

in life, and to that end I would give them such food as would promote a healthy and early growth.—*Western Rural.*

### LATE ITEMS.

The REVIEW is a few days late this month, however we offer no apology, as we kept it back to insert all the prize lists; and be it known the REVIEW is the *only* paper which has got them all in.

Our criticism of some of the birds may be, thought a little severe, as that may be, it is honest on our part and the result of careful investigation. We give them as our candid opinions, but of course anyone is at perfect liberty to take exception to them.

We understand that the Montreal Association intend holding an exhibition, but have fixed no dates.

The Eastern Townships also propose holding a show some time in December.

## Pigeon and Pet Stock Department

### THE FALL FAIRS.

#### THE INDUSTRIAL, TORONTO.

Pigeons! pigeons! pigeons! all kinds and sorts, in endless variety, such a show of pigeons had not been seen at the Industrial for some years.

Mr. C. Massie was a new exhibitor and came to the front with 54 birds. Mr. J. O. Labelle and C. F. Wagner with many others also made their *debut*. Pouters were a grand class all round, Whites and Blues particularly fine. Carriers were also in force, as indeed were all the prominent varieties.

Lop-eared rabbits were out in numbers never seen before, and the entries should lead to an extended classification next year.

Angoias, Silvercreams and Dutch were also on exhibition; Creams taking first in any other variety, and Dutch second.

The Guinea pigs and Ferrets proved a great attraction.

At the other fairs pigeons were about as in former years, not shown in any very large numbers. At Hamilton the first White Pouters might easily have given place to second.

Mr. James Moy was the principle exhibitor at Sherbrooke, his entries alone numbering 35.

Mr. Barber, Toronto, as usual, took honors all over with his Barbs and Lop-eared rabbits.

### THE ENGLISH POUTER.

BY OLLUFF.

(Concluded.)

In judging, what is termed a "walking pen" must be used, *i. e.*, a wire pen about three feet square in which two cocks and a hen, or *vice versa*, are placed at a time. It is quite impossible to properly judge a bird like the pouter whose chief points are those of carriage and style in a small pen where it can scarcely turn round.

These notes are, I am aware, very incomplete, but if they are of assistance to any comparatively novices in this interesting fancy, I shall be amply satisfied and shall have some justification for having occupied so much valuable space in the REVIEW.

### HOMING PIGEONS.

[Translated from "Historic de la Colombe, par Felix Bogaerts." Anvers, 1847.]

I have heard it said a thousand times

that the Pigeon is guided home to its loft by its instinct. It may be so, but what are the physical faculties which come to the assistance of this instinct, and which second it in its marvellous effects? No one has ever been able to give me a satisfactory answer to this question, which leads me to believe that no one has yet sufficiently investigated this strange mystery. Let us hope that the honour of unveiling it may belong to our century. Whatever it may be, let us glance at the signal services that Pigeons have rendered to men under many various circumstances.

The origin of the custom of making use of Pigeons to carry messages is lost in the darkness of ages. It probably dates from the epoch when this bird received a shelter amongst the cabins constructed by the first inhabitants of the world. It is in effect impossible that these should not have remarked from the very first the wonderful fidelity with which the Pigeon always returns to its abode; and the great difficulties of means of communication between different people related to each other, but separated by rivers, forests, and chains of mountains, would, it seems to me, naturally have suggested the idea of turning their fidelity to account. We know that the Greeks used it most advantageously, and that they imparted their knowledge to the Romans. Before the memorable epoch when the latter nation enriched itself with the civilisation of Athens and Corinth, Swallows were made use of in Italy as messengers instead of Pigeons. Pliny records, *Hist. Nat.*, lib. x., c. 34, that one Cecina of Volaterre, of the equestrian order, who made a business of providing chariots for the games, carried Swallows to Rome, and sent them back to announce the result of the races to his friends. They came back to their nests painted with the colour of the winner. The same author