

the position of judge, who is wholly or partially unacquainted with these rules, having little or no practical knowledge of poultry or poultry judging, who forms his judgment in accordance with some crude ideal standard of his own and makes his awards accordingly, commits a very grave mistake indeed; he misleads the public,—he creates an erroneous impression in the mind of the exhibitor, and engenders a feeling of disgust in the mind of the true fancier against all competitive shows.

The Poultry Judges at the Provincial Exhibition did not, in our opinion, properly perform their duties; they were evidently quite incompetent to act as such. Prizes were given to specimens wholly unworthy of notice, and where disqualification should have been enforced, merit was awarded.

In the Light Brahma class of old birds there was not a single specimen shown worthy of notice; they were lank, lean, ill-shaped and bad-feathered; and yet a first and second prize was awarded. The first-prize pair was a mongrel between Dark and Light birds,—the owner of which admitted it, and laughed at the judges for their want of knowledge. In the chicken class, the first prize was awarded to a pair of Light birds, and the second to a pair of Dark ones—a reversal of the order of judging,—although the Light pair was passable enough for chickens—yet when placed in competition with Dark birds they were evidently inferior—the pair of Dark birds were of the variety known as Silver Greys, and the hen was remarkable for beauty of pencilling. In the Dark Brahma class there were but few competitors, we think only the pair that got the first prize; the birds were not perfect by any means. The Spanish variety were poor, and poorly represented. A fancier does not admire the judge for his knowledge of poultry who awards prizes to pens the cock

birds of which have crooked combs, partially frozen, a distinct line of feathering running along the root of the comb between it and the face—and in others a distinct line of marking showing where the feathers had been pulled out, and the face itself not free from blotches. Yet such were the birds in this class to which prizes were awarded. In the Cochin class there were few exhibitors of old birds, and therefore little difficulty in awarding prizes. A pair of Partridge-coloured birds took the first prize. In the Chicken class of this variety, however, the judges seem to have had no idea of what entitled birds to a prize. Much to our astonishment, we saw a first-prize ticket over a pen of birds not matched either in colour or markings. The cock bird was of dark buff, the hen of a very light buff, approaching a cinnamon—the contrast in colour was most perceptible. Yet a first prize was awarded. “Fie on thee, Cochin Punchard.” But what shall we say of the judging in the Aylesbury and Rouen Duck classes? In both classes the birds were small and ill-shaped, the bill of one of the Aylesbury ducks in the pen which took the first prize being quite blotched. In the Rouen class specimens were shown much more suitable for the any variety class. Hear this, ye breeders of Rouens; the first prize pair had the flight feathers of the wing, the tips of the tail and under the tail round the vent pure white or very nearly so—the bill ill-shaped and stained, and the whole markings of the body such as may be seen any day among the common class of ducks to be met with on every road-side pond. So much for the first prize, but what of the second? The specimens to which it was awarded were of a slaty-blue colour all over the body, and in the drake not the slightest approach to the appearance of the well-defined ring which in good specimens