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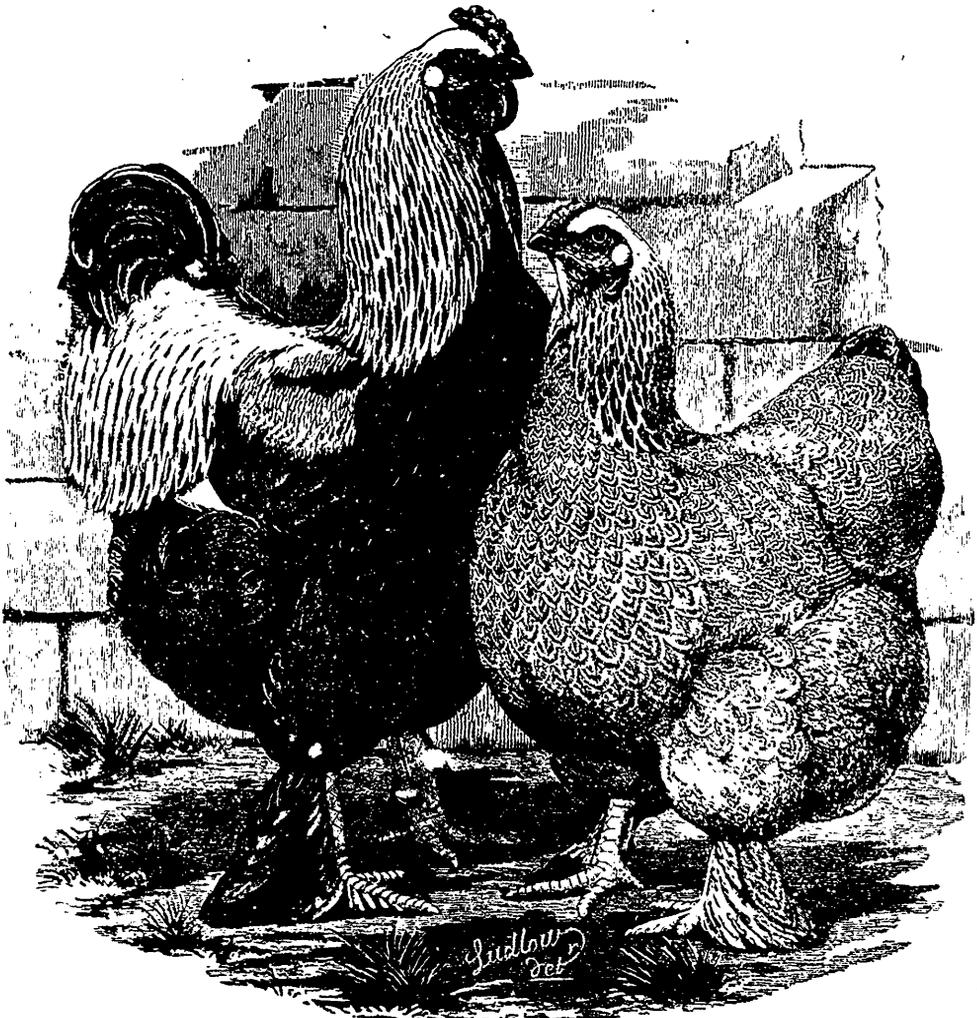
# Canadian Poultry Review.

DEVOTED TO POULTRY AND PET STOCK.

Vol. I.

STRATHROY, ONTARIO, AUGUST, 1878.

No. 9.



## DARK BRAHMAS.

Dark Brahmas are one of the most beautiful varieties of the Asiatic class of fowls. Their stately carriage, great size, and beautiful contrast in colors of cock, and the exquisite penciling on the plumage of the hen, cause them to be greatly admired. When added to this is their excellent con-

stitution, good winter laying and table qualities, their popularity is not to be wondered at.

The number of breeders of this variety in Canada has decreased during the past few years, but the quality of the stock shown is of greater average excellence. This decrease is partly accounted for

by the fact that Dark Brahmas are very difficult to breed up to a high standard of excellence, and many of them who placed them in their yards had not the time and patience to acquire that knowledge of the breed which is necessary to secure success; after a couple of seasons trial, finding the stock deteriorating, they were given up.

It is generally considered that two yards are necessary to breed exhibition birds. The mating that will produce good males will seldom produce good females, and *vice versa*. To secure the solid black breast, so greatly desired, a sire with solid black breast must be used, mated with hens of clear plumage; while it is necessary to use a cock with mottled breast to secure the beautiful penciling on the hens, which constitute their greatest beauty. Birds having yellow or brassy tinge should be excluded from the breeding pens.

There is no class of fowls that require greater care in mating, and the infusion of new blood is a matter of great risk when the stock is of a high standard, and one which calls for the greatest care from even the oldest breeder. To those who wish to have this variety we would say, procure stock from a reliable breeder, and have him mate them for breeding purposes.

The following is the description in the *American Standard of Excellence* :—

#### DISQUALIFICATIONS.

Birds not matching in the show-pen; comb falling over to either side; crooked backs; wry tails; twisted feathers in wings; legs not feathered on the outside and to the extremities of the outer toes; vulture hocks; cocks not weighing nine pounds; hens not weighing seven and a half; cockerels not weighing seven and a half pounds, pullets not weighing six pounds.

#### THE COCK

**HEAD:** BROAD, of medium length and slightly projecting over the eyes;—color of plumage, silvery-white:—Beak very stout and curved, and, in color, dark horn, the sides being yellow:—Eyes large and bright.

**COMB:** Bright red, pea, small, lower in front and rear than in centre; firm on the head, without falling over to either side, and distinctly divided, having the appearance of three small combs joined together, the largest and highest in the middle, and each part slightly and evenly serrated.

**WATTLES AND EAR-LOBES:** Wattles, brilliant red, of medium length and well rounded:—Ear-lobes, brilliant red, somewhat pendent, and equal in length with the wattles.

**NECK:** Of medium length and well arched—the, hackle-feathers, silvery white and abundant, with a distinct black stripe down the centre, which

tapers to a point at the extremity of each feather, and flow well over the shoulders.

**BACK:** Broad, and flat between the shoulders, the length to be in harmony with the size and symmetry of the bird,—color silvery-white,—saddle-feathers, abundant and long, and, in color, silvery-white, with a black stripe down the centre, similar to that of the neck-hackle.

**BREAST AND BODY:** Breast, full, broad, and deep, and carried well forward,—in color, either black, or black, slightly and evenly mottled with white: Body, broad and deep, and the plumage of the underpart black.

**WINGS:** Small, the primaries well folded under the secondaries, and the points well covered by the saddle feathers: color of shoulder-coverts and wing-bows, silvery-white; color of wing-coverts, a metallic or greenish-black, forming a broad and well defined bar across the wings: the primaries black, or black with a narrow edging of white on the outer web; secondaries, white on the outer web, and black on the inner web, with a large greenish-black spot on the end of each feather.

**TAIL:** Small, carried tolerably upright and well spread, the two sickle-feathers spreading out laterally, and in length not greatly exceeding the main tail-feathers: color black,—the greater coverts, a rich greenish-black, or black edged with white.

**FLUFF:** Abundant and soft, giving the bird a broad and deep appearance behind—color, black, or black slightly frosted with white.

**LEGS AND TOES:** Thighs large and strong, and abundantly covered with soft feathers: color, black, or black slightly frosted with white:—Shanks, strong, and rather large, and standing well apart; of medium length and well feathered on the outside, and to the extremities of the outer toes:—color, scales yellow, the inside of the shanks a rich reddish yellow; the feathering black, or black slightly mottled with white:—Toes, straight and strong, the outer and middle toes being feathered: color of feathers, black, or black mottled with white.

**CARRIAGE:** Bold and attractive.

#### THE HEN.

**HEAD:** Broad, of medium length, and slightly projecting over the eyes—color, silvery-gray:—Beak curved and very stout,—color, horn:—eyes, full and bright.

**COMB:** Very small and low, placed well in front on the head, and having the appearance of three very small combs pressed together, the largest in the middle, and delicately serrated:—color, rich, brilliant red.

**WATTLES AND EAR-LOBES:** Wattles exceedingly small, and Ear-lobes well developed:—color, rich red.

**NECK:** Well arched, and of medium length, with the feathers reaching well down over the shoulders: color silvery-white, each feather distinctly striped with black, the edge of the black running nearly parallel with the edge of the feather.

**BACK:** Broad and flat between the shoulders, with an abundance of soft, broad feathers rising to the tail,—the length to be in harmony with the size and symmetrical proportions of the bird: color, greyish-white ground, with very dark and distinct penciling throughout, the outlines corresponding well with the outlines of the feather.

**BREAST AND BODY:** Breast deep, broad and prominent: color, grayish-white ground; very distinct and dark penciling throughout, the outlines nearly corresponding with the outline of the feather, and reaching well up to the throat, and free from white shafts in the feathers:—Body, broad and deep: color, same as the breast, the penciling reaching well down upon the thighs.

**WINGS:** Small, the primaries well folded under the secondaries, the points being covered by an abundance of soft feathers and fluff, and the bows well covered by the breast-feathers: color of shoulder and wing-coverts, similar to that of the body, but generally more distinct in the character of the penciling:—color of primaries, black, with narrow penciling on the outer edge—secondaries, black on the outer web.

**TAIL:** Small, carried tolerably upright, and almost hidden in the soft rump-feathers; color black; the upper feathers and coverts penciled.

**FLUFF:** Very abundant and soft, giving the bird a broad and deep appearance behind: color, same shade of gray as the body.

**LEGS AND TOES:** Legs, strong, standing well apart, the thighs well covered with soft feathers, and the shanks well feathered down the outer sides: color of feathering, same as the body,—color of scales yellow or dusty-yellow;—Toes, straight and strong, the outer and middle toes being feathered: color of feathers, same as that of the shank-feathering.

**CARRIAGE:** Low, in comparison with that of the cock.

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100

Allow one point per pound for excess; deduct two points per pound for deficit of standard weights.

Distinguishing Marks in Chicks.

Birds that have feathers on the legs are found with them when they come from the shell. Chicks come from the shell in their perfect form and coloring. Nature arranges and places the shades differently somewhat as the birds grow up to maturity, although sometimes a mature bird shows a color that was deficient in the chick's first covering; as in the Brown Leghorn chick, for instance, the full-grown cock presents a solid black breast, and when a chick there is no black on him. Thorough-bred Brown Leghorn Chicks are peculiarly marked, and readily known by the experienced observer as such. The chicks, when first from the shell, are not all over brown, but rather striped on the back, with three broad, dark maroon stripes, and two narrow ones of bright brown, and soft brown breasts, with a very light stripe approaching white, and is really white, on some, down the centre of the crop, and red reaching to the body. The back is always the darkest, and the dark brown, approaching maroon, commences at the back of the comb, and extends in a triangular form over the back of the head and down the neck to the tail, while the throat is light or white. The wing feathers soon grow and cover the back, but it is some weeks before the back itself is feathered. The legs are a pale sulphur color when first from the shell, but increase in color by exposure to the air, and with age. The under coloring is white.

Black Spanish chicks are all over black, with a blue-white spot under the throat, and often with the same markings on the breast. The under-coloring, however, is black, and the blue shade is covered thereby. The chicks of Brown Leghorns are brown. Red Games are similar in appearance. Both possess the same dark, rich coloring and sprightly appearance, the latter being rather longer in the leg and stronger in the upper limb, while the former are lower hung in body, and are rather longer from crop to rump. Both have the same peculiar mark extending longitudinally from the corner of the eye backward. The leg coloring, of the Game is blue, slate or willow. Some species of Game chicks resemble also the Black Spanish. Brahma chicks, when fully feathered, present their plumage entire, while with other breeds there are some changes at the different

stages as they approach maturity. The neck penciling appears with the first feathers in the Balmans, and they are distinguished by the leg feathering, which is on a particular point in denoting the purity of the breed. A brood of pure-bred Game chicks, when they attain the size of a full-grown quail, are very handsome, and may be counted on, as at this size they have escaped the dangers of all chicken diseases, and have become hardy. So also with all small breeds.

Thoroughbred chicks are generally so close bred that extra care is necessary to rear them, as they are tender from the shell, and are never so hardy as the mongrel; therefore, they are not so profitable for the amateur who is not prepared with suitable buildings and yards, which are at seasons indispensable. For market poultry it is better never to employ the choice small breeds, but substitute instead suitable crosses. Many crosses are desirable for egg production, where eggs are the desideratum, but where eggs and poultry are both to be combined or united in one, some thoroughbred should be chosen. For this purpose the Creve cœurs are well adapted, being large in body, maturing early, and are unexcelled for table use. Their eggs are large, white, and very rich. They are non-sitters, are great egg producers, will give in the course of a year perhaps as many eggs as any other one breed. The chicks are all over a dead rusty black with a crest and slate-colored legs. The chicks mature early and are plump, with short thick thighs, and full body. The Spanish are also good for both poultry and eggs but are difficult to raise on account of their liability to gapes.

No breed of poultry is handsome unless they are well cared for. If judicious care be exercised at first, there is little danger of the gapes. Indeed, the writer is of the belief that the gapes is a disease that all chicks go through with, and is seldom observable unless the worms, in their passage from the lungs, meet with some impediment that occasions a stoppage in their progress, which causes suffering, and almost always results in death. In strength and health, the worms pass out one by one and the bird does not suffer much. A sudden cold causes a stoppage, and the worms accumulate, and become entangled and knotty in the wind pipe. The chicks suffer from difficult and labored breathing; indeed it requires every exertion to keep the breath from ceasing. Respiration becomes more and more labored every day, until death puts an end to the suffering. The bird wastes gradually, and becomes thin and emaciated to an almost incredible degree. Over and long continued fatigue will also decrease the strength of the birds, and the important item is to keep up the strength and growing condition. Strong feed and reasonable exercise will accomplish much.

—C. B., in *Country Gentleman*.

## SICK FOWLS.

It does not follow that a fowl has not been diseased or out of condition for a long time, when we find it suddenly dead. The first thing that occurs to us is that some new and frightful disease has made its appearance, when the fact is, perhaps, the bird has been ailing for a long time. By far too many of us are inexperienced in the ailments of fowls, and do not understand the symptoms. A bird must gradually be diseased for a long time before death ensues. Oftentimes, no doubt, the seeds of disease are implanted in the system before birth, and a greater or lesser extent of time is required to develop it, according to its nature. Keeping has also considerable to do with it. Either too high or too low feeding is deleterious. Strong high-feeding often ripens the seeds which become fatal. A dangerous and difficult stage for the hens is when they first come into laying, and another when moulting.

There is nothing that serves us like our own observation; no receipts or widely published articles can avail us; we must know for ourselves the cause and nature of the disease before we can treat it; what might prove a healing medicine in one instance may be of no benefit in another. It is necessary to understand the nature of the bird, also the peculiarity, and in what manner affected, before endeavoring to perform a cure. The comb of a fowl is the pulse. When the bird is in health, the comb is firm, through flow of blood, and a bright scarlet in color. If the bird be diseased, the comb is limp, weak, soft and a pale pink at times; at others a purple. Diseases do not make their appearance in a moment, but creep on gradually under the cover of good appetite, mayhap, and egg-production in hens. The bird may be, and often is, found dead under the roost, and no suspicion of illness may ever have entered into the calculations of the owner.

There are certain parasites, known as roost lice, that are barely perceptible to the naked eye, but which torment the poor victim they have fastened upon, and worry out its life. For these there is no remedy so good as a thorough sprinkling of Persian Insect Powder. If applied in time it may effect a cure, but if allowed to run, the bird becomes so reduced that weakness causes death. These insidious parasites work slowly, drawing the life from their victim by degrees. They rob their prey of sleep, and so gaining day by day that their victim fades and wastes inch by inch until the end comes, and then the owner can assign no cause whatever, as there is nothing apparent but a wasted frame, empty crop and faded plumage. It is surprising what an amount flesh a bird carries on its bones, and yet not be fat. Excessive fat is a

disease of itself, and often produces death. Over-fat birds frequently drop soft eggs; so also do old birds. There is some disarrangement in the digestive organs. Each department has a certain amount of work to perform, and if one member be deficient or crippled, the whole suffers to a greater or less degree. A change of diet often brings about charming results.

As I have often found occasion to say before, a milk diet is highly advantageous for the heated season, and when mixed with good wheat bran, and plentifully provided, is entirely sufficient without other feed at this season. When a fowl is first discovered in a dumpy state, with head drawn in and eyes closed, and the whole aspect drooping, turn the first attention to lice, taking care not to frighten or exhaust the fowl in the process. Sore eyes and sore heads precede roup, and will generally cure themselves in chicks. In aquatic fowls the case is a little difficult to manage. In young birds the roup is not always occasioned by colds; close breeding has a good, if not all, to do with it. No fowls will bear so close breeding as our common hunghill birds. Turkeys are injured almost entirely by close breeding; so also are ducks; but if care be taken, certain breeds of our domestic birds can be bred very close.

—C. B., in *Country Gentleman*.

### Lime

The old notion that hens needs nothing in the way of food, except corn, and what they can pick for themselves, is fast dying out, but even now many poultry breeders do not realize the importance of lime. The broad definition that food is anything taken into the body to preserve it in the exercise of its various functions, if closely read, shows that in speaking of the food of poultry that most essential thing for egg-production, lime, should be omitted. Domestic poultry as they have been altered in their egg-production faculties, by the constant cultivation of these special characteristics need more and more to be carefully supplied with an ample allowance of shell-producing material. The best way of feeding lime, is in the form of raw crushed bone or oyster shell.

At the season when the hens are laying abundantly, lime should be kept before them at all times or we shall be liable to the annoyance of soft-shelled eggs; which are not only useless for incubation but are often broken in the nest and a tempting to would-be egg-eaters. An ounce of prevention is always well applied in the form of lime for poultry.

—*Poultry Yard*.

Corn is principal stand-by for poultry food, but but it should not be the only grain employd, or be fed whole, continuously.

### Ferrets and Ferreting.

(CONTINUED.)

Young ferrets directly they can feed themselves should be removed from the mother, and feed three or four times a day on bread and milk.

The age to which ferrets will live is very uncertain, as they do so often meet with accidents, or are lost. I have some ferrets in my possession now about four years old, and as yet they show no signs of old age either by the loss of activity or teeth.

Their food should be bread and milk, with occasionally a bird, rabbit, rat, or whatever animal food comes handiest, as they are not particular.

If ferrets are neglected and their place of abode allowed to get dirty, they suffer from foot-rot. Sores appear on their feet and nails, dirt clings to the discharging sores, and if left alone the poor brutes would soon die. The sores ought carefully to be removed with a blunt knife, and gas tar applied with a small brush or feather. Carbolic acid freely diluted with water or glycerine is also a good remedy and should be applied in the same way as the tar; or a better mode of treatment is to soak or bathe the feet, in warm water, and, after drying, dress with the following ointment: Levigated red precipitate, 1 drachm, very finely powdered blue stone (pure sulphate of copper), 4 drachms, compound tar ointment, enough to make 2 oz. It is well to muzzle the ferrets while the ointment is on, as it is poisonous, and the smarting may cause him to nibble it. The patients should be placed in a clean place with plenty of clean straw, and allowed to run about the field or lawn every day, for a short time, and with care they will recover. Ferrets also suffer from distemper, their heads swelling up and their eyes being closed with a discharge of offensive matter. Though in rare cases I have saved them by a complete change of diet, this disease is generally fatal. For distemper the ferrets should be gently handled and the eyes and nostrils carefully cleared from all discharged matter by bathing with warm milk and water, and afterwards anoint with pure olive oil, and as medicine give two grains chlorate of potash and four or five drops of sweet spirit, of nitre in a little milk or cream three times a day. Change of hutch or box is very needful; the ailing ferret should be kept in a warm but airy place, and tempted to eat with variety of food. The box of hutch where the disease first appeared must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before returning the ferrets to it.

There are three ways of using ferrets: with a line unmuzzled, without a line muzzled. A line can only be used where the holes do not extend to any great distance, and are tolerably free from

roots or rocks, which would fray the line; and there is also the danger of the ferret in hunting, twisting the line round a root and so getting fast, necessitating the often difficult and dangerous process of digging. Where large burrows are to be worked the line must be dispensed with, as the weight of a long cord seriously hampers the movements and working powers of a ferret, however strong. A good ferret does not require muzzling, for directly he kills he will go on to a fresh rabbit; while a bad one, having taken his fill of blood, will in all probability, lie down and go to sleep. If a ferret is worked unmuzzled, a small quantity of milk should be given it before it is used, as then, not being hungry, it will be less inclined to lie up, while its natural desire to kill will not be abated. Of course, a large meal would only make it sleepy, and thus defeat the intention with which the milk was given.—*Bazaar*

(To be continued.)

### Feeding Fowls Properly.

Most people take for granted that they, at least, "know how to feed chickens," and almost everybody has a different way of doing it. My father used to say "a boy who eats well will work well," and fowls must be taught to eat well—not be over-fed, however, or crammed, but provided with a variety of food to such an extent as to create an appetite for something continually. A laying hen is a perfect mill, and while her usefulness lasts, should always be kept grinding! I do not mean by that to keep a box of food before her continually, for what boy would care very much for pumpkin pie if a huge pie was kept at his side continually? The point to be gained is to keep the fowl eating, and keep her hungry, too; hence the necessity of variety. Let corn, oats, cracked corn, wheat screenings, meal pudding, rye, soaked crackers, buckwheat, &c., follow each other in succession, and for side dishes and dessert, supply chopped bones (if directly from the butcher, with some meat on them, so much the better), and, if confined, plenty of green food; if near the water, pounded shell-fish (shells and all) and crabs chopped fine. By so doing, your fowls are not require to eat the same thing more than twice each week, and the result is, they always have good appetites, thrive well, and the grand result is at once achieved—plenty of eggs and healthy fowls!

—*J. F. F., In Country Gentleman.*

A wasps nest contains 15,000 cells and the greatest of these "cells" is to sit down on the nest under the mistaken impression that all the wasps have gone to the sea-side or somewhere on a visit. A single wasp loafing in a back kitchen will give the sitter a warm reception. And no doubt a married one would treat him in the same manner.

### The Story of Innach Garden.

"Armo virumque cano."

The man with two arms and a hoe,  
I sing.

The spring

Saw him with spade and hoe and rake,  
With back and arms that ache,  
Dig and swear

At the hard earth where  
Over the adamantine sod

All winter long the family trod.

All day long like a slave he wrought,  
The spade was dull and the day was hot;  
When a cooler or softer place he sought,  
Sunstrokes and brickbats filled the spot.

From rosy dawn,

Till the day was gone,

With tears and sweats he labored on,

By Luna's light the lettuce bed

With seeds of *lactuca sativa* were fed;

Where the onion wept at its breathful taste

The bulbs of the *allium cepa* he placed;

And you never have seen a

More charming verberna

Than 'hose he put in the oblong mound

With *viola tricolor* bordered round.

And on each side the walk from the gate, a

Row of the *reseda odorata*

Back in the kitchen garden bed,

*Raphanus sativus*, white and red:

Where the tall poles burden the haunted air, is

The place where he plants *phaseolus vulgaris*;

All of the seeds that the grocer had,

Lots of things good, and some things bad;

Things that he didn't know how to spell,

Roots that bite and bulbs that smell;

Unknown vines of suspicious breeds;

Sprouts that come up and turn to weeds,

Things it would poison the children to pull,

Every inch of his garden he filled it full.

Daybreak came, and its earliest ray

Smiled on the garden just as it lay;

Eight o'clock, and the man went down

To his office desk in the busy town.

Nine, and his family flitted away

With a rich relation to spend the day.

Then

Just as the whistles were toiling ten,

A hen,

Pride of the flock that lived next door

(Numbering a hundred and seventy-four),

Peeped through a crack of the neighbor's fence,

And said to her comrades, "Lettuce, hens."

Hens!

They come by ones, by scores, by tens;

Gallus old birds, a clarion crew,

Came with the crowd, they always do,

Bantams, hardly as big as a match,

But worse than a snow-plough on the scratch;

Dorking fowls, that made things whirr,

When they dig up the ground with their extra

spur;

Malays and Hamburgs, spangled and plain,

White checked chickens that hail from Spain;

Fighting Game chicks, Polish black,

Guinea hens, with eternal "squack,"

Hens with chickens, that wettled and cried,

Hens bereaved, whose weeties had died,

Giddy young hens, that never had set,

Grave old hens, that were at it yet;

Portly old roosters, solemn and stout,  
 Old time bruisers, with one eye out;  
 Hens with broods of awkward ducks,  
 That paid no heed to their anxious clucks;  
 And never regarding their worried looks,  
 Plunged into gutters, ponds and brooks;  
 Mortified roosters, with tail feathers lost.  
 Fowls whose claws were nipped by the frost;  
 Business-like birds, with no ear for fun,  
 Pullets, whose troubles were just begun;  
 Tough old fowls, for the boarders' collation,  
 Yellow-legged hens, of Wesleyan persuasion,  
 Bright gems in the circuit ride's vacation;  
 Baptist like ducks, with their awkward totter,  
 Hunting around for some waist-deep water;  
 Blue-looking turkeys, scratching a living,  
 Fore-ordained to die next Thanksgiving;  
 And here in the mob was a solemn passel  
 Of geese with tremendous feet for a wrestle,  
 Not much on the scratch, but 't was easily seen  
 They were worse on grass than a mowing machine  
 Where they all come from nobody knew,  
 But over the fence in clouds they flew;  
 And into the garden, for life or death,  
 They scratched till they panted, out of breath;  
 No pause, no stop, no stay for rest,  
 Till the sun went down in the crimson west;  
 Till the man came home from his work, and  
 found

The yawning clefts in the riven ground.  
 And he gazed for a space, with a fearful start,  
 While the deep sobs broke from his grateful  
 heart;  
 And he clasped in his arms his babes and  
 spouse,  
 "Thank heaven, the earthquake spared my  
 house!"—*Burlington Hawkeje.*

For the Canadian Poultry Review.

### Pigeon Flying.

Before the days of railroads and telegraphs the carrier pigeon was both a source of pleasure and profit, for in those days no means were known of carrying news of important events so rapidly as by pigeon post. The news was conveyed by pigeons in those days as follows: Supposing a race or other event of importance was coming off in some Provincial town in England, and the result was desired to be known in London, before it could arrive by mail or courier, carrier pigeons would be taken from lofts in London to the place where the affair took place, and just as soon as the result was known, it would be written or printed on very thin tissue paper, used for the purpose, and bound to a tail feather, and the bird immediately tossed up, when he would fly direct with his message for his city home. In those days this was the only means at command for getting any important news from any distance in the country to London the same day it transpired. The advent of railroads and telegraphs completely put aside the use of the carrier pigeon as a means of rapid news transfer, and for many years the bird was almost threatened with extinction, and its only, quite recently that pigeon flying as a sport and pastime

has been taken up; and perhaps to-day but for his great utility during the siege of Paris, during the Franco-Prussian war, he would still have remained as one of the old fancies, but he proved himself so useful during that critical time, when the Parisians were feeding on cats, rats, and horse-flesh, and all communication was cut off from the out-side world, that from that time his revival seems to date. The bird generally used in Britain till very recently was the English carrier; but as a flyer he is far out-stripped by his much less pretentious looking cousin, the Antwerp bird. Fanciers will still pay more money for a perfect specimen of an English than an Antwerp carrier, but if handsome is that handsome does, then the continental bird certainly should command the most money. As far as appearance goes, the English carrier strikes even a novice as being more aristocratic, whereas the Antwerp bird has nothing in his appearance to strike any one but a connoisseur as being anything but an ordinary common pigeon. It is not in the style and beauty, but in his homing qualities where he has proven himself superior to his more elegant looking congener.

Perhaps in no country is pigeon flying indulged in to such an extent as in Germany and Belgium, Antwerp and Brussels being the two great pigeon metropolis of Europe. What fox-hunting is in England, so is pigeon flying in Germany and Belgium, but having the advantage of being indulged in much more by the populace. With the German and Belgian people it may be called a national amusement, and in no other countries has it been carried to the same extent as there. They have just had their second fly from Rome to Brussels; the distance is over 900 miles, and of 200 birds down in the first race less than 20 found their homes.

The last great race is now being flown. On the 23rd June, 1156 Brussels and Antwerp birds were liberated in Rome, 24 pigeons had arrived up to July 16th, and as the race was to stay open till 27th July, it is quite likely more will be heard from. The excitement in front of the Brussels office of the Columbarian Society during the time the birds were being delivered there previous to their departure for Rome, was immense; thousands of people blocking the streets in the neighborhood of the office, showing the great interest manifested by them in the sport. On the 28th inst., there was to be an exhibition of the birds that had made the wonderful fly, and I have no doubt their fortunate owners, if so disposed, could accept large sums for them, for there can be no mistake in saying that the birds which have flown such an immense distance, to one who wants to breed first-class birds, are invaluable.

The Antwerp carrier stands to-day, beyond any question of doubt, at the head of domestic flyers. Whether or not any bird can be found to excel him is a question which, so far as homing pigeons are concerned, may never be settled. I believe myself, could the American passenger pigeon be domesticated without curtailing his power of flight, no domestic bird to-day could equal him. Watch him on his line of flight, see his long, graceful, slender neck and body, and long frigate like wings and pointed tail, as he cuts the air like an arrow; no pigeon known to me moves so gracefully and with the same rapidity as he does. He appears to go like a bullet, and as to his power of sustained flight there is no question. From the rapidity which they pass from one section of our vast continent to another is proof of that. Birds with rice in their crops have been shot in Ontario, flying north. This must have been gathered in the rice fields of South Carolina, a distance of from 800 to 1000 miles; and as it is supposed that food would digest in less than 12 hours, but allowing say 16 hours of steady flight, we here have motion at the rate of probably more than 60 miles per hour, a speed that no domestic bird can keep up for any lengthened period.

Whether it is possible to domesticate our passenger pigeon remains to be proved. I believe it can be done. My reason for thinking so is that when caught and penned, he feeds well, gets fat and becomes contented. Then all, in my mind, which remains to be done is to get him to breed and his domestication is a success. It is not likely that for sometime his love for his native forests would entirely leave him, but as in our turkey, ducks, geese, and many other domestic animals, after being repeatedly bred in confinement, their wild nature would generally disappear, and if we could only persevere his swift flying powers, we would, I have no doubt, have a bird that for rapidity of flight has no equal to-day in the pigeon tribe.

#### × ROADS.

#### Pigeon Flying.—The Columbus Match.

New York, July 31.—A Sunbury, Pa., despatch states that the carrier pigeons which started from Columbus last week, landed at Lancaster, Pa., this morning. Lancaster is 125 miles from New York, and on the direct route from Columbus, so that the pigeons had flown 375 miles towards home. If the pigeons had not been liberated in cloudy weather they would undoubtedly have come home in good time.

"Ma, are we cannibals?" asked a little Eighth street girl the other morning, "Why, my child, what do you mean?" "Nothing, only I heard you say to Bridget, boy legs for breakfast."

Editor of Canadian Poultry Review.

#### More Light Wanted in Delaware.

DEAR SIR:—

Gapes is what's the matter!

As I said in your June number, the gapes among small chickens is quite common in Delaware. I also gave my remedy, and asked you for the cause. You kindly answered in same number, (June,) by publishing Mr. A. M. Halstead's opinion of the cause.

Now, with all due respect for Mr. Halstead's opinion, I must say his theory looks unreasonable, and in my case is not correct; consequently Mr. Halstead's theory, with me, has "busted." Having but very few chickens this season to look after, and plenty of time to look after them, the result is I have kept them *well greased*, well fed, and *entirely free from vermin* of any kind, and that from the day I took them from the nest; yet for all of that, as I said in your June number, my chicks *all had the gapes*, and most of them would, without doubt, have died, had I not doctored them in the manner described in my June letter.

I only wish Mr. Halstead's theory was correct, as it is quite easy to keep young poultry free from vermin if taken the day they are hatched and attended to; but such is not the case, nor can I give any idea what is the real cause.

Thinking that perhaps young turkeys would not be troubled here in that way, and always having a liking for the noble Bronze Turkey, both when in the yard and on the table, (having bred them for several years) I thought I would give them a trial; consequently I sent to one of our best breeders, who resides in the State of New York, and got 27 eggs. They came well packed and fresh laid. I at once put them under three good hens, which I had waiting for them; they performed their part well, and at the appointed time (June 10th), came off with 23 fine strong young turkeys. Now, Mr. Editor, you may be sure I was proud, and as they all grew and done well for ten days I grew prouder every day, and could almost imagine I saw the red ticket on a pair of them in one of your exhibition, and friend Bussel with only the blue ticket, as my young stock was from a bird that weighed 38 pounds when 9 months old. But, alas! about that time one of them was discovered by me napping, or the next thing to it, gaping; and as the old say is, "gaping is catching," so it proved with my young turkeys, for in less than three days they all acted as though they had been out over night on a spree, for they were all gaping; but they had not been out, as I had them closely housed every night, and until the grass was dry in the morning, and plenty of dry wheat chaff and fine straw for them

to scratch over while confined. But I did not care very much about it as I thought my chicken remedy would of course cure them, the same as it did my chicks a few weeks before; and just as I was preparing to apply it a neighbor came in and kindly offered to assist me, saying that his girls, all of them, could "worm the poultry" first rate, as he called it; but as I am a married man I thanked him for his kind offer to let his girls come over and help me "worm the poultry," and told him I had already learned to do that business very well. So I went at it alone; but, Mr. Editor, I soon found out that young turkeys were not young chickens, for about every other one would insist on dying in my hands or shortly after the operation; but as I thought they would die anyway, I kept twisting away with my feather until I got over the whole flock. But I could not help regretting that I had not consented to let my kind neighbor send one of his girls to help me "worm" them, as perhaps they understood that business better than I did; but it was then too late. I found on examining those that insisted on dying in my hands that the cause was their windpipes were so filled with worms that in putting down the feather it could not pass them, but would shove them down before it, and consequently shut off their breath, and, of course, that very moment they were dead. The next day I thought it would be better to try some other remedy, and having seen one, in the American *Poultry Yard*, said to be a sure cure, I concluded to try that on the remainder of my flock, as some of them were still gaping. This remedy was to sharply punch their throats, and by so doing kill the worms. I caught three that seemed the worst and proceeded to business, and punched the throats of all three, but I do not believe I killed a single worm. But, you will say, perhaps you did not punch hard enough. Now, I have no doubt but that is the very reason, but, after all, I punched so hard that all three of the young turkeys died in my hands, so I did not care whether the worms were dead or not. Well, after this I concluded to let the others run their own chance, and the result is that I have to-day, August 1st, four left. These, I think, have about made up their minds to live; and if they do, think I can yet "knock the spots" off friend Bussel some day, and carry to Delaware the red ticket.

But what I am now after is more light on the *cause of gapes*, or rather cause of the worms that make young poultry have the gapes, and a safer remedy than either the feather or punching their throats.

I think my next investment will be in China Geese, as I do not believe the gapes will effect them, as they always have their mouths open any way.

I hope to see a full list of your fall shows in

August number, and I hope to meet some of the fanciers, if not all (as well as yourself), at some one of them, perhaps the Provincial show.

THOMAS.

Gapes is a disease almost unknown in Canada. In ten years' experience in breeding fancy poultry we have had but three cases of it. The chicks affected were White Leghorns out of eggs received from Connecticut. On examination we found the louse to which the disease is attributed on each of them; but many of our other chicks had them also and were not affected with gapes.

As friend Thomas is unable to prevent the disease by keeping the chicks free from the lice, he may be able to cure it by using the following remedy, which was given in the *Poultry Bulletin*, and is said to be certain in its results: "Place a little crystalized carbolic acid in a spoon or metal saucer, and hold it over a candle or lamp; hold the bird so that it will be obliged to inhale the fumes, being careful, however, not to protract it so long as to kill the chick. One application, if thorough, will usually be sufficient, though occasionally a second may be necessary." Try it, friend Thomas, and give us the result.

*Editor Canadian Poultry Review,*

DEAR SIR:—

I have just received a copy of the prize list of the Provincial Exhibition to be held in Toronto this Fall, and find that there is offered on poultry the sum of \$343, while last year it was \$522,—a reduction of over one-third. I find it difficult to account for this when the growing importance of the poultry business is considered. I cannot account for it in any other way but from a want of knowledge of this department among the managers. I am fully convinced that this is the correct solution when I find that, even with the reduced list, they still offer prizes for young Guinea and Pea fowl, when it is a well known fact to those but moderately posted on poultry matters that the most critical judge cannot distinguish the sexes until the fowls are nearly a year old.

The Galt show, after waiting a year and a half, paid 20 cents on the dollar, and now the London show, of which such great things were promised, pays 35 cents on the dollar. The question naturally arises, What is the poultry exhibition business coming to?

W. M. SMITH.

Fairfield Plains, Aug. 1st.

When you want circulars, envelopes, business cards etc., send to the REVIEW office. We will not be beaten in this line.

*Editor Canadian Poultry Review.*

DEAR SIR:—

In your April number an article appeared, signed by Mr. Likens of Toronto, commenting upon one from me in your March number, and in which appear statements so void of truth that I cannot allow them to pass unnoticed.

In the first place he states that my pet silver medal black carrier had taken prizes all over the Dominion until defeated by Mr. Johnston's birds at Guelph in 1876.

Now, Sir, in 1876 I showed my *old pair* of black carriers, which were at that time suffering from sore eyes, and from which disease they afterwards died. The judges, on that occasion, objected to them on this account, and gave the prize to Mr. Johnston's birds, at the same time admitting that the latter had no chance had mine been in condition. The medal bird, alluded to by Mr. Likens, was only hatched out in August of 1876.

The eulogies heaped upon my bird by the New York press, when shown at Philadelphia, would certainly go far to prove that he had not the defects attributed to him by Mr. Likens; they pronounced him a *remarkably good bird* for his age.

And now, to end all controversy in the matter, I am prepared to deposit \$50 in any of our banks, Mr. Likens, or those whose medium he is, to deposit a similar amount; I will prove on oath to the same bird I showed at Toronto; Mr. Adams, who received 1st prize at Toronto, do likewise. Let two *competent and disinterested* judges decide, and in whose favor their decision is given shall receive the \$100. This will show whether my bird has the seven defects attributed to him by Mr. Likens in your April number.

I think it is high time the prevailing practice should be dropped of appointing members of Societies to act as judges on their own stock and that of their brother members. It is the experience of many that a great deal of partiality is shown, and much injury is done to the fancy from this cause. I have no doubt that such work as that I complain of in this case has been practised in many others, and has done its share to make many of our shows failures.

H. B. B. ALLEY.

London, Aug. 5th.

*Editor of Canadian Poultry Review.*

DEAR SIR:—

Having read Mr. Pillsbury's letter in June number of *Fancier's Journal* with regard to return signal for Homing Pigeons, I am prompted to give mine, which may be of use to him or other fanciers. It is simply an attachment made to the ingress wires so that when the bird enters he makes the connection of my battery complete, and

thus rings the electric bells, which I have been using in my house some years. Any bird entering will thus give the alarm, which will continue to act as long as the connection remains perfect. A break can be made in the wires at any convenient place in the house, so that the alarm can be stopped at any time and connected when necessary. Of course that on the ingress wires would have to be set only when required. Any electrician or vendor of electric apparatus can give all the information and a simple, cheap appliance for the purpose, which will be found much superior to the pistol signal in every way.

COLUMBOPHILOS.

Strathroy, Aug. 7th.

Hurrah for Delaware!

*Editor of Canadian Poultry Review,*

DEAR SIR:—

I send you the prize list of the First State Fair for the State of Delaware, and I shall, Mr. Editor, have to "take back" all I have said in former letters about Delaware being slow about taking an interest in fancy poultry. Judging from the *number of varieties* they have got on their list I should say that all hands are poultry fanciers, or intended to be. Only think, sixty-one varieties, with a chance of winning two prizes on each variety, amounting to \$363 00, right here under my nose. No, Mr. Editor, I cannot "stand the pressure" much longer; I shall have to stock up again.

You may ask if all the varieties on their list are likely to be shown. I answer, No! and if they were I do not think they have a man in the State of Delaware that could name them, let alone judge their merit. But never mind that, winning prizes at exhibitions is very often a lottery anyway.

I have sent the directors (by request) a plan for their show room and coops, which, if they carry out, will show that they have really an interest in fancy poultry. Hurrah for Delaware!

THOMAS.

Friend Thomas will not be a little surprised to learn that the amount offered as prizes for poultry by Delaware State show exceeds that offered by our Provincial Exhibition this year. By all means "stock up" in Delaware.—Ed.

CHICKEN JELLY.—Skin a chicken, removing all fat, and break up flesh and bones by pounding; cover them with cold water, heat them slowly in a steam tight kettle, and simmer them to a pulp; then strain through a sieve or cloth, season to taste, return to the fire, without the cover, to simmer until the liquid is reduced one-half; skimming off all fat. Cool to form a jelly. If you have no steam-tight kettle, put a cloth between the lid and any kettle, and the purpose will be served.

# Canadian Poultry Review.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

JAS. FULLERTON,

—AT—

STRATHROY, ONTARIO, CANADA.

TERMS.—\$1.00 per year, payable in advance.

## ADVERTISING RATES.

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All communications must be in our hands by the 6th and advertisements by the 9th to insure insertion in issue of that month.

Address.

JAS. FULLERTON,

Strathroy, Ont., Canada.

## One Society.

Last month we made some remarks on the altered conditions arising from the decision of the Ontario Government to keep the grant in aid of poultry exhibitions undivided, and give but one grant to one society. That a union of the organizations hitherto existing would be beneficial we never doubted; but what would otherwise be only a subject for discussion has now, by the action of the Government, become a matter of necessity. As the time is drawing near when the fanciers and breeders of Ontario will be called on to take part in organizing a Provincial Poultry Society, we trust a few remarks from us in regard to their duties on the occasion will not be considered inappropriate or impertinent.

Past experience shows the extreme difficulty of making our large poultry shows self-sustaining. The officials in charge have to struggle against many disadvantages, and often receive nothing better than censure for a large amount of gratuitous labor. It is clear that a Provincial Association formed from a union of those now existing, and receiving the whole of the legislative grant, must necessarily be in a vastly better position than any one society could be under the old system. Not only can there be an improvement in the prize list, but there will be a guarantee that prizes won will be paid promptly. But in proportion to the increased strength and permanence of the new society will be the responsibility of those taking part in its organization. We ask the fanciers and breeders to come forward and establish it on a sound, responsible basis. It is an old and true adage that

'what is well begun is half done.' A fair start will be an immense advantage, and a little care and attention at the commencement may save much future trouble. To accomplish this it will be necessary to put aside any personal animosities or local jealousies that may have existed in the past, and vote and act without prejudice, and for the best interest of the poultry business at large.

In the choice of a place for holding the first show much interest will centre. Many places have claims, and but one can be selected. Every exhibitor would naturally prefer to have it held in the nearest suitable place to his own residence, but in this matter breeders should not allow their own personal interest or convenience to eclipse the public good. Other things being equal, those places where exhibitions have been most successful have the best claim to support.

Next to the selection of a place the election of officers will be a matter of very great importance. No society, however perfect in its regulations or strong in its membership, can succeed under the management of inefficient officers, and hence the greatest care should be taken to secure the services of thorough business men—men of good standing—men who will not flag when their assistance is most needed. Men are wanted who possess both honesty of purpose, a stainless reputation, and the necessary perseverance and energy to carry through all work entrusted to them to a satisfactory completion. Such men may be depended on in the time of trial, and they will not, on the one hand allow their own interest to blind them to the rights of others, nor on the other hand permit violations of the regulations, out of respect to persons or partiality. Happily men of the right stamp are by no means scarce among the fraternity; all that is needed is judicious care in the election. To accomplish an object of such primary importance neither the modesty which would keep good men in the background, nor the presumption of self-conceited but unsuitable aspirants should, for a moment, stand in the way.

Finally, we would urge a large attendance at the forthcoming meeting, from all parts of Ontario. None of those interested in the breeding and exhibiting of fancy poultry should absent themselves. This we urge for two reasons. It is important that the meeting should be representative in its character, so as to command and produce a cordiality of feeling and a unity of effort. All who have been showing their poultry heretofore, and expect to do so again, are deeply concerned in what promises to be a new era in the history of poultry exhibitions in Ontario. But there is another reason. Should the poultry men generally fail to attend the meeting, they will leave it very much in the power of local men, at whatever place of meeting may be

selected, to control affairs. In such a case parties who have comparatively little interest in poultry, and who never exhibit except when the show is held in their own immediate neighborhood, would easily secure an all-powerful influence. Such a result would clearly be unsatisfactory, and an evil augury for future success. Let there be a large and representative gathering at the coming meeting to organize a Provincial Poultry Society.

During the past few days we have sent out a number of accounts, and hope our patrons will promptly respond. Having several heavy bills to meet consequent on taking full control of the business our friends will greatly assist by sending us their cheques for the amount due.

From the 1st number of the *London Field* we learn that, up to the 25th of July, 41 of the 1356 Carrier Pigeon tossed at Rome on the 23rd of June had returned. As the race was open till the 27th it is likely more have arrived inside of the time specified. Distance 925 miles.

We are glad to hear from Mr. Charles Goodchild, of Toronto, of his safe arrival home from Europe. The trip was a very pleasant one, and his health is much benefited thereby. He brings with him a trio of Brown-red game birds from the yards of one of the best breeders in England, also a pair of Red-pile bantams. In pigeons he brings a pair of Blue Bald pate Tumblers and a number of Belgian Homers, some of which have taken part in the long flights in Europe.

#### Shows to Occur.

Nova Scotia Poultry and Floricultural Association, Sept. 3rd, 4th and 5th. R. J. Wilson, Secy. Entries close Aug. 27th.

Central Fair, Guelph, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Sept. Geo. Murton, Secretary. Entries close 1st Sept. Any entry after that date will be charged 50 cents extra, up to the 14th, when the books will be finally closed.

Provincial Exhibition, Toronto, Sept. 23rd to 28th, inclusive. John B. Craig, Secretary. Entries close Aug. 24th.

Western Fair, London, 30th Sept., and 1st., 2nd, 3rd and 4th Oct. Wm. McBride, Secretary. Entries should be made by 21st Sept., 50 cents extra will be charged after that date up to 28th, when the books will be finally closed.

Michigan State Fair, Detroit, September 16th to 20th, inclusive.

International Poultry Association, Buffalo, N. Y., January 29th to February 5th. Geo. W. White, Secretary.

#### Catalogues Received.

Troy Poultry Yards, Henry B. Thomas, proprietor, Troy, N. Y. Light Brahmans, Brown Leghorns, and Black Hamburgs.

Jas. H. Morrison, Box 31, Marlow, N. H., U. S. Plymouth Rocks.

Young Mohawk Poultry Yards, L. E. Sansabaugh, Syracuse, Otsego Co., Nebraska. Light and Dark Brahmans, Buff and Partridge Cochins, Plymouth Rocks, Toulouse Geese, S-bright Bantams and Pekin Ducks.

#### Seasonable Hints.

Chicks that were hatched in April should now begin to show their fine points, if they have them. Cockerels and pellets should be separated, and those considered fit for exhibition at the fall shows placed so that they can receive a little extra care. If Asiatics and small breeds are kept it is generally better to give the cockerels of each a yard, as the smaller breeds are very apt to abuse the Asiatics, and prevent them from feeding comfortably, thus retarding their growth. If milk is plentiful give them all they can drink; it is excellent to produce good plumage and encourage growth.

Shade is very necessary now as the young feathers are most susceptible to discoloration from the sun's rays.

Although the season for hatching is past the broody hen should still be looked after, and broken up immediately on showing a desire to sit; by this means many more eggs can be secured from them before they commence to moult, and they will be in better condition to stand that critical process.

#### Houdans.

Houdans stand at the head of the French birds in public opinion, and are well deserving of the consideration of all who want good sized table fowls that are also emphatically good layers. For the table they excel in quantity and quality, especially in breast meat, and they are unrivalled by Games or Dorkings in fineness of bone, and the small proportion of waste in the carcass. Their size is above the average, their bodies being deep and compact. On handling them one will be surprised at their weight being greater than their appearance would indicate, and they shrink less in dressing than any known fowl. The hens are non-sitters, and very great layers of large white eggs. The chickens of this variety are quite hardy and easily reared, feathering early and maturing for market sooner than any other sort. They are timid but not wild, and though capable of flying high very seldom attempt it, and can generally be safely

kept by a four foot fence.

Houdans have a Polish crest and muff, a peculiar triple or forked comb, which should be very small on the hen. They have also the unnecessary fifth toe peculiar to the Dorking class.

They are the most suitable fowls for farm purposes, being hardy and easy to rear, good foragers, and not very troublesome to gardens or orchards.

The principal breeders of this variety are Bogue of London, Smith of Fairfield Plains, and G. T. Simpson of Falkland, Ont.

McDUFF.

### Birds for Exhibition.

Those of our readers who anticipate showing at the coming fall and winter exhibitions, should select the best of their chicks and give them extra care and attention. They should have runs by themselves so that they may have extra feed.—White-plumaged birds should always be kept clean. It is much easier to do this than it is to wash and clean them after their feathers have become dirty and soiled, and then washing them always leaves the plumage with a deadened color, as it takes off the natural gloss and smoothness of the feathers. Give them runs well set to grass; keep them away from the dust-bin in damp or wet weather; provide their roosting pens with a clean litter of leaves or straw every few days, and you will have no occasion to resort to washing your fowls. We do not advocate crowding and stuffing birds for exhibition until they are worthless for anything else.—But as "condition" is a prerequisite condition in a show bird, it is well to give them extra food and get them in as good condition as possible without doing permanent injury to your birds. Over-feeding must be avoided; in the Asiatic this is a fruitful source of leg-weakness.—*Ex.*

SPEAKING of ill-flavor of eggs, the *Journal of Horticulture*, London, remarks that it is the result of one of two causes—either the food on which the fowls are fed, or the substance on which the eggs are laid, and adds:—This may be easily tested by shutting up a laying hen and giving her garlic or malted barley to eat. In a few days the eggs will taste of the food; we have tried this ourselves, and know it to be correct. Another theory is—but we cannot speak of it with the same certainty—that an egg laid on any strong smelling substance will contract it. This is explained by the fact that the shell when the egg is first laid is comparatively soft and impressionable, and only hard after contact with the atmosphere. Let birds be wholesomely fed on plain food and your nests be made of clean straw. Hay nests have a tendency to make eggs taste. Follow Nature and you will have nothing to complain of.

### Dried Eggs.

A large establishment has been opened in St. Louis for drying eggs. It is in full operation, and hundreds of thousands of dozens are going into its insatiable maw. The eggs are carefully "canned" by hand—that is, examined by light to ascertain whether they are good or not—and are then thrown into an immense receptacle, where they are broken, and by a centrifugal operation the white and yolk are separated from the shell, very much as liquid honey is separated from the comb. The liquid is then dried by heat by patent process, and the dried article is left resembling sugar and is put in barrels and is ready for transportation anywhere. This dried article has been taken twice across the equator in ships, and then made into omulet, and compared with omulet made from fresh eggs in the same manner, the best judges could not detect the difference between the two. Is this not an age of wonders? Milk made solid, cider made solid, apple butter made into bricks. What next?

—*Poultry Nation*

A STRANGE incident is related by a St. Louis newspaper about a dog which, being bothered by a bee one hot day, as he was dozing by a grocer's door, incautiously snapped it up in his mouth. He made a sudden spring to his feet as if he had just thought of something that he had to do in a hurry, and the hair all over him raised on end as if he had been electrified. Then he pranced around a moment, shaking his head frantically as if he was worrying a rat. A little black object dropped from his mouth, which he looked at inquiringly for a brief instant and then started off in haste to see a man around the corner, howling dismally as he went.

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I will spare 12 Sittings at \$5.00 each.

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Will sell six sittings at \$4.00 each.

L. Brahmas took 1st at Hamilton, 1878, shown by Wright & Butterfield. S. D. G. Bantams took 1st on old; 1st, 2nd and 3rd on young All from my yards.



**Wm. McNEIL,**

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