

pointed out to me as the best on the plants, the weight of eggs from which were quoted as much as the number laid in the year.

The question of weight of eggs is receiving considerable attention in England. The honorary secretary of the National Poultry Organization Society of England, Edward Brown, F.L.S., has initiated a campaign in favour of a standardization of eggs. In a very convincing little leaflet he has issued on the subject Mr. Brown says: "It is only the best eggs that realize the best prices. The more we can burn these facts into producers' minds the sooner will they adapt their methods accordingly. Until they do so they cannot hope to realize the highest returns. . . . An absolutely new-laid egg, perfect in every sense internally, but with a mis-shapen or dirty shell, is lacking in one essential point which vitiates the whole and brings it at once to a lower grade." The accompanying illustration is published with Mr. Brown's leaflet. The weights given are for 120 eggs.

#### LEG-WEAKNESS.

Look out for leg-weakness in young cockerels. The invariable cause is insufficient exercise after leaving the heated brooder, and the overfeeding of animal food. In growing stock it is imperative that the bone must be built up, and this can best be done by appropriate feed, such as ground oats. Ample space is also necessary, in order that they may be encouraged to take the requisite exercise. Forcing food at such a stage is a mistake. It is easy to understand that the feeding of such foods to birds confined in small runs encourages size of body rather than sound development of the frame required to carry it. Of course, where birds are to be marketed young and in a prime condition, this forcing and confinement system is just what is required; but a young highly forced bird is not one that may be regarded as being developed on sound principles, and the earliest and most common proof of this is a weakness in the legs.

#### HEIGHT OF PERCHES.

It is sometimes difficult to make people understand that it is a mistake to have perches too high. They argue that in a state of nature a bird will fly into trees and come down again without injuring its feet. The fact is overlooked that out in the open a bird can spread herself in a natural manner, and is therefore able to land gently on the ground, running as it alights to break the force of the landing. In a fowlhouse, on the other hand, the bird loses all the advantage of its wings in its descent, and thereby jumps to the ground, the whole weight of the body having to be borne by the legs. I remember an interesting demonstration in this connection, provided by a patient in an asylum, who on this point was eminently sane. He had the supervision of a fowlhouse, 20 ft. in length. At either end of the house, just below and in front of the dropping-board, he