

bird could appease its hunger or satiate its thirst. Picture a pair of birds drinking water out of a pail held on the outside of the wires of the pen, by its owner, or a duck or a goose endeavoring to peck up dry grain off the bottom of its pen, without a drop of water to assist it in swallowing it, and a fair idea will be formed of the comfortable arrangements made in the poultry department of the late exhibition.

But it will be said that exhibitors were or ought to have been aware of this. The Agricultural Society never did provide drinking cups for the fowls, nor persons to attend them while on exhibition: therefore, exhibitors had no reason to expect it. Exactly so; and that is a reason why many excellent specimens were not entered at all, and several that were entered not sent. An exhibitor did not feel disposed to go off to the Exhibition grounds every morning with a bag of grain or other food on his shoulder, and a drinking-cup for his fowls in his hand, and, thus decorated, jostle his way through the surging crowd to the poultry pens; and yet, to save his birds from starving he had to do so, or pay a person to perform the duty for him. Is it to be wondered at, then, that the poultry department of the Exhibition was a decided failure? and will it for a moment be imagined that a continuance of such management will insure future Exhibitions better success? Certainly not. There must be a thorough and complete change in the management before confidence is restored and success insured.

It is not our intention at present to enumerate separately the various points of mismanagement of this part of the Exhibition, so conspicuous to those acquainted with shows of the kind, or to point out in what way they could be rectified. Our main object is to call attention to the fact that the fowls shown at the recent Exhibition must

not be taken as representative specimens of the present poultry of the Province; that very few pens of really good birds were to be found there, while hundreds of others were kept at home by their owners; and that this was wholly due to a want of confidence in the management of the persons in charge—the Agricultural Society—a knowledge of the want of attendants to look after the birds while on exhibition—a want of knowledge of who the judges would be, and a complete want of confidence in the ability of the Agricultural Society to appoint poultry judges capable of discharging their duties as such.

#### POULTRY JUDGING AT THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

In all classes of society are to be found certain persons ever ready to undertake duties the performance of which they are totally unfit for, and chief among these may be numbered the poultry judges at the late Provincial Exhibition. The duties of a judge at a competitive exhibition, is, as we understand it,—to form an opinion,—to bring to issue the reasonings or deliberations of the mind on two or more distinctive objects presented to view at the same time, and whichever comes up to or nearest some standard, whether ideal, or fixed by arbitrary rules, should be awarded the place of distinction. To be assigned the position of judge, then, presupposes a knowledge of the duties imposed; to assume it, a declaration of capability to perform them.

Happily for us, in poultry judging the standard is not ideal, but fixed by well defined rules, thus enabling the judge with little difficulty to point out which of the specimens shown are up to or approach nearest that degree of merit entitling them to a first or second class prize.

The individual, then, who undertakes