

whether the exhibitor *bred* the bird or bought it.

It is only fair that each *breeder*—not mere speculative sportsman—should have the honor due his efforts. If I exhibit a bird winning a prize, it is not an injury to me to state, "I purchased the bird or the eggs from breeder A. or B. If the bird is the result of my own efforts in mating, &c., it should be known.

For reasons, in particular, I offer in support of this motion:

1. It would prevent the vexations arising from the purchase of eggs and stock from fanciers whose reputation rests on show birds purchased from other men. There are those whose prizes are nearly all from birds bought, or from eggs purchased from other breeders. It is not wrong that this should be done. It is right that such should be known, for the result from eggs purchased from the yards of these fanciers are not always conducive to success nor good feeling.

2. Because the breeder should be distinguished from the sporting fancier. The results of the fancier are largely chance; that is, accidental combinations producing occasional good birds. The breeder works along definite lines. His work is as sure as possible to those who know how much uncertainty there is in reproduction.

The general benefits that would arise from this regulation are so evident that I need not pause to name them.

One more note—I may call it a corollary to the preceding. The fraternity should clearly define between prize birds and breeding birds. They are not only not essentially the same, but may be radically different. Two high-scoring birds *may* be very unfit to mate, though excellent to show what true mating can do.

One needs to mate on the same principle that the jumper goes back somewhat from the line. He goes back to gather spring to *reach* the mark. One may breed so as to go beyond the mark, in *some one point*. That is a defect from superabundance. To excel perfection is gross imperfection.

This is one of the results from the purchase of stock or eggs that are not reliably bred. It is the same in poultry as all other stock. Take the horse, for instance. How much harm has been done by men foolishly breeding from some chance stud.—An occasional good colt, but many weeds.

H. W. KNOWLES.

Chesterville, Ont., Aug. 1st, 1885.

Those who have tried it say that fences made of wire netting do not require to be built very high to restrain even the most active fowls. Two feet to two feet six inches of close boarding around the bottom, with three feet of netting above it, will be found sufficient. The fowls will confine their efforts to the top of the board part, and will not try to fly over the wire.

## The Hatching Season.

Editor Review.

This season has been as fruitful as last and season before last in complaints of unsuccessful hatching operations. Indeed it seems to me we have such complaints every year, but this year we have more than formerly. I feel confident that the percentage of loss has not been greater than in former years, but the number of fanciers is greatly increasing, and the circulation of the REVIEW is also increasing, consequently we receive more reports.

There are many who, after a bad breeding season, are unable to give any good reason why they have been unsuccessful, and after racking their brains for a cause, and finding none, give up the search in disgust, and console themselves with the idea that something hidden and uncontrollable, some mysterious, omnipresent enemy or disease strangely fatal to embryo and infantile poultry has been battling against them, and having arrived at this conclusion, they very soon after arrive at another, to the effect that "There is a great deal of luck about the poultry business anyway, and the bulk of it comes to them in the shape of bad luck."

Of course there are many who, after such experience, become the more determined to overcome the obstacles to successful poultry breeding, but there are many more who become discouraged, and conclude from their experience that there is no money in the poultry business, or that they are unfitted for it. It is not to be expected that everybody will be a success as a poultry breeder, neither can everybody succeed in mercantile or professional pursuits. We have merchant princes whose every venture in the commercial world seems to turn into gold, but who would, in all probability, make a terrible bungle of the poultry business, and *vice versa*. We have poultry fanciers who thoroughly understand everything pertaining to poultry, and never tire of ministering to the wants of their pets, but who are anything but a success in commercial pursuits. I do not mean to say that a successful business man cannot be a successful poultry breeder, neither do I contend that a successful poultryman cannot be a successful merchant. It seems to me that every man is born to a certain vocation, and until he strikes the right track he makes a failure of everything. And this applies to the poultry business as much as to any other pursuit. There are many who try it, find they cannot succeed, and quietly drop out, to search for "other pastures green."

But I am digressing from the subject that I intended writing about. Formerly I used to