

imagine a first-priz black-pied cock I used to have the pleasure of seeing sometimes; I think I can see him as I used to, when "playing" to his hen, standing well up on his legs, with his large crop, crescent marked, well extended, "bowing" and "sweeping," and every now and then making little jumps towards his mate. I tell you it was worth going miles to see.

The Pouter is generally allowed to have been originally derived from a cross between a Horseman and a Cropper, with, perhaps, a dash of Runt blood, which sometimes asserts itself in thick girth. Norwich (noted for its canaries) has been credited with bringing the Pouter to its present perfection, though by some the weavers of London have been given the honor. The Pouter is now the favorite pigeon in most parts of Scotland, where they are bred to the greatest perfection and in immense numbers.

The principal points are limb, crop, slenderness of girth, length of feather, color and marking.

The limb or leg in first-class birds should be seven inches long from the top of the thigh to the toe nail. The thigh should have a fair amount of muscle, and should not be very much bent at the hock, nor on the other hand be very straight, which gives it a weak appearance. The toes should be turned slightly in and the hock slightly out. The thigh and shank should be well covered with soft, small feathers, longer feathers spreading out at the toes.

The crop should be spherical, and exactly even; if carried on one side it is a great defect. It should not bulge out at the back of the bird, and should be capable of being fully inflated; it should flow easily into the lower part of the bird, and not stand out so as to show an angle.

Slenderness of body (round the shoulders) is an essential point, as Pouters grow stouter every year age helps to thicken them. To show this slenderness off a Pouter should be slightly hollow in the back or "hog-backed."

Length of feather is found by measuring from the point of the beak over the head to the end of tail. Nineteen or nineteen and a half is a good length.

Color and marking. There are five standard colors, namely: black-pied, blue-pied, red-pied, yellow-pied, and pure whites. Whites should be a good clear white all over, no mark of any kind. A great deal depends on condition in the appearance of these birds. Being less trouble to breed than pied birds, they do not stand so high in competition, thus a pied bird of any standard color, and being equal in other essential points to a white, would always take first place.

Pied varieties should have the color all over the body except the crescent on the crop, which should

be a good even shape, and should have a round patch of color under the throat, which is called the "bid." The color should end on the breast a little below the crop, the under parts and limbs should be white to the lower part of the rump, the flights whites, the rest of the wing colored, except a few white feathers at the shoulders; these ought to be rose sllaped, but are very hard to get in this shape, and if few and separate from each other it is enough. In blue and black the tail should be colored, in reds and yellow, white. Blue-pied should be a clean light blue with orange eyes and dark beak. Black-pied, a pure, jet black (not bluish), orange eyes and dark beak. Yellow-pied, clean, orange yellow, deep color, orange eyes, flesh colored beak, with streak on tip. Red-pied, rich, pure red, orange eyes, flesh colored beak, with streak on tip. White, pure and spotless, beak flesh colored, "bull" or dark eyes.

Do not look altogether to size; a small bird of more symmetrical proportions and well marked will often beat a larger but more clumsy bird, when scored, or in the show pen.

Pouters should be constantly talked to and petted, so as to make them quite familiar with their keeper. They will then "play up" when wanted and show to good advantage. Do not handle more than necessary, it spoils their plumage. If a bird will not inflate its crop, put its bill into your mouth and blow it full; you can then judge of its size, &c. Pouters are often subject to gorging. For this place the bird in a stocking, fitting it tightly, and hang it on a nail against the wall, kneading the crop now and then till empty. Keep the bird in a pen and feed sparingly for a few days. They are also subject to leg-weakness. The best way to avoid this when the birds are very choice is to rear each young one separately under a pair of feeders, giving each bird twice a day a large pill made of oat meal and bone dust, mixed with a few drops of syrup of hypophosphite of lime. As the birds grow give plenty of exercise in the open air or in a large aviary.

H. B. DONOVAN.

Toronto, June 6, 1883.

In last month's, instead of 'Cordy's fluid' read 'Condy's fluid,' and instead of 'by weakness' read "leg weakness."

Items From L'Epervier.

TRANSLATED BY E. N.

A pigeon flight is talked of as one of the attractions of the coming International Exhibition at Amsterdam.

On the 22nd of April last the various pigeon so