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THE  
CANADIAN POULTRY CHRONICLE.

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VOLUME II.

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THE  
CANADIAN  
POULTRY CHRONICLE.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

DEVOTED TO

POULTRY AND PIGEON BREEDING.

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VOLUME II:

FROM JULY, 1871, TO JULY, 1872.

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THOMAS McLEAN, EDITOR.

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## FALL EXHIBITIONS.

The course pursued by the Council of the Agricultural Association, last year, in not publishing the names of the judges who were appointed to act in the Poultry class of the Provincial Exhibition—the total disregard to the repeated warnings given, that if that department of the Exhibition was to be a success, it must be conducted on entirely different principles to that adopted at the previous shows—the marked falling off in the numbers and excellence of the fowls exhibited, as compared with other shows, which adopted the course suggested to the Council—and finally, the utter incompetence of the judges to perform their duties, whether from sheer ignorance of the merits which should entitle a fowl to a prize, or from that narrow-minded sectionalism, always so conspicuous in the appointments made by the Council—or both—we care not now to enquire, are too fresh in the minds of poultry breeders and fanciers, to need repetition here.

We shall not now waste time in offering advice to these gentlemen; it is not for that purpose we pen this article; because they are of that class of non-progressives who may be safely left, like the sow, to their "wallowing in the mire." They are firm believers in the doctrine, that what was good for our fathers, is sufficient for us. *Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis.*—"Times change, and we change with

### LETTER POSTAGE.

It takes SIX CENTS to pre-pay a letter mailed in the United States to Canada, and *vice versa*.

### COMPLIMENTARY.

We most cordially thank our subscribers for the punctuality with which many of them have responded to our call to forward their renewal subscriptions for Volume II. of THE CHRONICLE; and also for the very flattering, and in many cases highly complimentary, tributes of praise accorded to our efforts in poultry journalism, which accompanied their subscriptions. Coming, as in several instances these do, from old and well-known breeders, they are by us highly prized, and will prove an incentive to further and increased efforts on our part.

them," is a motto which never enters the *Sanctum* of the Council.

The Agricultural and Arts Society Act authorizes Township and County Societies to hold their own annual shows, independent of the Provincial Exhibition, and of each other. The societies of London and Toronto, purpose, we understand, holding their shows this year on a much grander scale than usual. The prize lists are to be more comprehensive, and the sums such as to induce competitors from a distance, to warrant their sending their stock. This is as it should be. The agricultural and other interests of our Province, demand such a course. London, last year, inaugurated the movement, and it was highly successful. Let the same be said of both London and Toronto, this year.

In each of these exhibitions, poultry will form a prominent department, and it is to this branch of the exhibition we would chiefly advert. To be successful, proper arrangements must be made and published. Let intending exhibitors know, not only who are to be the judges of their fowls, but that proper arrangements are made for their reception, and that due care and attention will be paid them while on exhibition. We would strongly urge the necessity of having separate committees appointed for this purpose, whose sole duties will be confined to this branch of the exhibition. Let food and attendance be supplied by this committee, free of charge, and exhibitors saved all trouble and anxiety in this respect. Nay, more, let the committee be composed of such persons as will be a guarantee to exhibitors that their fowls will not only be duly cared for, during the exhibition, but that they will be properly penned and returned, if not sold; or, if sold, their price remitted at once. We speak from personal experience in this matter, and fearlessly assert that this is the only true course to adopt, to secure success in poultry shows.

And what shall we say about judges? the most difficult, and yet the most thankless office to which one could be appointed. First, then, let care be taken that their poultry knowledge is acquired from practical experience as breeders. No person should undertake to judge a fowl, who has not himself been a breeder. Not simply a breeder of fowls generally, but of each separate variety on which he undertakes to pass judgment. Neither should they be of that antiquated school who view all recent acquisitions to the poultry yard as innovations to be ruthlessly stamped out. Next avoid the unnecessary, but almost universal, practice of appointing too many. Judges should be selected with a view to their capabilities of judging one or more distinct classes of fowls. They will then divide the work between themselves, one, for instance, taking the Asiatics and other larger breeds; a second, the Game fowls; a third, the Pigeons, and so on. And when a doubt arises in the mind of any, as to which pen is best entitled to the prize, a general consultation may be held, and the prize awarded by the majority—guided, of course, by the standard laid down by the committee of management. In this way the work will be put through much quicker and more satisfactory.

One more suggestion and we have done. Let the names of the exhibitors be strictly withheld from all, until the prizes are awarded. The pens should only be known to the judges by numbers. This is very important, and should be strictly adhered to.

#### VITALITY IN EGGS.

We wish we could induce all poultry breeders to keep memorandum books, and carefully note down, from time to time, anything unusual which may take place during the hatching season—the cause and result. What a fund of information would in this way be gained

if published for the benefit of other breeders. Things apparently trivial in themselves at the time they occur, might, when taken in connection with others, prove of considerable importance. It ought to be borne in mind, that we all have yet much to learn in poultry matters. We are students, not masters, and by the intercommunication of ideas, and promulgating of incidents which may transpire in the hatching room, the chicken pen, and the breeding yard, our store of poultry knowledge would be increased. Our columns are always open to correspondents, and we trust many will avail themselves of it, and that those who have omitted to take notes this season, will do so next. We shall relate an incident which occurred to ourselves this season.

On May 5th we set two hens, side by side in our hatching house, on eleven turkey eggs each; one, a light Brahma, the other a common barn-door fowl, which we had purchased broody. Food and water were daily supplied them, and care taken that they partook of it at least once a day. At the expiration of a week, a hen egg was added to the number under the Brahma hen. All went well till the morning of the 23rd, when the Brahma hen was found dead on her nest. She must have been so for some hours, at least, as she was quite cold and stiff; the eggs were likewise quite cold. There were only ten days of the hatching period then to expire, consequently the chicks must have been by this time living in the shell. We therefore concluded our chance of birds from this setting was but slight. Determined, however, to give them a fair trial, we at once removed the eggs to a new nest, where we had another hen ready to put on. She took to the eggs without trouble, and sat close till the expiration of the time, but no chicks. In the meantime the other hen had hatched all her chickens out. We allowed

the dead hen's eggs still to remain under the new hen. Two days more elapsed and, to our surprise, all of the eleven turkey eggs hatched out, except one, which was clear; the hen egg also hatched—not a dead bird in one of the eggs. We used no artificial means to restore warmth to the eggs, nor did we in any way interfere with them afterwards, by damping, or otherwise than as described.

Now it may be said, there is nothing new in all this, the same thing has frequently happened before. Granted. But is that a reason why it should not be related for the benefit of fanciers, not, perhaps, quite so well versed in poultry matters, and who, in ignorance of the vitality of eggs, would, under similar circumstances, allow valuable eggs to be lost. Let us have incidents of every kind which take place, carefully noted, with the circumstances which gave rise to them, and published from time to time, and we have no doubt many amateurs will thank the writers for the information thus conveyed.

#### RATS AND MICE AS EGG DESTROYERS.

It is not generally known, or at least credited by poultry breeders, that mice destroy hatching and other eggs; yet so it is. It has been ascertained beyond doubt that mice enter hatching houses and carry off eggs from under the hatching hens, while sometimes they have been caught eating them in the nest. Several instances of this have recently come under our notice.

In a late number of the *Field* a short communication appeared, signed "*Chanticleer*," on this subject, in which the writer stated positively that there were no rats in or about the poultry houses; and since, in a communication to ourselves, stated that mice were actually caught in the act of eating the eggs under the sitting hen, and in that way several clutches of eggs had been de-

stroyed. The editor of the *Field* could suggest no remedy except poison or cats, the latter of which Chanticleer would not have, lest the destruction of chickens would exceed that of the eggs.

Rats, too, are great destroyers of eggs. It has lately been stated to us, on reliable authority, that in one night a whole setting of valuable hatching eggs were carried off by rats. The nest having been made on the ground, there was no obstruction in the way. It is also worthy of remark that in the same place, and adjoining the other, was another sitting hen in a box, and none of her eggs were disturbed, which points to the idea that the sides of the box is a partial remedy at least, against such wholesale destruction. Another instance has been mentioned to us where rats have carried away several goose eggs from the hatching pen, although the goose was on the nest at the time. To accomplish this feat, it needed both strength and agility on the part of the rat. Geese are proverbial for the watchfulness and care with which they guard their nests as well as their young. It seems, therefore, almost incredible that rats could effect such an object, yet we are assured of the fact.

Other small animals, too, are great destroyers of eggs. For two seasons in succession we have been visited by some kind of animal, we think a *Ground-Hog*, we have never been able to get a look at it. Its visit is always announced by the destruction of certain live stock; last season a number of valuable chickens, this year both chickens and turkeys. After one of its nocturnal rounds, our unwelcome visitant took up its abode in an open cellar in which were packed away several boxes of eggs, uncovered. Here it lived and feasted for several days before we detected its whereabouts. While here, it showed its love for eggs. In the boxes and on the floor were numberless shells strewn about. It must have held high carnival during its short

abode, to get through so many, leaving behind it ocular and unmistakable evidence of its egg love.

## POLISH FOWLS.

### THE SPANGLED VARIETY.

The question of the relative superiority of the bearded or wattled and beardless varieties of this breed, has been the occasion of considerable discussion; some maintaining that the beardless are, from the absence of this appendage, less liable to be infected with insect vermin, and consequently more healthy than their bearded kindred; whilst others as stoutly assert that the well developed beard is as essential, and of as much consequence as a good crest. In England, the beardless birds have gone considerably out of fashion.

In the bearded Polish, immediately below the cheek, and covering the front of the throat, is a collection of elongated feathers, regularly imbricated, and of triangular form; the broadest part, or base, is uppermost, extending in a line, as whiskers below the eyes. These feathers, from the base to the point below, should occupy a space of about two inches. In the unbearded birds, the neck is comparatively slender and destitute of the voluminous hackle that encircles that of the bearded varieties; the wattles are large, and the ear-lobe, from the absence of the ruff, more apparent. The skull, too, is less rounded, and, as a consequence, the crest less perfect, especially in the Gold-spangled, which, it has been well said, appeared to be waiting for some lucky accident to give to them good top-knots.

The weight of a Silver-spangled Polish cock should not be under six pounds—from that to seven-and-a-half pounds is large enough; but a large tall bird shows advantageously, not only in the poultry yard, but in a show pen.—The size of the hen is not very important in Polish; from four to five and-a-half pounds is a good average weight.

The carriage of the cock is bold and erect, to an extreme degree; the breast is thrown well forward, the head and tail carried well up; the wings rather low, so as to show the bars and the lacing; the general form of the body is round and plump; the keel of the breast-bone well covered with flesh; body short; neck moderate in length and gracefully arched; in the hens, the form of the body is round and compact; the head and tail carried well up.

The plumage of the cock is ample and flowing, and should be well and evenly marked. The feathers of the crest, neck, and saddle, long, but abundant and strong in the shaft; the fluff on the abdomen should be very short; the ground color of the plumage must be of the purest white, and markings of intense metallic black. In the hen, the plumage is rather close and compact on the back; the fluff, short but ample. Clearness of ground color, and intensity of black in the markings, are very important.

The neck hackle of the cock is very abundant; formed of long and strong feathers which are white at the base, edged and tipped with black, the hackle should come well forward to the front of the neck, and on to the shoulders—the more free from a straw or yellow tinge the better. In the hen, the hackle is full, but rather short, making the neck appear thick; each feather should be well marked with a dark black spangle.

The saddle of the cock should flow well around the tail and rump, and hang well down; that portion behind the thighs is frequently white, but in perfect birds all the saddle feathers are beautifully tipped with black. In the hen the saddle feathers are long towards the tail, each one being boldly spangled.

The cock's tail should be long, ample, and flowing; with well arched centre sickle feathers, abundantly furnished,

with beautifully marked tail cover feathers. No variety of domesticated poultry has a finer or handsomer tail, when fully developed. The sickle feathers should be purely white, each being tipped with a large black spot. The tail in the hen is somewhat large; each feather should have a clear white ground, ending in a lustrous black spangle. This is a great desideratum.

The breast in both sexes, should be well and evenly spangled, from the throat to the thighs; the moon-shaped black markings on the purest white ground. The breasts of the cocks have generally a tendency to be too dark, and are sometimes quite black in the upper part.

The shoulder of the cock should be a little lighter than the general average of colour, but it should be lightly spangled or spotted. That of the hen, though wide spangled, is somewhat liable to get short of coloring, after the second year.

The feathers forming the wing coverts or bars, in both sexes, must, to constitute good birds, be well and boldly spangled, so as to constitute two transverse bars, united by delicate lacing; this is an important and necessary condition, and must be insisted on. The bars in the hen are the same as in the cock, but are less bold and defined.

The secondary quills should have a clear white ground, with a large green-black spangle at the end of each feather. The thighs of the Spangled Polish are long, and should be well spangled to the hock. The legs and feet blue, fine in bone, with neat scales, and the toes rather long.

The crest, which is the most striking characteristic of the Polish breed, is long in the best cocks, very large and full, extending regularly all round, and hiding the head and part of the neck; it should have no vacancy in the centre. Each feather of the crest should be

black at base, white for some distance in the centre, and finally, if tipped with black, it is perfect. The crest of the hen should be very large, ample, and compact, forming a globular mass of feathers, regular in shape, each feather well and evenly marked, with a white eye in the centre. After a year or two most hens get a few white feathers in the crest, but the less they are in number, the better. In neither sex should there be any perceptible comb or wattles, but in the place of the latter a large, triangular-shaped, black or spangled beard. The ear lobe in Spangled Polish should be small and white; the face hardly seen, being covered with feathers and hidden by crest. The colour of the eye should be dark, that of the feet blue, to match the legs and feet.

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### Correspondence.

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KAYFIELD HOUSE, *Earby, Skipton,* )  
*Yorkshire, England, May, 13th 1871.* )  
 EDITOR CANADIAN POULTRY CHRONICLE.

SIR:—I notice in your CHRONICLE of May, a letter from Mr. Henry Beldon, of Goitstock, Bingley, Yorkshire, in which he denies the statement, in my advertisement, that I am the most successful exhibitor of Hamburgs in 1870, and that he will stand the test, by placing you to prove from the "*Field*" and "*Cottage Gardener*" that I am not; but I find that in the test he will not allow any prizes to be counted which have not been published in the *Field* and *Gardener*. My advertisement includes all prizes I have won with Hamburgs. I will stand my score against Mr. Beldon's for the *Five* or *Ten* Guineas for 1870, whether published in the *Field* and *Gardener* or not. What prizes I count I will prove to your satisfaction that I have won them; the loser of the five or ten guinea cup to give it over to some show in Canada to be named hereafter. I will also stand my score of prizes in Hamburgs from the first of August, 1871, to the first of August, 1872, for either *Five* or *Ten* Guineas.

Respecting the 100 First Prizes for

Silver pencilled alone, I have no need to prove that I have won them, till Mr. Beldon has proved that I have not won them. Mr. Beldon says that my advertisement is likely to mislead your readers. I should be very sorry if it was: I feel confident it will not; I am able to supply whatever I advertise, quite as well to the satisfaction of purchasers perhaps as Mr. Beldon. All fowls I have sent across (the Atlantic) up to the present time have given the best satisfaction, and all eggs I have sent have been from my best birds, and packed securely in boxes made specially for the purpose, and out of forty-five sittings sent to one party in Montreal, the first batch of twenty sittings had arrived safe and none broken, and I have not the least doubt but the produce will give satisfaction, and if I give satisfaction to purchasers, I don't see how any of your readers can be misled; but whether your readers are misled or not by my advertisement, *and time will prove that*, I think they will only come to one conclusion respecting Mr. Beldon's letter, and that is, that it has arisen from a bad feeling, and it is evident that that feeling arises from selfishness, because I am too often a very great obstacle to his success, and if health permits, he will have a very warm task to remove that obstacle for some time to come. I am aware it is odds on him beating me for number of prizes, because he has better convenience for keeping his *Hamburg* Cocks together than I have, for exhibition.

I shall be very happy to accommodate Mr. Beldon with a task for the next twelve months for the sum stated, and I think there will be about time to sign the articles about the first of August.

HENRY PICKLES, JUNR.

### EGGS AND THEIR SIZE.

PARIS, June 24, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "POULTRY CHRONICLE."

SIR,—I intended my letter, relative to the size of egg, as a private communication. Since, however, you thought fit to publish it, I think it necessary to furnish some statistics, in support of the truth of the statements made therein; accordingly I have taken the liberty of forwarding to your address a box con-

taining a specimen egg of the following varieties of poultry: Dark Brahma, Partridge Cochins, Grey Dorking, Houdan and White Leghorn.

On each egg you will find written, its weight, and also that of the fowl by which it was laid, said fowl in each case being a *lasts year's* bird. An examination will enable you to verify the subjoined statement.

	Weight of Fowl.	Weight of Egg.
Dark Brahma.	7½ lbs.	1 7/12 oz.
Part. Cochins.	7 "	1 3/4 "
Grey Dorking.	6½ "	2 1/4 "
Houdan.	6 "	2 1/2 "
White Leghorn.	3½ "	2 1/8 "

From the foregoing, it will be seen, that while in proportion to the size of the fowl, the White Leghorn egg is *very large*, and the Houdan and Dorking *large*, those of the Asiatic breeds are *miserably small*. Now, during the past five years, I have devoted much time and attention to said Asiatic breeds, commencing with *inferior* specimens, though the best I could procure at the time; they laid, however, *large* eggs. In the course of time, as my knowledge of points, &c., increased, I spared no expense within reasonable limits, to procure *good* specimens, but I invariably found, that the *nearer* the birds approached the recognized standard of excellence, the *less* became the egg. I therefore began to suspect that genuine as I considered my stock, I must be mistaken in the matter. Accordingly, this spring, in order to be satisfied, I imported, among others, Dark Brahma and Partridge Cochins eggs, from Mr. Beldon, of Yorkshire, England. The eggs arrived in perfect order, but I positively assure you, that though some few were a *little larger*, some about the same size, there were some *even smaller* than the very inferior specimen I send you, and I much regret, that instead of breaking up those, which, when the hen came off were unproductive, I did not keep some of them for your inspection. If the experience of others in this matter at all resembles mine, I consider a clear case of *Eggs versus Feathers*, &c., established, for I suspect that an inordinate desire to obtain *plumage* of a kind recognized as perfection, and the fear that it might suffer by an incautious introduction of fresh blood, has led to *in-breeding*. Again, size is considered a very desirable point

to gain, and birds weighing 15 lbs. are spoken of; such birds, however, I am inclined to consider monstrosities, produced by an unnatural mode of treatment, rendering the fowl almost useless for general purposes. These, sir, in my opinion, are the causes principally operating to cause the really serious evil to which I have alluded, and I would respectfully suggest as possible correctives: 1. That if practicable, eggs should be exhibited with fowls, and that, *ceteris paribus*, the largest eggs should take the prize. 2. That excessive weight being regarded rather as a deformity than a beauty, should be a disqualification, a standard of weight being fixed, having reference solely to the *utility* of the fowls, by which said excess may be determined. I wish it to be understood that my remarks apply exclusively to the Asiatic breeds, and are made with the view of eliciting information from breeders, as to whether the small-egg complaint is widely spread, and if so, by directing attention to it, to devise means for its removal.

I know not what Canadian breeders, generally, may have to say upon this subject, but it is perfectly clear to me that Mr. Beldon, who takes annually a large number of poultry-prizes, would be perfectly justified in writing very much in the same strain as

Your obedient servant,

J. W. ACRES.

P. S.—My hatching experience with the English eggs was as follows: From 17 Dark Brahma eggs, 5 chicks; 16 Buff Cochins, 3; 10 Partridge Cochins, 0; 9 Grey Dorking, 3; 12 Houdan, 3, and 1 Black Hamburg.

We have received the eggs mentioned by Mr. Acres as having been sent us, which in every way accord with the above description of them. The subject is interesting, and one which we would gladly see freely discussed.—ED.

White Leghorn fowls with black or red feathers in their plumage are faulty, as are also Leghorn Cocks with drooping combs. Such should never be used for stock birds.

Aylesbury ducks with yellow bills, or bills spotted with black, are not what they should be—"a clear, pale flesh-coloured bill is the thing."

## HATCHING RESULTS.

MR. J. W. ACRES, *Paris*, says:—From my importation of eggs (64 in all), I have 14 chicks, of five varieties; the 50 non-productive eggs were evidently non-fecundated—not a single dead chick, nor a rotten egg. I may observe that the chicks are remarkably large and strong; they have, however, received the best attention.

MR. THOMAS BOG, *Pictou, Ontario*, sends us the following hatching results, from imported eggs, from Mr. Henry Yardly, Birmingham, England: Dark Brahmas, 18 eggs—2 chicks. Light Brahmas, 6 eggs—1 chick. Game, 15 eggs—3 chicks. Grey Polands, 7 eggs—4 chicks. Spanish, 7 eggs—4 chicks. Dorkings, 14 eggs—1 chick. Ducks, 21 eggs—3 ducklings. Cochins 16 eggs—2 chicks. In all, 104 eggs, and 18 birds hatched.

MR. A. FRAZER, JUN'R, *Quebec*, imported one dozen Dark Brahma eggs, from Frederick Wragge, Stoke Park, Ipswich, England, manager to the Right Honorable Lady Gwydyr, from which he hatched eight chickens; two were dead in the shell, and the remainder rotten. Mr. Frazer claims this to be the best hatch ever made, considering the distance the eggs were carried, and would like to know if other importers can beat it. He also imported one dozen Dark Brahma eggs, from John L. Clark, Waterloo, N. Y., United States, out of which only two chickens were hatched; the remainder of the dozen were bad.

MR. JOHN KAY, *Galt*, imported his English hatching eggs from Mr. Henry Beldon, and relates the results as follows: "I received all the eggs I wrote for. They are as follows: 9 Gold Spangled Hamburgs; 9 Cochins; 12 Game Bantams; 6 Black Spanish, and 3 Houdans. The dozen Game Bantam eggs I placed along with 2 Hamburgs, under one hen; after sitting steadily over two weeks, she forsook the nest. I broke the eggs and there were 9 Bantams and 2 G. S. Hamburgs well-formed—the remaining three eggs were rotten. Out of the nine Cochin eggs, I had only one chicken, and it is a cock; all the others were rotten. From the 6 Spanish, I had 3 chickens hatched out alive, one was dead in the shell, and the remaining two were rotten. Lastly, the 3

Houdan eggs produced one chicken dead in the shell, the other two were rotten. Such is my hatching experience." We think it was a pity that Mr. McKay did not make an effort to hatch the Game Bantams under another hen, and commend to his perusal a couple of articles on this subject, in this number.

MR. DANIEL ALLEN, *Galt*.—"My first importation was from Mr. R. W. Boyle, Dublin, Ireland, from whom I ordered 3½ doz. (2 doz. of Rouen Ducks, and 1½ doz. Dark Brahmas.) The eggs arrived in due time, but in wretched order: and no wonder! The box in which they were packed with a few surplus eggs would not measure half a cube foot; in this they were placed on their sides in cotton batten and sawdust. There could be no mistake as to what the box contained, even before it was opened; on the outside were more than sufficient to indicate that. I do not know how many surplus eggs were sent, but they were all broken, and a good many more beside; I should say over a dozen. Others were quite rotten: so much so that the shells were ready to burst. Yet, wonderful, out of the whole box-full I have two fine Dark Brahma chickens.

"My next importation was from the Right Honorable Lady Gwydyr, of Stoke Park, Ipswich, England. It would have done you good to have seen the admirable manner in which they were packed—not a single egg broken or even soiled. I ordered from her Ladyship 4 doz., and received that number, and five extra, of the following varieties: Buff Cochins, 13, Dark Brahmas, 13, Golden Spangled Hamburgs, 15, Aylesbury Ducks, 12: from which were hatched: Buff Cochins, 3 chickens; Golden Spangled Hamburgs, 3; Dark Brahmas and Ducks, nil. The eggs were packed in paper and lawn grass, a doz. in each box; they in turn were packed in hay-seed, in an iron-bound case, showing a marked contrast between the manner in which they were packed, and those which came from Mr. Boyle.

The comb of a Hamburg Cock should be set perfectly square on his head, and not lop to either side.

The white in the face of an adult Black Spanish fowl should extend over and around the eye.



## Literary Notices.

THE POULTRY BREEDER'S AND FANCIER'S DIRECTORY, FOR 1871. Published by G. E. Cleeton, New Haven Conn.—Price 25 cents.

This useful and interesting annual publication ought to be in the hands of poultry breeders and fanciers. It contains a large number of names of breeders, is well patronized by advertisers, and beautifully illustrated. The names are alphabetically arranged, each state being kept separate. It also gives the names and officers of the different poultry societies in the States and Canada.

We would suggest to the compiler the desirableness of procuring a correct list of the Canadian breeders, for future issues; that published in the present issue is very far from containing the names of all, or even a tithe, of Canadian breeders, and several of those given are incorrect, both in orthography and address.

CIRCULARS RECEIVED.—Prize list of the Barnstaple, England, Dog, Poultry and Pigeon Show, held on the 28th and 29th June, 1871.

D. L. Stage, & Co., circular of Fancy Poultry, Eggs, and Pigeons for sale.

## POULTRY IMPORTATIONS.

MR. C. E. TUTTLE, *Boston, Mass.*, received per steamer *Italy*, from England, one trio Cinnamon Cochins and one trio Black Red Game Bantams. All prize birds.

MR. WILLIAM SIMPSON, JUNR., *West Farms, N. Y.*, received per steamer *Idaho*, seventeen Partridge Cochin fowls, some of them rare birds, one of the cocks being the winner of fifteen prizes in England.

W. A. WOOD, of New York, sold a pair of Black Carrier Pigeons for \$210, cash; and the purchaser averred that he had made a good bargain at that.

WEIGHT OF GAME BANTAMS.—From 14 to 16 oz. is about the proper weight for Game Bantam Cocks, but the smaller all kinds of Game Bantams are the better they are considered.

## Practical Hints.

REARING DORKING CHICKENS.—A writer in an English journal says he has always been very fortunate in raising Dorking chickens, which he attributes to the following plan: As soon as their feathers are dry to give them a pepper corn, and for the first day or so, feed them upon dry bread crumbs, and hard boiled egg, chopped fine, sprinkled with a little black pepper, which warms their crops; a few days afterwards, he moistens the bread crumbs with beer in the morning, and when they are a week old, he gives them ground oats slackened with beer, and occasionally greasy water or gravy, with a little meat or suet chopped fine, varying their meals with a few groats. At night he places a board under the chickens' coop to keep them dry, and lets them have the run of the field during the day.

PRESERVING EGGS.—The following is taken from the *Ladies' Pocket Magazine*, bearing date 1795, Vol. I, pp. 11, 12:—“Curious Method of Preserving Eggs.—The following easy and simple process for keeping and preserving eggs of hens, turkeys, geese and ducks, was invented by Mr. William Jayne, an ingenious confectioner of Sheffield, in Yorkshire, (England), to whom a patent was granted, Feb. 8, 1791: Put in a tub or vessel, one bushel, of Winchester measure, of quick lime, 32 oz. of salt and 8 oz. of cream of tartar. Mix the whole together with as much water as will reduce the composition to such a substance as will cause an egg to swim with its top just above the liquid, then put and keep the eggs therein, which will preserve them perfectly sound for the space of two years. at least.”

CAT BROODING CHICKENS.—Cats sometimes have strange ideas; at one time they will kill chickens and eat them, at others they will brood them and care for them as they would their young. The following curious circumstance happened last summer, and is worth relating: A hen that had a brood of chickens was accidentally killed. A cat, belonging to the owner of

the chickens, took charge of them, and slept with them for about a fortnight, when she deserted them.

**WHITE-FACE IN HAMBURGS.**—This class of fowls are subject to a disease known as *White-face*,—that is, the face first appears partially spotted with white, which steadily increases until the whole face and comb become covered. It is contagious, and birds in the same coop soon catch it. The following is said to be a certain cure for it: A little oil mixed with the flowers of sulphur, and rubbed on the parts affected will speedily cure it.

**SHELLESS EGGS.**—Fowls sometimes lay shellless eggs, by reason of the undue excitement of the egg organs, and not, as many are inclined to attribute it, to the want of lime—this latter is always a necessary article in the corner of a poultry yard—but let it be borne in mind that shellless eggs are frequently caused by over-feeding.

**CUP FOR UNTRIMMED FOWLS.**—A correspondent in the *Field* newspaper requests subscriptions towards a six Guinea cup, to be given to the best pen of fowls of any variety. The birds to compete must not be trimmed or receive any artificial treatment whatever, and game cocks are to be shown with their natural combs left on. Clipped birds will not be allowed to compete, and any infringement of this rule whatever shall disqualify the birds. Considering the extent to which trimming is carried on in England, we should not be surprised to hear of many pens being disqualified.

**NESTS FOR EGG-HATCHING.**—The following is a simple but successful method of constructing a hatching nest:—Cut a tough grassy turf about 15 inches square, and 3 or 4 inches thick. Hollow out the form of a nest on the lower side, then place it where the hen is to set, with the grassy side uppermost and press it firmly on the bottom or floor. There will then be the form of a nest in the grassy side on account of its being hollowed on the other. On this place the eggs and hen.

**CROP-BOUND FOWLS.**—The crop of a fowl, says a writer, is only the receptacle

for the food, whence it passes into the stomach, where it is digested. We cannot pretend to give the reasons that guided the creation of a fowl, but the crop is a convenient and necessary appendage to an animal without teeth. To cure a crop-bound fowl is to remove the food from the crop. There are several ways of doing this, the following is one: Pour hot water down the throat of the fowl, until the crop becomes full, and ascertain whether the lump in the crop softens; if it does not, the crop must be opened and it taken out. The operation is not difficult. Pick off some feathers in front and cut it open with a sharp knife, remove the undigested mass carefully, sew up the crop with coarse thread and rub the suture with grease. Sew the crop first, then the skin; be careful not to sew the two together.

#### HATCHING DISASTERS.

Mr. L. Wright, in the *Journal of Horticulture*, gives his hatching experience as follows:—Almost all my correspondents have been asking me this Spring if I did not feel it a terribly bad hatching season. I certainly have known better, the raw east winds having caused an unusual number of chicks to die in the shells at from a week to a fortnight old, and hens have been remarkably late both in laying and sitting; but, with one exception, I have not found matters so very bad as very many have evidently done. That exception is in several respects so singular that it may be worth relating.

As I cannot afford to set my own birds till late in the season, I buy nearly all my broody hens, and very rarely have any trouble with them. I bought two very early in March, and set them the same day on ten eggs each, one of them being a common speckled hen with a top-knot, the other apparently a very small Dorking, crossed with Game. They both behaved quietly enough for a while, and having, at the end of a week, found and removed one sterile egg from one nest, and two from the other, I expected two good broods. I should say the two birds were sitting side by side, and appeared as friendly as possible. All, in fact, seemed to go well till a fortnight had elapsed, when the Dorking broke an egg, and two days afterwards another.

From that time she broke no more, but I found the other hen minus an egg every day, not a vestige being left in the nest, so that I began to blame the rats, and became anxious for the result. Two days before hatching, the Dorking became very restless, flying off the nest on my approach, and leaving her eggs till nearly cold, which rather surprised me; and on Saturday morning, the chicks being due the same night, one went off for good, though her eggs were beginning to chip, leaving one chick actually hatched, but wet and nearly dead in the nest. The other hen had now only five eggs left, three of which were hatched, and one breaking the shell. I took the Dorking's chick into the house by the fire, and on my return found her in front of the other nest, eating the partly-hatched chick, which she had drawn from under the other hen, and thus accounting for the mysterious disappearances of the last few days.

I soon sent the Cannibal hen "off the premises," and felt in despair, the other hen being too small to cover all the eggs, and her own chicks being also nearly dead from the fuss, and needing her quiet nursing much. I had had three of my own hens broody a few days, but they had been penned till the fit was nearly over; still it was the only chance, and I took the best of them and put her on the Dorking's eggs, now nearly cold. It would not do; she would not take to the nest, though she clucked and appeared broody again. The eight eggs were now as cold as they could be; but, mindful of past experiences, I took some warm water and put them in, whilst I made a nest for my hen in her own accustomed place. After about a quarter of an hour she settled down, and with reviving hopes, I went to look at the eggs in the basin of water, which I had made fully 105°. To my surprise, I found six of them now evidently alive, the heat having revived them; and they were at once given to the fresh hen—a very large bird—with good hope of success. The first she hatched was crushed to death, being very weakly; and the next three I therefore took away. The other two had not strength to break the shell, and I therefore assisted them out, keeping them in warm water till extrication was completed, in order to prevent tearing and loss of blood. One of them, in fact,

was so nearly dead it did not even chirp, but lay down in the flannel nearly cold, and remained so some hours (being kept by the fire, of course), but revived a little towards evening.

I had now done with the large hen. My heart smote me for depriving her of the pleasures of maternity after she had served my turn so well, but she was so heavy I dared not trust the weakly chicks with her, and turned her off. The speckled hen had in the meantime hatched her remaining egg; and, having fed her well to insure her keeping quiet, I finally, on Monday afternoon, gave her all the nine chicks, which represented the salvage of the two broods. One I fully expected to find dead next morning; but, on the contrary, they all did well, and appear nothing the worse for the trials they have gone through.

This case is remarkable, not only for the unnatural appetite the Dorking had evidently acquired for "chicken in the shell," but for the strong vitality of the eggs at so late a period. They were stone cold, and this occurring on the last day has usually been regarded as fatal. My own hopes were not very strong, and I attribute the measure of success to the use of hot water, which I had proved before to be of great efficacy after a long chill. It is the possibility of the hint being useful to some other amateur, who may be tempted to despair in similar circumstances, that leads me to give this history of my most unlucky hatch this season.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF FOWLS FOR JUDGING.

A correspondent in the *Field* newspaper makes the following remarks on this subject.

I do not wish to be recognized as a mere complainer. To cavil at existing arrangements and suggest nothing better, is a fool's work. I know how difficult a thing it is to do nothing but good. "The best laid schemes of mice and men" end quite otherwise than the projectors planned. Poultry shows have done much good, and may do more if the committees and managers (to whom we are so much indebted) will improve their classification; and it is in an improved classification we must seek increased vitality and better results. It is necessary to bear in mind the fact

that all kinds of poultry are not kept for one purpose. No doubt every person who rears a head of poultry at all, expects some return for his trouble; but men seek very different returns. The breeders of Dorkings, Cochins, Ducks, Geese, and Turkeys, &c., in the natural way, have for their primary object the supply of certain table luxuries. The breeders of Pencilled or Spangled Hamburgs, Polish, Bantams, and the like, have for their primary object the gratification of certain cravings after beauty of feather, after symmetry and grace generally, even more than mere eggs and chickens. The breeders of Game Fowls have perhaps, as their primary aim, quite a different object from any of the others. It would be possible of course to subdivide these groups, and to establish the claim of birds, not as yet enumerated, to have a fresh group. But I can in one letter only roughly shadow out my meaning, which is that in any thing like a final classification of fowls at our leading exhibitions, we must remember what the different breeders have in view, before we can assign the place of honor and say which is the most successful breeder.

Suppose we call group No. 1. (Dorkings, Cochins, Ducks &c.) "birds of use;" group No. 2. (Hamburgs, Bantams &c.) "birds of feather;" group No. 3. as simply "Game Birds," we have, I submit, a classification which is an improvement upon any existing at present. For we can now, for the first time, give our Judges intelligible instructions. We can say, in judging group No. 1., you have to assign the prize to those specimens which are best adapted to supply the table luxuries we need; in judging group No. 2, you must select those which display exactitude of markings, beauty of form, &c., and are most qualified to delight the eye; in judging group No. 3, you must remember what Game breeds were once kept for, what special qualities they have, and decide which pen best illustrates these peculiar excellencies. The Judges would then know what they had got to do, and would do it. Then, too, we should begin to be able to divide our classes for each breed according to the purpose for which that breed is kept. In birds of use we should have classes in which we may illustrate early fitness for the table, early productiveness as egg suppliers, or mature perfection as dainty dishes when fit for a

King's table. In groups 2 and 3, classes must be so arranged as to show the birds when at their best, quite irrespective of age. Age would not count in these classes.

Of course all this is a mere sketch; but I wished to show that, when I cavil at present arrangements, I really have the cause at heart. I wish poultry shows to be more common, and to be better supported by their local breeders than they are now in most districts. To be so they must commend themselves to sensible men, as rendering real service to the needs of society, and not as being fresh opportunities for expensive caprice. At first poultry shows did good in calling attention to one kind of live stock, which silly folks had thought it fine to pooh-pooh; they did good in making reputable a really useful pursuit. Then they did good in making generally known what the various breeds of poultry were, and who had them to dispose of. All this work is already accomplished, and we are asked what is to be done next?

Now, unluckily, besides that curse of gambling (which clings to and vitiates every English amusement,) poultry shows are too apt to minister to a morbid ostentation, which delights to show results attained at great expense, such as only wealth can sustain, but without any real advantage to the community. Who (besides the poultry man hired at large wages) is the better for a Dorking Cock, bad in the feet, "age unknown," weighing 14lbs, or for the fabulous weight of Geese and Ducks which reporters love to record?—the birds to gain these weights, being old, overfed, and forbidding as an ancient lapdog. We must revise our prize lists, and lay down clear principles to guide us before we can get a step farther than we have got now, and we have not yet won general recognition. But I have scribbled enough for once.

#### BREEDING GAME FOWLS.

The great secret in breeding the best chickens, for stock or exhibition, is, where many are kept, to have plenty of good and young cocks, or "stags," as with few cocks and too many hens in proportion, the stock will always become weaker and weaker every year. Where only a few are kept, one good brood cock is only just sufficient for from two

to six hens ; and where many are kept, there should always be plenty of fine young cocks or "stags" kept running under the brood cocks, and breeding with them, one to every six hens at least, and then all eggs are good for hatching, and all chickens strong, vigorous and healthy. With Game, more than one brood cock can seldom be kept, and, therefore, young cocks or "stags" supply the place of more.

Pullets should never be bred from, as they breed small and weak chickens, and their eggs are too small for hatching. Pullets should be kept separate from the breeding stock while breeding, entirely for laying eggs for household consumption, as being excellent winter layers. Stags or young cocks are worse to breed from than full grown cocks are; in fact no fowls should be bred from until they have moulted twice, but where many are kept, young cocks must be had instead of more old cocks, which kill one another with their spurs, which stags cannot do.

Good old birds will always breed far better chickens than very young birds will, and, if strong and healthy, it scarcely matters how old they are ; for the younger hens so weaken themselves by frequent laying, that their chickens are also weaker ; and the older birds are less bred in-and-in than younger birds are, if the stock has been bred in-and-in ; besides the old birds have been proved as good before, which the young ones have not been.

The breeding stock should be selected with great care from the best shaped and strongest, full grown birds, (not the largest), and irrespective of age, if only full grown or two years old. The brood cock must be especially good, (never a stag), as more depends upon him than upon the hens, as a rule. The birds should be placed together for breeding about Christmas, so as to lay in February, and not before ; for hatching chickens, in the last ten days March, and in the whole of the months of April and May, and not later.—March cock chickens and April pullets making the best birds. Early broods should have most cock chickens, and the later broods most pullets.

The eggs for hatching must be chosen with great care, from the smoothest-shelled, freshest laid, and finest eggs, or eggs rather large or above the middle size, which are the best. The first clutch-

es of eggs laid after moulting, if laid at the proper season, are the best for hatching ; the second clutches are also good, but the third and following clutches are worse.

Eleven or twelve eggs should go to each setting, and never more, as a hen cannot brood or bring up more than twelve chickens properly, to afford them proper warmth—the brood hens full grown, of course.

No Game hen should hatch out chickens before the 21st of March, for fear of cold weather, nor after May, as too late in the year.

Long-shaped eggs are bad, so are too short eggs ; small eggs are bad, so are rough shelled eggs ; equal ended eggs are also bad, being often double-yolked, and, therefore, unproductive. Eggs laid after a day's interval are the best for hatching, and all eggs should be marked and dated as soon as laid. The first eggs of each clutch should be rejected as too small, as also those laid after the hen begins to cluck or want to sit, as she then refuses the cock and becomes unfruitful.

The more cock chickens in the brood, the better, as their being more numerous shows strength and vigor, and the pullets, though fewer, are always finer and better when there are plenty of cock chickens. At least one-third of each brood should be cock chickens, or the stock and the cocks are too weak, and the eggs ill-chosen for hatching.

Crossing different colors in breeding is a very bad plan, and always produces mongrel mixtures, as a rule. Each color should be kept separate, if there is room enough. Each color should be crossed or bred with equally superior strains of its own color, but of course, as far removed in blood as possible. In breeding and crossing, the cock rules the color, shape, and qualities, more than the hens do, and the best chickens of both sexes take most after the cock ; cock chickens more especially so, as a general rule. In crossing colors, therefore, the cock should be of the color required. If breeding in-and-in, put a first-rate old brood cock to your two year old hens, or a first-rate two year old cock to your best old hens, which will cross them a little. In crossing, breed from the best shaped and strongest full-grown birds, quite irrespective of age. Spurred hens breed the hardest cocks, as a rule. Pinkish colored eggs are laid

by the red-eyed hens, and produce the reddest birds; white eggs by the black-eyed hens, and the yellowish and yellowish-brown eggs by the yellow or daws-eyed hens. These last are the worst eggs. For stock, choose red-eyed and black-eyed Game-fowls, of the very best shape, feather and blood.

A dry soil and situation should be chosen for breeding, not cold, nor too high, and never in the least damp. Wet and damp injures fowl more than anything. The run should be sheltered from the north, and have sheds for shelter from the rains, from all quarters, and a little cover for shelter from the sun. A quarter of an acre, at least, is requisite for a good run, with grass, light gravel, coarse sand, and running water.

Young chickens should be cooped with the hen for the first twenty days, and then be let out to run about with her in fine dry weather, avoiding wet days, and heavy dew, during which they should be kept in or near the sheds, and on dry, coarse sand or gravel. The April showers are not at all hurtful to them, if not too wet or heavy. The perches should never be higher than 7 feet for Game fowls, and young chickens should not perch too early for fear of crooked breasts, as they are soft-boned. Young chickens should sleep on clean straw, in pens, or in a clean large hamper, till of age to perch. The greatest cleanliness must prevail everywhere, of course. Unspurred old hens are the best mothers. Game hens are excellent mothers. One level range of the perches is the best arrangement. Perches should be smooth and round, and of the proper size for the feet. Poultry-houses and runs should never be too much crowded.

Game hens average twenty days in hatching, and from their hot blood often hatch at the end of nineteen days, in warm weather. Red wheat and dry stale bread crumbs, are the best food for young chickens; for fowls, barley in winter, and oats, peas, rye, and buckwheat at other times. Grass and clean water are great necessities. Young chickens must have no damp food at all. Game are very hardy, and being hot in blood, stand dry cold well.—*Newmarket, in Journal of Horticulture.*

In purchasing Buff Cochins bear in mind that a clear, even buff, without pencilling of black in the neck and body, is essential to a first-class bird.

## Dogs.

### BITCHES IN PUP.

Bitches in pup ought to be well fed, and suffered to run at large; and I am rather of opinion that by hunting them occasionally, or rather, by letting them see game while in this state, does not "set the young back any." Every one is aware of the sympathy between the mother and the unborn fetus; and I, for one, do rather think it of use.

Few bitches can rear more than six pups—many only four—and do them justice. Cull out, therefore, the ill-colored, ugly-marked bitches first; and if you find too many left, after a few days you must exercise your judgment on the dogs. I don't like, however, this wholesale murdering, and prefer, by extra feeding while suckling, and afterwards, to make up for pulling the mother down, which having to nurse six or seven pups does terribly. My idea always is in the matter, that the pup I drown is to be, or rather would be, the best in the litter. It is humbug, I know, but cannot help it. At that age, all else but color and markings is a lottery. Oft have I seen the poor, miserable little one turn out not only the best, but the biggest dog; therefore I recommend the keeping of as many as possible.

Let the bitch have a warm kennel, with plenty of straw and shavings, or shavings alone. Let her be loose, free to go or come. Feed well with boiled oatmeal in preference to cornmeal, mixed in good rich broth, just lukewarm, twice a day. About the ninth day the pups begin to see, and at a month old they will lap milk. This they ought to be encouraged to do as soon as possible; it saves the mother vastly. At six weeks, or at most seven, they are fit to wean.

### FEEDING PUPS AND WEANING.

Feed them entirely on bread and milk boiled together to pulp; shut them in a warm place—the spare stall of a stable, boarded up at the end. Examine them to see whether they are lousy, as they almost always are. A decoction of tobacco water kills them off. Rub the bitch's teats with warm vinegar twice a day till they are dried up. If this be not done, there is great danger of their

becoming caked, besides causing her to suffer severely. She must have a mild dose of salts, say half an ounce, repeated after the third day. When the weather is fine, the young pups should be turned out of doors to run about. Knock out the head of a barrel, in which put a little straw, so that they may retire to sleep when they feel disposed. Feed them three times a day, and encourage them to run about as much as possible. Nothing produces crooked legs more than confinement; nothing ill-grown needs more than starvation; so that air, liberty, exercise, and plenty of food are all equally essential to the successful rearing of fine, handsome dogs. Above all things, never frighten, or take undue notice of one over the rest. Accustom them to yourself and strangers. This gives them courage and confidence. Remember, if you ever should have to select a pup in this early stage, to get them all together, fondle them a little; the one that does not skulk will be the highest-couraged dog, the rest much in the same proportion as they display fear or not. This, I have invariably noticed, is the case; and on this I invariably act when I have to select a pup, provided always he is not mis-formed. We have now brought our pups on till they can take care of themselves; and while they grow and prosper, and get over the distemper, we will hark back a little, and say why we object to fall puppies; simply because they are generally stunted by the cold, unless they are house-reared. They come in better, certainly, for breaking; but it is not so good to have them after September, at the latest, unless it be down South, where, I fancy, the order of things would, or should, be reversed.

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### Our Letter Box.

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**HOUDANS HATCHING.**—(*E. H. H., Penna*) writes: "I have over a thousand chickens in full health and vigor, of all ages, from one week up to three months, and some coming out nearly every day.—What strikes me as singular is, that over half of my Houdans are hatching this year, (last year not one), and they are as broody and touchy as any game hens I ever saw. They are in their third year."

Houdans will occasionally hatch, so will Hamburgs and others of the non-sitting classes, but it is the exception, not the rule.

Such wholesale sitting as that alluded to by our correspondent is unusual if not unprecedented. Something must therefore be wrong. Does it not indicate impurity of blood, developed only as age increases; we think so—would our correspondent enlighten us on this subject?

**EGGS WITH A MUSTY TASTE.**—(*A Subscriber*) writes us: "I keep Brahma hens of the dark variety, and for some time past their eggs have been tainted with a strong musty taste in the yolk. How can I remedy it? The hens are two and three years old, I feed them principally on Indian corn—they are not confined, but have an open yard in which to run, with a grass field in front in which they have a run at pleasure. What appears most strange is, that all of the eggs are not tainted, only a portion of them.—Can you inform me what is the cause, and suggest a remedy?"

We suggest a change of food, although Indian corn does not usually taint eggs. We have frequently used it ourselves without any such results. Your corn may have been injured, however, and its saccharine properties destroyed. Does it not occur to you that there may be some kind of weed growing in the field to which the fowls have access which some of them eat, and hence the musty taste and smell: a portion of the eggs only being tainted, strengthens this idea.

**DUCKS EGGS NOT HATCHING.**—(*J. L.*) The eggs of ducks, when set under a hen, should be watered daily with tepid water, that is, the water should be warm enough to communicate warmth through the shells. The reason why the ducklings were unable to break the shell is evident—as you did not water the eggs, the inner lining membrane hardened from being kept too dry, and the birds lacked strength to get through it. When ducks sit on their own eggs and are allowed access to water, there is no need of wetting the eggs; when she leaves her nest to feed, she enjoys a swim before she returns. Her breast is thoroughly wet, and in that state she sits on her eggs.

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