

would banish such difficulties, the removal of which might be still further assisted by allowing the birds to have their food inside the cages, and thereby holding no inducement to the presence of this state of raggedness. The lecturer then turned his attention to.

THE SUBJECT OF FOOD.

and said supposing they had been feeding the birds in the orthodox fashion, for the next three weeks or a month — until they were fine in feather — they should let them have seed of a more nourishing and oily nature. He recommended igna and linseed, but more particularly the latter if they could persuade the birds to take it. This class of food had the effect of bringing the feather through and making it lay down, besides imparting to it a nice gloss and sheen. Another treatment, and an old fashioned one, was the use of boiled carrots. He himself, preferred a piece of raw fat bacon. Suet was also used for the same purpose, but it had not the salt in it the same as in bacon, which acted as a slight aperient and tonic. This, besides giving strength to the birds, purifies the blood. The fat of the bacon enriched the blood, with the result that the feathers came through with more oil in them, which gives to them a brighter, clearer and nicer appearance. Then they might have a bird the feathers of which were not quite level, and differed in color from the remainder. The only way to treat them was to pull them out. They would not be through by the time of the holding of the society's show, but this extraction would not be noticed unless they pulled out too many, and consequently left a big patch. Some people could not understand how some fanciers could bring their birds so well

THROUGH THE MOULT.

Young fanciers say they have tried and tried again, but without any degree of success. The same thing happened year after year, and all their efforts were useless. If they went into the rooms of the largest breeders they would find patchy birds, but they were not so when seen on the show benches because the owners had pursued the same course as he had advised them. They must not think that when he urged them to pull out a few objectionable feathers that they were to half pluck the bird as if they were going to have it for dinner. (Laughter). He did not consider there was any cruelty attached to removing a few feathers in this way, and he himself should have no twinges in his conscience in doing what he now advised them. Some people, who had very straight laced ideas, would consider that such was faking. He, however, strongly disagreed with such opinions. He maintained that

a fancier was acting in a perfectly legitimate manner so long as he did not alter the natural structure of the bird, or adding that which was never intended to be there. That was

FAKING PURE AND SIMPLE.

Anyone, he held, was perfectly justified in taking out a single ticked feather or two from the neck or chest if he desired to show a clear bird. The lecturer next referred to that branch of the fancy known as preparation. He remarked that in giving food for the last few weeks of the moult it must be administered with the idea of showing up the colour. It was a mistake to think that the best effects in colour feeding were obtained by simply rushing pounds of colour feed into the birds' systems. Such an impression was a wrong one. The best effects were produced by giving small quantities and getting the very best results from them. That could only be done by giving the food at regular intervals, and by letting it be of such a character as would enable the bird's system to obtain all the active properties from the colouring agent. Such food must be of an oily nature. Fatty and sugary matters were very conducive to

THE DISPOSITION OF COLOUR,

and in moulting time the egg food should be very sweet. They might experience a little difficulty there, as sometimes the sugary matter and colouring egg food clogged the liver. He got over that difficulty by giving green food during the moulting season, although he knew many fanciers were opposed to it. He was of opinion that it kept all the organs of the body actively at work, and thus the best results accrued. It was, he said, bad feeding that caused birds to come through the moult with undesirable results. He pointed out how much better it was to concentrate the greater part of their attention to those birds which augured well for the future, instead of evenly distributing their attention on all they possessed. One great thing was to see that their water was fresh once or twice a day, and that a little citrate of iron and quinine, or sulphate of iron, was put into it, as it had the effect of tightening the feather as well as nourishing the blood. There should be a plentiful supply of gritty sand, with some bits of shell or limey substance.

—*Fur and Feather.*

(To be Continued.)

Where are all the subscribers promised in the event of our devoting a page to cage birds? They haven't eventuated yet, neither have the reports of Cage Bird Associations been received. This page is for you, make use of it.

A glance at some of the Scot's Fancies at the Industrial, and the memory of those long slender half circle birds bred ten to fifteen years ago, leads one to ask the question how much Belgian is wanted in a Fancy any way? To our mind the Scotsman is in a fair way to be spoiled, if indeed this has not already come to pass.