

Preparing Fowls for Exhibition.

Editor Review,

This subject may be considered under the following heads: as washing, separation, feeding, cooping, keeping clean, and care in general.

Under the first head I would say, in my opinion, fowls should never need washing for exhibition, and unless they are very dirty should not be washed. Washing, especially when most needed, destroys the gloss of the feathers and leaves them soft and fluffy and very easily soiled again, which they are almost certain to be in cooping and transport. That the feathers will regain their natural gloss in a few days or hours, as some assert, I do not find to be the case. I have washed quite a few, and have seen quite a number at our shows which had been washed by others, and have yet to see the first one that did not look "messed," and suggested the idea of ironing. In short, if any one can wash and dry fowls in such a way that they will, when kept in a clean place, regain their natural brilliancy and tightness of feather in a few weeks itself, then in my opinion the process has not been made public. Therefore, let not that man think who is not sufficiently interested in his pets to keep them clean, and therefore beautiful—for there is no beauty in a dirty fowl, or at least nothing attractive—at all times, I say let not that man think he can continue fairly to win poultry prizes. And it would be a pity if he could, for no animal, whether man, beast, or bird, can continue healthy and robust in constitution amidst dirt and filth, and neglect in this particular is a strong and conclusive evidence of neglect in other departments of the work. I think that many a novice, both in city and country, find disappointment just here. They purchase a fine pair or trio from the yards of some experienced fancier, or at some exhibition, and they don't understand that the beauty which excites their admiration, and leads to the fact of purchase, is only a conditional quality and not an "essential" one. The birds are turned loose and expected to look after themselves to a great extent; such a thing as cleaning and caring for them continually and carefully never enters their mind. The result is that "beauty fades," and there is grievous disappointment. I should like to ask such a man this one question, What else can you purchase, animate or inanimate, that will not require care and attention to preserve its desirable qualities? You purchase a fine horse, and how long will he remain fine if not housed and groomed and fed with care. Why, let a beautifully ornamented article of any kind be put away under lock and key and you would hardly expect it to retain its beauty without receiving some attention in the way of polishing and dusting. And

yet in the case of the birds after being allowed to take pot luck for a year, they are expected to have retained their original perfection.

Before closing my letter for this month, I wish to state to all concerned, that I shall answer all or any questions proposed by beginners—that I can answer—at the close of my monthly letter. It is a pleasure to me to answer questions or give any information that I can to beginners, but by giving them in this way I may be able to serve many at once. I may say I have quite a few on hand at present, which I shall answer privately, as it was so understood when the questions were proposed. But, with the consent of the parties, I shall answer them in REVIEW next month. So, any desiring information on the elementary part of poultry raising are invited to send them along—I may also state, with the consent of our worthy editor.

Yours sincerely,

STANLEY SPILLETT.

Lefroy, Oct. 2nd, 1884.

(To be continued.)

The Best Breed.

Editor Review.

I have lately noticed many enquiries in the various poultry journals from correspondents as to the most profitable breed to keep where egg production is the chief object. This is a wide subject, as a great deal depends on locality and climate, and wherever this industry is carried on much more will depend on the man than on the breed. It has been proven that a man who thoroughly understands his business, and gives it his unremitting attention, will show better results from poor stock than another with A No. 1 stock, but who is a poor manager, and perhaps not as industrious and enterprising as he should be. But given equal attention the best breed will undoubtedly show the best results.

The question is, Which is the best breed? A writer on this subject in *Poultry World* says, that if he mentions any one breed as being the best he indirectly says that a number of other varieties carefully bred for years are not as good, which is discourteous to his brother breeders. But I fail to see any discourtesy to my brother breeders in mentioning any one breed as being particularly suited to the purpose, as any intelligent breeder of the ornamental varieties will admit that in point of utility many are inferior, to the Light Brahma for instance. An honest breeder of Polands, Bantams, etc., would no more think of recommending his stock as superior to all others for general utility than a breeder of horses would recommend a trotting stallion to breed first-class heavy draught horses from.