

blue from line across rump), black bar near the extremity.

"Jacobin." Mating Jacks. Ans.—Your matings are wrong. Mate the red to black, and yellow to red. Don't mate to the 1st of April or later.

Our correspondent, Mr. Geo. E. Peer, of Rochester, N. Y., has sold his entire stock of Jacobins to Mr. L. S. Magil, of Pennsylvania. This sale is one of the largest of this variety ever made in the country, and gives Mr. G. the largest collection on the continent.

### Our English Letter.

Editor Review.

S.R.—Once more our winter shows have come and gone, and as usual have seen many hopes disappointed and others surpassed.

The Crystal Palace, which is *the show* par excellence, both for birds and their owners, opened on the 24th of November with an increase of 220 pens over last year, bringing the total to the unprecedented number of 5646. The actual length of pens was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and the weight 30 tons. Nine judges were employed in awarding the prizes in the poultry section, and the same number in the pigeons. The quality in most of the classes showed a marked advance on the exhibits of last year. The third prize Black-red Game cockerel, bred by Mr. Matthew, was claimed at catalogue price, £100, by Capt. Heaton, and was shown by him at Birmingham the week following, where he won the £50 challenge cup. This being the 3rd time (out of five) that the Captain has secured the coveted honor, it now becomes his property. There is a talk of making the new cup, which is being subscribed for to take its place, open to breeders only, a step, I think, in the right direction.

There was a novel color exhibited in Pigmy Pouters; it very nearly resembled the Sulphurette in tint, and being a model Pigmy, secured second prize. We also noticed a novelty in the frillback class, a pure white with shell crown, but, as was to be expected, failing somewhat in head and shape.

The Crystal Palace show closed on Thursday, and the Birmingham exhibition opened on the following Saturday. So those birds which appeared at both had rather hard work of it, and both shows no doubt lost many entries in consequence, more particularly the latter, where the entries showed a decrease on 1883, but yet reached the very respectable total of 3465. The quality of exhibits showed a very marked falling off in most classes, particularly as compared with the great show at the Palace.

This practically ends our show season for 1884, and breeders now are busily engaged in arranging

their pens for next season. The autumn, so far, has been unusually open; except one or two nights during the Palace week we have had no frost as yet in the south of England.

OLLUF.

England, Dec. 13, 1884.

### Norwich Canaries.

BY CROSS-ROADS.

(Continued.)

A few days after I called on Mr Mackley, and was shown by him through his breeding establishment. There are three brothers Mackley, and all have an interest in the business. They do not depend entirely on the Canary business as their only means of livelihood, but singularly enough all three keep hotels. This, no doubt, is a great convenience to many of their customers and the fancy generally, as they can meet and take their glass, and while doing so talk about their pets and the specimens each have and are having, and are expecting to have, etc., etc; for I suppose breeding Canaries is like breeding fancy poultry or any domestic animals, half the pleasure consists in the anticipation of what is to come and the chances for and against in raising one superior to all others. All fanciers, I believe, are imbued with this peculiar feeling, no matter how good specimens they may have raised there is always a feeling of anticipation, something yet to come which is to be superior to all that has come before. I presume it is this feeling that makes so many fanciers persevere.

One of the Mr. Mackleys kindly showed me their birds, and explained to me their way of managing and breeding, and gave me such information as enabled me to write this paper.

They keep their birds in rooms, the sides of which are all fitted up in cages something like the hosiery department in a dry goods store; each cage is about 12 x 14 inches and same height, (of course the breeding cages are much larger) and each contains just two birds. These are young ones and are kept in this way from the time they are a few weeks old until after their first moult, when they shape up, and can be culled out, selected and disposed of. They are generally sent to the London market. From there they are distributed all over the world wherever there is a demand for them.

The rooms are kept warm in winter by means of stoves and pipes, and are all perfectly ventilated by sky lights or other means through the roof, or through the ceiling to upper floor, where further ventilation is carried still up through the roof.

The rooms and cages are all kept scrupulously clean, the cages whitewashed, and the care of the birds is simply a continual work. Plenty of food