

2nd prize pen also, and while the one I had judged 1st scored thirteen more points than the 2nd prize pen, but giving the male bird credit for half the pen, changed the award, for the average female score added to full score of the cock gave 1st to the pen that had been placed 2nd, at a look and a say. As I say above, scoring gives each exhibitor full value of the merit he offers; the old way is simply guess-work.

In large classes, say forty pens, the ten best pairs should be scored, and let the high-st score win. He who pre-judges which is best, scoring them, and scores the balance to them, makes a farce of the system. He bends the *Standard* to his old foggy way of business, instead of letting the *Standard* honestly designate which of the class is best. When you see a man in scoring constantly comparing birds, you can set him down as not judging by the *Standard*, but making the farce of scoring back up his open judging. A good judge can of his honest score-card show wherein a bird that looks mode ' beside another is a better bird in points.

Again, scoring cuts down all hobbies. One goes crazy on neck hackle. In this he can at most only be perfect. In other points, if he fail, the hackle will do the breeder no good; but such a judge, if the specimen excelled in this, would be led to do injustice to a bird that failed in this respect. The *Standard* forces him to give credit for all merit, no matter where found. I saw a cock, nearly perfect in all but hackle, in an exhibition, and he would score 93½ points; a noted judge cut the bird 7 points in this to prevent him winning, when 6 is all that is admitted as color; 3 would have been a fair cut; and the show-card showed the malice and injustice.

Exhibitions should charge enough entry fee so all first-class birds can be scored. Score-cards are a satisfaction to the exhibitor, they give the birds not winning a value equal to the winner in the same proportion as they score less. There is no justice in a bird selling for \$100.00 because it won at 93½ points, and one scoring 93 points, but failing to win, selling for \$3.00 or \$10.00. It is true, the bird that wins will sell for less than in the old way; it is also true the score system raises the five best that failed to win more than one hundred per cent. The old system gives the prestige to one individual or a ring; the score system serves all alike, impartially showing the true merit and value of stock exhibited.

I. K. FELCH.

Natick, Mass., April 8th, 1884.

I thank Mr. Felch for the satisfactory and very clear manner in which he has answered those questions. Indeed it is plain that he has not only answered the questions, but has been kind enough

to give intelligent reasons for every answer, and in my opinion, these reasons, based upon experience and intelligent observation, for which he has had abundant opportunities, are unanswerable.

I do not wonder, nor am I disappointed, to find that Mr. Felch differs from me in my already expressed opinions on some points, as, for instance, in having names on coops, but theory must always be somewhat modified in practice. But it can be easily understood that where a complete-report is given, such as the score card affords, the whole aspect of the case is changed. I do most heartily concur in opinion with Mr. Felch in all points, for I think them reasonable and practical, but I am most pleased to find that it is practicable to score the whole show; for what has been done can be done. I believe one grand feature here is that our shows will become better educative mediums, and will give better satisfaction to exhibitors in general. How many men have gone away from a show dissatisfied and discouraged, if not disgusted, who, if they had a score-card, and the true cause of their failure pointed out, would have gone away satisfied, and with fresh determination. Especially is this the case with beginners; they are not in a position to find out the defects which deprived their birds of the coveted tickets, for evidently they are not aware that these defects exist or they would not, probably, have had them on exhibition. When any reasonable man takes his score-card and looks over his specimens, and finds where the defects are, and that they do really exist, how can he be dissatisfied or displeased if they are really defective in these points? Mr. Felch has plainly and clearly pointed out the remedy. Another reason for having all scored is, those who fail to win a prize have just as much right to the full benefit of the show as the winners—I mean educationally—and in the majority of cases more need. Surely if they miss the chief inducement, the prizes, no one will deny them the right to have every chance given them to learn. The prize winner cannot do without them, then why deny them some and as much compensation for their money as possible?

But I do hope some means will be adopted to get the mind of the fancy on this subject. I have received, and am receiving, scores of letters in which the writers urge the keeping up of the agitation, and declaring concurrence, but nearly all say, "We can't write." Can't something be suggested? I have a suggestion to offer, but would like to hear from some others of the brethren. We cannot all meet, therefore we shall have to make use of our friend, the *Review*, with your consent, Mr. Editor.

Yours sincerely,

STANLEY SPILLETT.

Lefroy, April 27th, 1884.