

Poultry.

For the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Exhibition Talks.

BY W. B. COCKBURN, ABERFOYLE, ONT.

The various winter and spring exhibitions are now over, and exhibitors whether satisfied or not will again settle themselves and slacken their energies for a time, resting on the premiums awarded them in the past.

Whatever the results may be of the many shows held throughout Canada and the United States, of one thing we are certain, they have added to the list of fanciers, and stimulated the older ones with the desire to bring out next year birds scoring higher than ever theirs have done before.

On referring to the notes of the first annual show of the Poultry and Pet Stock Association, I find that some five hundred birds were on exhibition, which at that time was considered a very large number. The numbers have gradually increased till this year, when from twelve to fifteen hundred birds were brought together from all parts of the Province, making on an average the highest score that has been reached at any of the shows of this country. As with this show, so has it been in the quality and number of the exhibits in the other shows of this country and the United States, which are certainly becoming too numerous.

It should be borne in mind by fanciers in shipping fowls to parties who have not seen what they are paying for, that they should send what has been ordered. This most of them do, but there are some exceptions. If for exhibition, they should send only such as are good in every respect and that will score high; if for breeding purposes, such as will produce high scoring progeny, and culls should not be sold at any price. The pot is the best market for them. If fowls are sold for last year's birds, let them be such. If for chicks they should not be old birds. Let honesty be the high aim in every transaction, and the lack of this the great dread. If the seller is to furnish good birds, it should be at a good price, and this the receiver should be willing to pay. An enduring business can only be built up on a foundation laid in honest dealing.

For the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Aylesbury and Pekin Ducks.

BY W. B. COCKBURN, ABERFOYLE, ONT.

A good many persons do not know the difference between the Aylesbury and Pekin ducks, for the reason, amongst others, that both are white, and I now accede to your request to give the comparative points of difference between them. The Pekins have rich yellow bills; those of the Aylesbury are fully longer and of a pure flesh color. In plumage the Pekins are a creamy white throughout except the wings, the Aylesburys are a pure white, the legs of both are reddish orange, those of the Aylesburys being a trifle lighter than the Pekins. The Pekins are larger in size, and more compact in form, mature earlier than the Aylesburys, and I have found them fully equal as egg producers, both starting to lay early in February and March, and continuing till late in the fall. Both are very handsome, of a quiet disposition and hardy.

The main points of excellence in the two breeds, and especially the Pekins, are: very large size, they mature early, are very prolific and hardy, standing our cold winters well, are good layers, good foragers, and are almost entirely free from disease.

Disqualifications—Birds not matching in the show pen, crooked backs; birds so fat as to droop behind, bills marked with black. Pekins with plumage any

other color than a creamy white, and Aylesburys any other color than a pure white.

Before closing I may add that ducks are becoming more popular from year to year. The opinion once held that a pond or stream was essential to rearing them successfully is dying out. No farm bird is a more inveterate insect hunter than a young duck. Their value to the farmer and gardener is therefore very considerable for this reason alone, and the number of eggs they lay in a year is very large.

The Apiary.

For the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

The Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association.

BY ALLAN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.

The Ontario Bee-keepers' Association held its annual meeting in Woodstock on the 10th and 11th of January, 1888. The meeting was well attended, and the proceedings of the four sessions—two each day—proved interesting and instructive to those present. Several valuable papers from practical men were read and discussed, the first being by Mr. F. Malcolm, of Innerkip, on the "Best Method of Producing Extracted Honey," the president of the society, Mr. S. T. Pettit, of Belmont, being in the chair.

Mr. Malcolm was not in favor of extracting honey till it was ripe, and was also against extracting from the brood nest, especially for the market. His reason appeared to be that in both cases the result was an inferior quality of honey—that extracted before it was capped over being inferior in flavor, and that extracted from the brood-chamber being inferior in color. In the discussion that followed the majority seemed to be in favor of allowing the honey to ripen in the hive, and leaving the brood-chamber alone, so far as extracting is concerned. Rev. W. F. Clarke was opposed to the extractor altogether.

At the conclusion of this discussion Mr. Francis, Mayor of Woodstock, having entered the meeting, was called upon by the president, and welcomed the bee-keepers to Woodstock, thanking the association for coming.

The next paper, read by the secretary, was from Allen Pringle, of Selby, who by request of the president, had considered the question, "Ought Everybody to Keep Bees?" The conclusions reached by the writer were, that while it would be absurd for everybody to keep bees, anybody had a right to do so—a right to try it, and succeed or fail; that is, so long as he kept within the civil law, which might exclude him from the limits of towns and cities, and the moral law, which might exclude him from preoccupied ground. That apiculture was naturally and properly a part of agriculture; that the honey-bee is the friend of the farmer and the fruit-grower in fertilizing their gardens, orchards and clover fields, and that, therefore, bee-culture could with advantage be much extended in the agricultural districts; that is, in a small way for home supply, without the use of the extractor or other modern improvements, as these can be safely and successfully handled by specialists alone; that to succeed in apiculture as an exclusive business, special qualifications and a good territory not already occupied, are indispensable; and that as these special gifts and conditions are by no means common it would be both foolish and unprofitable for many people to rush into bee-keeping as a main pursuit.

The paper was duly discussed, and according to the *Canadian Bee Journal*, from whose excellent and full report the gist and order of proceedings are taken, the

opinion of the meeting was, that the conclusions arrived at were "about right." Thereupon the following resolution, moved by Mr. Clarke, and seconded by Mr. Malcolm, was carried:

"Resolved, That while it is the inalienable right of everybody and anybody to go into bee-keeping the same as any other honest business, it is the sense of this meeting that it is unwise to do so without adequate knowledge and due qualification."

Next the "Question Drawer" came on. The first question as to the relative merits of naturally cured honey and artificially cured honey—that is, honey evaporated and capped in the hive and honey evaporated outside the hive—was answered in favor of the hive-cured honey. The second question, as to spring management, how to prevent dwindling, and the best mode of building up weak colonies, was answered as follows: "Winter in a high temperature on good stores and keep as warm as possible on summer stands." In elucidation of what constituted a "high temperature," it was decided to be from 50° to 56°.

Following this came a paper by Mr. J. B. Hall, of Woodstock, on "Best Methods of Producing Comb Honey." These were stated to be convenient bee pasturage in abundance; a competent manipulator, fitted to his business both by nature and study; a movable comb hive "having a large top surface"; and a specialist in charge giving his whole attention to the business.

In the discussion that followed there was but little divergence of opinion from the positions taken in the paper.

The president's address followed next, in which the progress of the association during the past two years was reviewed, noting, 1st, the incorporating of the society; 2d, the Provincial Government grant of \$500 a year; 3d, the grand Canadian honey exhibit at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at South Kensington, London, England, in 1886; 4th, the increased influence of the society in fixing the apian prize-lists of the leading Provincial exhibitions; 5th, the foundation of an association library, the first contribution to which was from our trans-Atlantic friend, T. W. Cowan, F. G. S., F. N. M. S., etc.; and, 6th, the largely increased membership of the association. The president, in his address, touched upon several other minor matters.

Cellar wintering was next considered, Mr. McKnight describing his cellar as all underground, with walls nearly two feet in thickness, and nine feet ceiling. He had four sub-earth ventilators from 100 to 275 feet long of six inch tile. They all entered the cellar eighteen inches below the bottom. A draught pipe seven inches in diameter ran from within six inches of the cellar floor up to a stove above. A "cooler pipe" came in from the outside, adjustable. He wintered successfully in this cellar.

Mr. McKnight also gave a description of his excellent cellar, for which we have not room here, but which may be found in "Bee-houses and How to Build them," published by the D. A. Jones Co., Beeton, Ont.

Next came a paper by James Heddon, of Michigan, on "Overstocking." Unfortunately I have not been able to see this paper, but from what I know of Mr. Heddon's abilities as a practical apiarist it was no doubt interesting and instructive.

Then followed Dr. Miller's paper—"Can the Specialist Produce Honey More Cheaply and in Better Shape than Others? If so, why?" The Dr., as might be naturally expected, reached the conclusion that the specialist can produce honey more cheaply and in better shape than the dabbler or amateur, for the ob-