

colour, and those of the remainder of the bird perfectly white.

The black-headed variety is the most numerous, probably because it is the most striking and pleasing in contrast with the white body. The beak ought to be small and jet black, without any shade of ashy greyiness about the nostrils or beak-wattle. The head should be small and round, rising with tolerable boldness from the beak; the irides of the eyes ought to be pearl white, and the eyelids forming ceres, or white fleshy circles around the eyes. A gravel eye is inadmissible in a good Nun, and feathers overhanging the upper eyelid are a serious fault. In the high-bred birds the feathers of the hood are perpendicular, and do not form a cap over the head. A well-defined hood is a most important point; it should be large and the top square, it should also be as thin as possible, to be of a perfect form, so that the loss of a single feather would break the evenness and show the deficiency. The less lined with the coloured feathers the head is the more admired. The veil or upper part of the throat should be of the colour of the head, and should extend well backward to the side of it, but not behind it; the veil should also be quite even on each side of the throat, of good round form, and should not extend too far down. The head should be thrown back, and the neck be small, and gracefully enlarging until it be lost in a full breast.

There should be from eight to ten coloured flight feathers in each wing, but ten we consider the best, as it causes a more evenly cut line, than any other number, and when the two wings are brought together upon the back, they form a most perfect saddle. The upper and under tail coverts should be clean and of a bright red colour which contrasts so well with the white thighs. The claws should be black.

When the specimen is black, the whole of that colour should be deep, glossy, and intense, and the flight and tail feathers free from a bronze, blue, or mousey appearance.

As the size of a Nun is such a material point we may say that the weight of a good specimen should not exceed 10 ozs. when in high condition.—J. W. LUDLOW, in *Jour. of Horticulture*.

NEW VARIETY OF PIGEON.—At a recent English Poultry and Pigeon show,

were exhibited a pair of pigeons by Mr. A. Prosche, of 6, Fadvieg, Dresden, a greater novelty has not been seen, perhaps, for years, and from their singularity, were, at the suggestion of the Judges (Messrs Hewitt and Teeby) awarded an extra first-prize. These strange Pigeons had much of the general character of small foreign blue owls, being perfectly filled on the crop, whilst immediately under the throat was a well-defined semicircle of feathers turned upwards, the points extending to behind the ears, somewhat suggestive of the cowl of a Jacobin Pigeon inverted, or placed under the head and before it, in lieu of the customary position at the nape of the neck and upright.

PIGEONS GOING LIGHT.—Mr. J. Philpott writing in an English Periodical says—I trust a few remarks, founded on facts that came under my notice during the examination of upwards of twenty birds from various lofts, may be acceptable to your readers. It is not my intention to trespass on your space by giving particulars of the various experiments made, but simply to state it is my belief that worms are in most cases the cause of so many valuable birds wasting and dying, also that the malady is contagious. A short time since I went to see the stock of an old fancier—crouched in a pen was a good-bred Tumbler in the last stage of the so-called consumption. I told the owner what the bird was suffering from; he laughed at the idea. The bird was examined after death to convince him, and it contained upwards of one hundred worms, some 2 inches in length.

On this subject, Mr. H. Allsop, says, I have had several of my Pigeons in this condition and I have effectually cured them, by feeding them on toasted bread and ale, keeping them warm, and giving them a little canary seed to peck at. A friend of mine has also had several cases amongst his antwerps: he has fed the birds on bread crumbs, and given them milk to drink. I know of another case of a carrier fancier who had his birds light all the summer, and was unable to breed from them. He was administering cod-liver oil to them night and morning, and hoped in a short time to have his birds all right again. A friend at once tried the oil. He says it is the finest thing he ever tried; the worst result is that the oil greases the