

# POULTRY ♥ WEEKLY

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EDITOR.

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## Thoroughbreds vs Scrubs.

WE have received a communication re the advisability of allowing mongrels to compete for honors in the show room, and our correspondent suggests a laying contest between scrub and thoroughbred hens. He thinks it "would be very interesting, and give people an idea of the relative values of the stock." The plan suggested has been proposed more than once before now, but there are many things that render such a course impossible. Suppose we allow "good looking, well kept scrub birds, of good size" as the writer referred to suggests, to compete, there is no possibility of them winning, for when you place a lot of birds of nondescript style in competition with classes of birds of described style and plumage, the result must be in favor of the latter, no matter how handsome a scrub cock or hen may appear as it roams in and about the farm-yard, at the show in competition with thoroughbreds, it comes in immediate contact with birds of as rich and richer coloring, twice its size, and the class being represented by several specimens of nearly equal merits, the solitary scrub is, so to speak, "nowhere," he appears at once insignificant and without type, and his apparent superiority when viewed as an individual bird in his own yard, is com-

pletely overshadowed by the superiority of the many good birds of fixed type. rich color, immense size, majestic carriage and good condition he is brought in contact with in the exhibition classes. Another reason that prevents scrubs from competing is that the difficulty of saying decidedly which is the handsomest of such a varied class is unsurmountable we have specimens of white, black, buff, black and white, and a medley of rich colors, all competing together, all else being equal, the contest would resolve itself into a question of which colour the judge preferred, he having nothing else to guide him, and the conditions being nearly the same in all. The "egg contest" question is still more difficult how could we possibly put hens into competition layers? It is impossible for many reasons, to arrive at even the "ghost" of a conclusion as to their merits as layers, by this novel scheme. For instance suppose your scrub, and fancy hens are both laying well, and you decide to enter into the competition with them. the journey and change of diet and habits, will almost certainly put them off laying, and the excitement of the show will keep up the disturbing cause. No matter how the hens may be credited with an egg record before the show they will fall back when there, of that you may be sure. Again some hens may be near the end of their clutch of eggs, and others may be in their prime of laying; and even supposing the hen that laid the most eggs got the prize for it; that test is no guarantee of her laying qualities, for she may not lay well all the season; but wins the prize by laying so many eggs during that stated few