

## Pigeon and Pet Stock Department,

Edited by

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To whom all communications, items of news, &c., on these subjects should be addressed.

### Notes.

Mr. Chas. Massie, of Port Hope, writes us that he has had splendid success with his Pigeons this season.

Mr. G. H. Parish, late of London, has moved to Ottawa, where he intends to go in for Pigeons more strongly than ever.

We learn that Mr. J. W. Jones, of Utica, N. Y., has imported a large kit of birds from Mr. Ure, of Pouter fame, including some of his best birds.

Won't our pigeon and cage bird men come to the front in larger numbers this season? The exhibits at the various exhibitions last season were exceedingly slim.

At the Crystal Palace (the national show of England) held during the last month, the entries for pigeons amounted to 2,747, rabbits numbering about 300. Pouters alone totalled up some 300 pens.

We understand from the secretary of the Listowel show that the classes for pigeons and pet stock will remain as last year, at the coming show, to be held immediately after the Ontario. Other shows offering classes for pet stock will be noted as soon as prize lists are received.

At the Ontario Poultry Association's show, to be held in Guelph during the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th of January, 1886, pigeons are provided for as follows: Carriers, 6 classes; Pouters, 6; Tumblers, 4; Barbs, 4; Antwerps, 8; Fantails, 4; and 2 classes each for Trumpeters, Jacobins, Archangels, Nuns, Owls, Turbits, and any other variety, with prizes of 1st \$1.50, 2nd \$1.00. The classification remains the same as last year, with a slight reduction in the Pouter and Carrier classes, the prizes for these last year being 1st, \$2.00; 2nd, \$1.00; 3rd, 50 cents. We are pleased to see a few classes added for cage birds, viz., 1st, \$1.00; 2nd, 50 cents, for the following: Belgian Canary Cock, do Hen; any other variety Cock, do Hen; Goldfinch, Grey Parrot, Green Parrot. Classes are also provided for pairs of Pheasants, Gold, Silver and English; Lop-eared Rabbits, and Rabbits of any other variety. Mr. J. O. Weidon is to officiate as judge.

## The Angora Rabbit.

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Sometimes we have persuaded a doe to use bits of soft linen, torn into lengths, and in this case it is found that the doe generally robs herself a little less. The young are soon covered with a silky-white down, which increases in length and thickness, the bushiness being apparent after a few weeks. The fur gradually improves in quality and quantity till the age of five or six months, by which time a well-bred Angora will be covered with masses of wool hanging all about the body and head in regular rolls or curls. The animal keeps in show condition without very much change, except at moulting times, or when a doe has torn the wool off her body too freely for the nest. The Angora is thus seen to be an animal which can be relied upon, and one specimen often takes a very large number of prizes. The effect of over showing is to give the rabbit rather a ragged appearance, and to make the wool knotted and dirty; chiefly owing to its hard usage on the part of the express companies.

Long ears inclined to lop are not uncommon even in well-bred specimens, because a little warmth is found to hasten the growth of the wool and to make it softer and more fleecy; the same warmth causes the ears to grow a little, and weakens the muscles which hold them up, so that it is no uncommon thing, as we said, to find some very well-bred Angoras slightly lopped. Still, few fanciers would say in consequence of this that lopping is an essential, or even a pardonable offence in the breed under discussion.

Angoras are certainly very well suited for keeping together in large numbers, owing to their quiet disposition; but it is an exceedingly bad plan to allow more than one doe to be in the breeding-hutch at once. Double breeding-hutches seldom answer well, and are but very rarely adopted.

When Angoras are kept in large numbers, the wool might perhaps be sold at a profit. The plan to be adopted is to comb the rabbits three or four times a year, preserving carefully the wool. The process should not be resorted to in the winter months, for fear of giving the rabbit a chill, and for the same reason the wool should never be cut off, as we have sometimes seen recommended. For our own part we have never sold our wool, but we have combed three or four times a year, and have given the wool to the women-folk to make into chair and sofa cushions, pin-cushions, and other fancy articles. A pillow was once made and stuffed with this commodity for an invalid friend who was suffering from a spinal complaint, and the comfort derived was stated to be immense. This is mentioned so that small fanciers may not be disappointed. Small quantities cannot possibly be sold at a profit, unless under exceptional circumstances.