

these "fanciers" will "put up a little game" as follows:—A. will loan B. all his best birds needed and all he can command, to "clean out" one show, while A. will become the borrower in the second case, and two good hauls will be made without risk of much competition. Societies know that this is done and wink at the practice, as they feel beholden to the exhibitors of many varieties for their big show. I have heard of a case where a large exhibitor was able to make terms before entering with a society for the payment of prizes to disqualified birds—and received the prizes too.

When the public take sufficient interest in poultry shows to contribute enough in door receipts to pay all expenses some of the objections to these practices will disappear, but that time has not yet arrived. They have now the effect of discouraging honest competition. The local fancier cannot but feel discouraged in finding himself handi-capped in the show room, that his own efforts have aided to produce by the professional exhibitor being allowed to pit against his honest and single efforts, the choice of often half a dozen yards, each having as great facilities as he has, and all on the same terms as his single efforts. The poultry society that is compelled to suspend its rules in order to get up a show would be better out of existence, as it will do more harm than good. One honest and energetic breeder in a neighborhood, who has faith and confidence in the fancy, will be of more benefit to it than fifty that are discouraged and disgusted. Every thinking man, who has had much connection with poultry societies must feel that as many of our shows have been conducted this season, there is more in them to discourage than encourage the promoters.

If our smaller societies would direct their efforts more particularly to encouraging their members and local fanciers they would do a much more satisfactory work than by getting up shows for

the sole benefit of professional exhibitors. It will be found much better to have smaller shows and pay all prizes than to have large shows, large debts and dissatisfied members.

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I have lately heard that cholera, dyptheria, roup, &c., &c., have made sad ravages in the flocks of one of our large breeders, stock worth at least \$200, having fallen victims to these scourges. What makes the case more sad is the fact that the diseases were contracted at the winter shows by birds he loaned to his friends to exhibit, and by them conveyed to others of his flock. It is deplorable that such generous and neighborly conduct should meet with no better reward. Societies where these birds were shown, and fanciers who competed against them, will of course sympathise with this fancier in his trouble.

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It strikes me as particularly strange that men who were not within a hundred miles of Toronto when the show was held last winter, and judged by I. K. Felch, should know more about it than those who were present from its opening to close. I was present from the time the judging was commenced until near the close of the show, and in all that time did not hear as much dissatisfaction expressed as I have often heard in one hour at shows where some of our local judges have officiated. However, it is generally considered wise to make considerable allowance for exaggeration in after dinner speeches.

#### PURE BRED versus COMMON FOWLS.

BY PEA-COMB.

Those who have been interested for a number of years in the breeding of thoroughbred poultry know the real value of such stock, but only those who have had practical experience in

the matter know of what their value really consists.

I have heard most ridiculous stories by extremists for and against thoroughbred fowls, all of them far from the truth, and none of them calculated to do any good either to the breeders or the public.

I have heard greenhorn fanciers, whilst suffering from a virulent attack of hen-fever, lauding their stock to friends who never kept poultry, and who, of course, looked upon their fancier acquaintance as an oracle of wisdom in the hen line, and swallowed all his stories whole, and after listening with the meekness of lambs to endless yarns of wondrous egg production, &c., &c., they begin to think after a while that it must be really true that these new fangled chickens lay two or three eggs a day, live on wind and never get sick and die. After a time they begin to think with their fancier friend that it must be very pleasant and still more profitable to keep such wonderful hens, and accordingly they purchase a trio or breeding pen of fowls; they have no very clear idea themselves as to what they expect from these fowls, and are still more ignorant as to what the fowls are really capable of. But they think that it will be only necessary to feed them well in order to obtain the wonderful results which they have learned to look for. The chances are that they like something massive, something that will make a good dinner for a good sized family, and select Cochins.

They build an ornamental goal for them in the back yard, which, they flatter themselves, the fowls will appreciate immensely, and place therein the unfortunate birds who pass their time when not eating or sleeping in gazing through the bars of their prison and envying the liberty of those mongrel hens on the dung heap in the next yard. Having installed their new purchase in their quarters they are determined that they shall not want for anything, but thinking that hens only