

succeed better with it than he who breeds more; let the kind he breeds be that which he likes best; let him put all his energies into bringing that to the highest possible state of perfection, and if he succeeds he will derive much more satisfaction from it than from producing a dozen mediocre animals. Whatever animal the fancier makes up his mind to breed, let him be sure he starts right, get nothing but the very best stock to start with; never mind if he pays twice or three times as much for it as for that which is not so good. Never mind the cost, start with the best; let it be his aim from the first to breed stock inferior to none, and starting with this determination, everything else being equal, he will succeed. He must always remember that one good specimen that is near perfection is worth to the fancy a hundred ordinary ones. His judgment must be sound when he looks at the specimens; he must be able to take in their good points and their bad ones at once without any doubt or hesitation; he must not be biased in favor of his own, in other words, he must look on his own just as he would on other peoples, and be equally exacting for the sustaining of his standard. His judgment must be thorough and independent, and in the least to be influenced by that of others. It is the lack of the last most essential quality that is the stumbling block of nearly all fanciers. They rely too much on the judgment of other people. This is often manifested at shows. Take a pen of poultry at a show; they are passed by hundreds of people, no one in particular paying any more attention to that coop than to any other, and the pair or trio could be bought for a few shillings; but just as soon as 1st prize is tacked on the pen they take a great leap up in value, and everybody is admiring them, including the owner himself, who should have thought just as much of them before the distinguished honor was awarded them; but he did not, which goes to show (if the judges' award was correct) that he was not posted on his own stock.

It is always supposed that the prizes are awarded to the best animals, but sometimes, unfortunately, they are not, and to the thorough practiced fancier the award of the judges should have no influence whatever, neither will it if he is as good a judge as they are; if he delights in the fancy and goes about it as I have set forth, it will not have. Never let him pay any more for a pen of birds because 1st prize is awarded them, nor think less of a bird because it received no award at all unless he is convinced by his own independent judgment that they are correctly placed. A fancier must first know how to produce it, and next know when he has produced it, and all this entirely unaided by anyone but himself.

This same rule applies to breeding of one and

all domestic animals, no matter whether it be a Homing Pigeon or a Shorthorn Bull, a Leicester Sheep or a Derby winner, the principle here laid down is essentially the same, and to be successful in any one of them the qualifications here expressed is equally essential; to possess them is to succeed, not to possess them means never coming to the front.

× ROADS.

### Gapes.

The season for this disease is at hand. Its results are so certainly fatal, that it is dreaded by the fancier and breeder. Still it is so easily prevented, that there is no good excuse for allowing it to make its appearance.

It is now ten or more years since actual necessity compelled me to find some cure or preventive, and after two years experiment, I compounded the ointment so well known to readers of Wright's Illustrated Book of Poultry. My success was so thorough that in two years I entirely eradicated the disease from yards where for four or five years, the average loss had been from seventy-five to ninety per cent. of the hatch. There has not, to my knowledge, been a case in these yards since that time.

Notwithstanding the theories as to the origin of the disease, all that is positively known of it is the cause and the result. The cause of the gaping and gasping for breath, from which the disease takes its name, is an accumulation of small red worms in the windpipe; the result is usually death.

Whether the insects found on the young chicks have any connection with the worm or not, has never been proven, but certain it is, that if the chicks are kept free from vermin and insects of all kinds, they do not have the gapes.

The theory of such relationship, advanced by myself some years ago, has been ridiculed by high and low authorities, but no better one has been advanced, the results of the preventive treatment are the same, and, thus far, there has been no other mode of successful prevention devised.

The application consists of 1 oz. mercurial ointment, 1 oz. pure lard,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. crude petroleum. I formerly used sulphur also, but found it unnecessary. Mix thoroughly and apply in a half melted state to the head of the newly hatched chicken; one or two drops will suffice. Renew the application when three weeks old. This is also a sure remedy for lice on the old fowls, if applied in the same manner to the head and under the wings.

As a cure, only three remedies of all I have ever heard of have been efficacious, and of these only one is certain: that is, holding the chick over the fumes of carbolic acid. Put a few crystals of acid