

ternal ear. The labyrinth has only a rudimentary cochlea; the chain of ossicle is replaced in the middle ear by a single ossicle. Finally, the external ear is a single tube, very short, but notwithstanding these imperfections, the hearing of fowls is both acute and distinct.—STEPHEN BEALE, in the *Country Gentlemen*.

## PIGEONS

### NOTES.

We regret to learn that cats have been playing havoc with Mr. C. Massie's pigeons, it is very annoying to lose good birds in this way.

We had the pleasure one day last week of witnessing the performance of Mr. W. Hamell's, Toronto, kit of Rollers, the first really good kit of these interesting pigeons we have seen in Canada. Mr. Hamell first threw up for our edification twelve birds which got at once to a great height and rolled beautifully, after a time he opened the pigeon cote traps and let out about fifty, then the fun began in earnest.

We congratulate Mr. Hamell in being in possession of such a flock of uniform quality; about thirty are imported.

### THE SHOW ANTWERP.

BY F. T. MACHIN.

Of all the varieties of the pigeon tribe none has risen more rapidly into public favour than the Antwerp, nor have any kind emerged from comparative obscurity and become such general favourites. fanciers can well remember the time when the Antwerp indicated a low taste, an inferior conception of the beautiful and the valuable, and its admirers were derided for countenancing this commoner in company with the king of pigeons and his immediate and worthy followers—the chief of the so-called "high-class" varieties. But what

is the idea of Antwerps to-day? They have not soiled, spoiled, nor contaminated, supplanted nor diminished the appreciation of other kinds. No, certainly not. Why should they? On the contrary, they have unmistakably supplanted the ever-growing band of fanciers, and forced in upon and broken down the old-fashioned notions of certain enthusiasts, who could see no merit in the new-fangled Antwerp, only as a pie pigeon. The Antwerp has become appreciated by a wider circle, probably, than any other kind, being a bird of development. Up to his fifth year he is gradually on the improve, continuing to rise in favour until maturity is attained. Thus he keeps a hold upon our admiration over a term of years, whilst some other kinds (beautiful though they be) are fully blown and at their best at an early period of life.

The appreciation of Antwerps, I have shown, has been steady, and of certain and even rapid growth, and is still on the increase. Old England caught the fever, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales soon followed suit, and although I must admit a more tardy recognition of this breed on foreign shores, still it is clearly apparent that, although late in discerning their merits, there is an unmistakable sign that at length the show Antwerp is soon to be a variety of high merit, which commends itself sooner or later as a bird of interest, value, and beauty.

Antwerps, when first classified as show pigeons (about twenty-five years ago) were shown in pairs. The majority of these were of the short-faced type. Whatever were tolerated in the breeding pen, short-faces only were at that time recognised. Owl-headed ones were in abundance, and these in the early days were kindly looked upon as necessities for the development of the perfect ideal, then in its embryonic state, and, even as an ideal, scarcely recognised in its fullness as it is to-day, so that the distinctively short-faced type were the early pioneers of the

tribe. Now, it will be known, we have a distinct sub-division, viz., short, medium, and long, thus giving a chance to admirers of each kind; and, difficult as it at times appears in adjudicating upon them and drawing the oft-times very fine lines of distinction between these tribes of the one great family, still I believe in its wisdom, and warmly advocate its continuance. Indeed, it is a sub-division or classification which has (save the few inevitable exceptions of the captious critic) given complete satisfaction to all sections of admirers of this particular family group. Not only have the special features—short, medium, and long—been sub-divided, but at many shows the sexes also are specially and cleverly classified. Indeed, so popular has the Antwerp become, that at some few societies and shows he is the Alpha and Omega, and awakens such enthusiasm as would possibly scare some of our older brethren whose visions of pigeons have been prescribed to certain limits, and who constantly see the imaginary danger in extending a helping hand in the evolution of any other species. As I have stated, Antwerps are of three sub-varieties—short, medium, and long faced—"face" indicating the distance from the eye to the beak, and in the proportion to the length of face the different varieties possess, so are they classified short, medium, or long. The short-face partakes more of the bald-headed type. The head, whether viewed from front or sides, giving the appearance of being round and full; the medium and long are more of what is called the barrel-headed type, particularly the medium, which generally possesses a better back skull than the long. They are also of various colours silver duns, red-chequers, blues, blue-chequers, silver-chequers, black-chequers, creamies, and blacks, the four first named being the only kind recognised as show birds. The following are a few of the leading features of an Antwerp:—The head should be as large as possible; beak,