

Pedigree Poultry.

Editor Review.

Please allow me to call attention through your columns to the popular fallacy of registering poultry under the present regime. Many people suppose because a bird is registered and has a number allotted to it for its own and only use forever,—said number being enclosed in important looking brackets—that the stock is bound to be something above the ordinary stock of that particular breed. Now the fact is, any person who feels so disposed can register a Black Spanish hen for a Light Brahma, or *vice versa*; in fact the said Black Spanish hen need not exist even, as the creature of imagination can be registered as well as the existing bird that scores 99 points. Of course such extreme cases are not likely to occur, but there is a great probability of third-rate or even mongrel stock being registered, as the registry fee is the chief qualification. I think this is not generally understood or we would have less high sounding names and much less about pedigree stock.

That registration is desirable in fowls as well as other stock I am prepared to admit, and also to adopt as soon as some system is adopted that will show what breeding the bird has, but while it exists as at present I can only regard it as an attempt to inflate, as it were, inferior stock, or at least while it does no harm to a good bird it has a tendency to lead inexperienced buyers to believe they are getting something extra, while there is a great possibility it may be something very inferior. In a word, the fact of a bird being registered is *no proof* that it is well bred.

J. W. BARTLETT.

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Showing Borrowed Birds.

It is well known to every exhibitor and every frequenter at our poultry shows that many birds are shown by other persons than those who own them. In other words, birds are borrowed by sharp exhibitors for no other object than to take to shows to be exhibited as their own, to win fame and money for their bogus owner exhibitors, and after the show is over to be returned to the yards they were borrowed from. This trick has been going on for a long time; it is almost as old as our shows. Promoters and committees of shows, exhibitors, and nearly all fanciers know that this thing exists, and to a very large extent too, and why it is that steps have not been taken long ago to stamp this fraud out I am quite at a loss to know.

There can be no doubt that the sooner the executive and committees of our shows take this thing up with a determination to put a stop to it the

better it will be for every fancier, breeder, and exhibitor, except such as those who deem anything fair that will enable them to win prizes.

In no other case of stock shows, or any other shows of competition either of live stock or manufactured goods, does this fraud exist. Imagine a man borrowing a horse, a cow, or a bull, or all three of them, from a neighbor, wherever he could get good specimens, and taking them to an agricultural show and exhibiting them for prizes as his own! I fancy he would, if a member, soon get the grand bounce from any association he belonged to, and be debarred from ever again exhibiting at any respectable show.

Then why should a man be allowed to exhibit poultry as his own which are not, any more than he should a horse which is not his? The only reason I can see—and that is a very poor one—is, it is more difficult to prove the identity of a fowl than of a horse, and perhaps greater obstacles are in the way of proving that the hens being exhibited by John Brown as his, and as being bred or purchased by him are not his, but are owned by Tom Jones, were raised by him, and were lent for the occasion. But this I think is not the reason this state of things has been allowed to go on as it has. It is for the want of a vigorous protest and determination of honest breeders and exhibitors to put it down. Amateurs are heavily handicapped by this dishonorable borrowing system. They are not met by their competitors on a fair and even footing. There is no reason why an amateur who breeds only a few birds, and perhaps only one kind, should not stand a fair chance of winning his share of prizes when he meets only honest competition, but when he is pitted against what may be called professional showmen, regular old ringers, who, when they have not good specimens of certain breeds of their own, scour the country and visit all their neighbors' yards till they see what they want, and borrow it specially to take to a show, no amateur, no fair exhibitor can stand such competition as this. It is unfair, dishonest, and dishonorable, a clear breach of the rules of all poultry associations, and all breaches should be exposed, frowned down and stopped. Why it has ever been allowed, why it was not stopped the very first time it was practised completely passes my comprehension, but whether from apathy or the trouble or difficulty of proving cases, I know not; one thing sure, the pernicious system has grown and flourished till to-day it is a positive injury and nuisance to all honest breeders and fanciers, and it needs only a few who are interested in the welfare of our poultry interests to take a determined stand on this question. Their motto must be, "No prizes given to borrowed birds, and