

is a well organized system of Township and County agricultural societies. These societies hold their annual exhibitions, and offer prizes for poultry, as well as other live stock; and yet, strange to say, we find in the returns to the Commissioner of Agriculture, made by some of the societies, that in the poultry class no prizes were awarded because there was no competition, or that the fowls exhibited were of an inferior quality, and, consequently, not such as ought to receive a money prize. This state of affairs we hope no longer exists. We know that a great many persons have imported largely both hatching eggs and birds this year: and we look forward to much greater competition at our local shows this fall than has taken place at previous exhibitions of a similar kind. There is, however, on the part of some breeders, a reluctance to send their fowls to exhibition, lest they should not take first prize, and therefore keep them at home; or, mayhap, at some former show, they considered their birds entitled to a prize which was given to others, in their opinion, much inferior, and doggedly determined never to exhibit again. Perhaps so. Judges are not immaculate, and are no doubt frequently in error in their awards, arising, no doubt, in some instances, through incapability, yet, we believe, oftener for want of time. But, is this a reason why breeders should not again become exhibitors? Certainly not. Let every breeder and fancier send his birds to exhibition. In so doing, he not only benefits himself in comparing his own stock with the stock of other breeders, but confers a like benefit on the public, and may be the means of inducing others to enter the list of competitors next season. To such as can not send their birds to the Provincial Exhibition, then, by all means, send them to the local exhibition, be it township or county. The surest means

of success in poultry breeding, as in other things, is competition and comparison.

### THE INFLUENCE OF THE MALE BIRD.

This subject, so full of interest to all breeders of pure poultry, is one on which too much attention cannot be bestowed, nor too much discussion elicited, until proved to a demonstration what amount of influence the cock bird exercises on fecundation of eggs and the reproduction of his own distinctive breed. With our present knowledge so limited, and the field for experiment so wide, the wonder is that more attention has not long since been given, and more practical information obtained on the subject. We are glad, however, to see that some of our many American breeders have lately taken up, and are now warmly discussing it, that others have actually commenced a series of experiments, to be published when finally completed, and that, altogether, we are in a fair way of having a new, and, we trust, satisfactory light thrown upon this interesting and, to poultry-breeders, important subject.

In all experiments to be made on this subject, it ought to be borne in mind that there are two distinctive objects to be attained; and writers as well as breeders would do well to keep this steadily in view, as we see, on the part of some correspondents, an inclination to treat the two points of the subject as if the one was a natural consequence of the other. They are: first, The length and duration of the cock's influence in the fecundation of eggs of the same laying, with a hen of his own or any other breed of the same species; and secondly, The cock's influence in the reproduction of chickens with a hen of a different kind, showing all or some of the distinctive markings of his own particular breed, in the same or any