

ating is best treated by isolation, a plentiful supply of green food, and now and then little pieces of raw meat. The Houdan seems only liable to this complaint at moulting time, and then it has been shown that with proper care it can be avoided.

The Houdan is one of the most useful of the pure breeds for crossing purposes, its large eggs, good laying propensity, thin white skin, small bone but large meaty body, strong active and quick growing nature cannot fail to give a good return whenever the bird is used. The result of a Houdan cock mated with Brahma, Dorking, or Langshan hens is rapid growing hardy chickens, quickly developing into large, meaty fowls; the Houdan-Langshan cockerels are remarkably small in bone and the pullets early and consistent layers.

To conclude, although reading the general details I have given may cause the belief that the Houdan is a troublesome bird to keep and manage properly, the difficulties are not overwhelming when the routine of the yard is once properly arranged. The pleasure I have experienced in breeding and exhibiting pure bred poultry has been so great, I am bound to exhort all would-be poultry keepers to direct their attention to pedigree stock of blue blood rather than to the "pure bred mongrel." The Houdan affords a capital opening for anyone to rapidly make a name in the show world. Useful stock birds may be bought at moderate prices, from which, with perseverance and attention, a good yard may soon be formed; not all at once, at first a large number of the chicken would be only fit for the table; and here I have shown a Houdan excels, no matter whether his crest be large or small, or his comb the right or wrong type, but with patience your efforts will be rewarded sooner by this than any other breed; and if the competition amongst the present breeders is keen, fortune is very fickle—one year this, the next that yard is at the top of the tree; the old exhibitor has seen, and will see again, the champion bird of the season sent out by a new aspirant for honors.—*Feathered World.*

#### JUSTICE IN JUDGING.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO RETAIN AND ENCOURAGE THE  
POULTRY INTEREST?



F late years there has been so much dissatisfaction in regard to judging, that something will have to be done or we will find most of the true fanciers and breeders losing all interests in exhibitions.

When the best birds at a show win the highest honors then all exhibitors must be satisfied. This can be accomplished, but how to arrive at a system that will do justice to all is what we wish to bring before the notice of the fanciers. By the present system the judge decides; and if there is a protest it is left to the brother judges to confirm his decision and I have not known of one instance where they have differed from the acting judge. This would lead us to believe that our judges are infallible, but observing fanciers have noticed that in many cases the third prize bird is far superior to the first and if so some one suffers an injustice. What is wanted is some method of assuring the exhibitor of certainty of winning if his birds are best. A judge can make a mistake and in most instances should not be blamed. There is not a judge living that can go over his list at one of our large shows and place every award where it ought to go in the time given them and do justice to themselves. What we want in connection with each exhibition is a Protest Committee, each protest put in to be accompanied by one dollar forfeit fee, the change of award to be subjected to a jury of five breeders of variety protested, appointed by the Protest Committee, their decision to be final. This will do away with anxiety on the part of the judge and renew the confidence of our exhibitors. Having been an on-looker for the past season I noticed so many unjust awards that I wondered anyone would take the trouble to exhibit. I have myself won first and third on same variety when I have afterwards sold first for one half the price of the third prize bird and valued them as much at the time. Every exhibitor of the same variety whose attention was called to it agreeing that they should have exchanged places. The same circumstance has occurred when the birds were owned by different exhibitors then it becomes a serious matter. Under my proposed system, the owner of the third prize bird could appeal to the committee and have the award changed if wrongly placed, without making any ill feeling between exhibitors, or hardness towards the judge. I believe our exhibitors now know their own varieties so well that a committee of breeders of any variety, even if showing against each other would not hesitate to put the award on the best bird. No one minds being beaten if justly so but to take second place because the judge was limited for time and could not give due consideration to each bird is discouraging. We want the winners to be the best specimens exhibited and if a bird can win at one show, being the best, he can at another against the same birds in the same condition, no matter who may own him at second showing. A judge's life is not all "cakes and ale," and I venture to promise for our judges, who wish to do what is