

others throughout the country were feeling similarly.

But one should not expect too much of so recent a variety as this. He must be prepared to meet some disappointments for several years to come. There probably will be "culls" to kill in most of the broods. But if one will persevere, killing the culls, breeding only from the better specimens, the time does not seem to be far distant when the buff Wyandotte will be a formidable rival to the popular white, whether one is seeking a fowl for business or for pleasure.

BUFF ROCKS—THE BIRDS THAT ARE.

BY R. H. ESSEX, TORONTO.

IT would be superfluous for me to argue that buff Rocks are the leading variety of the day, or to rehearse their many superior attributes, which have so often been discussed by the breeders before whom this will come.

The old saying "Every dog has its day," applies equally well to fowls; they all have their day. The Leghorn that has been so much improved since its importation, the light Brahma that has changed so much in style, the Minorca that even now is struggling to hold its own, and the barred Rock that has always held its own—and more too—they have all had their day, and now it is our turn with the buff Rocks. It needs no reiteration to convince the poultry fraternity of America of the truth of my headlines—"Buff Rocks—The Birds That ARE."

Long may they continue.

This wish, I believe, is the basis upon which the Buff Rock Club is erected, and, in perpetuating the worth and popularity of the breed, much depends on individual action of our members.

The Buff Rock Club will be the biggest specialty organization in America and will have great influence on the future of the bird, members will, therefore, see the necessity for great care in forwarding its interests.

It is a new variety of the Rock, and, therefore, not yet perfect. It should be the endeavor of breeders to continually and carefully place before the purchasing public, not only the bird's beauties, but its present defects.

Many a prospective breeder has been disheartened

and driven from the ranks by an incomplete or mistaken description of birds he has purchased. This has reference to every variety of fowl. How very important then, in a new variety, to correctly state every defect.

Prospective breeders of buff Rocks, before purchasing, have convinced themselves that these are the birds they want, these are the birds they must have. They have decided there is money in them, they have reckoned on a big demand, and therefore a profitable investment; they may or may not, have decided that the breed is perfect. How much better for us that they should know the present standing of the buffs, rather than have their anticipations unfulfilled, which, as I have said, often results in their retreat from the ranks, which is a loss to us all.

It is no use beating about the bush. We all encounter one or more deficiencies, and we all find it an impossibility to satisfy the inevitable buyer who wants an "all buff" bird for \$5 or so. This expectant gentleman is not always to blame.

I have just received from one of the most prominent firms in the country, a catalogue which, speaking of their buff Rocks, says:

"They are noted for their perfection of color, size, and symmetry. All birds sold by us are guaranteed true to type. "They are solid buffs."

These advertisers, without doubt, are going too far, and likely, quite unintentionally. "Solid buffs," if I understand English, means buff wings and tail; the word "solid" suggests "throughout" in this case. If it were limited to surface color it would be so stated. Such thoughtless advertisements are not only injuring the business of the advertiser, but they place every breeder in the unenviable position of having to reply to the queries of many such correspondents as I have mentioned, who want "solid buff" birds. They say, "Mr. So and So has them, and if you haven't you're behind the times."

I have, therefore, thought it well to state my knowledge of the present standing of buff Rocks, and hope it may instruct those who otherwise might expect too much of us. In order that this may have due weight, it may be necessary to state that, although I have encountered at different times all the defects I mention, it is not an experience of mine alone. The best stock