

PIGEONS AND PETS.



THE POUTER.

BY WM. R. BROWN, KLEINBERG, ONT.

"How gracefully their breasts they blow,
Their limbs are lang, their wasts are sma'
The bravest birds ye ever saw,
And King o' Doos—The Pouter."

The above well seasoned, but always popular verse should thrill the heart of every lover and fancier of that grand bird, the Pouter pigeon. An able English authority and writer divides the Pouter family into three varieties, viz:—1st, the "Dutch;" 2nd, the "Lille" or French Pouter; 3rd, the German, and fourth and lastly the improved English Pouter, the two last named varieties being the most common in this country. The English type presents a large well built bird with a large even crop, and standing as nearly upright as possible, the beak being buried in the oesophagus when the crop is well distended; the German type presents a smaller bird standing less upright than its English cousin and the crop appearing as if all to one side and not very well distended. The English type is by far the better one. A Pouter must be long-bodied, very large, slender in girth, and with grand legs well and evenly feathered. The legs should be long, and should so hold up the bird that he will be as nearly straight up and down as possible, and the length of them in proportion to the length of the body. Pouters to be successful in the show-room must be trained to stand *up*, as the day of the lay down style has passed. A Pouter must have action, and this requires grand legs. He should measure at least nineteen inches from tip of beak to end of tail. The crop requires special attention. It should be firm looking and well and evenly distended. A coarse and immense crop is a disadvantage, inasmuch as it robs the bird of its chief beauty. As the Pouter is not a good feeder the young should be given to a good pair of feeders, as a Pouter stunted in its infancy will never recover his size. To get the requisite length of feathers the young should be hatched as early as possible. Pouters come in nearly all colors and markings, and they offer great possibilities to the fanciers who can breed them as a speciality.

The Pouter is one of the hardest members of the family *Columba* to mate so as to produce results. Always try to mate with one color, *i.e.*, mate a blue to a blue, red to a red, etc. The Pouter is a grand show bird, and anyone taking up Pouter breeding will stick to them a lifetime.

AN AMATEUR'S JACOBIN EXPERIENCES.

BY JAMES L. SKENE, M.P.C.

The Jacobin was originated at a very early date, although I have never been able to trace the many crosses and recrosses which first produced this popular variety.

In breeding Jacobins the elements of success may be summed up as follows:—In good sound and healthy stock, which must be properly housed, and by all means avoid over-crowding, as many fanciers do, and kill off any weeds immediately, for these so-called birds may in time spoil the lofts of many a fancier. To those who can afford to restate their lofts after such an event it is all very well, and means but a disappointment, but to the poor fancier it means more than words can tell.

Again, the fancier to be wise—as I hope every one is—will be careful in judiciously mating the birds for the breeding season, and provide suitable food, for bad food of every description is on the market; but with good sound maple peas, wheat and dari, with a little hemp as a sort of "pick-me-up," will prove beneficial to the fancier. Pure water and cleanliness I must next insist upon—for what can carry more germs of disease than impure water?—and cleanliness repays the trouble in itself alone, and no successful loft should lack it, for the birds appreciate nice clean perches; and feeding dishes and watering pans should be white enamel.

Of course, every fancier's hobby is attention to his birds; he grows interested in their every-day routine, and likes to see an offspring showing signs of his attention and perseverance, and I do not hesitate to say that it is only the patient and persevering fancier who need hope or expect to see his birds successful in the show pen.

I would now draw your attention to the principal points and properties of the Jacobin. I believe in medium-sized Jacobins (although many breeders go to both extremes, to their own loss), shape long, hood (the hood is the upper covering of the head) should be long and close-fitting; next to hood is the chain (which is an inverted growth of feathering on each side of the neck), should be thick as possible, long and smooth, mane (which is ridge of feathers at the back of the neck) as heavy as possible, eye clear or pearl, carriage very erect, and struts about very gracefully.

(To be Continued.)