

sure of inspecting the "model poultry house of Canada," namely, that of Mr. Geo. G. McCormick. It may be remembered that we had occasion to allude to it on a former visit to London some two or three years ago, but since then its proprietor has added several improvements of various kinds. The house is of brick, lined with two thicknesses of inch boards and is roomy and splendidly lighted, facing the south. It has a second story for use in winter, and above that a loft for coops and other appurtenances of the show room, is provided with feed bins, moveable nest boxes and perches, and withal is kept as clean as it is possible for such a house to be kept. Mr. McCormick is his own carpenter and has displayed much ingenuity in various little appliances which he has made and which greatly tend to the pleasure of caring for his large flock of fowls.

#### WYANDOTTES.

From the various types of silver Wyandottes we see awarded prizes, we should be glad if our Canadian judges would inform us what in their opinion is the correct marking. They seem to run from an almost black fowl to one almost white with all kinds and descriptions of lacing, in fact some of them are not laced at all. What say ye, ye wearers of the Ermine?

#### PEKIN BANTAMS.

We have seen at the fall shows this year more good colored Pekin Bantam pullets than we have seen in any previous year. There were three at the Industrial: 1st, 2nd and 3rd of a most rich and sound color and one uncentered, which though not quite so even was richer and deeper in color than any of the prize winners. What a breeding pen the 1st cock, 1st hen and the four pullets mentioned would make! We are almost tempted to give way to an envious desire to possess them.

#### WITHHOLD PRIZES.

Why will judges persist in awarding prizes to specimens which are really not worth the amount of money they win! This was particularly noticeable in Hamilton where the classes in some sections were considerably below par. Friend Butterfield we will have to go for you with a long pole. We are in a better position, perhaps, than others to be more fully aware of the trouble it causes. How many letters do we get stating that the writer brought 1st or 2nd prize birds as the case may be, at some of our large exhibitions, and the swindle they state was perpetrated on them! We would be afraid to say how many. The practice is wrong, if for no other reason than that it misleads perspective buyers.

#### WE REGRET TO LEARN

that Mr. Thomas Male, Listowel, has been seriously injured by an explosion of gas in the gas works in which he is employed.

## POULTRY

#### NOTES.

BY BLACK WYANDOT.

THE English type is gradually becoming more popular with American breeders of Asiatics, and undoubtedly a greater length of feather would give our Asiatics a more shapely form. Especially is this true of Brahmas which have been bred too close-feathered and "gawky." We would prefer a broad, rather low and heavy looking bird.

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The newly revived idea of "comparison judging" is causing much dis-

cussion in poultry circles just now and is a disturbing element of no mean proportions. We do not believe the poultry fraternity are ready to discard the score-card just yet. Scoring has proven to be the most successful and satisfactory method of judging ever in use. Many exhibitors make large exhibits wholly with the idea of getting a score-card for their birds. Such exhibitors would reap no advantage from the comparison method. The score-card shows the inexperienced breeder the parts in which his birds are deficient, and in this way is of great advantage as an educator.

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Lewis Wright writes enthusiastically of Bantams:—"Pretty, interesting, useful, loveable,—we pity the hard-hearted man who can't admire a Bantam." These four qualities can certainly be credited to any Bantam breed now in the American Standard. The breeds recently introduced:—the Pekins and Japanese are additions of great value. They are so charming in every respect that the great demand now made for them is certainly with good cause, and a happy future in America for these little foreigners may safely be predicted.

But while we admire the new acquisitions, we should not lose sight of the exquisite old breeds which have attracted the fanciers attention for so many years and are as deserving as ever. The Sebrights, with their almost marvellous plumage, the Games with high-bred airs, the Rose-combed blacks with a beautiful contrast of red, white and greenish-black in comb, lobes and plumage are breeds to command the admiration and best efforts of any fancier.

The more recently introduced "plumed-knights" in miniature the white Polish Bantams are, we believe a product of American skill.

These breeds are not eclipsed by