

GEES.—Gray: 1st, Brown & Hodge; 2nd, Jas Towns.

PIGEONS.—Fantails: 1st and 2nd, T Black. Jacobins: 1st, T Black. Pouters: 1st, same; 2nd, Chas Fletcher. Carriers: 1st, T Black. Collection of Pigeons: 1st, same.

Pair Golden Pheasants, Jos Jeffery. Singing Canary, 1st, A Hobbs. Plumage Canary, 1st, same. Pair Doves, Wm Fishley. Talking bird, Chas Fletcher.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Heaviest pair fowls, T T Coleman. Brahma hen or pullet, Wm Wright. Pair Plymouth Rocks, J H Pierce. Cochin hen or pullet, T T Coleman. Brown Leghorns, W J Wolfe. Spanish hen or pullet, T T Coleman. Dorkings, T T Coleman. Heaviest cockerel, same. Breeding pen, 1st, W. J Wolfe; 2d, T Pierce. Pair Rabbits, A Neads. Hen and Chickens, John Kydd. Best pair of fowls, S Gordon. Heaviest pair of ducks, T T Coleman. Hamburg hen or pullet, Brown & Hodge. Golden-pencilled Hamburg chicks, D T Morris. Houdan hen or pullet, J H Pierce. Black-breasted Game hen or pullet, D McConachie. Game cock or cockerel, same. Pyle Game pullet, W Hall. Singing Canary, A Hobbs. Bantams, any other variety, Jos Jeffery. Best show Games, S Gordon. Pair Game Bantams, Jos Pattinson. Silver-spangled Hamburgs, John Sinclair. White-crested Black Polands, W A Pope. Pouter Pigeons, T Black. Barb Pigeons, T Black. White Leghorns, Jno Dutton. Light Brahma cockerel, E Haugth. White Games, S Gordon. Pair White Pyle Games, W Hall.

Prices of Fancy Poultry.

As regards the prices asked for fancy poultry, it is very often a case of buyers' and sellers' views apart. Perhaps there is nothing in which there is a wider range for a difference of opinion than there is in regard to the value of fancy poultry, and if one move much amongst poultry fanciers he will be continually hearing of parties being dissatisfied at the prices they have been charged for specimens, or if not grumbling at the prices, manifesting dissatisfaction at the quality of the birds sent them for the money they paid for them. On the other hand, you will often hear the seller giving vent to his disgust at people continually offering him prices for his fowl which is not much more than their value for the pot.

Buyers may rest assured of one thing, that they can't buy really good specimens of any kind of poultry, pigeons, or any other fancy stock, unless they are prepared to pay a good price for it, and they had better at once and forever divest their minds of any other idea. No man can, neither will he, breed fancy poultry at pot prices. No doubt very often cases arise where fancy poultry are sold beyond their value. This is just as much the fault of the buyer as the seller, and more too. It is always the ordinary specimens that sell for more than they are worth. Of course if a breeder sells an ordinary specimen for the price, or nearly so, of a perfect bird, he is a cheat, and should be given a wide berth. I speak now of common specimens, such birds as are far below the standard, such as sell at prices generally ruling for such birds, the breeder does not consider he asks or gets any more for such specimens than they are worth, but in many cases, when the birds arrive at their destination, the buyer is thoroughly dissatisfied with them. The reason for this is not always because he has not got just as good specimens as his money was worth, but because he thought he

should have got better. This is a question in which it is quite legitimate for buyer and seller to disagree. I think the matter lies entirely in the hands of the buyers. No man need exchange his money for a bird unless he sees it, or be satisfied by some other means that he is getting just what he buys. If he knows the breeder so well, and has enough confidence in his judgement and integrity, he may take his word for what he is selling him and be perfectly safe. If the breeder is a stranger to him, and he chooses to buy from him without seeing what he is getting, then, of course, he must take the risk.

In England they have a good arrangement. Strangers, when buying from each other, the purchaser deposits the money in an office in London, instituted for that purpose; the property is forwarded to the purchaser, and if satisfactory, the money is then forwarded to the seller; but if unsatisfactory the property is returned, and the purchase money is given back to the would-be purchaser; in either case the office retains a small fee for the department. Business in all parts of Great Britain is done with this office, and it prevents all misunderstandings, and should be a perfectly satisfactory arrangement to both parties.

I think it is very seldom sellers have any misunderstanding about the prices they ask and receive for their best specimens, and this, if one will reflect for a minute, is very easily understood. In the first place there is one very good reason; it is this: the supply is never equal to the demand, whereas, as regards ordinary specimens the case is reversed, the supply is always in excess of the demand. When it is considered how few first-class specimens even a successful breeder is able to raise, it has never surprised me the prices he has been able to get for them. Were I starting tomorrow to breed a good class of poultry I would rather pay one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars for a trio of birds for my breeding pen that were right up to the standard, than I would take at a gift a trio of ordinary specimens. True, some enormous prices have been paid for particular specimens of birds, and I for one believe, even at such staggering prices, the purchaser does not pay more than the specimen is worth. It is always hard to tell what the very best specimens amongst so many really is worth. When one thinks of the time, patience and money spent by a successful breeder to produce a few, a very few, first-class specimens, there is no wonder we occasionally hear of such very large sums being given for a perfect bird.

A good and honest breeder should never sell a poor specimen; all such should go to the pot. He can't afford to damage his reputation by selling such stock, and no one should buy it.