

If a young brood is to be brought up by hand the use of a little milk and a small quantity of the yolk of a hard boiled egg are necessary as a substitute for the secretions of the parental crop. For hand reared birds the food must be always warm, and should be administered once an hour from dawn to dusk.

The best implement for feeding with is not the time-honored quill, but a pair of tweezers made after the pattern of a birds' bill, with which the operation can be most satisfactorily performed.—W. T. GREENE, F. Z. S., in *Poultry*, Eng.

Our English Correspondent.

Sir,—The New Year has opened with what is, to our birds at all events, the most distressing weather. We have scarcely had a night's frost this year, but what is, even for England, a most extraordinary continuance of showery weather, accompanied by a damp heat; thermometer at 35° to 41° out of doors all night. We are at our wits end to keep the birds dry and the lofts ventilated at the same time, and still more to keep the hens from laying too soon. We sigh in vain for a few sharp frosts, which, probably, we shall be equally disgusted to see when they come, as most likely they will in April or May, and spoil several batches of eggs and squabs. The rough weather we experienced last month (which is said to have surpassing in violence and duration any gale we have had for many years) made sad havoc among some of the more exposed poultry buildings.

The New Year has also witnessed a fresh departure in the mode of selecting judges. Capt. Norman Hill, the most respected and valued of our Pouter judges, was so insulted by the letters of a disappointed exhibitor at the Crystal Palace show of 1882 that he said he would not again accept the office of judge, unless chosen by the votes of the exhibitors. As none of the shows would try the plan of election, one was started at Liverpool which took up the idea most thoroughly, but the issue was a complete failure; very few exhibitors cared to enter without knowing who was to adjudicate on their exhibits. Three of the judges elected were gentlemen who have for years been most prominent in this capacity, while the fourth was a novice, who all agreed was quite in the wrong place as judge. The idea of election is not only too utopian to work well in England, but it is unnecessary, for the system now generally adopted of announcing the judges names before entries close works as well as anything is likely to do in this subliminary sphere, where the best of us are fallible. If those appointed do not please exhibitors they need not enter, and the matter must soon balance itself. The obnoxious judges are one after another being shouldered out, and they are few and far between now. Committees are sure to look to their own interests, and will only appoint judges whose names will draw entries, that is, of course, only those who are *known to be straight*.

The Pouter fancy has been in a ferment for some time past on the question of plucking. This has always been allowed to be admissible to a certain extent (that is to say, so long as the feathers

abstracted did not leave a visible sign of their absence, which limitation necessarily prevented any wholesale plucking). The Pouter has so many such difficult points that marking has to take a very subordinate position, and the Pouter which can be shown in our strong competitions in England without losing some feathers (often not more than ten or twelve) has yet to be bred. Previous to the Crystal Palace show of 1882, Mr. Volchman, a London fancier, wrote several letters to the papers condemning the practice, and abusing the whole fancy as rogues or worse. The only reason that could be assigned for his so doing at the time was that he hoped to deter many breeders from exhibiting, and so increase his own chance of success, for a cup at the Palace is a coveted honor and one which, besides the distinction, brings much pecuniary benefit to the lucky winner. To the surprise of most of us, though the trimming was as extensive as ever, our would-be censor had not pluck enough to lodge any protests, but turned his sleep on that too common butt of discontented exhibitors, the judge, which has cost the Pouter fancy the most trusted and respected judges on the list. But most strange to relate, at the Palace show in 1883 the most flagrant cases of trimming were observable in Mr. Volchman's exhibits, while a yellow cock of his which was awarded a first prize, was recognized on the last day of the show by the former owner, Mr. Pratt, of Birmingham, who stated that the bird when in his possession was marked only on one wing and was very foul on thighs; at the Palace show it was marked on both wings and nearly clean on the thighs. Unfortunately it was too late to lay a protest against it, so the only course for Mr. Pratt was to expose the fraud in the papers, for though plucking is allowed to a certain extent, the bird was *certainly over trimmed*, and an insertion of feathers has been considered an unpardonable offence.

I hope next month to notice a few of the prices lately realized for first-class pigeons in ENGLAND.

OLLUF.

England, Feb. 6th, 1884.

Huron P. & P. S. Association.

The pigeons at this show were few, but cage birds was a large and good exhibit, including some fine Belgians and Scotch Fancy, also some Linnets and Gold Finch mules of good color and style. German Canaries were also strong.

We would like to have seen more native birds there. When we have so many of handsome plumage, and good songsters, we would like to see them better represented.

The attraction the pet stock proved during the show should make it clear to managers of shows that it would be most advantageous to them to open their lists to cage birds and other pet stock. We hope to see a much larger display in this department at Seaforth next year. They have the right class of men there to push the thing forward. The committee deserve the support of all interested for their efforts in trying to make this a prominent feature of their show.

A Light Brahma hen, one year old, owned by H. F. Alling, Newark, N. J., last week laid an egg which weighed eight ounces, and measured eight and six-and-a-half inches in circumference.