



PIGEONS AND PETS.

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Care of Common Pigeons.

AS we have been requested to give an article in our columns on the above subject we append the following, hoping it will answer the purpose. The idea is not the care of pigeons for "fancy" but for shooting matches. We are acquainted with a gentleman who entertains himself and others with the so-called "sport" of shooting pigeons; we do not believe, however, that the birds are given a fair chance to "get going." The gentleman of whom we speak buys the birds a few days before the match, is to come off, puts them in a large loft and feeds them on corn, peas and other grain and a supply of clean water. He buys no birds that are not in the pink of condition and there are plenty of such to be got at from 20 to 40 cents per pair. Beyond the above (and of course keeping the loft tolerably clean) no other care is necessary. In fact, treat them as you would any breed of pigeons that are hardy. If they are to be kept any length of time supply them with gravel and a piece of rock salt and if you wish to breed from them supply them with some boxes to nest in. No particular mating is needed unless the owner wishes, when he must put the would be pair in a pen by themselves, give them a few grains of hemp seed and they will generally be wed when let out of their pen.

When a fine sunshiny day happens along don't forget to give your pigeons a bath.

We paid a short visit to the loft of Inigo Hobden, the short face Tumbler breeder. Here we found things looking up and unless we are mistaken he will make things go this coming breeding season. He has a nice stud of Short Faces, Almonds, Kites and Agates.

Use Only Thoroughbreds — Confined Poultry.

WHEREIN is the value of thoroughbred poultry? My friend, the farmer says he don see why common poultry sells at ten cents per pound, and throughbred at two to edollars per head. I will try to explain from my standpoint why I think thoroughbreds should be worth more than dundhills. The man who wastes time, brains and hard cash, to get pure stock, can't afford to sell at ten cents per pound. But you may say, what has that to do with its being worth more. I will tell you. A farmer, or anybody else, for that matter, keeps, say 100 hens, the old common variety, inbred and inbred for ever so long. He takes no interest in them, for the sight of them gives him no pleasure, he don't attend to them properly. Very often they shift for themselves, eggs are few and far between, and instead of being profitable they are unprofitable. But, let that same person get a few thoroughbreds, and presto—the scene changes. He smiles when he looks at his biddies, feeds them regularly, keeps their coops clean, makes them feel at home, and they lay regularly, because a pleasure to him, and instead of being a loss they are a profit. Therein then is the difference; not so much in the fowls as in the results achieved through keeping them and that is the true test. Now I wish to say a few words in regard to the producing capacity of fowls. We judge the value of a hen by the number of eggs she will lay, and right here is the point. The productive capacity of a fowl will always be governed by the amount of food it can digest and assimilate. From an experiment made several years ago, I have determined pretty clearly, that fowls in confinement will, in many cases appear to be in good condition and fail to lay, simply because their digestive organs are out of order. I made the experiment as follows. I had a small flock of fowls that had unlimited range, and I killed several, I found the lining of the gizzard very strong and tough, or in proper condition. I shut the remaining fowls up for about six weeks and then killed several, and though they appeared as healthy as when I shut them up (they had quit laying,) I found the lining of the gizzard very weak and no longer in healthy condition. A. M. Burkholder, in Poultry Keeper.