



PIGEONS AND PETS.

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The Carrier.

Continued.

BREEDING certainly has a great interest to the pigeon fancier generally. To breed Carriers, first raters in every respect, is a difficult task, and quite another is to rear them to maturity. Comparatively few, even of those possessing decent carriers, have the honor of breeding birds of superior merit, which can stand their chance and win against all comers. Of course the best birds cannot win all their lives, for age adds a certain deterioration to all, especially the higher classes. Moreover, we are of the opinion, or at least it is the height of our ambition to see all varieties improve as time rolls on, so that the birds that won cups and dollars a few years ago would perhaps not be in it now, or would have to put up with a "C". But we do not despise these birds all the same, for they were good ones in their day perhaps, and helped the cause by producing the wonders of to-day, which may themselves be left out in time by steady advancement and improvement on the part of the fanciers. As the world rolls on and "all things must decay," so must pigeons, good or bad, but some bright shining stars in the fancy have left reflections of their qualities down through generations.

To be continued.

Poultry on the Farm.

IT seems that at least three farmers read the journal; I have heard from them. One says: "You have begun right. Go ahead and tell us how to make our common hens pay a good profit—say from 50 to 75 cents a head—over and above the cost of keeping, and then, when we know from experience that common hens will pay, we shall be prepared to believe you if you tell us that thoroughbred poultry will pay better than the common kind. You are the first and only regular poultry writer I ever heard of who has a good word for common hens, and us farmers are ready to listen to you respectfully; but it just makes us mad when a poultry article starts off by utterly condemning all common fowls and telling us that in order to make our poultry pay we must begin by buying a lot of \$3 pullets and a \$5 or \$10 rooster or two. The average farmers' pocket-book won't stand any such racket as that."

The next one writes briefly: You are right; the majority of farmers do not believe it will pay them to give any special attention to poultry, and it won't. I have farmed for fifteen years, kept from 20 to 40 hens every year, and I don't believe they ever paid ten cents a head yearly profit over the cost of keeping. Still I shall read your articles with interest."

Well then, begin by reading this "extract" from the other farmer who wrote me after reading my article in the December journal: "I kept poultry for a number of years as most farmers do—in a slipshod sort of way. Didn't suppose they paid their way hardly until three years ago when my wife and I had some words about the matter (I was mad because the hens raised some mischief in the garden, and threatened to kill every hen on the farm). The upshot of the affair was that we went on keeping an account with the hens—charged them with all grain feed and gave them credit for all eggs and chickens used and sold. The result astonished me, for at the end of the year the figures showed that our hens, half cared for as they were, paid a clear profit of nearly 60 cents per head. I fixed up the poultry house, and we took better care of our fowls, raised more chickens, and the next year our profits ran up to 85 cents per head. Last year still better care and management gave us almost \$1 a head profit. Next year we are going to try the introduction of Leghorn blood, and if it pays, as we feel almost sure it will, it won't be long until we shall have a flock of pure Leghorns, and keep them so." You see this man's common fowls paid their way, and more too, even when half cared for, and a better house