

worthy of a separate class, and altogether ignoring the interests of a large number of breeders and exhibitors. Let us take the case of the exhibitor first. How many are there who may have single birds fit for exhibition, in every respect perfect beauties, but who find it difficult, if not impossible, to match a pair of the same breed, with any hope of success of taking a prize—more especially, if the stock from which they have to make their selection is limited in number; and if this be the case, in respect of pairs, how much more so as to trios. One may have a cock bird, as near perfection as possible; another a hen, a perfect beauty, both superior specimens when taken singly; but if placed together in a pen, owing to dissimilarity in shades of color, difference in markings, &c., would have little or no chance of a prize in anything like close competition, or where good judging would be practised. Then, too, there are many breeders who may be desirous of procuring a single cock or hen bird to cross with his own stock, and who attend exhibitions for the purpose of procuring such, yet, are unable to do so unless they purchase the entire pen, at a considerable cost, which, in many instances, they are unable to do.

In our opinion, these are reasons sufficiently good and forcible to cause a departure from the usual course now pursued in classing exhibition fowls, and the establishing of classes for single birds, even if there were none others, which there are, and very substantial ones too, as we shall presently see.

The Birmingham Poultry Exhibition is admitted by all to be the leading poultry show of England; and what is the course pursued by the Committee of management in this respect? why, instead of offering prizes for pairs and trios, as we and many others do, their classes are all divided, so as to admit of single birds only. In all the larger and most prominent breeds of fowls there are

separate classes for *Cocks over one year old, Cockerels, Hens, and Pullets*; and where it is found necessary to combine two classes in one, as is done in some breeds, such as *Hamburghs, Polish*, and so forth, it is confined to hens and pullets; and not by placing cocks and hens in the same pen. It may be urged, and with some show of success, that this arrangement largely increases the labours of the Committee, and necessitates increased accommodation, without returning a pecuniary equivalent. With this view of the case we entirely disagree. We know of no exhibition held last year (but two) at which the exhibition coops were not supplied by the exhibitors themselves; and this remark applies to all poultry exhibitions held in Canada and the United States—the exceptions mentioned are those of the Provincial Exhibitions held in Ontario and Quebec. Continuing the same arrangement in future, the cost of furnishing coops for the additional entries would have to be borne by the exhibitors themselves, whilst the other question, of increased accommodation, only would have to be met by the respective committees; surely not a very difficult one to surmount by any poultry society!

The next question, and perhaps the most important one to consider is, the prize list; which, by the proposed arrangement, would be considerably increased. Let it be remembered however, that by having separate classes for single fowls, a much larger sum would be realized from entry fees than is now received. Neither would it be necessary to offer so large a sum for *FIRST* and *SECOND* prizes for single birds, as is now done for pairs and trios. In this way, we think, the prize list would be about equally balanced.

The next point to be determined is, which of the varieties should be allotted separate classes, and which should not; this must be governed by the support