

to, to keep the animals small, they would not be so ready to insist on diminutive Dutch.

We come next to the question of colour and markings. This is of very great importance. The main colour may be either black, blue, grey, fawn, yellow, silver-gray, tortoiseshell, or lemon, but the markings must be most regular, and after fixed styles. These are of two sorts, the old and the new, or the broad and the narrow.

Mr. Mason, whose opinion on all questions caniculine is worthy of regard, in an excellent paper on the Dutch rabbit gives the following table of the comparative points:—

NARROW-COLLAR DUTCH.

	POINTS.
Blaze	5
Collar	5
Markings on feet	3
Colour	3
Size and shape	2
Condition and general appearance.	2

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BROAD-COLLAR DUTCH.

	POINTS.
Blaze	4
Collar, evenness round the body..	3
Collar, evenness round the head .	3
Marking on feet	3
Colour	3
Size and shape	2
Condition and general appearance.	2

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It will be observed that in the new or narrow style he allows five points for blaze and five for collar, while collar takes six, and blaze four in the old style. The reason of this is that the blaze is a much more difficult matter in the former than in the latter.

The old style of Dutch is very fine, and is rather more common than the new one. We will endeavour to describe a perfect Dutch of this sort, although we seldom, if, indeed, ever, saw one. A stray hair or two spoils a Dutch completely, and that trimming should be resorted to by unprincipled fanciers is the natural result.

(To be continued.)

THE AFRICAN OWL.

If you attempt to breed owls, especially Africans, you must exercise good judgement in selecting your stock at the start. They should be gotten small and of the true type and as a natural consequence must be of delicate constitution; but this point while not desirable in one sense it is in another, for where will you find a thorough high class African Owl possessing the properties of the breed that is not delicate? Some years ago I got the Owl craze (and in fact it has never left me to this day) and nothing would suit me but to invest \$20.00 in a pair of White Africans which I purchased in Philadelphia. Knowing nothing of the breed I put them in the same coop with my Antwerps and Pouters, and before a week I found they did not appear to thrive and gradually became weak and droopy, so that I was compelled to remove them to another coop and watch them very carefully. A few days after having changed their quarters the hen laid her eggs and commenced to hatch. The cock bird, I might state, was a very small bird with extremely short head and beak, and his wings carried below the tail like an Almond Tumbler. The hen was a very pretty bird but was larger and more coarse in head point than the cock. They sat over the time for hatching so I examined the eggs and found each fertile but having a deformed young one in each egg and dead in the shell. After about two weeks time they layed again and at the end of time for incubation the same trouble occurred as was noticed with the first eggs. The next time they had eggs I put them under another pair of good close sitters and excellent nurses, but the result was just the same. This so provoked me that I sold them at a sacrifice to a dealer and never attempted to breed them again for several years. I found in five years experience in breeding White African Owls that they were a

decidedly artificial breed, hard to rear and much harder to match perfectly. Hens in nine cases out of ten are the smaller and more delicate birds, the cocks rather coarse in head points and larger, so I determined to see what could be accomplished in the way of reducing the size and improving the head and beak properties of the breed for I had the ideal African Owl as the hens were concerned, and what was puzzling my brain now was the opposite sex. I set about looking up a small cock and finally obtained a fairly good bird and mated him to a gem of a hen and after a months time I had a fine little pair of youngsters in the nest and now how to rear them was the question. As Eaton quaintly puts it "It is one thing to hatch a Nonpareil and quite another to rear it." This was found true, for while I reared this pair of young, they were the only pair of five pairs hatched afterwards. Breeding short head and beak birds without a good staff of nursing birds is an absolute impossibility, and this point is very often overlooked by fanciers until it is too late. Carefully select your birds from the finest strains no matter what they may cost, your reputation is worth far more than money. Mate the birds but not before studying the points in each sex, and aiming to improve in same way. This is the grand step towards the mark of success no matter what variety you may fancy.

Avis, the b

Pittsburg, Pa.

BUDGERIGAR OR SHELL PARROT.

From the Amateurs Aviary by Dr. T. Greene.

This charming little bird is a deservedly general favorite, no less for the beauty of its plumage than its gentleness, and the readiness with which it adapts itself to avairy life, often being in captivity under the most favourable combination of circumstances, i. e. in a common canary breeding