

shall have the sole control and management thereof, and shall hold monthly meetings. The officers composing this committee to be elected at the December meeting in each year.

The reason for the introduction of any change in the Constitution arises principally from the large increase in membership which has taken place since its formation in the latter part of 1866. Gradually but steadily, it has gone on increasing in numbers and in public favour, until now it assumes a position and standing not equalled by any Society of a similar kind on this continent. On its list of members are to be found the names of gentlemen residing not only in all parts of the two Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, but also in the neighbouring State, and in the city of New York. It will readily be admitted that a very different code of laws is now required for the government of a Society composed of members so far apart, from those by which it was governed when in its infancy, and composed only of a few Toronto gentlemen, and hence the reason for the change proposed. We wish all success to the Association, and trust it will not only continue in its present prosperous state, but by the end of the year its numbers and finances will be still more largely increased, and its usefulness extended to all parts of the Dominion.

#### Prize Lists at Poultry Exhibitions.

*To the Editor.*

SIR,—Having addressed you on the subject of judgments at poultry shows, I will now offer a few remarks on the prize lists as generally prepared at the Provincial and other exhibitions.

Poultry shows are in their infancy in Canada, and committees would do well to remember this, as they have difficulty in getting enough money for decent premiums. Their lists, as a rule, are too extensive. This may tend to increase the varieties on exhibition, but not to improve their quality. It is costly to the manager, and not beneficial to the cause.

I am not one of those who wish to dictate as to what sort should be kept, but the most useful fowls for agricultural or table purposes should be encouraged by larger premiums, in preference to the purely fancy varieties. Thus Dorkings, Brahmas, Cochins, Game, &c., should have precedence over and larger prizes than Polands, Hamburgs, Bantams, &c. There are also varieties differing simply in the ground colour, the markings being the same; these may, therefore, fairly compete in the same class. Of course, the fancy of the judge must somewhat influence the awards, but this cannot be avoided.

The exception to this clubbing in a show, and a good principle to adopt after the exhibition has been held, is to support the classes in which most entries have been made; and where few or only one has been made, let such class be omitted in the next prize list. By thus feeling their way, a good,

well-supported exhibition is finally obtained, and at the various exhibitions the list may be extended. But a small number of varieties, with good premiums, would be more likely to fill and make up a good show, than a larger list with small premiums, which will not pay even the cost of transport to successful competitors.

Shows are sometimes got up on the sweepstakes principle, all or a portion only of the entrance money being given as premiums. This is, of course, a safe way of conducting an exhibition, although it has not proved popular here.

On the subject of pigeon prizes, the same difficulty arises, chiefly because they are more a fancy stock than fowls, although not more so than some varieties, such as bantams, &c. One fact is clear, that in this country they are recognized, as at all shows a prize is offered for the best collection—generally a collection of hybrid rubbish.

This arrangement is not satisfactory. Any fancy pigeons are costly, and should be met by a more liberal premium than is usually allotted to them; and as before in the case of fowls, I think a few sorts, well represented, better than this collection of rubbish. The Runts, which I have never seen represented at any show in Canada, deserve attention, as weighing, in good condition, between four and five pounds apiece, they go some way to fill a pie.

My letter has been long enough, but on a future occasion, should you desire it, I will furnish a prize list in accordance with the above views.

F. C. HASSARD.

#### Poultry at County and Township Fairs.

*To the Editor.*

SIR,—Having had occasion to visit several of our county and township fairs, I have noticed a great deficiency in the department of poultry, resulting, I have no doubt, from want of attention on the part of Directors in not classifying them properly, and also from the little encouragement given to exhibitors, the amount of prizes offered in this department seldom exceeding \$1.

As the prize lists are now commonly arranged, there are one or two not very important and almost extinct varieties mentioned, while others, such as the dark and light Brahmas and buff Cochins, the latest and most important varieties, are not mentioned; consequently, they must be exhibited in that extensive class called "other varieties," or kept at home. At the County Fairs of York, North and South Ontario and Durham, and at the Township Fairs of Pickering, Uxbridge, Scott, Whitby, &c., I noticed the same defects. At one of the county fairs above mentioned I observed a pair of fine game-fowls not receiving any prize, and in the next cage a pair of common fowls obtaining the first premium.

The same remarks will also apply to ducks and geese, and I am well aware that such men as Mr. Henry and Mr. Arkland, of Oshawa, who have been at considerable trouble and expense to improve these important domestic fowls, fail to exhibit on account of the above facts.

Now, as there are numbers of first-class fowls in the country, and we fail to see them on exhibition, I trust the Directors of the various county and township fairs will give at least a little attention to this department.

JAMES DALE, Uxbridge, Ont.

#### Swollen Feet in Poultry.

*To the Editor.*

SIR,—Can you tell me the cause of swelling in the feet of poultry? I lost a very fine cock from it in the summer. It commences with a slight thickening at the root of the toes, and goes on until the sole is four or five times its natural size, and quite hard. I have a cock and hen that way now. There is no appearance of softness, but the birds walk lame and stiffly. It is not caused by wet feet, I am sure. In the case of the bird that died, I made a deep incision in the excrescence, but found nothing like suppuration. The wound healed up and that foot was no worse than the other, and he died some weeks afterwards, wasted almost to a shadow.

W. CROWTHER.

ANSWER.—If your fowls are Dorkings, the complaint is probably what is called "bumblefoot," which is pronounced by most poultry writers incurable. It is apparently caused in some instances by birds flying from high perches, but in many cases the cause and, indeed, the nature of the affection, are very obscure. There does not seem any sufficient reason why your bird should have died from this complaint alone. A cautious application of tincture of iodine is the best remedy we can suggest. Should you make any trial of it, we should feel obliged if you will report the result. Tegetmeier describes the gout of Cochins, and recommends for it one grain of calomel at night, and three drops of wine of colchicum twice a day, keeping the bird warm. Gout, however, would be a more painful affection than that with which your birds seem to have been afflicted.

DARK BRAHMAS.—This very handsome variety, which, till recently, was but little known in Canada, seems to be coming into favour, and the produce of imported fowls is in considerable request. Some of the birds raised by Mr. H. M. Thomas, of Brooklyn, have been sent, among other places, as far as Quebec, and we have received communications speaking in very high terms of them. The breed, which deserves the attention of poultry fanciers, will, no doubt, be better represented than heretofore at our exhibitions.