereby extended.

EGG MISPLACED—When a hen enters her saucer-shaped nest she may inadvertently roll one of the eggs into a corner. This might also happen when she is turning her eggs. Here the egg lies, receiving no heat, until she again comes off for food and exercise, when it may be noticed by the attendant and replaced in the nest, too late, however, to be of any use.

BROKEN EGGS—Often the shells of eggs, from an insuffi-

ciency of shell-making material in the poultry yard, are very thin, and are often broken by the hen, however careful she may be on entering the nest, or in gathering the eggs under her. By this unfortunate accident the other eggs are soiled, and the whole nest made so uncomfortable for its occupant that she resigns her trust, and the eggs are lost.

When a hen desires to incubate she often chooses the nest she has been accustomed to laying in, and may refuse a place we might select as more suitable. Other hens may enter it when she leaves it for food, and in the disturbance which ensues on her return the eggs may sustain serious injury.

Active hens, good mothers we call them, in their anxiety to discover insects, often lead their offspring long distances, overtaxing the strength of the weak ones. The stronger ones keep pace with the hen, and by them the mother's movements are regulated. In this way many a valuable brood is reduced.

We will now state the claims of the artificial method :

**LITTLE PERSONAL ATTENTION**—The primary claim for the adoption of incubators, we consider, is the simplicity of operation, and the little personal attention that is required when the incubation is proceeding. After the eggs are introduced the operator's duties are so light and easy that they might be performed by a child of ten years. If the regular attendant be absent for a day the work can be deputed to any other member of the household who may have seen the duties once performed.

**CHICKENS ALL THE YEAR ROUND**—Larger numbers of chickens can be obtained by this method and at any season of the year. From the beginning of March till the end of July, in almost any situation, the incubator may be kept constantly at work, and if the place be well sheltered and adequate accommodation be had for rearing, to these months may be added January and February.

**VERMIN**—Another advantage which this system gives to chickens in beginning this life is freedom from parasites, which harbour among the feathers of fowls.

By the aid of the dust bath, which no poultry yard should be without, hens can generally keep themselves free from vermin ; but when they are hatching they become a prey to these troublesome insects. So annoying do these pests sometimes become to the sitting hen, especially in hot weather, that she may be compelled to leave her nest altogether before her work is accomplished. In this way vermin are transferred from the mother to the family—a gift not conducive to the welfare of the latter.

**PHEASANT EGGS**—Gamekeepers have often great diffi-

culty in procuring broody hens to incubate pheasant eggs. To them incubators should be of the first importance.

**MORE INDEPENDENT**—Chickens reared artificially thrive better, are tamer and more independent than chickens reared in the natural way. They are also less liable to death by accident, as a hen, in her search for food, often leads her young into places of danger, where, but for timely help, they would perish.

**NON-SITTING BREEDS**—To poultry-keepers who only keep the non-sitting breeds the incubator must be indispensable.

**THIN-SHELLED EGGS**—Thin-shelled eggs may be used to advantage in incubators, as they are more easily pierced by the chicks.

**LADY WORKERS**—The hatching and rearing of chickens artificially is a branch of industry that might be profitably undertaken by ladies, who would attend more faithfully to the many little details in the rearing, or which success depends.

**FEEDING**—And lastly the feeding of a large brood by hand can be done more economically and with less labour than the same number with hens. The food can be placed where access is possible only to themselves.

The tit-bits, which we often give to a brood of chickens, are generally devoured by the hen herself, or we may have to protect them at every meal from the intrusion of the older fowls.

**CONCLUSION**—Incubators are supplanting the hen, and are indispensable if breeding extensively is desired.

The whole process of artificial hatching and rearing is full of interest. To watch the incubator at work will be a treat in store for your town friends, and when a hatch is due a very good entertainment will be provided for them. To see the motherless chickens running over the shells which lately imprisoned them will be a pleasing and novel sight, and one which never fails to excite the tender sympathy of the fair onlookers.

#### OUR TURKEYS IN ENGLAND.

A special cablegram to the *Toronto News* says :

London, Dec. 23.—The London markets are crowded with a display of Canadian turkeys for the Christmas trade. All qualities of the Canadian product are offered for sale, and there is a large trade being done. In the matter of prices they range from twopence to fourpence per pound less than in previous years.



### HAMILTON SHOW.

THE ENTRIES showed about eight hundred birds present, and in many cases the quality, as the scores will show, was high. Mr. T. D. Murphy, the Secretary, was unfortunately laid up with the prevailing epidemic. However, his place was ably filled by Mr. T. Cockburn, assisted by Mr. P. H. Hamilton, who was indefatigable, Mr. John Cole and others.

The show was held in the old postoffice building, the coops new and clean, and the birds well looked after. In this way nothing better could be desired.

Mr. Jarvis commenced work in good time and had plenty to do; in fact, at the end some of the Bantams had to go unscored.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS turned out strong, no less than seventy-seven being present, but nothing extra turned up in the old classes. Both first cockerel and first pullet were, however, extra, and reached 93½ and 94½ respectively. Chicks were a good even lot, especially the pullets.

GOLDEN AND SILVER WYANDOTTES were light classes and silvers particularly poor. In the pullet class Mr. Daniels showed one of the best goldens we have seen, good sound color and well laced. She is more of the coming type, and if she holds her color should do some winning. Mr. Jarvis scored her 95. WHITES were really good, especially the winning hen and pullet, which are good in shape, fine color and well shown.

JAVAS were extra and appear to be catching the eye of breeders. A good, useful, hardy variety, which deserves to be more popular.

DORKINGS few and nothing extra.

LIGHT BRAHMAS made up forty and were a nice lot. The color of some of the pullets was excellent, but they were handicapped by being light in weight. DARKS fair only.

COCHINS all through were light classes and moderate in quality. We thought the partridge cockerels the best of the lot.

LANGSHANS were splendid, no less than fourteen being shown in the cockerel class and twenty in that for pullets. For color we have never seen anything better than Mr. Goebel's winners in this latter section. In fact the birds were good all through.

BLACK MINORCAS turned out well, making up forty-five specimens, and were a nice lot. WHITES few but fair.

ANDALUSIANS few, and no prizes awarded in cockerel class; others good.

THE LEGHORN classes were good all round, and with Plymouth Rocks made the largest classes in the show. Quality all through was high.

HOUDANS few, and outside of first cock and first hen but moderate.

GAMES were not strong, but winners in black-red hens pullets and cockerels were good. No brown-red chicks shown. Old birds good.

REDCAPS do not score high and here were as good as the average, the winners better.

SPANISH were out unusually strong, no less than twenty-two entries, and were a nice lot all through.

HAMBURGS AND POLANDS, in the absence of the London breeders, were not numerous, but some good birds were shown.

THE SILKIES shown by Mr. Daniels were a feature of the show, and the Association used the "Japanese fur fowls" as a drawing card.

GAME BANTAMS, outside of black-reds, were not good.

The ORNAMENTAL breeds fairly numerous and of average quality. Mr. Cale showed a nice black rose-comb cock and Mr. Daniels a very neat Jap cock, but for his color would give many a push.

TURKEYS, DUCKS AND GEESE were light but good.

Mr. Daniels showed about one hundred and fifty birds and won the special for largest entry with his varied lot.

#### PRIZE LIST.

*Bare. Plymouth Rocks*—Cock, 2nd 88½ J A Laird, Brampton, 3rd 87½ Gives & Lovell, Galt; hen, 1st 90½ T A Duff & Co., Toronto, 2nd 90 Gives & Lovell, 3rd 89½ J A Betzner, West Flamboro; cockerel, 1st 93½ Duff & Co., 2nd 91 Laird, 3rd 90½ H Emrick, International Bridge; pullet, 1st 94½ Duff & Co., 2nd 90 Laird, 3rd 89½ W H Grout, Grimby; pen, 1st 185 Duff & Co., 2nd 180½ Laird, 3rd 174 5/6 W Lane, Hamilton. *White*, cock, 1st 90½ C J Daniels, Toronto; hen, 1st 94½, 3rd 92 Emrick, 2nd 92½ Daniels; cockerel, 1st 94, 2nd 93½ John Colson, Guelph, 3rd 93 Emrick; pullet, 1st 96, 2nd 95½ Colson, 3rd and 4th tie 95 Colson, Daniels; pen, 1st 189½ Colson. *Grey S Wyandotte*—Cock, 2nd 85, hen 2nd 92½ J M Greyerbiel, Guelph; cockerel, 1st 91½, 2nd 90½ Daniels, 3rd 90½ R Wright, Binbrook; pullet, 1st 95 Daniels, 2nd 91, 3rd 90 Wright. *White or Black*, cock, 1st 90 E B Cale, Stratford; hen, 1st 94½, 3rd 90½ Cale, 2nd 94 Gives & Lovell; cockerel, 1st 92 Daniels, 2nd 91½ Cale; pullet, 1st 96½ Cale, 2nd 91½ Laird; pen, 1st 185½ Cale. *Javas*—Cock, 1st 91½ Daniels, 2nd 88 W R Knight, Bowmanville; hen, 1st 95½, 3rd 86½ Daniels, 2nd 90½ Knight; cockerel, 1st 93½, 2nd 92½ Colson, 3rd 86 Daniels; pullet, 1st 96 Daniels, 2nd 95½, 3rd 92½ Colson. *Silver Grey Dorkings*—Hen, 1st 90½

Daniels; cock, rel. 2, 1 88 Wm Main, Milton, 3rd 86½ Daniels; pullet, 1st 92½ Main, 2nd 91, 3rd 89½ Daniels. *Light Brahmas*—Cock, 1st 90½, 3rd 87½ Jno Cole, Hamilton, 2nd 88 McGaw & Briggs, Hamilton; hen, 2nd 89½ Chas Smith, Hamilton, 3rd 88½ Emrick; cockerel, 1st 91½ Cole, 2nd 90 McGaw & Briggs, 3rd 89½ Geo Bews, Hamilton; pullet, 1st 94 Cole, 2nd 92 McGaw & Briggs, 3rd 91½ McGaw & Briggs and Bews tie; pen, 1st 181 5/6 Cole, 2nd 180½ McGaw & Briggs. Dark, cock, 2nd 88 G J Dunn, Hamilton, 3rd 88 McGaw & Briggs; cockerel, 1st 91 Daniels, 2nd 89 Dunn, 3rd 88 McGaw & Briggs; pullet, 1st 90 Daniels, 2nd 88½ McGaw & Briggs, 3rd 88½ Dunn; pen, 2nd 176½ Dunn. *Partridge Cochins*—Cock 2nd 89½ Smith, 3rd 89½ L G Pequegnat, New Hamburg; hen, 2nd 86 Wright; cockerel, 1st 91½ Wright; 2nd 91, 3rd 91, pullet, 2nd 89½, 3rd 89, pen, 180½ Pequegnat. Buff, hen, 2nd 88 Emrick, 3rd 88 A B Crawford, Hamilton cockerel, 1st 91½ Emrick; pullet, 2nd 89½ Crawford, 3rd 89 Richard George, Hamilton. White or Black, pullet, 1st 92½, 2nd 92 Emrick. *Langshans*—Cock, 1st 93 Greyerbiehl, 2nd 91½ Walter Anderson, Hamilton, 3rd 88½ R B Hill, Hamilton; hen, 1st 92½ Hill, 2nd 91½ Fred Goebel, New Hamburg, 3rd 91½ Daniels; cockerel, 1st 95½ Goebel, 2nd 93 F R Elleson, Brampton, 3rd 92½ Duff & Co.; pullet, 1st 97½, 2nd 95, 3rd 94½ Goebel; pen, 1st 191½ Goebel, 2nd 184 5/6 Elleson, 3rd 184½ Hill. *Black Minorcas*—Cock, 1st 92½ D D Campbell, Hamilton, 2nd 88½ T J Senior, Hamilton; hen, 1st 92½ Senior, 2nd 91 Daniels, 3rd 90 Campbell; cockerel, 1st 91½ Senior, 2nd 91 Campbell, 3rd 91 Daniels; pullet, 1st 95, 3rd 92½ Senior, 2nd 93 Daniels; white or black, pen, 1st 184 5/6 Senior, 2nd 184 P A McKay, Hamilton, 3rd 182½ Daniels. White, cockerel, 1, 92, 2, 90, pullet, 1, 92½, 2, 92, 3, 91½ McKay. *Andalusians*—Cock, 1st 92½ W H Dustan, Bowmanville, 2nd 92 Knight; hen, 1st 92 Knight, 2nd 91½ Dustan; pullet, 1st, 93 tie, Dustan and Knight, 3rd 92½ Dustan. *S.C.B. Leghorns*—Cock, 1st 92, 2nd 91, P H Hamilton, Hamilton, hen, 1st 94½ 3rd 92 Hamilton, 2nd 93½ J Bradley, Milton; cockerel, 1st 96½ Bradley, 2nd 94½ tie, Bradley and Lane; pullet, 1st 95½ Groat, 2nd 95 Bradley, 3rd 93½ tie, Bradley and Hamilton; pen, 1st 187 Hamilton, 2nd 182 Daniels. White, hen, 1st 96 Laird, 2nd 94 Gives & Lovell, Galt, 3rd 93 J E Russ, International Bridge; cockerel, 1st 94½ Laird, 2nd 93 Russ, 3rd 92½ tie, Laird and Groat; pullet, 1st 96½, 2nd, 3rd 95½ Laird; pen, 1st 190½ Laird, 2nd 188 5/6 Gives & Lovell A.O.V. cock, 1st 91½, hen, 1st 94½ Daniels, 2nd 93, 3rd 89 Gives & Lovell; cockerel, 1st 95½ tie, Daniels and Pequegnat, 3rd 95 Gives & Lovell; pullet, 1st 96½ Daniels, 2nd 94½, 3rd 94 Gives & Lovell. *Houdans*—Cock, 1st 94 Knight, 2nd 91½, 3rd 89 Wilson; hen, 1st 94, 2nd 91 Wilson, 3rd 91 Knight; cockerel, 1st 90½, pullet, 1st 92½ Gives & Lovell. *Brown B.R. Game*—Cock, 1st 92, hen, 1st 92, 2nd 90½ Duff & Co. B B Red, cock, 1st 90½ A J Kerr, Hamilton, 2nd 90, hen, 1st 93½, 2nd 91 Main, 3rd 90½ Kerr; cockerel, 1st 93, 2nd 89, pullet, 1st 94½, 2nd 93, pen, 1st 186¾ Main, 2nd 180¾ Kerr. *Red Caps*—Cock, 1st 91½ S H Rowlin, Hamilton, 2nd 90½ Daniels, hen, 1st 91½ Daniels, 2nd 91 Rowlin; cockerel, 1st 92½, 3rd 89½ Rowlin, 2nd 91 Daniels; pullet, 1st 91½, 2nd 91, 3rd 96 Rowlin. *W.F. Black Spanish*—Cock 1st 92½ J A Betzner, West Flamboro, 2nd 91½ Cale, 3rd 90½ Daniels; hen, 1st 94½ Cale, 2nd 94 Betzner, 3rd 89½ Lane; cockerel, 1st 93½, 2nd 93½ Russ, 3rd 92½ Gives & Lovell; pullet, 1st 93 tie, Russ and Cale, 3rd 92½ Emrick. *Spangled Hamburgs*—Hen, 1st 89½ Gives & Lovell; cockerel, 1st 94 Greyerbiehl, 2nd 90 Daniels; pullet, 1st 91½ Laird, 2nd 91 Gives & Lovell.

cock, 1st 90, hen, 1st 93 Russ; cockerel, 1st 94½, pullet, 1st 93½ Emrick, 2nd 90 Laird. Black, cock, 1st 92½ tie, Russ and Knight; hen, 1st 93 Knight, 2nd 92½ Russ; cockerel, 1st 95, 3rd 94 Gives & Lovell, 2nd 94½ Russ; pullet, 1st 94, 2nd 94 Gives & Lovell. *Indian Game*—Cock, 1st Daniels; hen, 1st Richardson & Modlin, Hamilton, 2nd, 3rd Daniels; cockerel, 1st and 3rd Richardson & Modlin, 2nd Daniels; pullet, 1st Daniels, 2nd and 3rd Richardson & Modlin. *W.C.W. or B. Folangs*—Cock, 1st 93, hen, 1st 95 D J Peace, Hamilton; cockerel, 1st 94 Emrick. G. or S., cock, 1st 90 Knight, 2nd 89½ Peace, 3rd 88 Chas Syer, Bartonville; hen, 1st 92½ Knight, 2nd 90½ Peace, 3rd 89 Senior; cockerel, 1st 90½ Emrick. A. O. Standard Variety, cock, 1st and 2nd, hen, 1st and 2nd, cockerel, 1st and 2nd, pullet, 1st and 2nd Daniels. *B.B.R. Game Bantams*—Cock, 1st Gives & Lovell, 2nd Bonnick, 3rd Hamilton; hen, 1st Bonnick, 2nd Gives & Lovell, 3rd Hamilton; cockerel, 1st Bonnick, 2nd Daniels, 3rd Duff & Co.; pullet, 1st Duff & Co., 2nd Bonnick, 3rd Daniels. Pyle, pullet, 2nd and 3rd Syer. A.O.V., cock, 1st Daniels, 2nd Gives & Lovell; hen, 1st and 2nd Gives & Lovell, 3rd Daniels; pullet, 1st Daniels. Sebright, hen, 1st Daniels; cockerel, 1st Cale, 2nd Ford & Waldie, Milton, 3rd Daniels; pullet, 1st and 2nd Cale, 3rd Ford & Waldie. Pekin, cock, 1st Senior, 2nd Daniels, 3rd J E Stockwell, Hamilton; hen, 1st Daniels, 2nd Senior, 3rd Stockwell; cockerel, 1st Daniels, 2nd Cale 3rd Pequegnat; pullet, 1st Daniels, 2nd and 3rd Cale. A.O.V. Bantams (not game), cock 1st and 3rd Daniels, 2nd Cale; hen, 1st and 3rd Cale, 2nd Daniels; cockerel, 1st and 3rd Cale, 2nd Daniels; pullet, 1st Daniels, 2nd and 3rd Cale. *Pit Game*—Cock, 1st and 3rd Wilson, 2nd McKay; hen, 1st and 3rd Wilson, 2nd Laird; cockerel, 1st and 2nd Wilson, 3rd Adam Cook, Hamilton; pullet, 1st and 2nd Wilson; pen, 1st Wilson. Bronze Turkey, cock and hen, 1st Main. Embden, gander, 1st Main, 2nd Betzner; goose, 1st Main, 2nd Betzner. Pekin, drake and duck, 1st Colson. Rouen, drake, 1st Main, 2nd Knight; duck, 1st Main, 2nd Knight. A.O.V., drake 1st, duck, 1st and 2nd A Gerrard, Barton.

## SPECIAL PRIZES.

Largest number entries, C J Daniels. Heaviest pair Asiatics, McGaw & Briggs, Hamilton. Highest scoring brown Leghorn, John Bradley, Milton. Highest scoring Langshan Pullet, Fred Goebel, New Hamburg. Highest scoring Wyandotte Cockerel, C J Daniels, Toronto. Highest scoring Plymouth Rock hen, H Emrick, International Bridge. Highest scoring Partridge Cochin hen, R Wright, Binbrook. Highest Scoring Game cock, T A Duff & Co., Toronto. Highest scoring Ligh. Brahma, John Cole, Hamilton. Best pit Game cock, S Wilson. *Rabbit bits*—Lop-ear buck and doe, 1st C J Daniels. *Ferrets*—Male and female, 1st J E Stockwell, Hamilton. *Canaries*—Scotch Fancy cock, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, Thomas Church, Hamilton; hen 1st, 2nd and 3rd Church. A.O.V., cock, 1st Hamilton, 2nd, hen, 1st Church.

For full report and list of awards in Pigeon classes, see *The Pigeon Fancier*, Toronto, for January.

Read our List of Premiums on

FIRST PAGE

OF COVER.

A chance to secure Fancy Stock for nothing.

## THE HOUDAN FOWL.

ITS BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT.

BY J. P. W. MARX.

**U**NDoubtedly there is a great tendency at the present day amongst fanciers to take up new breeds to the detriment of the old ones. The first crow from a cockerel representing the latest introduction seems to be the signal for a mad rush of poultry keepers to become possessed of the wonderful novelty. Beginners may be pardoned on the ground of want of knowledge; for the older hand it is more difficult to find an excuse why varieties, which hold high place in the exhibition world and are acknowledged to be good layers or good table fowl, should be abandoned for a made-up breed of comparatively unknown quality. Surely, from a genuine amateur fancier's or exhibitor's point of view, there should be more honour and satisfaction in breeding and showing a bird, acknowledged to be the best specimen yet seen, of a breed whose points are fixed and approaching perfection, than winning in a variety where, from lack of fixity of type, more latitude is allowed the judge, and "luck" largely enters into the competition. Be it how it may, some of the standard varieties seem to be neglected on account of these modern inventions; indeed, some of the old favorites of the past are now very much in the background. I do not apprehend any such fate will overtake the Houdan, because its breeders include fanciers of sterling merit not likely to be turned by every puff of wind, and because no one who has once set up a yard of Houdans is likely to abandon them, for, if lacking patience and perseverance, success has not readily been found in the show-pen, the valuable laying and edible qualities of this, the best of the French breeds, must force it into favor.

While these notes have been written chiefly with the view of encouraging those who already have some knowledge of poultry keeping, the management of the sitting hen, the rearing of chickens, and so forth, to take up and cultivate the Houdan, yet perchance they may be interesting to veteran Houdan breeders, and if they induce the beginner, or one asking "What breed shall I keep?" to try and win the handsome Houdan challenge cup now open to general competition, I shall rejoice greatly in having enlisted another member in the Houdan fancy.

Since its introduction from France the Houdan has been

improved into almost another variety. Year after year progress has been made, and yet there is room for the intelligent and ardent fancier to exercise his skill in the production of a bird nearer the standard of perfection than any yet seen.

Again, the Houdan can claim a front place as a utility fowl, a good egg producer and a good table fowl. Scientists place its egg production at 140 to 160 per annum. The large white eggs are laid almost daily for a considerable period without any interruption by broodiness, as the breed is a non-incubating one, a trait which is rare in a good table fowl—for such its small bones, square, deep body, carrying a large quantity of delicately flavored meat covered by a thin white skin, assuredly tend to make the dead Houdan. Alive, the Houdan can compete with the Minorca, Leghorn or Hamburgh as an egg producer, while dead, it is far superior to any of them, competing very successfully with the Dorking, Rock or Indian Game, all of which are its inferiors as layers. Thus the Houdan occupies the unique distinction of being both an excellent layer and table fowl, and yet a non-sitter. In appearance the Houdan should be large and massively built, the body square like the Dorking, with broad full breast, broad straight back and deep sides, the neck strong and thick, the tail well furnished with feathers carried at a graceful angle with the body, gives to the whole a showy, stylish finish. The Dorking characteristic is further preserved in the five-toed feet; it is, therefore, very essential that the fifth or extra toe be properly placed, springing straight from the leg, quite clear from the fourth toe. The legs and feet should be free from feathers. The head of the cock differs considerably from that of the hen, his comb, peculiar to the breed, at once arrests attention, whereas, in his mate it is small and insignificant, nevertheless its proper shape is very important in breeding operations. The crest feathers, too, of the cock are far more elongated than those of the hen, and carried in a somewhat different manner. The comb of the cock is known as a "leaf" or "butterfly" comb. The term "leaf" is intended to convey the appearance of two leaves on either side of a bough, but the second appellation, perhaps, describes it well, and gives us to understand that the comb should resemble a butterfly, basking on a flower, with outstretched wings; of course there are only two wings (one on each side) to the comb, [not four, as in the insect, with this exception, the triangular wing shape, and the little piece of comb between them, to resemble the body, should be strongly represented; therefore, it follows that the closer the shape of the butterfly is approached the closer the comb is to the recognized type, which, consequently, does not

include square-shaped masses of flesh like a star or button, nor two horns of the Creve comb pattern; no, not even when they spring laterally from a central position, something after the manner of twigs or small boughs of a tree, and are known as the "twig" type of comb. The hen's comb is very diminutive, and allowing for sexual difference, even smaller than customary. Yet, here also it is equally important that the characteristic butterfly or leaf shape should be preserved. The comb should be of medium size, and should stand quite straight on the head, very nearly at right angles to the thick stout beak. The wattles should be of some length, longer indeed than are now usually seen. They are very ornamental, and assist in giving the beard a full appearance. This latter appendage and the whiskers or muff should be as ample as possible. The crest, as befits so important a point, should be very large, and if size can at the same time be combined with neatness and compactness, so much the better. It should be circular, full of orderly arranged feathers, giving it an even appearance. The crest of the hen is denser and less elongated and more even in outline than that of the cock. It should be large, yet a well-shaped, firm, tidy crest, if of fair size is far preferable to a large loose feathered untidy one.

The color of the Houdan is black, mottled evenly with white. The black should be a lustrous green black, and the white pure. Sometimes an objectionable brown black and almost creamy white is met with, giving the bird a dull dirty appearance. This lustrous black should prevail over the white, some feathers being wholly of the former color while others are tipped with white, producing the desired speckled or mottled appearance. The mottling should be spread evenly over the whole of the body (masses of black unbroken by white or *vice versa* are very objectionable) and continued even in the legs and feet, which may be white or white spotted with black; quite black or blue legs should be discouraged. Cockerels and pullets are admittedly much darker (i.e., blacker) in color than adults, because after each moult more white is shown, so that chickens speckled in the same proportion as adults would moult too "gay," that is, having too much white in their coloring. No birds showing red, yellow, or rusty feathers, most frequently met with on the neck, back and hackles of the cock, must on any account be used for breeding.

The arrangement of breeding pen is the first preliminary to the cultivation of the Houdan, and if specimens of both sexes corresponding to the description just given can be obtained to grace the run the best results may be expected, for the rule, "It is best to breed from the best," finds no exception in the Houdan.

As size is a most important consideration, the parents on one side should be of adult age, and as this point, together with the square body, is generally admitted to come from the mother, a cockerel mated with hens seems preferable to running a cock with pullets. However, young stock being generally more vigorous, pullets are often paired to a cockerel with the view of obtaining early chickens, and very successful results are often obtained. While careful that the cock has a correctly formed comb and abundance of crest, close attention must be given to the type of the hen's comb and crest: the cock's feet must be properly formed, or he must be known to be descended from parents perfect in this point. Dark coloured hens of good quality, the black a lustrous green and the white pure, mated with a medium yet sound colored cockerel, should give the desired shade of plumage; but such hens are difficult to meet with, hence it follows that the father is often the darker colored parent; in this case, too, he must be sound in color and without a trace of colored feathering or striped or Dorking hackle.

Two to eight hens may be run with the cock, according to circumstances, the larger number being approached as the season advances. A cockerel or first season cock may reasonably be mated early in the season with three hens or pullets. If the spurs of the cock grow very long, the points should be rounded off to prevent injury to the hens.

The arrangement of the breeding pens themselves depends so much on the nature of the ground at the command of the fancier that I purposely refrain from discussing it; suffice it to observe that the Houdan is contented in disposition, and easily bears confinement in close quarters, yet he is also an active fowl, and thoroughly enjoys his liberty.

The breeding pen once put together should be left undisturbed, so that every chance may be afforded to obtain an early supply of fertile eggs. The fowls should be generously fed; a feed of soft meal mixed with odd scraps from the house, given warm first thing in the morning, followed by a feed of grain at midday, and a supper of the same at night; wheat is so low in price that it may safely be recommended as the staple grain food, varied by occasional changes to barley, oats, or buckwheat. Indian corn or maize should be used very sparingly indeed. If the fowls be closely confined various sorts of green food and grit must of necessity be supplied, together with old mortar, lime, or other shell forming material. While dry roosting quarters are most important, some kind of a shelter, such as a small open shed, should be arranged, beneath which the fowls can take refuge in wet and cold weather, for if Houdans are exposed to every change of weather, their crests become very sodden and bedraggled, and their plumage soiled.

The Houdan is a non-incubating variety, therefore a supply of broody hens or an incubator must be provided to incubate the eggs. The chickens hatch out easily and should be left at least twenty-four hours either under the hen or in a basket placed near the fire, or in a drying box of the incubator. After that time the hen should be cooped up in some warm sheltered corner, and the chickens given their liberty where they can have access to grass, except that for the first day or two and night a small movable yard should be drawn up to the front of the coop. This affords some protection against vermin, and confines the chicks until the early morning dews and damp have left the grass; for, even in chickenhood, the drier the Houdan can be kept, the better he will thrive. An unused stable or open shed affords excellent protection to the hen and early broods. Something of the description is usually at hand on most farms, which, if properly utilized, should give the farmer a great advantage over the amateur poultry keeper, who may have to incur the cost and trouble of erecting such accommodation.

As coops and runs or yards differ very much in size and shape, a short description of a pattern, useful to a Houdan breeder, may be interesting. The coop or house is 2 feet wide (inside measure), 2 feet deep, 2 feet high in front, and 1 foot 6 inches at the back; the front is barred, and slides quite out, and may be replaced at night with a shutter, in which a few large holes are bored at the top for ventilation purposes.

Dry sand or fine ashes should be thickly scattered on the floor, which should be thoroughly cleaned out and scraped at frequent intervals. The yard, or run, is detachable from the coop, but fits it exactly in width and height; it is 4 feet long, boarded 6 or 8 inches high at the bottom; the remainder and the top is covered with one inch mesh wire netting; further, a light cover for the top, made of thin wood, should be kept at hand in case of wet. These measurements may appear large, but they are adopted with the ulterior object of utilizing the coop and run during the moulting season, or while preparing birds for exhibition.

It would be invidious here to mention any of the many several excellent chicken foods in the market with which the chickens may be advantageously fed every two or three hours for the first week or ten days of their lives, subsequently a few grains of wheat, rye, or buckwheat may be added, and when they pick up the corn greedily the soft food or meal may be reserved for their breakfast, and grain given during the rest of the day. How much food, and when to give it, can best be learned by experience. Bear in mind, the great object is to feed the chickens just when they are hungry, and then to give no more than they will eat

readily. Take especial care no soft food is allowed to turn sour, and so set up a number of chicken troubles. A second valuable rule is to protect the youngsters as much as possible from wet and damp; a continual supply of fresh, pure water should in theory be the only water within reach of the hen and brood—it will be found difficult to carry this out in practice, yet strenuous efforts should be made to do so.

Water can be given either in open troughs or saucers, or in the ordinary earthenware poultry fountains acting on the vacuum principle; if these could be thoroughly well cleaned a great objection to their use would be overcome. Fortunately they are cheap and when foul may be smashed up into grit without serious financial loss to the owner. Zinc and iron vessels cannot be recommended, because through chemical action the water may become poisonous if impregnated with acid; this is unfortunate, for a most useful pattern to breeders of crested fowls is constructed in zinc; a small cup is carried some 4 or 6 inches from the body of the fountain, out of which the birds drink without wetting or damaging their crests. Whatever receptacle be employed fresh water should constantly be given, and every care taken to keep it clean and pure. This remark applies equally to the water supplied to adults or chickens.

A period in the chicken history has now arrived when the resources of the breeder are taxed severely—viz., the time when the cockerels should be separated from the pullets. Complete isolation of the sexes undoubtedly tends to increase size and prevent feather eating. If the isolation can be such as to place the birds out of sound as well as sight so much the better, but this can rarely be brought to pass. So soon as the cockerels begin to crow or show an amatory disposition they should be given a run to themselves, where they will dwell fairly peacefully unless a stranger be introduced, when not only will there be a combined attack on him, but often single combats arise, resulting in injury to the crests and comb. Moreover if the cockerels and pullets be separated, the trouble and annoyance caused by feather eating may most possibly be avoided, for the Houdan cockerels, like most crested breeds, seem to enjoy having their crest feathers picked and pulled by hens and pullets until their heads become a very unpleasant sight. The temptation to crest picking seems peculiar to that period in a Houdan's life when the feathers are coming through in the quills during the moult. When the crests are fully moulted out in all their beauty, fear need be entertained that they will be destroyed by the birds. The disgusting and vexatious habit is, doubtless, catching.

Although the chickens naturally absorb most of the breeders attention, the stock birds must not be forgotten

particularly if some be destined to appear at the coming shows. When the breeding season is over, the hens should either be drafted all together on a large run, or given their liberty. The cocks should remain in their old runs, disconsolate widowers, sadly reflecting what home was like when the "gudewife" was there.

At the first sign of moult each fowl intended for exhibition should be placed in a separate coop and yard, a little sulphate of iron added to the drinking water, and a few grains of hempseed with a little raw meat given two or three times a week. The coops should be well shaded from sun and rain, moved every now and then to fresh ground, frequently cleaned out, and all the moulted feathers burnt or buried. Fresh vegetable food should be given daily, and this is very imperative if the coop be not placed on grass.

The next few weeks will be full of interest to the fancier, for, while faults will daily become apparent, a few chickens will gradually stand out superior to others in the flock. These promising chickens should, if possible, be drafted in small parties to select runs, and extra attention bestowed on them; they should be kept confined to the houses and runs during inclement weather, as protection from wet is still most essential.

Perchance the handsome appearance of one or two may induce their owner to test their merits at an approaching show; with this end in view the selected birds should be penned, about a fortnight before the event, in one of the now abandoned coops placed with its little yard in some dry sheltered spot. The coop having been well painted and whitewashed and thoroughly overhauled after being abandoned by the hen and chicks, should be furnished with a broad low perch and is then ready for its present purpose; or the cockerel houses advertised by various poultry furniture manufacturers will now be found most valuable; every intending exhibitor should provide some accommodation of the kind, together with three or four large show pens. A cockerel or a couple of pullets may be penned in each coop, and well, but not over, fed. Keep them always ready to eat, yet never very hungry. The coop must be regularly cleaned out, a little sand scattered on the floor, and moved with the yard every day or two to fresh ground. Tame the birds by handling them, and accustom them to be examined; a bird which shows well in his pen possesses a great advantage over a wild one. The owner of a wild bird may derive some satisfaction by stating his bird had never been in a pen before, but it can hardly be satisfactory to the judge to meet with a bird which presses to the far corner of its pen and shrinks up into half its proper size as soon as it is looked at. During this preparation, as, indeed,

throughout the whole of a Houdan's life, protection from rain and damp is of paramount importance to young and adult birds alike.

A good Houdan in the month of November in tip top show condition is indeed a handsome bird, the pure clear white, the rich lustrous green black, the neat compact crest, and vividly red comb afford a striking, yet agreeable contrast, which a thorough wetting by rain and bespattering of mud will destroy almost beyond recovery, no matter how cunningly the washing operations be conducted. Fowls carefully tended during their moult need no further preparation for the first show or two than a good washing of legs and feet; subsequently they may require a thorough wash—an important part in a Houdan's toilet which needs some description, although more knowledge will be acquired by actually washing a fowl or two than by reading a page of directions. Washing fowls has now almost risen to an art, yet not so very long ago it was rarely attempted, and even to-day the general public are lost in wonderment why the feathered pets they see at shows look so different from those in their backyard!

The requisite articles for "the wash" are a bright clear fire, before which a large unlined show basket may remain for some ten or twelve hours, two medium size washtubs, a large sponge, a piece of brown soap, a plentiful supply of hot and cold water, and a towel or two. Place the fowl in a tub half filled with very warm water, and press it gently down; sponge it well all over, then work up a lather and thoroughly scrub and soap the feathers downwards, commencing with the head and crest and finish with the tail, taking great care not injure the tail sickles; rinse the soap off well with the sponge and change the water, lathering up and scrubbing again until all the feathers appear to be clean.

*(To be continued.)*

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G. H. Sheras, Clarksburg, Ont. 194

**HOUDANS.**

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Geo. G. McCormick, London, Ont.\* 194

**WHITE WYANDOTTES.**

Geo. G. McCormick, London, Ont.\* 193  
Robt. Bloye, Todmorden, Ont. 394  
Wm. Langdon, Port Hope, Ont. 594  
R. Crossland, Box 32, Barrie, Ont. 894

**S. L. WYANDOTTES.**

Wm. H. Ulley, 58 Victoria Sq., Montreal, Que. 394  
Jacob Dorsi, 565 Logan Ave., Toronto. 594  
M. B. Hague, Inglewood, Ont. 1093  
J. L. Margach, Port Hope, Ont.

**GOLDEN WYANDOTTES.**

F. H. Brown, Box 40, Port Hope, Ont. 994

**BLACK JAVAS.**

J. D. Robertson, Box 164, Guelph, Ont. 294

**RED CAPS.**

F. H. Brown, Box 40, Port Hope, Ont. 994

**WHITE P. ROCKS.**

L. G. Pequegnat, New Hamburg. 293  
Wm. P. Leggett, Salt Point, N.Y., U.S.A. 293

**BARRED P. ROCKS.**

R. Downs, Garrison Commons, Toronto. 393  
J. Bennet, 189 Bathurst St., Toronto. 594  
W. H. Locke, Campbellford, Ont. 193  
L. G. Pequegnat, New Hamburg, Ont. 294  
Wm. P. Leggett, Salt Point, N.Y., U.S.A. 294

**S. C. B. LEGHORNS.**

R. Elliott, Wingham, Ont. 394  
J. L. Margach, Port Hope, Ont. 394

**DARK BRAHMAS**

F. S. McGillis, Brighton, Ont. 494

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Wm. P. Leggett, Salt Point, N.Y., U.S.A.  
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