

Editor Review :

I see by the late English papers that the cup pair of Aylesbury ducks at the Birmingham show weighed 22 pounds; the cup pair of Rouens 23 pounds 10 ounces; the 1st prize pair of white geese weighed 43 pounds 10 ounces; 1st prize gray geese 49 pounds. "I'll take and tell you" I would like to have that lot to show against Jim Main at Guelph.

G. T. S.

We learn with sorrow of the death, on Feb. 3rd, of Mr. James Williamson, of Hamilton. Mr. Williamson was well known as a fancier to many of our older breeders, and was held in high estimation by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Of late years having little room, he had to dispense with his pets, but still took great interest in the fancy, and contributed largely to its success in his city.

Ontario Poultry Society.

The fanciers throughout the country will be pleased to learn that an amalgamation has taken place between the two leading poultry societies of the province, and that a grand show will be held in Guelph, from Feb. 25 to 29th. A government grant and private contributions of a sufficient amount has been received to justify the Executive Committee in offering prizes to the amount of \$1,200, which, it is expected, will be paid exhibitors before the close of the show.

The prizes are offered on single birds, and on breeding pens consisting of one male and three females. This plan, though giving much more labor to the officers, is generally found most satisfactory to exhibitors.

We understand that Mr. W. H. Todd, of Vermilion, Ohio, is expected to act as judge, and we consider that a better choice could not be made. He has had long experience in breeding and judging nearly all varieties of poultry; and from our short acquaintance with him, we would conclude that the birds must win or lose on their merits when the awards are made by him. He is a man of great ability, and withal very unassuming.

It is very gratifying to find fanciers from all sections greatly interested in the success of the show; all seem to think that a bright future is before the society, and wish to do all possible to assist in promoting its prosperity. The lateness of the season will undoubtedly prevent some from exhibiting, but a large and fine show is a certainty.

The annual meeting will be held during the week, probably on Thursday, when the officers for the ensuing year will be elected, place of holding the next show fixed, and other important business transacted. All interested in poultry should at-

tend, and assist in such legislation as will best conduce to the prosperity of the society and the fancy at large. We hope at this meeting to see the Ontario Poultry Association established on a sound business basis, so that in future it will command the confidence of the entire community.

Intending exhibitors should carefully read the rules and regulations, so that their entries will be properly made, thus saving trouble to the officers, and prevent disappointment to themselves.

A Poultry Derby.

All colts intended to run in the Derby, we believe, are entered for that stake the same season they are foaled. There is also in England a Dog Derby, a stake which dogs are entered for when very young. The prize is contested for by them, or such of them as are by their owners considered good enough, at an age fixed by the society or association managing that interest. I think, with some little variations we could, with much benefit to the poultry interest, and to breeders in particular, have a Poultry Derby. We would propose a plan something like the following.—Say a stake is made for different kinds of poultry, each breeder who wishes to become a subscriber to compete in any one variety, enter and pay a forfeit fee. Say we are breeders of Plymouth Rocks and Games; we wish to enter in the Derby for these particular breeds; then at our regular Provincial Poultry Show we subscribe say 50 cents forfeit fee for each kind we wish to enter for competition in the Derby at the next Annual Show. Say ten subscribe for Plymouth Rocks, at \$2 each, with forfeits, would probably amount to \$24; divided in two prizes of \$12 each, one for the best cockerel and one for the best pullet bred that year. These birds would be known as that year's Derby winners. This, in our opinion, would become a very popular prize amongst breeders, because it would at once show the public those who have sufficient confidence in their stock and ability to raise them, and their willingness beforehand to enter against all comers. One may say he enters against all comers when he enters the regular prize lists. So he does; but when he enters in the regular prize lists he knows what he has to enter; he simply backs his birds against all comers: but in entering for the Poultry Derby he enters the produce of his stock, backed by his good management and judgment for mating and raising them. It is customary in stakes of this kind, that so much is paid on entrance, say for example 50 cents forfeit, and for all such as do compete \$2, or some such amount about *pro rata*. Of course many would enter, that for some reason or other, would not compete, so the forfeits go to the stakes. We are of opinion, once tried, the Poultry Derby would be a very interesting prize.