

separated, and then when distinction is really important they can no longer be traced with certainty. This difficulty must be obviated by indelible private marks. It is often a good plan, when a race is vigorous and is known not to have been closely in-bred to mate a peculiarly handsome bird directly with its parent. This may astonish some of our readers, and is directly contrary to the advice to be read in most poultry books; but we could quote many instances of its good results. We especially have in mind a splendid strain of Dark Brahmas thus begun. Some characteristic beauty may thus be strongly stamped on a family, which may be kept up for generations. Of course such a succession must not be frequently resorted to, but through it first and second cousins will come of much the same type, and they again can be mated together for its perpetuation. It is well to note down to whom the best of our stock go. We have more than once refreshed our strains by buying some birds back of them for the sake of fresh blood, which course we prefer to introducing absolutely "raw" crosses. There are unfortunately some breeds of which it is almost absolutely necessary to keep up two strains if we desire to please the judges in both sexes. We have often inveighed against this system, and do not now care to return to the charge; suffice it to say that we believe it has done more to puzzle and disgust young fanciers than anything else. In the case of these breeds we fancy that careful selections and gradual drawing together as it were of the two strains, may in time produce a race from which both sexes may be produced in excellence. We certainly have known this done in a renowned yard of Dark Brahmas, and also to some extent in a not unsuccessful one of Golden Pencilled Hamburgs. The result of a systematic attempt to work up a strain is year by year seen more clearly, and cannot but be a source of much satisfaction to a genuine fancier; instead of a multitude of young birds of many types, few good and many bad, every year greater uniformity in the desired points is seen, and it becomes unnecessary to breed a great number from which to select; this reacts for the good of those that are reared, and gives them greater size and vigour; for this and quick development there is nothing like rearing poultry in small numbers. We shall only be too pleased if these very general hints about strains should induce some young fanciers to set about working up any one breed to a high standard of merit. And we are sure that his occupation may be made profitable as well as pleasurable.—*C. in J of H, and C. G.*

A liberal application of whitewash to all parts of the hen-house this month, will keep them free from lice for the next two,—then repeat.

American Poultry Association.

Continued.

Mr. Felch said that four-fifths of all the Black Polish had feathers tinged with white. He wished that white should not be considered a disqualification either with this breed or the Black Hamburgs. He thought this strictness kept the attractive Black Polish away from the shows, and that the disqualification be stricken out, and the matter of disqualification be left to the option of the judges.

Moved and carried that resolutions 9 and 16 be left to a committee to report at next session.

No. 10. *Resolved*, That the Golden or Silver Polish, plain or bearded, have the words "absence of wing-bars" added to their disqualifications.

A letter from Mr. Bolton was read advocating the resolution. "I thought that the wing-bar had added much to the appearance of the bird. Resolution rejected.

No. 11. *Resolved*, That the disqualification for White Polish, plain or bearded, be inserted "feathers other than pure white," substituting the word "feathers" for "color" as more definite.

Carried without discussion.

No. 12. The old committee on pigeons was continued, consisting of Messrs. S. J. Bestor, John C. Long and E. A. Moore, to whom was referred the Simpson Standard when out.

Committee absent and no report sent.

Mr. Williams said that the association has always tried to procure a pigeon Standard and had deferred from year to year to Mr. Simpson.

Mr. Simpson has donated his completed Pigeon Standard to the National Columbarian Society. Mr. Williams thought a committee should be appointed to buy the copyright or the books at wholesale of the present owners. He thought Mr. Simpson a man of great liberality, and that he had great respect for the American Association. He moved that such a committee be appointed.

Mr. Williams was appointed a committee of one for this purpose.

No. 13. Mr. Halsted gave notice that he proposed a general disqualification clause for the Standard. This clause will soon be printed and sent to each member of this Association.

Mr. Halsted said that at a later period in the proceedings he would present said clause.

No. 14. Report of committee on examination of candidates for judgeships; Messrs Daniel Allan, C. A. Sweet, I. K. Felch, W. T. Fenton and E. C. Aldrich.

Mr. Williams called to the chair. Mr. I. K. Felch offered the report of committee as follows:

Resolved, that all applicants for judgeships shall make applications in writing to the Association, stating the varieties upon which they desire a cer-