

does to the fancier of poultry. He might not inappropriately be called the "Game cock of the Fan-y." Many of the characteristics of form and condition required in the fowl, are found in this "King of Pigeons." For instance, he must be erect and stand in his carriage, with large, strong legs and feet; his neck must be long and slender, his head carried high, of good length, with a large, bright red eye, full in its expression; his body broad in front, tapering to the tail, the feathers rich and glossy in color, and appearing close and hard. In handling, the body should feel like wood and be full of muscular power; his wings should be well set on, with wing butts prominent, as if ready for a spring. In all these points we see a close resemblance one to the other, and one never sees a fine specimen of the Carrier pigeon, but the idea suggests itself, how much like a game cock he is. He even resembles the game in his disposition, as many a fancier can testify who has witnessed the endeavors of two vigorous cocks to obtain possession of one nest. How fiercely they strike and wrestle, and how persistently the struggle is kept up, until the weaker is forced from the landing board! Then witness the expression of triumph in the conqueror; he cannot herald his victory in the shrill clarion notes of the fowl, but he shows it in the high treading action of his feet, the arching of his neck and the merry spinning of his body (the "merry go round" of the old fanciers), and the crow or call peculiar to himself. As the true game fancier finds in his fowl requisites that no other variety can fill, so the admirer of the Carrier counts his pigeons as superior to all others. One cause, probably, that endears the bird so much to its owner, is the care necessary to produce good specimens, and the anxiety one feels from the time the eggs are found in the nest, until the bird goes through its second moult, and is past all the dangers of "babyhood." As all Carrier breeders are aware, the chances of loss are far in excess of those raising a young bird, even after it is hatched and begun to fledge. Many an enthusiastic breeder, after long and careful nursing and watching, sees his hopes "dashed to earth" on going to the loft, and finding the pets he had doted on so much, lying on the floor stiff and cold in death. In the excess of his disappointment he is tempted to give up the fancy, and sell out at once, leaves his loft in disgust, only to return at night, with fresh hopes and new ideas.

In consequence of the bad nursing qualities of the Carrier, it is customary with breeders to employ other birds for raising the young. Among the best for this purpose are Antwerps, Horseman, Dutchesse, common pigeons and crosses of all these varieties. Large specimens are generally chosen, and, when possible, pairs that are known

to be good nurses or "feeders," otherwise, even with a change of parents, success is not certain. Some change the egg to the foster parents' nest as soon as laid, while others wait until the Carriers have fed off what is termed the soft food, and then make the change. The chances of success are best when the eggs themselves are changed, as then the feeder can sit unmolested, and there is less chance of their forsaking the young birds, as they will sometimes do when the change is made after they are hatched. If success attends his constant care, how patiently the fancier watches the development of the most important properties:—the beak, and the wattles of nose and eye: to see that the beak is long, straight, and shutting closely together, forming what he terms a good box beak; that the wattling of the nose is well shaped and largely developed; that the cere around the eye is not contracted on one side and full on the other, forming, as it is called, a "pinch" eye, but full and equal all around, producing the much-prized rose-eyed bird. If all these qualities are realized, he exhibits his birds to his brother fanciers with pride, and is paid for his many months of jealous, hopeful watching.

Color makes but little difference to a lover of Carriers. It may be black, dun, blue, yellow, red or white; the properties before mentioned are most hoped for. As bred at present, the greatest development of these peculiar qualities is found in the black and dun varieties; hence we find to-day more of these colors bred than of the others. Time, proper selections and judicious breeding will eventually bring the neglected colors to a higher state of perfection, and here opens a field for young and patient fanciers. Let them make it the work and study of a life time, as our English brothers have done, and leave no means untried to produce the desired effect. It need not interfere with ordinary business duties, but rather serve as a pastime and prove a rest for a weary mind. Many a man to-day finds his time spent among his pigeons and chickens better employed than if wasted around the bar-room stove, the street corners or the table of the beer saloon.—*Poultry Bulletin*.

### To Beginners.

The show room is of great importance to beginners, and they can well afford to spend considerable time there. Your fowls should *always* be "prepared for the show." I do not wish to be understood by this that they should be stuffed and fattened in order to carry as much weight as possible, but that they should be kept healthy, clean, and in good condition. *No other preparation* is necessary, and no other will improve them. I have often been asked, "How do you prepare your