

Journal I will give you some more in another month, wishing you great success.

Yours Respectfully,

Toronto.

A. J. GROVES.

(Wolverhampton the 2nd.)

ORIENTAL FRILLED PIGEONS.

THE main stem represented by the Owl or Turbit type of Pigeon has, in the hands of those Eastern fanciers who either formed it, or, at least, handed it down from immemorial antiquity, branched off still further into even more beautiful sub-varieties. These are broadly distinguished from the foregoing by the addition of what we may perhaps call "feather" properties, using here the word "feather" as distinguished from merely "colour;" and implying marking of a more or less detailed character; and in most cases, also, by the addition of grouse or leg-feather, but all retaining the short Owl-like head, the shape of the body, and the frill. Most of these varieties, if not all, are exquisite beauty, and many can remember yet the furore when the first really good Satinettes arrived in England, shortly followed by other sub-types.

All of such birds that could be obtained were eagerly purchased; but too often disappointment followed in breeding them—the progeny being found to vary considerably. Hence man have ignorantly come to the conclusion that there is no such thing as a fixed type, and that because, for instance a pair of good Satinettes did not breed, as they often will not, similar Satinettes, the Satinette itself was but a mere "sport," and as such of no fixed value. But this

has all arisen from a total ignorance of the real nature of the breeds; and as we now, we believe for the first time, have opportunity to explain this so we hope a better understanding on that point may extend the cultivation of these exquisite birds which have all the properties of the Owl and Turbits, with added beauties of their own. To say nothing of the well-known fact, which surely ought to have been remembered, that even self-colours in Pigeons are to a great extent variable and interchangeable, it must be clearly understood, as a simple embodiment of what will follow from an abler pen than ours, that the whole Satinette and Blondinette tribe with their numerous offshoots, greatly resemble the Almond Tumbler in being the result of the mingling in one bird of three colours! The precise process by which this was accomplished no one now knows, any more than we know the precise history of the Tumbler; but as in that case the black, white, and yellow or red, which usually are found each alone in some one Pigeon, have somehow been infused into one breed, so have various colours, in still more beautiful, because more regular, forms, been mingled in the birds before us. In consequence, their breeding greatly resembles Tumbler breeding; and two exhibition matched specimens are rarely so good a match for one colour will show preponderance, which has to be checked by the infusion of others in greater strength; and, still resembling the Tumbler, it is these accidental preponderances, now of one colour or marking, and now of another, which form sub-varieties answering to the Mottle, the Agate, or the Kite.—(From "The Illustrated Book of Pigeons" for July.)

FOOD OF PIGEONS.

TRANSLATED FOR THE CALIFORNIA
CAKLER.

From a paper by F. Rodenbach, read before a society of Brussels, Belgium.

Fanciers are apt to abuse oleaginous grains. They give their birds, especially at the time of training, hemp, rape and other heating seeds, of which the use at any time cannot be too moderate. Some fanciers even have recourse to meat. This is all wrong, as these substances increase the animal heat of the pigeon, and increase the liability of illness; and the thirst is increased also, and the bird in traveling either suffers from inability to find water, or loses time in seeking it. The leguminous and foreign grains are eminently more wholesome. The preferable food during the flying season is, without doubt, the bean, vetch, maize and dried pea. Another abuse is of rock salt. Large lumps are left continually in the loft, and are daily sprinkled with water. The pigeon is inordinately fond of salt water, and in its use knows no moderation. A little salt is an aid to their digestion, as well as a gratification, but too much is disastrous, increasing the animal heat and producing emaciation. The ration of salt water should be small and given infrequently. Calcareous matter is indispensable to the health of the pigeon. Of this there is no better form than the broken shells of hen's eggs. These contain carbonate of lime, phosphate of lime and animal gluten.

The Wittouck preparation, as substitute for the old-time salt cat, is two parts old mortar and one part old red bricks, thoroughly broken and mixed together; add one part broken egg shells and a handful of green anise seed;