

with the gentleman, so have no cause to serve by these remarks, only am always desirous to cultivate friendly relations, as far as possible. Mr. Gofat's remarks are potent. If the judges make an error in awarding a prize, though endeavoring to act fairly, surely we can bear it; it ought not to be more insupportable than any other accident, and if the judge gives the prizes where they are not deserved, it cannot possibly affect the good birds that are on exhibition. I for one do not envy any man the position of judge, at the same time I can heartily sympathise with the exhibitor who is treated unfairly. With three cheers for the REVIEW,

Yours respectfully,

W. C. G. PETER.

Angus, May 12th, 1886.

SUGGESTIONS, &c.,

BY MORE ANON.

You are to be congratulated on the improved dress and type of the REVIEW. Considering the price and the value given, the REVIEW need fear neither competition nor comparison. My suggestions are to be of a general nature.

(A) To the poultry fraternity:—Can we not undertake to carry our Canadian REVIEW to the front rank of poultry literature and keep it there? To do this, I would suggest that we discuss *only* poultry affairs of a practical and scientific character. It neither honors nor helps our cause to indulge in petty personal matters. I confess that such matters are not interesting to the public, however they may be to the disputants; all such tends to other than kindly feelings. *A word to the wise is sufficient.*

(B) There is a matter connected with the breeding of stock, having much to do with our character and our cash; it is the *fertility* and *vitality* of eggs. Eggs may be fertile and not vital; by which, I mean—have power to

germinate, but not to develop to a *hatched* chick. Indeed, the vitality extends not only to a chick stepping from its palace of lime-polished marble but to its vigor and duration after birth. If the stock has been forced unduly to egg production, or is too fat, then there will be addled eggs, chicks dead in the shell, or weakly stock not worth raising. There is the science of feeding in connection with the science of breeding. I will write on this in our next.

THE WINTER SHOWS, &c.

BY J. F.

Poultry shows during the past season have been very numerous, and all, apparently, have been successful. So far as the bringing together of a lot of fine fowls constitutes success, nearly all have been successful, but from a financial point of view, I believe, with one exception, all have been failures. The result in most cases has been:—"Outsiders paid in full, but nothing, or very little at least, left for local exhibitors." This simply means that the men who did all the work, took all the risk, worry and responsibility were compelled to relinquish all their winnings in order that the good name of their society might be preserved.

The circumstances that lead to the forming of societies and holding exhibitions are somewhat as follows:—A number of energetic and ambitious men in a town take to the fancy, rivalries spring up that can only be settled in the show room, so a society is formed, and the holding of a show resolved on. The rivalries then extend, and they must have as large and fine a show as their neighbor society. The great object now is to get as large a variety as possible, and fanciers from a distance and the breeders of numerous varieties are the men most bid for and catered to, every inducement possible being made in the way of prizes, and provision made to secure them cheap transportation to the show and comfort

while at it. For their benefit the expenses and responsibilities are doubled. The show is held, and the result is, when the judging is done the breeders of many varieties, that have been coaxed to exhibit, have their coops almost covered with red and blue tickets, and after their prizes are paid the treasurer's wallet, which before was if plethoric proportions is shrunken until the sides almost meet, and a chilling and despondent feeling creeps over the committee. They then begin to ask themselves the question:—"What benefit has all this been to us, or to the fancy in our neighborhood?"

The show, which they hoped would impress visitors and neighbors with the beauty and excellence of their stock, has only served to build up the reputation and fill the coffers of one or two calculating exhibitors, whose success is due more to their skill in evading competition than to the merits of their stock. Varieties that have little but show qualities to recommend, them are given a prominence they do not deserve in a community where utility has been and should be the first consideration. When the excitement is over it dawns on them that all their labors and expenditure have been for the benefit of perhaps two or three professional exhibitors, and that the game was not worth the powder.

It is only reasonable to expect that when societies go to so much trouble and expense to get up exhibitions that all those who patronize them would give them their hearty co-operation and honest support. But is this always the case? No indeed. In many cases these men, who can only be regarded as professional exhibitors, systematically break and evade the rules wherever they interfere with their interest. Some will borrow all the birds they can procure from neighboring fanciers and show them as their own, thereby entering for one dollar what should, perhaps, contribute six dollars to the friends of the society. Sometimes a couple of