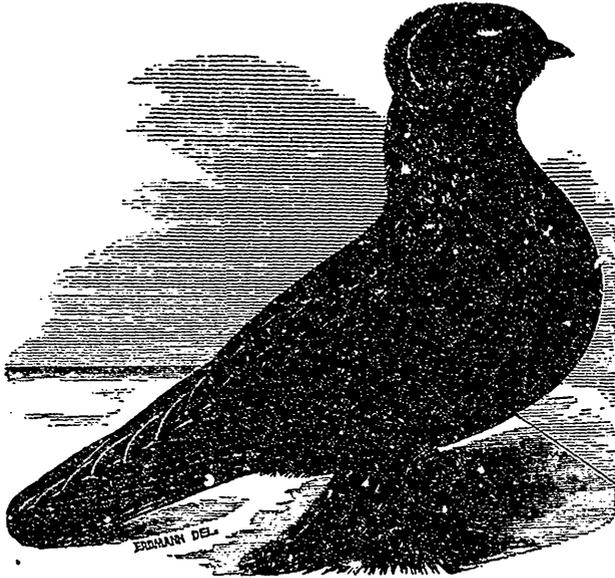


and water, and no dirt, seems to be the standing rule of the establishment. They are as careful what specimens they breed from as are blood horse or Shorthorn breeders, and use for parents such birds as are prize winners, or such as are good enough for prize winners. Prize cards are tacked up all over their premises, in vast numbers—thousands—showing how successful they have been at bird shows. They purchase many more birds than they breed themselves. They handled last year 15,000 birds.

The people who breed canaries in Norwich are weavers, shoemakers, tailors, basket-makers and such like mechanics, whose employment keeps them at home, where they can give constant attention to their birds. It is estimated there are about 2,000 of this class of people who breed Can-

well as I do, and, as for the value of a superior specimen and a probable prize winner, £10, £20 and £30 are not unheard of prices." Messrs. Mackley sold one, a Crystal Palace prize winner, for £50, that is, in round figures, \$250.

The Canaries bred at Norwich are Lizards, Cinnamons, Belgians, Lancashire, and Yorkshire varieties, also Goldfinch, Siskin and Linnet mules. All the different breeds of Canaries are easily detected by their different style. The real Norwich Canary is in shape something like the English Robin—very much the shape of our little bluebird—a plump little round bird. The Belgian is a long slender bird—a good illustration of him was given in the November number of the Review. The other breeds have their own peculiar characteristics. The breeding of mules is generally man-



The Trumpeter Pigeon.

aries in the city. Some only put up a pair of birds to breed from, others several pairs. An average of perhaps 20,000 Canaries is raised by these people. In the winter evenings these small breeders make up their cages and get things ready for the spring, when they mate their birds. They are generally improvident and like their beer, so when work is slack their Canaries often keep the wolf from the door. They get usually 5s, which is \$1.25, per pair for young birds, but for extra specimens they get more according to the quality. Mr Mackley showed me three birds he paid £10 each for, and two of these were bred by one man, a shoemaker, and were then only a few weeks old. I asked him if he did not sometimes get such birds in the common lots. "Not a bit of it," he said, "the men who breed know a good bird when only a few weeks old as

aged by putting the male Goldfinch, Linnet or Siskin with the female Canary, and their young are sometimes excellent songsters, and when the desired standard is reached are very valuable. Sometimes mules resemble both parents, again they will be more like either one, in which case an amateur could scarcely detect they were mules. The English Goldfinch is very much like the American wild Canary, (whose proper name is Goldfinch,) is more beautifully plumaged, and is a fine singer. The Linnet is a quiet-colored bird, something like our little ground sparrow. The Siskin is not unlike our little Chickadee. The Linnet and Siskin are both good songsters. The Goldfinch seems to be the favorite for mule breeding, and so much is he sought for that this bird has become quite scarce in parts of England, where,