

# POULTRY • WEEKLY

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A LARGE amount of matter is unavoidably held over to admit of the publication of the prize winners at the more important shows and comments on the birds exhibited. To the beginner these reports may not be as interesting as to the fancier proper, but we will make amends bye-and-bye.

It is curious to note the different topics of conversation in the poultry house at exhibitions sometimes. At Toronto last year as we were standing looking at some Plymouth Rocks two youths came along and with a confident air were commenting on the exhibits. "Why," said one, "I have far better birds than those, and I did not think they were worth showing." "Yes," said his chum, "you have better birds and far better at that; why these birds are no good at all except to breed from." Not long after we heard a person remark that it was "such a trouble to keep these thorough breeds pure." "For," said he who was volunteering the information, "if the hens of one breed, hear a cock of a different variety crow, the chicks will be of a mixed breed." Well that was a "poser." We had previously a notion as to the difficulty of keeping birds pure, but we "live to learn" as the old adage says, and certainly we had not heard that fact(?) before. It may explain what we are pleased to call "fraud" on getting scrubs from breeders some times, in place of pure breeds.

## No Eggs to be Sold for Hatching.

WHERE is a movement on foot among fanciers to make a change in respect to the egg season, and that is to get as many of the breeders as they can, not to sell eggs for hatching. Whether this is a wise move remains to be seen: There is certainly much annoyance connected with it, and it is almost impossible for the breeders to satisfy all customers. When you are hatching a fair average at home, it is very discouraging to receive reports of "no chicks" from eggs sent out, and it frequently gives rise to suspicion of fraud; especially when you hear of some sent twice or three times the distance hatching well. In the desire to satisfy a disconsolate purchaser of eggs, the breeder may duplicate the sitting, to find out later on that there had been a fair hatch from the first lot of eggs. In fact if the complainant is a shrewd hand at it he can work on the feelings of the breeder pretty often with success, and such men are not nearly so scarce as we would like them to be. I have letters from where eggs had been sent and no hatch reported, a year after the purchaser wrote and asked for a cockerel to be sent as he had had no chicks from the eggs, but had "forgetten" to write to that effect at the time, although I sent addressed cards to do so. He was kind enough to say that he would pay the express on the cockerel himself; but he did not have to do so for some reason. This spring I sent out two half sittings of different varieties, and got report one chick. Having a friend near I requested him to enquire. He found four chicks of one kind and seven of another. What could have been done in this case without that enquiry. The most careful man may be "taken in" by these art-