

of the Ontario Society of Artists, however, a marked change for the better set in; art received a stimulus through a united organization which has benefitted its votaries ever since, and the Government were induced to give a yearly grant, though small, toward the society, and for the use and disposal of its members. It also purchased several works, from time to time, upon the understanding that they would ultimately form the nucleus of a national picture gallery. Most of them now adorn the walls of Government House. Owing to the aid of the Government, and the increasing support of the public, the society has steadily grown in numbers and influence, until now it occupies an honored position in the public mind.

We will reserve for a future instalment further details of its field and its work, as well as an individual reference to our city artists.
(To be continued.)

The Poultry Yard.

SPECIAL BREEDS, AND HOW TO MANAGE THEM.

III.—GAMES.

A PRINTER'S error occurred in our last issue, by which our carefully drawn illustration, intended for "Duckwing Games," and sketched from life, was wrongly entitled "Game Bantams," thus passing the boundary line between the sublime and the ridiculous. Game fowls (of which the American standard reckons twelve varieties, and the English eight), were originally bred and used entirely for cock-fighting. This vile and cruel amusement having to a great extent gone out of fashion, the birds are now bred principally for exhibition, in which they reach a high standard. Pure bred game fowls are now allowed by sports to be not so well calculated for the pit as many cross-breeds. Men engaged in the debasing occupation of rearing fowls for this purpose, generally cross any breeds noted for courage, viciousness, quickness and endurance.

The pure game fowls as bred for exhibition have a peculiarly erect, bold and defiant appearance. The cock, more especially, has a "touch me if you dare" expression in his eye peculiar to himself, though his mate approaches nearer to him in this respect than any other breed of fowl. They stalk about the poultry yard with a gait at once antagonistic and determined, and are always ready to fight either on the smallest provocation, or none at all. They are stout, muscular, yet remarkably graceful birds, their heads are long and slender like a deer-hound's, the shanks of all varieties except two* are willow, olive or orange, and their passion for wandering something remarkable. To quote the remark of a well-known writer, they are "very unpleasant handling, and don't mind biting out a square half-inch if disturbed." Of all breeds of fowls they are the wildest and most unmanageable.

As regards their domestic qualities they are useless for the table, but are fair layers of small brown eggs, not unlike a guinea fowl's. The maternal qualities of the hen are excellent, provided she be let alone; she is patient, painstaking, and will defend her young from hawk, cat, or fox, to her last breath.

As regards feeding, the best plan when practicable with these birds is to let them forage. They will do it anyway, unless they are penned within eight foot walls, so it is as well to make a virtue of necessity. They should be carefully fed twice a day with whole grain (no meal or warm food except when setting), and must have warm, dry and clean quarters; a plentiful dust bath mixed with coal and wood ashes, and a pound of powdered sulphur, will keep them free from vermin. They require an extensive grass run, and a moderate allowance of vegetable food.

* The Spangled and White and Spangled Pole whose shanks are flesh-colored.

POULTRY AND PIGEON NOTES.

To the Editor of THE EXCHANGE AND MART.

SPICE FOR FOWLS.

SIR,—I have been reading your useful and instructive journal with some care, more especially the Poultry Yard, in which I am much interested. Noticing that you invite correspondence, and having found the recipe below an excellent remedy for keeping fowls in good health, and also promoting laying very much, I shall be pleased for some of your readers to try it. I think it would prevent roup myself, for during the several years I have used it I have only had roup in my yards in one case, and that was in a pair of birds returned from a show; but the birds also require some of Douglas's iron mixture with their drinking water during the winter and spring. The recipe: Powdered gentian, 4oz.; ditto fenuigreek, 8oz.; cayenne pepper, 2oz.; coarse sugar, 8oz.; mixed together. Give to every six or eight fowls (large size) one tablespoonful twice or three times a week. I only give it during cold and wet weather. I hope others will find it as useful as I have.

GEO. C. JONES.

THE PIGEONS.

In many lofts where the sexes are not divided eggs will have been found during the past week or two, and this, if nothing else, should show the absolute necessity of good management if breeding is to be successfully conducted. There should always be means of dividing cocks from hens, so that pairing can be managed without difficulty. In such a case, when it is decided to match a certain pair, one is taken from each loft and put into a cage kept for the purpose, and no difficulty is experienced; but if all the birds are kept together they will all have formed friendships which it will be most difficult to dissolve. If, however, this plan has been adopted, it should be at once changed, and the hens taken from the cocks for a week or two, and then matching up commenced. While the birds are apart the loft can be cleansed and whitewashed, and the nests put up for the breeding season. There are many ways of fitting up a loft; and, as in other things, much money can be spent upon it, but this is not necessary; a nest pan here and there, in a convenient, and, if possible, secluded place, with a wooden cover over it, is almost all that is required. If there are rats the birds cannot succeed in breeding, and it should not be attempted unless rats can be effectually kept out. Mice are also most objectionable to sitting birds if their nests are on the floor. There should be clean water daily—a point always to be insisted upon—and always clean, fresh food, dirt being the cause of one-half of the diseases of pigeons. A bath should, if possible, always be at hand. This may be made by setting an open shallow metal milk pan—say, 30in. in diameter—in brickwork, in the centre of the loft; the brickwork should extend at least a foot from the edge of the pan. If a water pipe can be laid on near, and another fitted in the bottom of the pan to carry it off when dirty, it would be all the better, and cost very little; indeed, in most lofts the whole could be done for 15s. There is nothing which conduces more to the health, and consequently, the condition of pigeons, than a clear spring water bath daily. Try it, all who can afford the small outlay, and report to us the result.

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