

best. Both peas and beans should be of a ripe age, but not shrivelled or worm eaten. Grey peas are the best.

Changes from one diet to another, such as from beans to peas, should be made very gradually, a sudden change may put the digestive organs of every bird in the loft out of order. Raw rice is also a good food to give occasionally during the breeding season. It helps birds to give their young a good "fill," which would otherwise be only half fed. This, however, should not be used as a staple food, neither should hemp seed, as it is too heating and contains too much oil, but a handful may be thrown among the pigeons now and then with beneficial effects, both during winter and summer. Hemp is also useful in getting birds to mate quickly.

Small seeds, such as canary, rape and millet, are useful for sick birds, and as an occasional treat. A few handfuls of these will often induce bad feeders to give their young a plentiful feed.

There is one thing that is frequently neglected, that is, providing a proper supply of green food. There is no doubt but that they eat it largely in a natural state. Garden stuff of any kind, especially lettuce, is good, but it should not be given at all unless it is given regularly; if you give them green food one day and then deny them of it for a week or more they are apt to gorge themselves with it, and bring on disorder.

All food should be fed from hoppers, so that the old breeding birds may have free access to it at all times. If hand fed the young are liable to suffer if there should be any delay in feeding.

The foregoing food, with a regular supply of good clean water and plenty of old mortar, gravel, and salt, should keep your birds in the "pink of condition."

I may just mention that pigeons (as indeed all birds) are very fond of powdered cuttle fish bone. It is good for them medicinally, as it contains sea salt and many salts of a beneficial kind.

Next as to

MATING.

It is often hard to distinguish the sexes, but a cock may generally be known by his loud "rump" as it is called. The head of a cock is usually thicker and rounder on the top than that of a hen, and the vent bones a little narrower, but there is no positive method of distinguishing a cock from a hen, though these signs are generally correct. A proper mating pen should be provided. That is, a large cage with a wire division made to run in grooves. Put the cock in one side of the cage and hen you intend mating to him in the other. After leaving them this way for a few days (three or four is generally sufficient) to get used to each others society, the partition separating them may be re-

moved, and, as a rule, they will generally settle down at once, and may be safely put into the loft in a day or two. When there is any difficulty in mating it is in most cases the fault of the hen. If she is a strong bird she may beat and worry the cock till he is cowed and gives over wooing. In a case of this kind put the cock alone in the mating pen, feeding him with a little hempseed, and keep the hen for a day or two in a dark and rather small pen, giving her also a little hemp. After the lapse or a few days if she is turned in to the cock he will always subdue her.

I think this is all I have to say this month. Will try and say a few words next month on breeding.

H. B. DONOVAN.

Toronto, March 14th, 1883,

Canary Breeding and Poultry Societies.

Editor Review.

DEAR SIR,—Being a constant and interested reader of the REVIEW, I have never had the pleasure of reading a single line on Canaries. With respect to these beautiful melodists forming a distinct part in poultry shows I can only say it would, in my opinion, greatly swell the entry list, and be quite an acquisition to poultry societies. No expense is incurred in providing cages, for the birds would be sent to the exhibition in their own cages, (mostly new made for the occasion), which have only to be arranged on the stage provided, and nothing would draw more quarters, or exceed this department in beauty and interest. To breeders especially it would be a treat, rich and rare, to gaze upon a number of cages of fine bred Canaries.

Being a canary breeder myself, I may, perhaps, take more interest in the subject than others, but it is my firm conviction, that if a separate department was made in the poultry societies for canaries, and if breeding them in this country was more generally entered into, the societies would flourish better, and it would be the means of bringing into the societies many who do not breed poultry or take any interest in them. It has been truly ascertained that

When birds of a feather are gathered together,
Well clothed in their colors so bright,
'Tis a sight worth seeing by each human being,
Not only by day but by night.

The importation of canaries to this country is carried on to a large extent, many thousands of these beautiful warblers being brought from Germany, principally by the dealers. But the birds mostly brought to America for breeding purposes are Belgians, Glasgow Dons or Scotch Fancys, Manchester Coppies, Norwich Fancies, &c. The German canary, from the fact of his early forced training for song, being much too delicate to with-