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THE DOMINION POULTRY REVIEW

DEVOTED TO THE POULTRY, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

For the FANCIER, the FARMER, and the SMALL BREEDER.

VOL. XXI.

124 VICTORIA STREET, TORONTO, AUGUST, 1898.

No. 8

REPORT OF THE POULTRY MANAGER OF THE DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARM, A. G. GILBERT.

(Continued from last month).

EXERCISE AND HOW BROUGHT ABOUT.

HAVING had a light morning meal the layers were ready for exercise and this was incited by throwing two or three handfull of grain—as already stated—in the straw, cut hay, dry leaves or chaff composing the all essential dry litter, to be found on the floor of all well equipped poultry houses. The aim was to keep the layers, for the remainder of the day, so busy searching for the scattered grain, that their crops would be gradually filled by the time they went to roost. Certainly, a more natural way than by rapidly filling their crops with grain thrown on a bare floor, or into a trough. The afternoon grain ration was always fed early, so as to permit of the search being kept up. Too much importance cannot be placed on the exercise part of the winter management.

A POINT TO REMEMBER.

The reason for feeding the morning ration will be at once apparent, from the above. Had the hens been gorged, at the morning ration, they would certainly not have been inclined for exertion.

VARIETY.

Variety in composition of rations and time of feeding them was found beneficial. To have such variety, the cut bones were sometimes given for afternoon ration.

Again, the mash would occasionally be fed at that

time. When fed at the latter period, it was followed by a light grain ration, which was scattered in the litter on the floor, to secure the desired exercise.

ONE CONSPICUOUS RESULT.

An early and conspicuous result of the dropping of the noon and reduction of the morning ration was the greatly increased quantity of vegetables and grit eaten. As already stated, vegetables were always before the layers, as were mica crystal grit and crushed oyster shells.

APPARENT RESULT IN INCREASED EARLY EGG YIELD.

Another apparent beneficial result from the reduced rations, coupled with the early moulting of the layers, was noted in an increased egg yield in the comparatively early winter months of November and December, as shown by the following figures :

	1894.	1895.	1896.
November - -	114	160	568
December - -	538	943	1,466

The number of hens in each year were :

1894 - - - -	185
1895 - - - -	218
1896 - - - -	204

It will be noticed that the number of fowls was less in 1894, than in the other two years, but not so great as to make the difference in the number of eggs.

The early and increased results were gratifying because new laid eggs were in great demand, as they usually are in November and December, particularly so at the Christmas season.

COMPARATIVE EGG YIELDS.

The egg yield of the whole year, as compared with that of the three previous years, will best show any beneficial results from the decrease in quantity of food.

The year is dated from the beginning of November of one year to the end of October of the year following, for the reason that winter laying has usually begun in November. The figures are as follows :

November (1893)	- -	90	114	160	568
December (1893)	- -	250	538	943	1,456
January	- - -	777	819	1,469	1,540
February	- - -	791	1,080	1,411	1,351
March	- - -	1,644	1,387	1,569	1,668
April	- - -	1,939	1,823	1,934	2,139
May	- - -	1,650	1,603	1,699	1,846
June	- - -	1,066	1,134	897	1,190
July	- - -	941	456	682	859
August	- - -	386	438	395	736
September	- - -	236	246	143	655
October	- - -	161	23	150	339

8,931 9,661 11,452 14,357

The figures for the months of November and December of 1893 are estimated, as the record book could not be found, but they are not much out of the way.

The table shows a large increase in the output of eggs in the past year as compared with the three previous years. It is also an object lesson to the farmers as showing :

1. Eggs were most in supply during the period of high prices.
2. During the spring months, of comparatively low prices, there were eggs enough to sell and hatch early chickens from.
3. The male chicks would be valuable as early birds for market. The pullets would be valuable as early layers.
4. That with proper care and feeding fowls will lay well during the winter season.

EGGS LAID PER DAY IN WINTER MONTHS.

December, 1896—38, 36, 31, 39, 43, 29, 40, 41, 45, 42, 42, 42, 42, 48, 47, 46, 50, 47, 52, 54, 57, 45, 54, 55, 55, 45, 64, 60, 52, 68, 55=1466.

January, 1897—52, 61, 53, 53, 52, 54, 45, 57, 42, 51, 48, 46, 44, 50, 46, 53, 43, 49, 50, 42, 54, 50, 53, 47, 50, 54, 44, 54, 52, 40, 51=1540.

February—45, 57, 51, 42, 46, 51, 40, 52, 48, 46, 50, 43, 47, 48, 44, 44, 49, 58, 48, 45, 52, 51, 45, 52, 46, 43, 51, 56=1351.

March—15, 60, 44, 59, 47, 54, 55, 54, 58, 51, 48,

57, 64, 47, 56, 44, 50, 50, 61, 43, 59, 51, 61, 53, 59, 50, 52, 55, 65, 57, 60=1668.

WHAT THE EGGS WERE SOLD FOR.

Eggs were sold, in Ottawa, from 1st to 15th of December, at 30 cents per dozen, during the latter half of that month at 35 cents per dozen. In January at 35 cents per dozen in Ottawa. A shipment of eggs to Montreal during January brought 40 cents per dozen. The express charge for the case of 18 dozen eggs was 36 cents.

During February continued mild weather brought the price down to 25 cents. March, the prevailing price was 20 cents per dozen, declining to 18 cents per dozen.

COST OF DAILY RATIONS.

The cost of the daily rations fed to the laying stock, numbering 204, was estimated at 41 cents, as follows:

18 lbs. of cut green bone at 1 cent per lb.	- -	18
20 " wheat, buckwheat, etc., at 1c. per lb.	20	
Grit and vegetables	- - - -	3
		41cts.

To this should be added the time of the man in cutting up the bones by the machine, sometimes half or three quarters of an hour. It should also be stated that buckwheat was mostly used for cut rations during the winter months. To offset this is to be considered the worth of the manure, which a bulletin from the Raleigh, North Carolina, Experimental Station values at half the cost of the food of the hen for the year, but which we allow to go for the trouble of the farmer in looking after and feeding his fowls.

When mash was fed it was composed of ground grains, in such quantity as not to exceed the value of 18 cents.

The allowance of 1 cent per pound for the whole grain is liberal, for buckwheat sold in the fall and early part of the winter at 22 and 25 cents per bushel.

EGGS SOLD AT THE HIGHEST PRICES.

Having obtained the new-laid eggs in the season of highest prices, the aim was to dispose of them to the best possible advantage. With a little effort the best results were obtained. The following is an instance :

On the 30th of December, as shown in the above

table, the greatest number of eggs laid on any day, in that month, was collected, viz.: five dozen and eight (68). These eggs were disposed of at the following prices:

5 dozen and 8 eggs at 35 cents per doz. - - \$1 97
Deduct cost of rations - - - - - 0 41

Proceeds of that day - - - - \$1 56

But as that was the day of the greatest production it is but fair to give the average of the month, which was 48, or four dozen per day.

4 doz. eggs at average price of 33 cts. per doz. \$1 32
Deduct cost of rations - - - - - 0 41

\$0 91

The eggs were strictly fresh and were sold in the City of Ottawa. In the same month eggs of the same description were worth in Montreal from ten to fifteen cents more per dozen. Had the eggs been sent to a leading grocer of that city they would probably have made the larger figure, less express charges.

LESSONS FROM THE ABOVE.

The lesson to the farmer is to obtain the new laid eggs in the winter season of high prices and having got the eggs to sell them—while they are strictly new laid—to leading grocers, dairymen, etc., or choice customers, who will always pay the high price for a reliable article. It may be said that the high figures named are not received by the majority of farmers. Perhaps not by farmers, who, are a distance from a high price market and who have to sell to a middleman. Certainly not by those who do not bring in a strictly new laid article. But the high figures are certainly received by farmers who cater to the requirements of a high price market, with strictly fresh eggs and a superior quality of poultry.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS NOTED.

The following is a summary of beneficial results noted, as following the reduction of the rations, with the care and handling of the laying stock, as described:

1. Better health of the laying stock.
2. Greater output of eggs.
3. No development of vicious habits of previous years.

4. Comparatively few eggs laid with thin shells and none with soft shells.

5. Much greater activity of the layers in searching for the grain scattered in litter on the floor.

6. Much better condition of the fowls, of all breeds, in February and March as compared with previous years.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.

The question may be asked, "Why was the disastrous results of overfeeding not discovered before?" The reply is that it requires several years of experience and careful observation before reliable data can be obtained. There were many statements made and read during the past few years but none had received confirmation by experiment. The management and feeding of his hens by the farmer, so as to obtain eggs in paying quantity from them in winter, is comparatively new and much is yet to be learned. The report of the poultry department for any year gives the experience of that year, which that of the following year may confirm or modify, and so the work goes on and all in the way of finding out cheaper and more effective rations.

BREEDING PENS MADE UP.

DATE	BREED.	HOW MATED.	REMARKS.
March 2—	B. P. Rocks,	- 1 cock, 9 hens	
" 2—	White "	- 1 " 8 "	
" 2—	S. L. Wyan.	- 1 ckl, 9 "	
" 2—	L. Brahmias,	- 1 cock, 7 "	
" 2—	B. Minorcas,	- 1 " 9 "	
" 2—	W. "	- 1 " 8 "	
" 2—	Andalusians	- 1 " 9 "	
" 2—	Col. Dorkings	- 1 " 8 "	
" 2—	Houdans	- 1 " 3 "	
" 2—	B. Minorcas	- 1 ckl, 4 "	Second pen
" 11—	W. Leghorns	- 1 " 11 "	
" 11—	W. Wyandottes	1 " 7 "	
" 11—	W. P. Rocks	- 1 cock, 3 pul.	Second pen
" 13—	Langshans	- 1 ckl, 9 hens	

The eggs most in demand for setting were those of barred and white Plymouth Rocks, black Minorcas, silver laced Wyandottes and white Javas, in the order named. There was a greater demand for eggs of the barred Plymouth Rocks than could be filled. It is gratifying to note that the popularity of this breed is steadily increasing. The breed is certainly good for

both egg production and flesh development. Of equal merit is the Wyandotte family with its varieties of silver laced, white, black, golden and buff. As prolific layers of large white eggs the black Minorcas have taken a front place, and deservedly so.

HOW THE EGGS WERE SET.

The eggs were set in specially prepared nests, placed in a portion of the poultry house set apart for the purpose. In close proximity to the sitters was their food, composed of mixed grains, grit, water and dust bath. The mixed grains were contained in a narrow trough. For early sitters Wyandottes were preferred, as being docile, easily handled and not clumsy. Some of the cross bred hens were found to make excellent sitters and mothers. On being made, the nest was dusted with carbolic disinfecting powder, and so was the body of the sitter, before being placed on the nest.

AN EARLY HATCH.

At the beginning of February a vigorous male of the same breed, which had been kept in a separate compartment, was mated with a certain number of barred Plymouth Rock hens. The object was to test the fertility of the eggs from hens which had been laying all winter. On the 20th of the month named, 13 eggs were given to a hen which had become broody. Three weeks later 11 lively chicks hatched out. The twelfth egg contained a dead chick, fully developed. The thirteenth egg was unfertile. Such a result from Plymouth Rock hens which had laid from the previous November was most gratifying. It went to show that it was quite possible to have hens lay all winter and to have early fertile eggs from them. The subsequent care and trouble experienced in rearing the chicks, went to show that it would not be profitable for a farmer to hatch out and rear chickens at that early period, unless he had a brooder or brooding room.

That the farmers in the neighborhood of city markets, or within easy reach, by rail, of the same, are giving greater attention to the artificial rearing and hatching of chickens, is shown by the numerous inquiries by correspondents for information on the subject. Early chickens command a high price, and the demand for them increases year by year.

Further experiments in the way of testing the early

fertility of eggs, from hens which have laid steadily all winter, will be important and interesting.

Certain poultrymen keep hens to lay eggs in the latter part of December, January, February and March, for incubator use only. These men live where climatic conditions make it comparatively easy to do so. But where the laying stock are confined to limited quarters from November to the following April, artificially housed and treated meanwhile, skill and experience are necessary to ensure early fertile eggs.

EGGS SET AND CHICKENS HATCHED.

When Set.	Description of Eggs.	When Chicks Hatched. do.
Feb. 20—13	B. P. Rock.....	Mar. 11—11
April 12—11	Light Brahma.....	May 3—3
" 12—11	Andalusian.....	" 3—4
" 14—13	B. P. Rock (from a farmer)	" 3—10
" 14—13	Langshan.....	" 5—2
" 14—13	White Minorca.....	" 5—9
" 14—13	R.C.B. Min. (from N. S.)	" 5—5
" 14—13	White Wyandotte.....	" 5—5
" 14—13	W.P. Rock (from Hazeldean)	" 5—5
" 15—13	R.C.B. Minorca (from N.S.)	" 6—3
" 17—13	B. P. Rock (from a farmer)	" 8—9
" 21—13	".....	" 13—13
" 23—	Brown Leghorn.....	" 14—10
" 30—13	Colored Dorking.....	" 21—7
" 30—13	White Leghorn.....	" 21—4
" 30—	White Java.....	" 21—4
May 5—12	Andalusian.....	" 26—4
" 5—12	W. Leghorn.....	" 26—7
" 7—13	Light Brahma.....	" 28—6
" 8—13	Andalusian.....	" 28—2
" 10—13	B. P. Rock.....	" 31—10
" 12—13	Andalusian.....	June 2—8
" 13—13	Colored Dorking.....	" 3—5
" 13—13	White Java.....	" 3—8
" 22—13	Buff Leghorn (from Toronto)	" 12—1
" 23—13	S. L. Wyandotte.....	" 13—10
" 23—13	Colored Dorking... ..	" 13—2
" 27—13	W. Leghorn.....	" 17—9
" 27—13	".....	" 17—11
June 3—13	B. Minorcas.....	" 24—9

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Many of the small hatches were the result of bad

sitters. The experience with sitting hens from year to year, is a varied and not altogether a happy one. During the early part of the season the Langshan cock, a very fine bird, sickened and notwithstanding treatment died. Later in the season the Andalusian cock also died. The latter was replaced by a younger bird. In both cases the want of fertility of the Langshan and Andalusian eggs may be attributed to the lack of condition, on the part of the male birds, prior to apparent symptoms of sickness. In the case of the Andalusian death was comparatively sudden. The Dorking cock was an old, but very fine bird. Some of his progeny are of more than ordinary worth. It will be seen from the above that the eggs which gave the best hatching results were from the barred Plymouth Rocks, silver Wyandottes and white Leghorns, notwithstanding that the hens of these breeds were the earliest and steadiest layers. The chickens hatched were strong and vigorous.

GROWTH OF THE CHICKENS.

The progress of the chicks was most satisfactory. After remaining in their nests until thoroughly ripe, with the mother hen they were placed in coops arranged in a field of short grass and clover. Their first food was stale bread, soaked in milk and squeezed dry. A little at a time was fed. Granulated oatmeal, or rolled oats was added on the second or third day. The food was placed on clean boards and none was allowed to remain to sour. Care was taken that the chickens were not overfed, which bad practice leads to much disaster. Grain was not fed until the twelfth or fourteenth day. Milk, at times, and pure water always, furnished all the drink required. As soon as the chicks were firmly on their legs, a mash made of cornmeal, shorts, oatmeal, etc., with a small quantity of blood meal added and the whole mixed with boiling water, or milk, or both was fed in moderate quantity and much relished. As in previous years the most rapid flesh development was made by barred Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte, Java and Brahma cockerels. Without any forcing, other than regular feeding of wholesome food, in proper quantity and constant supply of pure water, there has never been any difficulty in having chickens of the breed named weigh four pounds each, or eight pounds per pair, at end of four months. In all cases such results were not

attained, but would doubtless have been secured had the chicks been penned and fattened.

For instance a barred Plymouth Rock cockerel was caught and sent away to a purchaser on the 26th October. It was hatched on the 11th March and when shipped weighed seven pounds five ounces.

A light Brahma cockerel, hatched on 3rd May, weighed on 2nd November when it was shipped, six pounds twelve ounces.

A barred Plymouth Rock cockerel, killed on the 17th of November, weighed after being bled and plucked six pounds four ounces. A pair of such chickens would have made weight of twelve pounds eight ounces and would have been quickly bought by any leading dealer in Montreal, at 10 cents per pound, or \$1.20 per pair. The farmer should aim to breed such chickens and he can easily do so, by keeping one of the breeds which make flesh development as mentioned above. A superior quality of poultry is in great demand in our leading cities, for home consumption, and export to the British market.

BEGINNING OF WINTER LAYING.

The fowls went into winter quarters in the second week of November. Winter laying may be said to have commenced about the 20th of the month. The first hens to resume laying were Plymouth Rocks, white Leghorns and Andalusians.

WHEN THE PULLETS BEGAN TO LAY.

The Plymouth Rock pullets hatched on the 11th March, three in number, matured early. The first egg laid by one of their number, was on 20th September. The others laid soon after and continued to do so, up to time of writing, 26th November. The moral is obvious. The early pullets begin to lay when the price of new laid eggs is becoming high. It is therefore an object to have early hatched pullets. The white Leghorn pullets, hatched at end of May, began to lay in the beginning of November.

WILD AND TAME GEESE.

In the spring a tame gander was mated with one of the wild geese and a wild gander with a tame goose. The object was to obtain progeny from the cross. The limited quarters were evidently not suitable, for no results followed. The wild goose laid her usual quota of six eggs but hatched no offspring. The wild

goose, mated with the tame gander, died during the early part of the summer. At the end of the season the second wild goose died. Both birds were twelve years of age, but were apparently in fair condition prior to death. It is evident that the wild fowl of this breed must have range and congenial surroundings to ensure fertile eggs. The cross of wild and tame geese is not uncommon, but in all cases the birds have had free range. While at Summerside, P.E.I., in September last, the writer was shown a large flock of geese, crosses of the wild and tame. The wild ganders did not attempt to leave the others, although all had unlimited range. The cross birds were large and plump and were sold at \$2 each, when killed and sent to the Boston market.

STOCK ON HAND.

The stock in the poultry houses at present are:

	Cocks.	Hens.	Chks.	Pullets
Barred Plymouth Rocks -	1	12	2	28
White " " -	1	9	—	4
Silver Laced Wyandottes -	2	13	4	5
White Wyandottes -	1	11	—	3
Light Brahmas - - -	1	9	3	3
Langshans - - -	—	7	—	—
White Javas - - -	1	8	7	4
Colored Dorkings - -	—	7	3	4
White Leghorns - - -	2	20	7	17
Brown " - - -	—	—	1	3
Black Minorcas - - -	1	7	11	4
White " - - -	1	3	5	2
Andalusians - - -	—	9	4	—
Golden Polands - - -	2	2	—	—
Mixed hens - - -	—	26	—	—
	13	143	47	77

DISEASES OF POULTRY.

During the year several letters were received describing symptoms of different diseases. Two of the communications came from a distance and described symptoms of diseases unknown in this country. Where diseases were recognized, the best known treatment was recommended.

NEW VARIETIES.

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

To say a favorable word for new varieties is to invite hostile criticism from those who forget that all varieties were once new. But new varieties continue to appear and add to the total value of poultry products.

Among the arguments in favor of new varieties, the following extracts from an article appearing in the "Country Gentleman," and written by "Stephen Beale," the pen-name of Edward Brown, an English expert, deserves careful consideration. To be sure, it contains some statements which are likely to provoke dissent, but despite of that fact, it is worth pondering. He says: "While we know that it is essential for progress that pure races shall be rigidly maintained, and that the neglect of this point would soon bring about degeneracy, at the same time the observant student of poultry, as in fact of all other classes of live stock, cannot fail to see that there is a serious danger if refinement of race be carried to an extreme. The tendency is always to this extreme, and some races have been to a large extent ruined because close or fine breeding has weakened them and they are delicate and tender. I have no wish to say a single word that may be construed into opposition to preserving our different races, but merely to recognize the dangers confronting us, so that we may avoid them. From the purely breeder's point of view there can be no question that the best of every race and species is that which is as pure as possible, and these thoroughbred races exert the greatest influence when used for crossing. Hence the importance of preserving them. No one more than the practical poultry breeder can be concerned in having them kept available to him.

"But it would be folly to ignore the fact that the tendency of all races and breeds is to work itself out. We see this in nations and families also, and where there is no infusion of fresh blood the result is sometimes painful indeed. I remember once when staying in a country house discussing the laws of breeding with a gentleman whose blood is very "blue," according to Debrett. I asked him what would have been the effect upon our aristocracy had there not been a

constant introduction of new blood, in the shape of intermarriage with the middle classes, and the very frank answer, aristocrat though he might be, was— 'They would have rotted off the face of the earth.' This is true of human beings and animals alike, and the results would be much more apparent with a quickly reproducing race like fowls. Several examples could be cited of breeds which have risen into prominence, had their day, but now have passed into entire, or at best into semi-oblivion. Notably the black Spanish, Cochin and Brahma come to our minds in this connection. With the greater perfection of quality there is increased refinement, and to secure this in-breeding is unavoidable. The breeder may be unconscious of the fact, but it is none the less true. The fowls all over the country of one race are more or less, generally more than less, related, and that accelerates the enfeeblement.

"It is for this reason that I, personally, am always ready to welcome new races of poultry, so long as these races have qualities to recommend them from a practical point of view. They take the places of others in whom the force is largely spent, and from the fact that there is usually a considerable amount of crossing to secure them, these new breeds have an amount of vigor which the older ones do not now possess. Unless we have, therefore, these new varieties coming forward from time to time, in a few years probably the poultry interest would have to be put alongside that of lace making, almost entirely an interesting reminiscence, and nothing more."

But the above resume by no means exhausts what may be said in favor of new varieties. New varieties stimulate the general interest in poultry and so help to increase the sum total of poultry products. A nation is rich just in proportion to the amount of its productions. The wealth of the world, outside of land, consists in what is produced from year to year, for even buildings waste away and if not annually renewed, that is kept in repair, they would soon cease to be. But constant production, using the wealth that is in existence, not only preserves that wealth or supplies it as fast as worn out, but also produces additions to it. And as new varieties stimulate production, by creating new interests and satisfying new desires, they deserve encouragement.

New varieties work indirectly for the benefit of the

old. They produce new fanciers, and these new fanciers frequently turn their affections from the new varieties to the older ones, some giving up the new entirely, some keeping the new side by side with the old.

The opposition to new varieties, then, appears to arise from an exceedingly short sighted jealousy, a jealousy that does not look beyond the immediate present. But in poultry keeping, as well as in other branches of business, we need to take long views. The present passes quickly, and the future soon becomes the present. The wise policy is that which includes the future which is soon to be the present.

HOW ONTARIO'S BIG ASSOCIATION STANDS FINANCIALLY.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS, 1898, OF THE POULTRY ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance from last year	\$ 99.97
Members fees, as per Register.....	127.00
Entry fees, "	855.65
Government grant, less discount, \$900, \$91.50.....	868.50
London Poultry and Pet Stock Specials.....	693.75
	<hr/>
	\$2,644.87
PAYMENTS.	
Office expenses, telegram, teaming, express \$ 3.26	
Postage	12.00
Interest over amount received.....	6.21
Advertising, printing, stationery and tickets.....	\$ 21.47
Prizes, including specials.....	57.64
Judges fees	2048.69
Local Association.....	125.00
Stenographer (Annual Meeting, etc.).....	104.50
Secretary's salary.....	10.00
Balance in bank.....	150.00
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	127.57
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	\$2644.87

Audited and found correct. H. B. DONOVAN,
Toronto, July 29, 1898.

HE CAN'T DO WITHOUT IT.

"Please send for the balance of the year the CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW to Eggertsville, Erie Co., N.Y., as I have moved to that address and intend to go larger into the business than ever, and I don't want to be without the REVIEW, as there are some fine pointers in it. Wishing you the best of success,

I remain, Yours respectfully,
Eggertsville, N.Y. E. H. MOULSON."

NUGGETS

FROM THE REPORT OF THE EASTERN ONTARIO
POULTRY ASSOCIATION'S SECRETARY.

THE experience of this Association at Kingston, and also at Cornwall, seems to show that Christmas week is a bad time for a poultry exhibition. It certainly is too soon for the birds raised in Eastern Ontario under ordinary conditions to be in the best state for showing. Several of the old exhibitors, who otherwise would have exhibited, complained that their birds were not in full show plumage, this being particularly the case in old cock birds and early hatched pullets. It is proposed, therefore, at the next exhibition to select a date towards the end of January. The question of the visitors to the poultry exhibitions, and the securing of the proper class of visitors, is a very serious question, and one that requires the very best consideration. The class above all others that it is desirable to reach is the farming class, and the farmers are the most difficult of all to get at. To make admission to the exhibition free is only to cram the hall to the doors with the people of the city or town where the show is held. My idea would be to open it free only to the farmers—say all members of the farmers' institutes in the surrounding country. But then these farmers are generally the most intelligent and progressive belonging to the profession, and we want to reach the backward farmers to show them the difference between their poor methods and stock and the good methods and stock of the exhibitors. At any rate, I would suggest as a desirable step that members of farmers' institutes should be admitted free, and that the exhibition should be well advertised to the members of these institutes. A step in the right direction was, I think, taken by making two classes at the last exhibition open only to farmers—one for pens of heavy general purpose fowls and one for light egg-raising fowls. The prize in the first class was won by Mr. Thompson, the well known raiser of turkeys, ducks and geese, with a pen of barred Plymouth Rocks, an admirable kind of bird for farmers: and the other, by Mr. McRae, with a splendid pen of black Minorcas. The judge considered that the best Minorcas in the exhibition were in that pen. It is to be

hoped that these classes will be put in the next prize list and that there may be increased competition in them.

The Hon. Mr. Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, at the request of the Association, added very much to the interest and instructiveness of the exhibition by having an exhibit of dressed poultry, including turkeys, geese and fowls, sent from the Central Experimental Farm under the charge of Mr. Gilbert, the poultry superintendent. This display was a practical lesson to all interested in the matter of how poultry should be prepared for the English market. Mr. Fisher has taken a most kind interest in the welfare of the Association, and has, in more ways than one, shown that he will do everything in his power to promote the poultry industries of the country. I think that in the course of the next two or three years enormous strides will be taken in the improvement of all branches of this most important industry. This will result in better poultry in a better condition being placed on the market; and of course the profits will then be better. Taking the size and extent of the production into account this will aggregate a very large sum of money, which will be distributed not among the rich, but among the farmers and others who keep poultry.


The most satisfactory feature in connection with the Association's exhibitions is the steady increase in the entries in the practical business fowl classes, the classes in the fancy varieties not having increased in the same ratio by any means, while pigeons have practically been dropped altogether. The exhibits of turkeys, ducks and geese, too, are always admirable, and an object lesson of the most striking character to all those who visit the exhibition and have previously been accustomed to the common class of birds.

I think that it would be a very good plan for this Association to imitate the action taken by the Ontario Poultry Association in offering prizes for the best essays on practical poultry-raising and marketing. In this way a great many valuable suggestions are obtained and reach the farmers through the free distribution of the reports of the poultry associations printed by the Ontario Government.

And here I would venture to make the suggestion that some steps should be taken to enable the poultry men and others interested in the advancing of what have been considered in the past the smaller products of the farm to work together. For instance, many farmers keep, in addition to their poultry, a few hives of bees, and if the apiarists and the poultrymen would work together I am sure each would be able to give the other a great deal of assistance. In these times of keen competition the smaller avenues of profit are of the utmost value to the farmer, and a flock of poultry and a few hives of bees, well and intelligently cared for, would, in many instances, even within the writer's limited knowledge, make the difference between a bare existence and comfort.

LEG TROUBLES—THEIR CAUSE AND CURE.

BY MRS. BRÉE, IN "FOWLS."

OUR worthy Editor has, with his accustomed thoughtfulness, selected for this week's essay a subject which cannot fail to be of interest to all who love our feathered friends, and the discussion of which may also be of much use to amateurs who perhaps have birds suffering, and do not know of some of these simple remedies which may be so easily and so successfully applied. A cripple is always a deplorable object, and in the feathered realm especially, any cripple is heavily handicapped in the struggle for existence, besides which his usefulness is greatly impaired, for the veriest amateur knows, or soon finds out to his cost, that it is useless to expect good breeding results from sickly and diseased birds.

LEG TROUBLES.

These may be divided into two classes: those which are actual diseases, and those which are the result of some accident.

Firstly, those which are actual diseases include leg weakness, cramp and rheumatism, gout, scaly leg.

Secondly, those which are directly or indirectly the result of some accident, such as bumble-foot, broken bones, and cuts on the foot or toe.

I will now endeavor to give a brief description of

these ailments, the cause and the best way of effecting a cure.

LEG WEAKNESS.

This is chiefly found in precocious birds of the heavier breeds, cockerels more especially, and is due usually to them having been forced on too much on food of a too stimulating character, and the leg bones, unable to bear the weight of the heavy frame, give way at the joints. It is also brought on in birds which have been much in-bred, kept under damp unwholesome conditions, and fed on unsuitable food. Experts tell us that this leg weakness is similar to rickets in children. The best treatment is removal to fresh ground, thorough change of diet—giving good sound nutritious food; a little bone meal should be mixed in the soft food, and the birds should be allowed as much sharp flint grit and oyster shell as they care to pick up. A tonic in the drinking water is a good thing, and the affected birds should be housed in a dry, well ventilated shed, with no roosts, but bedded well with peat moss or clean saw.

CRAMP AND RHEUMATISM.

These two complaints are much alike, usually brought on by exposure to cold and damp, improper housing and feeding. Young chickens which have been kept on boarded or brick floors, and too much coddled up, are very subject to cramp. Birds thus troubled should have good feeding, nutritious and stimulating, the legs should be well bathed in warm water, and then rubbed first with turpentine, and then with a little vaseline. Very good laying hens will sometimes suffer from this complaint early in the season; the strain upon the system is great, the blood does not circulate so freely, and is soon chilled, and the attendant finds them perhaps lying in the nest, or in a corner of the hen-house, unable to stand up. They should be at once taken from the other birds, fed, and treated as described, and kept on straw in a basket or hamper in a fairly warm place till the blood again circulates freely.

GOUT.

A swelling of the feet and legs, generally occurring in birds which are kept on a cold clay soil. A dose of castor oil or salts may do good in some cases, but as a

rule it is advisable to kill the fowl, as birds thus affected are not suitable for breeding purposes.

SCALY LEG.

This is a most troublesome complaint and one that requires no small amount of perseverance to effectually eradicate. It is caused by the presence of a parasite which gets under the scales of the leg, and if neglected the leg soon thickens very much, and presents a rough white scurfy appearance. This disease is very contagious, and any bird suffering from this complaint should at once be separated from the others. The legs must be well soaked in hot water for a few minutes, then dried, and some ointment for scaly leg (I find that prepared by Mr. W. Cook very effectual) well rubbed in. This must be done every day for a week, then scrub with a small, hard nail-brush, using plenty of hot water and soap, when a good deal of scurf will be found to come off fairly easily. The ointment must be again applied, and this treatment persevered in until a cure is effected.

Now we come to those leg troubles which are the result more or less of some accident or injury received; and the knowledge of how to properly treat these cases is very important, as by the prompt application of proper remedies many a valuable life has been saved, and a bird, which his owner could ill afford to lose, restored to a further career of beauty and usefulness.

BUMBLE FOOT.

This is generally found in the heavier breeds, and those possessing five toes. It is usually caused by the birds roosting on perches which are too high, and bruising their feet when flying down on to a hard floor. The mode of prevention is obvious, and "prevention is always better than cure." Do not make your perches too high, 18in. or 2ft. from the ground is plenty high enough for heavy birds. If it is too late and the mischief has been done, and the bird hurt in this manner, matter is almost sure to form, the bird will walk lame, and upon examination a swelling will be found at the bottom of the foot. An incision should be made in this swelling with a sharp pen-knife, and then a small bread poultice applied; this will draw the humor out. Vaseline may then be put on, and an old piece of clean soft rag should be bou n

round the foot to prevent any dirt getting in. If taken in time bumble foot can usually be cured easily, but it must not be neglected or the growth will quickly work up between the bone and the sinews, and the bird will become very lame, and if it is a cock will be found quite useless for breeding purposes.

BROKEN BONES.

Many valuable birds are much injured or have their legs broken by naughty mischievous boys throwing stones. As soon as the injury is discovered the bones should be put into proper position; procure some plaster of Paris, mix it with water, and mould it round the leg, tie a strip of linen round the whole, and place the bird in a small coop or pen where it cannot move about much, and if all goes on well it will be able to walk all right in a few days' time. If the foot is much crushed or bruised apply fomentations of hot water, follow this with poultices, and then apply vaseline.

CUTS ON THE FOOT OR TOE.

These are more frequently met with when fowls are kept in back yards, or on waste land where heaps of rubbish are thrown, but even in well regulated yards accidents will happen. The injured part must be first bathed well with warm water to remove all dirt, and then a careful examination should be made for any nail, piece of glass, or splinter of wood that may be in the wound. This must be at once removed, and the foot bathed with some antiseptic lotion, and bound up, when it will soon heal.

And, now, I must bring my essay to a close, hoping that if it finds its way into print it may be of use to some amateurs. I do not pretend to be an expert able to diagnose and treat all diseases, but one cannot be much amongst one's feathered friends without coming across some of these more common ailments; and accidents will happen occasionally, and as the old proverb has it, "A stitch in time saves nine," and "A little help is worth a great deal of pity."

S. M. Clemo & Co. offer for sale all their stock, except black Minorcas, which in future they will alone breed. Many winners are in this lot, fit for exhibition.

THE ASEEL.

BY R. DE COURCY PERLE.

LITTLE or nothing is now known in Canada of this useful breed, though such was not the case some years ago. The following well written article from the "Feathered World" is interesting:

One of the charms of breeding Aseel is that color need not be studied; they have been bred for generations for make and shape alone. Consequently one obtains chickens of all colors—blacks, greys, reds, spangles, and whites predominating. But so long as size, formation, and carriage are correct, none need be discarded, as a good Aseel, like a good horse, cannot be of a bad color.

It may not be amiss to point out here that Aseel is an Arabic word meaning "thoroughbred," and thus, by a free translation, Game. Being an adjective, it has no plural.

The breed when first imported by Sir George Gilbert from India into Cornwall more than sixty years ago were known as Indian Game. He fought them and crossed them with the Derby black-reds. Afterwards they were bred with Pheasant Malays, which at that time were common in Cornwall, and no doubt thus arose the popular breed now known so well as Indian Game. The name was changed from Indian Game to Aseel in consequence of birds of large size and long legs which were evidently cross-bred (although handsome and useful) becoming popular and monopolizing the prizes intended for the Simon Pure.

The color of the modern Indian Game is a recognized one in India, where Indian Game, as we understand the term; are unknown. It is called "Lakha," and birds of that color are much esteemed. The tendency to lacing is, however, common to all colors—greys, browns, reds, and even spangles being nearly always more or less laced.

In India they have been kept up for one purpose alone, viz., for fighting, and up to the present they have not been spoilt by exhibitions in England, for it is an unheard-of thing for a pure-bred Aseel to turn tail. Indeed, this trait is carried to excess, for not

only are the cocks ready to fight with their own shadows almost, but the hens are equally pugnacious, it being no uncommon incident for two hens to fight to the death.

The writer some years ago sent some Aseel to America, and the following is the graphic description of the test a cock was put to before being bred from. Without upholding cock-fighting, one cannot help feeling that a bird that never flinched under such an ordeal must be indeed game, and of noble blood. "Now I have tested my black cock as follows: I put him in good condition for battle, and then fought him bare heels for half an hour, the second day I fought him bare heels for two hours, and the third day fought him against ½-inch steel points till he was so weak that he could not stand, but was still willing to fight, so I concluded to save him, although it looked like he must surely die of his wounds; on the fourth day he still showed and took steel, and has never yet showed any sign of quitting. I have him on his feet again, and he seems fair to fully recover. I am satisfied he is a dead game fellow, and will bank on his chicks as being the true quill."

Their table qualities were thus spoken of by no less an authority than Mr. Tegetmeier in the "Field" recently: "The Aseel, or true Indian fighting cock, is perhaps the most plump and meaty bird that exists."

The Standard for Aseel was drawn up in 1884 by Mr. C. F. Montresor, the greatest English authority on the breed, and adopted generally. It was submitted to, and, I believe, adopted by the Poultry Club at that time, and was adopted by the Aseel Club on its formation in 1891. The only point it does not touch is size. Cocks should not exceed 6 lb. when fully developed, nor hens 5 lb.

STANDARD OF PERFECTION AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS—COCK AND HEN.

Beak—Very strong, fine grained, and somewhat short; lower mandible thick and straight, upper mandible thick and slightly curved.

Comb—Triple, or what is termed "pea-comb," the smaller the better, very hard and horny.

Head—Short and small, though broad between the eyes and jaw, and thick at the base.

Eyes—Bold, prominent and brilliant; set back in the head.

Face—Of fine texture, though hard in substance ; deaf-ear and wattles as small as possible ; the hen having little or no wattle.

Throat—Clean, not prominent or fleshy.

Neck—Round, hard, muscular and powerful, of medium length, and same width throughout, curved slightly at the back, and seated high between broad shoulders.

Back—Broad at shoulders, short and quite straight, no inclination to roach back.

Breast—Wide, short, and flat, carrying no fluff, and almost naked at point of the breast-bone

Stern—Narrow in comparison with shoulders, but thick and strong in hand at root of tail, this latter being a great indication of strength.

Wings—Strong, short, and carried level, standing well out from the shoulders, showing a bare spot at the first joint.

Tail—Slightly drooping and short, with narrow hard feathers.

Sickles in cocks—Very fine, hard and short, tapering like a scimitar to three or four inches from the ground ; these in old cocks will appear parti-colored, which is no detriment.

Tail Coverts—Short, spare, and very hard ; difficult to break. The tail of the hen close and compact.

Thighs—Thick, strong, and muscular, and well apart, covered with little feather.

Legs—Short, but not dumpy, straight and quite clean, with closely affixed regular scales.

Feet—Short, thick, and straight ; toe-nails the same, straight hind toe to be preferred, though what is termed "duck-footed" is not a disqualification.

Plumage—Hard, close, and wiry, devoid of fluff.

Body in hand—Very firm, hard, heavy, and evenly balanced.

Carriage and Shape—Straight and upright, angular throughout, and not too gamey in general appearance.

POINTS OF COLOR.

Comb, Face, Jaws and Throat—Red.

Eyes Pearl, all shades of white, pink, and yellow.

Beak and Legs—To match, though of no definite color.

Remainder of Plumage—No final standard of color can be framed for Aseel, as they are as yet of no fixed hue. The principal colors are red, black, grey, red spangle, black spangle, yellow and white.

A CURE THAT CURED.

EDITOR REVIEW :

I HAVE a Red Cap cock, three years old, that within the last few days has almost lost the use of his legs. His comb is dark looking, although he eats fairly well, having to sit on the ground while eating. He has been in breeding pen all season with ten hens. Feed same as hens, mash in morning and grain at night. Can you explain the difficulty and how to remedy it ?

G. W. B.

Galt, June 3, '98.

In reply to your favor of the 3rd, from your description I should suspect either a severe attack of indigestion or sunstroke and would advise you to give a liberal dose of salts and feed well on nourishing soft feed, such as bread and milk. Keep in a shady place and supply plentifully with chopped lettuce and dandelion, and be sure that grit is available for the bird's use. Kindly let me know how he progresses.

H. B. DONOVAN.

The information you gave me re the difficulty with my old Red Cap cock has resulted in completely restoring him to his normal condition, and I thank you very much for your kindness in the matter.

Galt, July 8, '98.

We wish every enquirer would take the trouble to report progress in such cases.—Ed.

R. H. Essex now offers both old and young stock in buff Rocks and fit for show or the breeding pen. His birds win.

A. W. Bell now breeds buff Cochins exclusively and has some extra fine young stock ready for the fall fairs that he can spare. Also old birds after the Industrial.

R. B. Millard, another Cochin breeder, but of whites and blacks, has early young stock for sale, also white Wyandottes.

DATES

OF SHOWS ADVERTISED IN REVIEW.

Industrial, Toronto, September 1 to 10.
 Great Eastern, Sherbrooke, September 5 to 10.
 Great Western, London, September 12 to 17.
 Central Canada, Ottawa, September 19 to 24.

ENTRIES CLOSE

Toronto, August 20th.
 Sherbrooke, August 29th.
 London, September 7th.
 Ottawa, September 13th.

NOTES
AND COMMENTS

THE "ONTARIO" BALANCE

WILL be found by the annual statement printed in this issue to be somewhat increased, a good showing from the last immense exhibition. It is doubtful if it is wise to pile up any considerable sum, the money is given by the Government to be expended.

THE BOARD MEETING

of the Ontario Poultry Association will this year be held on Thursday, September 8th, at 2.30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Industrial Exhibition grounds. The President particularly asks that every member be in his place, as the meeting will be a most important one.

MR. BUTTERFIELD

spent a short time in Toronto on his way back from Winnipeg and Brandon, where he was officiating in his judicial capacity. From his remarks the show of poultry in Winnipeg this year was not up to former affairs of the kind.

MR. L. G. JARVIS

was in Toronto for several days attending Masonic Grand Lodge meeting last month. His stock this year is in fine fit and if arrangements can be made he

will make a large display of the farm stock at the Industrial Exhibition.

LONDON FIRST.

That offer of a new Standard for five new subscribers is adding many names to our lists, dozens are trying for them and several have already sent us lists. The first to do so was Thos. McMullen, of London, and he says "Thanks for your liberal offer of new Standard; it is truly an easy way to earn it." The fall fairs should present an opportunity for canvas not to be missed.

MR. W. H. ULLEY

will again superintend the poultry department of the coming Quebec exhibition. The show this year is subsidized by the Government and will be held on the new grounds. A special building for poultry, complete in every detail, is being erected.

DR. A. W. BELL,

in the "Ohio Poultry Journal" for July, writes learnedly of the "star" spangled Poland. Hot weather, cold lemonade—and etceteras—or was it the "devil," Doctor.

BIGGER AND FAR BETTER

than ever before. That's what the Central Canada fair for 1898, to be held in Ottawa, commencing Sept. 16th, is going to be. Only two years ago the directors expended \$50,000 in erecting new stock buildings and otherwise improving the grounds for the benefit of their constantly increasing patrons. This year they have obtained \$80,000 from the corporation of Ottawa and the money is being spent in further improvements. In the first place the grounds have been greatly enlarged; the addition is between seven and eight acres. Besides purchasing property the directors have filled in the bay near Machinery Hall and what was once a big stretch of water is now simply a beautiful and picturesque lake with a running fountain in the centre. A new iron main building, 310 feet long, is being constructed, and all exhibits, including those in the ladies' and fine arts departments, will be on the ground floor. Big additions are being made to the agricultural implement building and to the poultry building. The rows of posts that were

a great obstruction in the machinery hall have been removed. The extension of the poultry building is great enough to permit the doing away of the second story of coops, although many new classes have been added to the department.

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"BOYS WILL BE BOYS,"

the old adage says, and they shouldn't be expected to be anything else, as far as we know. We have no love for the girlie, girlie type of youth, but when boys transgress others' rights then they have got to be looked after and application made where it will do the most good, though perhaps showing an increase in their tailor's bill. Boys have been troubling Dr. McGillivray and his pheasants and this is what he says of them: "My birds are in fine condition, but I have lost some very valuable ones by boys throwing stones in my garden. I have had killed of adult birds, one Lady Amherst hen, a silver hen, a Versicolor and a golden hen. Besides in young birds I have had killed three half pheasant and game chickens, two young Versicolor and several English. I have arranged with the police to have this stone throwing stopped." We wish we could induce the blue-coated angels of peace to afford some protection to our Bantam chicks, but fear Mr. T. Cat has even less respect for the "stlong hand of the law" than the human juvenile. If any one is selecting, so to speak, a catalogue of cats, he is invited to correspond with the editor of the REVIEW. He can put him in the way of a nice consignment of various sexes, colors and sizes. All warranted trained singers.

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PIGEONS.

We have been asked to once more try how successful (?) a pigeon department would be in REVIEW, but regret that under no consideration can we accede to the request. We have no money to lose in further experiment and may as well state plainly that we do not solicit business from pigeon or pet stock breeders, as we do not now cater to their wants in the REVIEW'S reading columns. It is best to be quite honest in this. If the REVIEW can be of use to them in the disposal of their surplus stock well and good, but we don't lay any claims to a share of their patronage.

"MONEY IN SQUABS"

is the name of a neat little book on squab raising for the market. To the uninitiated we may state that "squabs" are young pigeons, and they are used largely in their youthful state in the United States. The book is written by J. C. Long and C. H. Brinton and is complete in every detail. The price is 50c., the publishers Geo. H. Howard & Co., Washington, D.C., from whom it may be procured.

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JUDGES AT THE COMING ONTARIO SHOW.

Several exhibitors have asked us verbally and through the mail if it is a fact that the judges for the Ontario show of 1899 have already been appointed. In answer we can say that we know for a fact that correspondence has been opened with several judges from the United States, but we also know for a fact that no legal action can be taken until the meeting of the directorate, which has in past years taken place during the holding of the Industrial Exhibition. One paper goes as far as so give the names of I. K. Felch, J. H. Drevenstedt and J. B. Zimmer as having been appointed, but this must be finally settled at the meeting mentioned. The entry this year may be large enough to warrant the engagement of six judges, though we doubt it, and it is unlikely that now particular honor is coming that the committee will see its way clear to "shelve" any of those Canadian judges who have served the Ontario so faithfully and for so small an emolument. Whatever is done exhibitors may rest assured that their interests will be well looked after.

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THE FALL FAIRS

are, so to say, the stepping stones to the winter exhibitions. Here the young birds have first trial and here as a rule the young exhibitor tries his 'prentice hand. If beaten don't be discouraged and give up your fancy. Stick to it and finally you will win. Failure should be but an incentive to renewed trials for success. Don't expect to start at the top, if you do you will likely take a rapid descent and soon reach bottom.

IS MEAT THE BEST EGG RATION?

PERHAPS two or three years ago, one of the most practical poultry writers and editors of this country averred that feeding meat had given him more trouble and disease among his fowls than any other practice, and that, with his then experience, nothing would induce him to feed meat to his flock every day.

But meat is being fed more and more liberally, and by more and more poultry men, as the months pass on. It is no uncommon thing now, to see an ounce a day, per hen, recommended. Directions for using special meat foods have reached the point of urging that they be given to chicks at every feed. The fact that my own experience quite largely coincides with that of the editor above mentioned, leads me to say that I think that it is quite time to call a halt, and to inquire seriously whether, all things considered, meat is the best egg ration.

With hens in confinement, more than one poultry raiser is finding it utterly impossible to find sufficient meat to keep up the egg record, without at the same time, bringing illness into the flock, inducing a loss of a number of the best hens. This loss comes in two ways; partly through indigestion and liver troubles, partly through ovarian difficulties. It is always the best hens that suffer from these last; which means, those that have been stimulated to lay the most eggs. Those that suffer from indigestion may be those with the weakest constitution, those with the most voracious appetites. In our own yards, we have more loss from these two troubles than from all others combined.

It is not a question whether or not meat brings eggs; one can run the egg record up or down at will, by the use or disuse of meat. The question is, is the gain great enough to pay a profit after deducting the loss caused by overstimulation? Is it judicious to feed hens meat continuously from early babyhood? Or, to put it more distinctly and definitely, how long can one keep fowls in health while feeding meat, say at the rate of a quart a day to seventy-five hens? This is rather close to two-fifths of an ounce per hen, daily.

It is pretty generally known, I suppose, that charcoal and a liberal supply of green stuff will overcome, in considerable degree, the ill effects of the concentrat-

ed food. But is it judicious to raise chicks on charcoal, and to feed hens on charcoal, as long as we keep them? Is it not the fact that a large number of them are extremely liable to contract disease under this treatment during the second year that largely leads to the oft-repeated injunction, to sell off the hens at the end of their first year of laying?

It is to be understood that the word "meat" in this connection means meat meal, or dried scrap. Doubtless there is some difference in the various grades of these products, as to the effect produced on the digestive tract. The more concentrated they are, the more valuable, from one point of view; but also the more dangerous. I have never yet seen meat fed daily to a flock of fowls without inducing, after a greater or less period, disturbances of the digestive tract, which show first as diarrhoea, and afterward run on into recognized liver trouble, usually to end in death if the treatment is persisted in.

I think there is no manner of doubt, in spite of the apparent high price of cut clovers and ground meats, that they are really among the cheapest of feeds. I am led to this conclusion independently, from the fact that farmers who feed mostly grain, and whose grain averages them less than two-thirds what mine costs me, invariably give a larger estimate of the cost of feeding a hen per year than my own carefully kept accounts show. But there are a number of other feeds which are high in nitrogen, and perhaps less expensive than meat, and which, it seems to me, might more safely be used. Among these are linseed meal, malt sprouts and the gluten feeds. But actual cheapness is partly a matter of first cost, partly of availability, partly of results in egg basket and physique.

We must not fail to remember, in using any of these, that when we have supplied the proper amount of the various elements in available form, we have done what is required, no matter if the fowls have not been fed three times a day, or if their crops have not been full most of the time. The tendency, in using concentrated foods, is to overfeed. And those who feel that they have not fed properly and sufficiently, unless they have given their hens full crops, need to take unusual pains to balance such concentrated food as they are using with a good quantity of coarse food.

Grains with much hull and with little hull are by no means the same in effect; and I think the reason many fail with oats as an egg food is that they fail to allow for the large amount of husk, and so do not feed enough. The oat meat comes quite near the wheat in amount of nitrogen, but if half the quantity fed is hull, and we feed no more bulk of oats than we would of wheat, it stands to reason that the egg ration will be short. Oats form a very good supplementary feed, or mid-day feed, for those who insist on a mid-day feed, simply because one is less likely to overfeed with oats, and hens are less likely to eat too much of it, because they do not like it so well.

I would like to see, on this page, a record of the experience of a number of practical men in feeding meat continuously; also experience in using gluten feed, linseed meal, sprouts, etc., as substitutes for meat. How much cheaper are they? Are they better in other respects? Are these any less likely to induce ultimate disease?—C. S. Valentine in "The Country Gentleman."

EXPERIENCE WITH DUCKS.

I THINK that I wrote for your paper an account of my first year's experience with ducks, which was in 1896, and as I now see that the account I then sent was somewhat rose-colored, I wish to give some further experience, and tell some things that I have learned since.

In 1896, I kept six laying ducks, and got from them 650 eggs. I set about half the eggs, and hatched over 200 ducks; did not lose one by sickness, and but a few by accident, and sold them readily at 8 cents a pound, selling nearly \$50 worth, and keeping 30 to add to my breeding stock. As I found them much hardier than chickens and of more rapid growth, so as to be ready to sell at an earlier age, and as they brought a better price, I grew very enthusiastic and thought that I saw a small fortune in ducks, and increased my breeding stock to 35 layers. But 1897 did not prove as good a year for duck raising as the previous one, and instead of getting 110 eggs per duck I got only 75; and I found that prices fell off also, and that the demand was not as good as the previous year.

Still, I did fairly well, and concluded to increase my business, and so kept 70 layers for 1898. This year I have gained more in experience than in money, and begin to believe that ducks cannot be kept profitably in large flocks, for my egg record shows that I got about 200 less eggs from 70 ducks this year than I did from half as many last, the average running down to 35 eggs per duck.

As ducks are great eaters, it is not necessary for me to say that I have kept my ducks at a loss this year, and that I shall not try keeping them in large flocks again. While our young ducks have proved as hardy this year as ever, we have been overrun with rats, and they have killed fully a third of all that we hatched, in spite of every precaution we could take, and the demand and price have both been low; so that this year the duck business has been unprofitable.

I know that money can be made from ducks, even to sell in the Cincinnati market, which is perhaps the worst of any large city in the United States. I believe that a single firm control the dressed poultry trade of this city and regulate prices to suit themselves. They furnish the market quotations to the papers, and when they do not want any poultry quote the price so low as to discourage shipments. The head of the firm told me that he owned stock in all of the leading hotels of the city, and before I learned this fact, I found, when trying to sell poultry to the hotels, that they were all supplied by this firm.

Early, the market for ducks is brisk and the prices good, and if I had set the early eggs, and had ducks to sell the last of May, they would have sold readily at paying prices, but I had advertised eggs and must fill my orders, and so by the time my ducks were ready for market the season was over, and now they must be sold for less than cost or kept until cold weather, by which time they will probably have eaten their heads off. If I wanted to raise 500 ducks I would not keep more than ten layers, and would not set any eggs later than the middle of May. I would hatch every duck possible in March and the first week of April, would keep them in rat-proof runs, and feed five times a day for the first month, and three times until sold, and would market them as soon as possible.

The eggs laid in March and April are of high fertility, and the young birds are very hardy, and it is easy to raise 95 per cent. of them if they are kept safe from rats. Ducks are such voracious eaters that they cannot be kept the year round as we keep hens, without eating more than they are worth. It will be seen by this that three years' experience in duck-raising has cooled my enthusiasm, and that I have found difficulties which I did not know of when I wrote on this subject before.—Waldo F. Brown in "The Country Gentleman."

THINNING OUT POULTRY.

EXCELLENCE, not to say perfection, will always be the exception in poultry as in everything else. The Lord Rivers, who was so well known for his love of Greyhounds, and his almost uniform success at coursing meetings, was one day asked the secret of it. He said, "I breed well, train well, and hang well." We believe this to be necessary wherever there is to be great competition.

We have passed the breeding stages, and we now have a yard full of promising chickens, rather an "embarras de richesses"—too many to exhibit, too many to keep, far too good to kill, and much too valuable to sell at market price. "What am I to do?" asks the owner. "I wish you would advise me." So we will, respected reader, and, it may be, fair correspondent. We are not intending to tell you that there is a place in London where they will make their weights in gold, or that there is a person somewhere who will buy any number at any price, we are simply bent on advising you to ask the advice of a friend or neighbor about your birds. It is astonishing how easily they will overcome all your difficulties.

We will go with you among your Minorca chickens. Your arrangement is an admirable one, and having, as they have, a cottage run, we do not wonder at their looking so well. Now they are brought together, be good enough to show us your best. You cannot. Well, then, we will show you your worst. Kindly tell whoever has charge of them, to catch up any chicken we point out. Look at that young Minorca cock, his comb is certainly not straight; now that scarcely per-

ceptible twist will never be less, it may be larger, it will become more objectionable, but it will never disappear, and it will very likely bring the comb over with it. Catch him up. Bad comb cock again, take him away. Very seedy pullets, take them away. This would be the burden of the song, and although you probably might in some instances have cause for remonstrance, yet you would be surprised with what facility a judge—without leaning, partiality, or favor—can divide and condemn chickens from a run, where the owner could see only perfection.

Having mentioned Minorcas as the first, we will make a few more remarks on that breed. There was last season a large sale for them at very good prices; they were also better in quality than they had been for some years. There has been an unusual demand for eggs, and among the many chickens hatched some will perplex their owners.

Those to whom poultry keeping is a mere pastime, and with whom the expense is unimportant, can of course do as they like, and they may not care for our scribblings; but to those who wish to combine the fancy and the pocket we say, Beware of pets and beware of fancies. Let neither your wife nor daughters go with you when you have hardened your heart and determined to destroy some. There is a very kind-hearted, nice, blue-eyed girl who will not hear of the chickens she reared being killed; she is very mild, but she speaks with great firmness when she says she will not eat them if they are. Her dark sister says she hasn't patience with papa, and he may rear his early chickens himself next year. The wife and mother thinks it is unkind to tease the girls and try their dispositions. The smaller ones don't care for the big chickens, but there are two or three little dears—one with a broken wing and another with a crooked bill—that shall not be taken away; and when mischief says, Stop till they have gone to bed, they declare they will take the darlings up with them.

Do not be led away with the notion that chickens will grow out of faults; they cannot do it. The curve in the comb of the cock, the slight hump or twist in the back of the pullet, the very trifling, almost imperceptible, bowing of one leg will only increase as the birds grow older. As we are still dealing with Minorcas, let us say that as the cocks must have upright combs, there will be no excuse for keeping chickens that lack the quality. A defect in the comb is visible at ten weeks old in the cock chicken. It is impossible to speak with so much certainty about the pullets. It is never safe to reject pullets too young, as many a valuable hen has been in danger when a pullet.—"Poultry, Pigeons, Cage Birds, Rabbits, etc."

THE TWO WAYS.

If anyone ask whether or not to keep poultry, the best advice is "Don't—unless you are prepared to do the thing properly." By doing it properly, we do not necessarily mean spending a lot of money. Much of the most successful poultry keeping has been accomplished by those who have very little cash to spare. What we mean by doing it properly is arranging every thing for the comfort and well-being of the birds. Some of the pestilent holes in which fowls are kept are a disgrace to civilization, and the wretched existence forced on the little creatures amounts to cruelty. A dozen birds will be cooped together in room not sufficient for four; the houses are draughty, and not even watertight; the floors and runs are inches deep in filth and puddles, making the atmosphere reek with unendurable odors, and soiling the food which is thrown there as often as not, while the walls, nests, and perches are alive with vermin. This is no exaggerated picture. There are thousands who keep their poultry in this manner; in winter a prey to cold, rain, slush, and wind—which fowls abhor; in summer tortured by vermin in a stifling atmosphere, with drinking water which is neither clean nor cool.

Birds kept so afford neither pleasure nor profit. The evident misery in which they live is a constant source of uneasiness to their owners, however much they may try to stifle all thought of it. And as to profit, what can be expected of birds, either as breeders or layers, when reduced to the ill-health which must result from such conditions?

Yet the step from such poultry keeping as this to that which yields both profit and pleasure is not a big one. A little time and thought in starting, and a quarter of an hour or so at regular intervals, and they will yield that pleasure which is always afforded by the sight of healthy and well tended pets, besides the gratification which comes from a successful undertaking. No matter what it is we set our mind to, if the results are good the thought gives us pleasure, though it be nothing more than keeping a few fowls; and this to say nothing of the real interest which poultry keeping affords for those who take it up in a scientific manner. The best of our birds now differ from the

common stock as much as a thoroughbred horse differs from a common hack. This is the result of thoughtful treatment and breeding. Developments as great as there have been in the past lie in future for those who bring to bear upon the matter the skilled attention, care and thought which would be brought to bear on anything else where improvement is looked for.

By far too large a number start on their poultry keeping in the haphazard manner which characterizes so many of our undertakings. They reap the fruit of this haphazard conduct in the constant source of annoyance they find the birds are to them. In this way they do much harm in spreading the idea that fowls are, as the phrase goes, "More bother than they are worth;" which is by no means the verdict of those who set about it in a business-like fashion.

The first question for would-be poultry keepers to ask themselves is, "Are we prepared to give real attention and regular attention to the undertaking?" A good many of those who have actually started on it might advantageously ask themselves the same question, if they would wish to insure that the birds shall no longer be a source of uneasiness. After this there are certain other questions which demand close attention, for a very great deal depends upon a good start.

One important thing to decide is how many birds can be kept, which is by no means the same as how many they would like to keep, although many people have confounded the two things. And thus a dozen birds are frequently seen where there is only room enough for four, or forty where there should be only twenty. Nor is it only a matter of space, but of time and money. It takes longer to prepare the food for, and properly attend to twenty birds than it does for ten. It may not be much longer, but still it is longer. And the choice of the higher number may make all the difference between well and ill-kept birds.

Then there is the question of money. If the sum to be expended is spent on cheap birds and houses of course a greater show is made. But it is folly to do it. Cheap birds cannot be depended upon for either laying or breeding. What is wanted at starting is good stock, stock worth breeding from. Ten such birds will yield better results than twenty chosen haphazard on account of their cheapness. As to the houses, one may feel inclined to put up a somewhat

ambitious structure. But unless the money to be put into it will insure of this ambitious structure being thoroughly substantial, rain and wind proof, durable, and fitted with all things needful, it will be far better to put up a much more humble structure which has these qualities.

A few well chosen birds, well housed, is the foundation of a successful undertaking, while a more ambitious start with the same money will probably lead to failure.

—C. in "Poultry, Pigeons, Cage Birds, Rabbits, etc."



Mr. J. H. Cayford, Box 1,168. Montreal, is our Agent and Correspondent for the Province of Quebec. Any correspondence relating to subscriptions or advertising may be addressed to him.

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IS PUBLISHED AT
Toronto, Ontario, Canada,
BY H. B. DONOVAN.

Terms—\$1.00 per Year, Payable in Advance.

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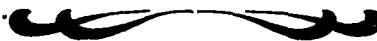
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