

fowls for shows?" My answer is "I never prepared a fowl for show in my life." When I am ready to pack up for a show I select the best specimens, put them in the coops, and send them on. Fowls may sometimes need washing, but if they have clean coops and runs this unnecessary. In case the weather is bad a day or two before shipping, put a lot of straw in the coops, shut them in and throw whole grain over the straw. This will keep them dry, scratching for the grain will give them exercise and keep their legs clean and bright. The latter should, of course, be washed if necessary. Fowls destined to occupy the same coop must run together a few days before they are sent, or they will be almost sure to quarrel and injure their appearance. Before going study the rules of the society and make up your mind to abide by them. Be sure your fowls are on time, then they will be placed in the show room and you have only to see that they are properly cared for, and even this is unnecessary if the society has proper committees attending. Do not complain because your neighbor's birds may have a more conspicuous place than yours, especially if yours arrived late, or are inferior to his. I have known verdant exhibitors to make themselves very conspicuous with their complaints of imaginary injustice to their birds, even when they are worthless except to be served on the table. By all means avoid this; accommodate yourself to circumstances and let the superintendent dictate. He has too much on his hands to be troubled with the selfish desires of exhibitors.

Whenever an exhibitor shows a sordid, selfish disposition with regard to the place his fowls shall occupy, the premiums he ought to receive or anything else, he is working against his own interests and will be graded by his associates according to his disposition. He who regulates his course with a view to the best interests of the whole, works for the interests of himself. This rule is *imperative*. In order to follow it you will sometimes be obliged to waive your opinions of abstract justice to yourself, but follow it, nevertheless. Grumblers are always recognized as such, and we often hear the remark, "He is always grumbling." You cannot afford to merit that title even though it costs you self-sacrifice to avoid it.

After your fowls have taken their places in the show pen don't make a business of telling everyone how much better they are than your neighbors. If they are better they will speak for themselves, others will know it, and if inferior your attempts to elevate them and degrade others will make you appear still more inferior. In case you are not as well informed as you desire to be, buttonhole some one who is posted, and ask him to show you the defects in your stock. There is no better way to

improve than to study defects, their causes and how to avoid them. When you find defects contrast them with fowls that show perfection, where others are defective, then compare with the Standard, remembering to ask all necessary questions. If you wish to appear in the worst possible shape at a show, run to the secretary with unnecessary questions and frequent complaints when he is over crowded with legitimate business. If he answers you courteously, increase your annoyance till he reverses his manner toward you, then go to the other officers with all your complaints, and continue to stir up wrath. Ascertain as soon as possible who the judges are, show them your stock, and impress upon their minds the necessity of giving you all valuable premiums. If your birds have ever won at a town or county fair, be sure to mention that fact. If they came from any noted breeder or strain, remember that, too. When the judges are at work, don't leave them one moment. See that they pay particular attention to your wants. Listen to all they have to say. They may speak disparagingly of your fowls, if so, correct them at once. When they make entries in their book, don't fail to peer over their shoulders and see whether or not the credits are given to you. If not try to induce them to change, use arguments. By such means judges have been persuaded to decide against their own judgment in favor of the exhibitor. In case they will not yield to your wishes you can accuse them of incompetency and dishonesty, and inform the secretary and others that the whole thing is a "put up job," and that you will never exhibit at their show again. If you sell any fowls tell the purchaser not to inform the secretary, because you don't wish to pay the commission. He will be sure to inform him, however, and when you settle your bill, and are asked if you have sold any fowls, you must say "No," for most societies would rather you would steal the commission than have any fuss with such a character.

If a brother exhibitor is negotiating a sale with any one don't fail to interfere. Tell the customer you have better fowls at less rates. You may make sales in this way. In short, do unto others as you would not have them do unto you, and you will be sure to make a failure and be despised by your associates.—*J. Y. Bicknell, in Poultry Nation.*

In selecting hens for setting, the smallest will be found the most successful, as they are less liable to break the eggs or crush the young chicks when hatched.

Young chicks should not be permitted to roost on perches until they are four months old, as it generally causes a deformity in the breast bone.