

winners as from separate pens; still, it can be done, although it has been repeatedly stated that to produce exhibition specimens of any variety of poultry two pens should be used. This statement is all right to those who know no better, but from personal experience I know that it is quite possible to breed winners of both sexes from one pen of stock birds when properly mated to give this result.

Still, where the young fancier has plenty of room at his disposal it is advisable to use two pens, and where it is necessary to build up a strain of your own, separate pens in such cases must be used. Let me state here that when breeding from only one pen never by any means use wheatears; these may only be used exclusively in the cockerel pens.—“Feathered World.”

THAT BUFF ROCK CHANGE.

THE following has been handed us for publication:

CHAS. BONNICK, ESQ., Eglinton, Ont.

Dear Sir,—I owe you an apology for not writing the REVIEW, as promised, in time for March issue.

I heartily sympathize with you in the treatment you received in relation to the alterations of the judge's awards on the buff Rock cockerels, which in my opinion should not have been interfered with. At the time I objected to the Directors making the alterations on the ground that it was not within their power to do so, there being no protest bearing upon the awards with the exception of Mr. Essex' cockerel being disqualified for wry tail, which the Directors decided was not the case. This was the only matter before them.

Have since spoken to two of the Directors present at the meeting and they agree that your cockerel is still entitled to 2nd prize, they having overstepped their duties and sorry the change was made.

In requesting you to stay proceedings under promise of writing you this explanation in time for publication, was neglected for reasons already explained, trust this will now set matters at rest.

Yours very truly,

THOS. A. BROWN.
Secretary, P.A. of O.

London, March 7th, '99.

[As a solution of the difficulty let the REVIEW suggest that Mr. Bonnick and the winner of second be awarded equal second prizes. Thus no injustice to any one will occur.—ED.]

NOTES AND COMMENTS

“TO ‘SCORE’ OR NOT TO ‘SCORE’? THAT IS THE QUESTION.”

THE Toronto Association at its last meeting had a long and hot discussion on what was practically the merits and demerits of the scoring system of judging. Mr. Barber has no use for score cards and gave instances of its deception. Mr. Essex ably supported the system. The REVIEW is irrevocably in favor of the scoring system as a system, but is irrevocably opposed to its present status as carried out by the different judges. The score card now is a delusion and a snare, a trap for the unwary and the novice—but that is not the fault of the score card system but of the method of its application. It is nonsense to suppose that a bird will go up or go down five or more points between two shows a day or two apart. In our experience the weaker the competition the higher the score. How many times have we seen birds of fair to good quality run away up into the nineties at a small show, while the next week at a larger exhibition better birds don't score as high and the ninety-nine point specimen is simply left out of the awards. In keen competition birds score low, they have to or some would, in justice, go over the century mark. The Standard alone is supposed to be perfection, not a better living bird than the one being scored. What is needed is a judge's association, composed solely of judges, who cannot be influenced by any ulterior motive, men who know their business. Let them get together and decide what a certain defect is to be cut, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2 and so on as the case may be. It can be done, we have men able to do it. It is not supposed that every bird will score exactly alike under each judge, frail human nature has not reached that pinnacle of perfection. But it is not too much to require that birds will score within say two points by two or more judges, conditions being equal, and that they be cut in the same sections of shape and color.

If this can be arrived at the score card will indeed be a guide to the novice and even the older hand, for it will show him truly where the specimen is defective. It will give good birds an enhanced value if the buyer