

eye light on a bird that "just suits" him, he will go to the depth of his pocket to get it if need be. I am not quite certain, that he would not steal it, if he could not procure it by fair means. For we know how the feeling goes, when you want that particular bird "most awful bad;" and can't get the owner to "part." We trust that Mr. Stedman's prize will bring the breeding pens out strong. It is a generous gift, and in cash, making it attractive to all alike. The prospects are bright indeed for Barrie show next year. The local Association is adding largely to its membership, ten new names being added this year already with three more for next ballot. This will insure a good deal of interest in poultry matters the coming season. We hope also to add some special features.

#### Items of Interest.

IF not already done, it is now quite late enough to make up the breeding pens for early hatching: put in such hens as are over moult and looking to be just on the eve of laying; also the early pullets. Do not on any account put small and still growing pullets in with heavy males, at least if you value your pullets to any extent. They will have to submit perforce to his attentions, and if very vigorous it will injure the pullets for the whole season's breeding. If you have only immature females postpone your mating as long as possible and keep pushing the pullets ahead. You will gain time and value in your stock by so doing.

Breed from your best specimens only and be sure they are vigorous in constitution. If you only raise ten chicks from a good pair well mated it will pay you 90 per cent better than to raise a hundred from any and every specimen, regardless of the characteristics they may possess.

If perchance the sire you choose has a particularly undesirable point in any part of his makeup, mate him to hens that have that point as near perfection as possible, and so balance if you can the defect. Of course these defects must not be structural, or disqualifications that are strongly inheritable, such as wry tails, lopped combs, etc. But we will say for your Brahma pen,

if the head of the male is too narrow, or as we call it, a "mean" head, then let the female be extra broad in head and full over the eyes, your chicks will have medium broad and well shaped heads. A 'mean' head on a Brahma detracts from the majestic appearance of the bird more than one would suppose. The leg and toe feathering will pay you to be a little in excess on either side, as the tendency to light feathering on legs and toes, is not at all easy to counterbalance. A not too large male of this variety, will generally give a better account of himself than one too large and gross in make. But the male must always be fine in proportion, and never stunted looking, our objection is only too coarse looking and loosely built birds. A compact, strong limbed, strong-boned bird, of vigorous type makes a far better sire for your pen.

Always pet your male bird and accustom him to take food from your hand, in this way he can be given many a dainty morsel to keep him up in the breeding season.

For the Poultry Weekly

#### Score one for Agricola.

I AM like your correspondent Agricola, going to differ about the eating question. I read his letter over many times, and I am sure if he could see my birds he would say the same, that the large breeds eat an awful lot of food to what the small breeds do. I, with Agricola, will back my large breed against your Leghorn. They are Ply. Rocks, and his are Brahmas, and I would back mine against his Brahmas too, and I know they would come out ahead. I know quite well they would "be there" as he says all the time. They are perfect gobblers. I don't know how much they would eat if I would give them all they wanted. If I am a little late in feeding them they go nearly mad when I go into their pen and fly onto me and crowd me so that I have to throw the feed as far as I can ahead to get rid of them. They don't seem to be the least bit afraid of me either, but stretch up their heads trying to pick the food out of the pail. I do believe they would eat till they "bust" if I'd let them. At first I thought they were hungry after their long journey, and I fed them an amount of feed I am afraid to tell you of for fear you will not believe me, but every day was the same and I had to let up on the feed. Now I want to tell Mr. Agricola not to