

judges at our Provincial Exhibition may be, nor have we heard the name of even one exhibitor mentioned. We write with the knowledge of past exhibitions fresh in our memory, and of the abuses which existed thereat, to remedy which is our only object; and if even partial success attend our efforts, we shall be glad to know that we have not labored in vain.

SELECTING FOWLS FOR EXHIBITION.

In view of our approaching Exhibitions we purpose offering a few remarks on the selection of fowls for the show pen, and endeavour to point out some of the more important things to be observed by all intending Exhibitors.

The first care of an exhibitor should be the properly matching in colour of his birds for the show-pen. The want of attention to this point causes the frequent loss of a first prize to many otherwise well-deserving pairs of fowls. They may be all that the most fastidious amateur can desire, if taken singly and examined by the scale of points, but yet matched as they frequently are, judges are compelled to pass them by without recognition, much to the chagrin and disappointment of the exhibitor, who, in ignorance of the real cause, not unfrequently attributes to them incapacity or perhaps something worse. Exhibitors should never forget that birds "not matching" in the show-pen are invariably disqualified by all judges who know anything of the principles laid down for their guidance in such matters, no matter how perfect they may be in all the other points. Size, too, beauty of plumage, markings, symmetry, condition, &c., ought also, all in their turn, to be carefully considered, and each point of the bird carefully scrutinized before being selected for the show-pen.

Poultry-breeders are indebted to the

London (England) Poultry Club for the "Standard of Excellence" for the guidance of judges in making their awards, a knowledge of which is equally essential to the exhibitor as the judge; without it, he is unable to make his selections with any degree of certainty of obtaining a prize; with it, he is sure of his birds not being disqualified, even supposing he may not be so successful in the much sought-for honor of prize-taking.

The "Standard" places a separate value in numbers on each point of excellence, which, when summed up, make a total of fifteen for each bird. The value attached to these points are not alike in all breeds of fowls. In some they are calculated on a different scale to that of others, a thorough knowledge of which makes the successful exhibitor and good judge.

In the Cochins breed, the varieties known as "Buff," "Lemon," "Silver-Buff," "Silver-Cinnamon," and "Cinnamon," "Size" and "Colour" are highly estimated; to these two points a value of seven is assigned out of a total of fifteen, the former having three, and the latter four given to it; while to the six remaining points, viz.: "Head and Comb," "Carriage of Wings," "Legs," "Fluff," "General Symmetry," and "Condition," a value of eight is attached. In the Grouse and Partridge varieties of this breed, instead of a general value of four being given to colour, it is divided into sub-values of two each, on account of the more specific markings of the feathers of these birds, and which exhibitors would do well to note. The value of points in "White" and "Black" Cochins are the same as the Buff and Cinnamon, the difference in colour only considered, and the same remark holds good as to "Dark" or "Pencilled" Brahmans, and "Light" Brahmans, as to the values of points.

To breed to size as well as feather,