

little lighter shading on the belly than on the back, but the nearer a specimen approaches the same even color all over, the nearer it is to perfection.

The next point to be considered is carriage.

This must be considered while the animal is in two different positions. The first is while standing, the animal being full of life and energy. The second, while lying down, the muscles being relaxed, and the whole system in repose.

In the first position, the rabbit should be upright, the legs spread well apart, the back curved, the eye full and protruding, and the whole ensemble of the animal being one of life and vigor.

The second position is exactly the reverse; the head should be low, resting upon a rich dewlap, which forms an elegant cushion for it; this in turn rests upon the fore paws, which are extended in front. The ears drop perpendicularly down to the floor, lying in rich folds upon it. The back is arched, sloping gradually to the neck, the hips are drawn close to the body, the hind part of the back extending a trifle above them; this portion of the back should be full two inches above the head.

The body of a rabbit should be well elongated, so as to give a graceful and symmetrical curve to the body between the highest portion of the back and the head, when the animal is in repose, and should not have a too precipitous fall. This is the writer's ideal of a lop-eared rabbit, and it is his constant endeavor to try and improve on the present animal, until it can be made to conform to his present ideal. That there is at present great room for improvement, there is no doubt. There is one thing, however, that should never be lost sight of, and that is, breeding in-and-in to any great extent will ruin the strain; and so we must sometimes sacrifice color for the sake of retaining prolific breeders—we must retard our fancy to maintain utility.

Looking forward to the day when this fancy, which is now in its infancy, shall become as general here as it is in England, I expect to see more perfect specimens at our own exhibitions than can be obtained abroad. The only pre-requisite is patience and a willingness to await results. This requires but as many months with our pets as it does years with larger cattle.—*W. L. B. in Fanciers' Monthly.*

A rabbit cat is a resident of Hartford. Its parents, brothers and sisters of various ages all preserve the peculiarities—tail short, ears more than usual length, hind legs decidedly rabbitly in appearance; gait, a hop; manner of feeding, sometimes the nibble of the rabbit, sometimes the gnaw of a cat. Is reported an excellent rat-ter.

## Human Nature.

### A TRUE INCIDENT.

Two little children five years old,  
Marie the gentle, Charlie the bold;  
Sweet and bright and quaintly wise,  
Angels both in their mother's eyes.

But you, if you follow my verse, shall see,  
That they were as human as human can be,  
And had not yet learned the maturer art  
Of hiding the "self" in the human heart.

One day they found in their romp and play,  
Two little rabbits soft and grey—  
Soft and grey, and just of a size,  
As like each other as your two eyes.

All day long the children made love  
To their dear little pets—their treasure-trove;  
They kissed and hugged them until the night  
Brought to the conies a glad respite.

Toq much fondling doesn't agree  
With the rabbit nature, as we shall see,  
For ere the light of another day  
Had chased the shadows of night away

One little pet had gone to the shades,  
Or, let us hope, to perennial glades  
Brighter and softer than any below—  
A heaven where good little rabbits go.

The living and dead lay side by side,  
And still alike as before they died;  
And it chanced that the children came singly to  
view

The pets they had dreamed of all the night  
through.

First came Charlie, and, with sad surprise,  
Beheld the dead with streaming eyes;  
Howe'er, consolingly, he said,  
"Poor little Marie—*Her rabbit's dead!*"

Later came Marie, and stood aghast;  
She kissed and caressed it, but at last  
Found voice to say, while her young heart bled,  
"I'm so sorry for Charlie—*His rabbit's dead.*"

CHEAP AND CERTAIN RAT POISON.—Take old corks, cut them up, fry them for a little while in grease, if you have fowls put the corks under the floors of your barns and outhouses, or in places your fowls do not frequent. Mr. Rat will finish the corks and the corks will finish Mr. Rat.

Priscilla says that when a hen crawls under the fence, she goes straight for the flower-beds, and scratches like the destruction. Well, the hen would have done the same thing if she had flown over the fence.