

Our Letter Box.

CARRIER PIGEON'S HEAD.—(J. G. L.) The head of a Carrier Pigeon is considered of much importance in determining his merit as a prize taker. It must be long, narrow, and flat on the top, having a slight depression in the centre. Length, narrowness and flatness are the great points in the head; if it be round, it is called barrel-headed, which is a great fault. Length of skull and beak should be, in a cock, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; in a hen, 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches. The width of a skull should not exceed half-an-inch, measured at the back of the head, behind the eye-wattle.

FOWLS LOSING THEIR FEATHERS.—(Subscriber.)—There is a disease peculiar to fowls which causes them to pluck their feathers out. This is not caused by any particular kind of feeding. By it the skin becomes so heated that the feathers are not fed, and the root itches; this causes the bird to pull them out. The cure is to purge freely with castor oil—a tablespoonful every day, and a good supply of green food. The bird should be kept separate till cured, which will not be long.

GEESE.—(Fancier.)—It is usual to run three geese with a gander; it is not considered too many. Embden geese are average breeders, but not so prolific as the Toulouse.

CAMBRIDGE TURKEYS.—(J. D.)—The Cambridge Turkey should be spangled all over. The cock may be kept three seasons, and one bird will be enough for twenty, thirty or more hens. The birds of this breed are superior in size to those of the black or white varieties. In a show pen, the chief points looked for in turkeys are size and symmetry; crooked backs, breasts, or legs, or deformity in any part, being held as disqualifications. When shown in pairs, they should also match in color.

PULLETS AND COCKEREL.—(Novice.)—If eggs only be the object in your keeping fowls, there is no need for a cock. Some writers assert that hens lay better by having a cock with them, but we cannot see any force in the assertion, especially when kept in a confined space. If hens are allowed a free range, a cock with them will keep them from wandering away too far and getting lost, as they frequently do. In that way, he is, no doubt, of service, but not in causing a greater production of eggs.

FOWLS FOR A YOUNG BEGINNER.—(Fred. V. Frisbie, Owell, Bradford Co., Penn.)—Says, "Please send me a specimen of your paper. I am a boy of 14 summers, and I wish to take some paper that treats of poultry. Having seen yours advertised,

I thought I would send for a specimen number. I think I can get up a club. Do you think it would pay for me to send for some of the fancy breeds; if so, which varieties are preferable as layers, viz.: Leghorns, Spanish Hamburgs, or the French breeds?—I mean the everlasting layers." Our young friend is commencing in the right direction; to secure a good poultry paper is the first best thing he can do; afterwards choose his fowls. Of the Leghorns we cannot speak from personal knowledge, never having bred them ourselves; they are, however, highly spoken of by those who have. Such information as we possess respecting them leads us to believe they are a variety of the Spanish breed. As such they ought to be, and we believe are, non-sitters and layers of good sized eggs, but we fear in the winter season will not continue to lay, and will require special care in the severe weather, else their combs will get frozen and their beauty be destroyed. Of the French breeds, we are more favourably inclined to the Houdans than any of the other varieties—they are good layers, good table birds, and good foragers when a run is allowed them; besides which they are more suitable to our northern climate. Of the Hamburg class, the article on another page will afford our young friend some information; we would advise him to peruse it, and the others which follow on the same subject. It would not be a bad plan to provide in the spring hatching eggs of the breed determined on, from some well-known and reliable breeder; it is the cheapest way to become possessed of good fowls. Our advertising columns will afford sufficient information on this subject. We wish our young beginner much success, and that he will have many more youths to follow his example.

Advertisements.

MR. A. McLEAN HOWARD,
Toronto, has a few Dark Brahmas left for sale, from his late importations.

THE POULTRY BULLETIN,
published monthly by the Executive Committee of the N. Y. State Poultry Society. Devoted exclusively to the interests of POULTRY BREEDERS, Fanciers of all kinds of Pet Stock, PIGEONS, SINGING BIRDS, FISH, RABBITS, DOGS, PONIES, etc., and is full of information, interesting and valuable for everybody. The "Bulletin" has correspondents connected with every Poultry Society in America. \$1 a year. Specimen numbers sent if requested and a stamp enclosed. Address, P. O. Box 316, N. Y. City.

W. OLIVER QUIBELL'S
choice Houdans and Crève Cœur, winners of the principal prizes in French Classes at the leading English shows. He has superior poultry always for sale. W. OLIVER QUIBELL, Newark, Notts, England.