

the best layer and the best table fowl a notion which we have asserted is not founded upon fact. Still ideas have more lives than a cat, and it is as difficult to kill a false one as it is to originate a fresh one, and this idea has gained so great prevalence that it doubtless influences to some degree the popularity of the general purpose fowl.

And then there is something in the name. When we speak of a general purpose fowl we instantly think of one that is good every where it is placed. It is good in every direction. And we forget that it is not so good in this direction as some other breed, and that in that direction there are breeds which are better. Our minds are naturally optimistic—a thing to be grateful for—and the defects of such a fowl are lost sight of in its many excellencies. This may seem rather vulgar and difficult of proof, but, while we can not prove the amount of influence a good name may exert, there is no doubt, in my mind at least, that the influence is greater rather than less, than we are willing to acknowledge. How much the Plymouth Rocks owes to its name can never be known, but the name was a good one and helped to carry the fowl through to success. It has been so with the term general purpose.

To sum up then from what has been said a definition or description of a general purpose fowl, it can be said that it is one in which the antagonistic qualities of prolificacy and table qualities are combined in a fairly satisfactory degree,—that the necessary compromise of superlative excellence in either direction has resulted in a combination of both in a reasonable measure,—and that the fowl is the most popular of all because it fills a want more successfully than any other can and because it is assisted by a false idea of its qual-

ities, coupled with the benefit that flows from a good name. This may be a rather long definition but it does not include anything not needed to make it complete.

CANADIAN EGGS IN ENGLAND.

A MONTREAL paper of recent date says:—Mr. Cornelius Howe, representing the Continental Egg Company of Great Grimsby, Yorkshire, England, is stopping at the St. Lawrence Hall for a few days. He is here to look up some of our merchants and inquire into the trade between this country and England. Queried by your correspondent this evening as to how the trade is at present and how he thought it would increase he stated: "The whole matter lies in a nutshell. The eggs must be given a wider area, and not sold only at one port, as at present. Eggs are brought to Liverpool and sold, but they are very often different sizes, the majority of them being very small. What the Canadian merchants should do is to ship all their eggs uniform, whether small or large, and they will bring better prices. We get eggs daily from Germany and Russia in large quantities and they are sold all over the country. If the Canadian people wish to build up a larger trade with England they must abolish the cold store houses and send the eggs immediately. The only way to build up a good and heavy trade is to ship the eggs immediately in large quantities and not store them. By doing this they would be fresh, and the large quantities shipped would enable merchants in England to sell in many more places than Liverpool." Mr. Howe will be in Toronto in a few days, as he intends visiting the principal cities of Canada before returning home.

HAMILTON POULTY, PIGEON AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

ON Thursday, May 26th. The Hamilton Association held its final meeting for the summer. The meetings of the Association have been very instructive to the members. Birds of almost every standard variety have been on exhibition at our meetings during the winter, and been scored by local judges.

The next meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday, August 4th, when delegates will be appointed to the Industrial Exhibition at Toronto. We expect the Hamilton fanciers will capture a good many red tickets at the different shows the coming season.

ALF. J. KERR,
Secretary.

ON THE MATING OF ROUENS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF EXHIBITION STOCK.

BY D. BRAGG.

THE great aim of all waterfowl breeders is to produce size, and that most comprehensive property called quality, a combination most difficult to obtain. Exhibition Rouens must excel in this desired combination to come anything near the standard of perfection, so that great care must be exercised in the selection and mating of the breeding stock.

In the first place it is absolutely necessary to make a study of all the faults and failings most common with Rouen drakes and ducks, and guard against them. Their points of excellence are set forth in the recognised standard of the Waterfowl Club, which should be consulted and bred up to.