secondary quills should also be pencilled, and white on the outer webs, with a little undefined marking, is the rule Tail-feathers should be perfectly pencilled, the pencilling to "fall in line" as if continuous lines had been drawn around the bird as far as possible. In both sexes, the beak horn-color; comb, face and wattles, bright scarlet red; deaf ears, pure white; eyes, bright red; legs, dark leaden blue. In both sexes of the Golden Pencilled varieties, the plumage precisely resembles that of the preceding variety, substituting in the cock a ground color of reddish golden bay, and in the hen a rich gold color, or orange gold, the black marking being similar. The defects in the pencilled varieties are: Bad head and comb; stained deaf ear; tail, not properly marked; hackle, marked or spotted; want of general symmetry and condition. The disqualifications being: Single or lopping combs; hen-feathered cocks; red deaf ears; rusty patch on cock's wing in Silvers, or feathers tipped with white in Gold; legs any other color but blue or leaden blue; wry tails, or any other deformity; trimmed combs, or any other fraudulent dyeing, dressing, or trimming.

(To be continued.)

Silver Dragoons' Bars.

Much has been said as to the proper color of Silver Dragoons' bars, much more might be said, but the subject has been pretty well ventilated, so much so, indeed, that the dullest of our fellow fanciers can clearly see through it, and thus solve the problem for themselves; in short, and in fact, the question black bars or brown bars is simply a matter of choice, upon which a difference of tastes might be expected, and whether the matter be decided now by one or twenty fanciers it will still remain an open question, to be left to the discretion and preference of whoever may be selected to make the awards where both the kinds may be antagonists.

In your Journal of June 6th you stated that "Mr J. Bromley suggests that the Birmingham Columbarian Society should decide as to the color of the bars" We therefore willingly repeat our opinion on the point for the use of those who may value it, and who may have passed unnoticed the number of the Journal in which our views were contained. Our opinion upon the Dragoon Pigeon were given at some length in your issue of April 21st, 1870, in which all the acknowledged varieties were referred to, accompanied by a portrait.

The following paragraph we extract from our notes as bearing upon the point at issue: "Silvers are frequently bred from and crossed with Blues, but it is better not to do so, for, as a consequence, too often the produce of such a mixture is a muddle of both, resulting chiefly in the production of birds of a silver color with black bars and dark flights, which are, therefore, not regarded as Silvers, but are looked upon as washed-out Blues. True Silvers may be simply described as follows.—Their color is a sort of whitybrown or very light drab, with darker drab bars, neck, and flights; they should have light horny bills and nails; the hackle is not so beautifully resplendent as in the Blues, the iridescence being greatly diminished by the drab tint of which their color consists. The eyes of this variety partake of a rich pearlish kind, without a particle of yellow observable in them. They are a very attractive variety, and good specimens are very scarce, more especially cock birds."

These were our opinions given two years ago after full consideration and mature experience of the breed; but as the subject has lately been freely discussed, and our opinion sought, we have again brought the matter before our members for reconsideration at our last periodical meeting, but the verdict was the same fully confirmed, but this time with many additional voices to proclaim with emphasis the brown or drab bars as the proper and established color for Silver Dragoons.

Amongst our members we have many admirers of Dragoons, who have made an especial study of them for years, and experience has taught us to prefer in Silvers the brown-barred kind. In feed, until lately, none other were exhibited, simply, perhaps, because there was not a well-matched pair of black-barred to show. Odd ones now and then were bred, but were not regarded as show birds, because to follow precedent brown-barred birds as standard specimens were required.

So-called black-barred Dragoons were produced as by accident, and not designedly, and they are about as numerous now as they were then. It is true we admire both kinds, and probably if we could introduce any other pretty offshoots from those already known and recognized we should also admire them, for were they white bars, red bars, real black bars, or even green bars, they would doubtless attract our attention, command our admiration, and elicit our praise; but we cannot see the wisdom of attempting to revolutionize a settled characteristic by any sudden freaks of fancy to which fanciers are liable.

It is no new thing to produce the so-called black-barred Silvers; but it is quite new, and an entire revolution of things to endeavour to persuade that no others are perfect, and thus ignore the long-known and acknowledged Silvers.

We have, unfortunately, in our category of fancy phrases and names a host of misapplied terms, and those often mislead the amateur Pigeon-keeper, and sometimes ruffle the calmer fancies of the more knowing ones. We are of opinion that such is the chief cause of difference as to Silver Dragoons. Silvers! Ah! there's the question, for in reality there's more against that name than either of the kinds in dispute. The name we think is an inappropriate one, answers as well to one as the other, but, in fact, is unsuited to either, though the term Silver has long been used in describing both kinds. Thus, experienced fanciers would know, that in speaking of Silver Dragoons, Fantails, Owls, Carriers, or Runts, that the brown-barred kind were meant, because the flights and tail feathers of these kinds must be of the same color, or in accord with the color in body, whilst the Turbit and Baldhead, being white-flighted and white-tailed birds, are understood to have darker or black bars. It therefore seems folly to endeavour to transfer the title from varieties already established to one not yet in existence, even though it were admitted to be better, for although there are (of Silvers) those which more nearly approach black than their fellows, yet the darkest of these are, in truth, far from being black; and the more intense the color of bars for Silvers with colored flight and tail, the more certain is the last named appendage to be of a bluish cast, and the more variegated with green lustre is the neck of the bird likely to be.

Now, we are not opposed to a change when such alteration is advisable or can be supported by well-grounded argument, backed up by precedent or sustained by sound theory; but by the advocates of the black bar all these essentials seem to be forgotten. It is not sufficient for a solitary pair of dark-barred birds to be exhibited, and because they win a few prizes with certain judges that henceforth none other are perfect. This is surely too much to expect, and we cannot help feeling surprise that, in the controversy which has taken place, the names of one or two fanciers have appeared in support of black bars whose experience should have taught them to use more care and thought in advocating a change of fashion which would alienate scores of persons from the ranks of fanciers, who would thus desert the fancy disgust at the needless and ever-changing fancies of gentlemen who have been looked upon as authorities, but who, whilst destroying that confidence in themselves, also would aid in the destruction of the admirable variety of Pigeon by which their reputation was gained, and to which breed the highest praises have been given, and by those, too, who now seek to overthrow the very kind of Pigeon they helped to establish.—*Birmingham Columbarian Society—J. W Ludlow, Secretary.*

Chicken Cholera.

The symptoms of this disease, which has during the past few years become quite prevalent in our poultry yards during the hot months, are by no means uniform, and in several instances do not present a clear choleraic character. It is, therefore, of importance for the breeder to thoroughly understand the symptoms, so that if his fowls be attacked he will be able to apply the proper remedy. During the last few years, in the United States, whole yards have been devastated by this disease, and we see several complaints in poultry journals of similar occurences this year. When attacked by cholera the bird is seized with a sudden and violent thirst, accession of thirst accompanied with diarrhœa, at the first the droppings are of a greenish character, and by degrees becoming thin and whitish, much resembling similar discharges in the human subject. Great weakness also manifests itself, and in some cases cramps supervene. The disease runs its course rapidly, death resulting in most cases in from twelve to thirty-six hours, if not, therefore, taken immediately, the treatment is generally too late. If the following recipe be administered at an early stage of the disease, every three hours, a large percentage of those affected may be cured: "Rhubarb, 5 grains; cayenne pepper, 2 grains, and laudanum, 10 drops.

The Apiary.

Bee Notes.—Advice to Beginners.

It is said, and the assertion is pretty well sustained, that a queen bee, when everything is favorable, will deposit, on an average, 3,000 eggs every 24 hours. A good swarm of bees consists of some 20,000. If the eggs that a queen will lay were all cared for until hatched into bees, we can easily see that every 10 days will at this rate furnish a large swarm. We can also see that every day a properly situated colony is without a fertile queen there must be a great lack in the increase. As many proportionally die in such a stock as in one that is maturing bees, enough bees to make several swarms die off annually from any thrifty stock. The age of a worker bee is but a few weeks.

A piece of comb an inch square will contain about 50 cells—worker size. A hive of only ordinary size will contain from 60,000 to 80,000 cells. We can all readily see the advantage of having an abundance of comb in suitable condition to receive the eggs that a queen will deposit, and, above all, that there should constantly be a queen depositing eggs. In the natural process of swarming, colonies are without a laying queen for 14 to 18 days. In ordinary artificial swarming about 20 days. A colony that designs throwing off a swarm—to make the time short as possible—will begin preparations several days before hand to provide a successor to the queen that is to leave, and to make a sure thing of it, usually several young queens are reared. When the first cell containing a queen is sealed over, the old queen and most of the bees leave as a swarm. In making an artificial swarm, the old queen is taken with the bees, and the old stock is left destitute the same as in the other case. They do not usually have any queen cells started, and have to begin from the eggs or any young larvæ, and it will take them some days longer to mature a queen. When bees, if only a hundred or two, are deprived of their queen and have eggs or young larvæ, they will at once commence preparation for one, and it will take them from 10 to 16 days to mature it. In eight days after leaving the cell, when all is favorable, she will begin to lay. But there has been a loss of two or three weeks in egg laying. Every bee-keeper who is disposed to turn the industry of his bees to the best account should begin to rear queens early that they may be ready by the time he has swarms, either natural or artificial, thereby gaining many bees.

I have found it most economical to rear queens in small boxes. Those made on the Langstroth or comb on movable comb principle will answer as well as any. I use three combs about five inches square, suspended in frames that will go in a box easily. No top or bottom nailed fast. Near the centre of the middle comb cut out a piece near three inches long on the upper side, two inches on the bottom, and a little more than an inch in depth. Now take a comb from a hive that is breeding containing eggs or larvæ just hatched from the egg—new comb is best—cut out a piece of the same shape half the depth of the space cut out of the comb, and just long long enough to fit in the upper side closely. The bees will wax it fast in a few hours. Near a pint of bees is wanted to rear the queens. If they cannot be had from any place a mile or two away they may be taken from a hive at home by taking young bees. Young bees are best. Obtain them by taking two or three combs without the queen in the middle of the day from a hive from which an abundant brood is hatching—you have movable combs of course—and put them into an empty hive or box a few feet from the old stand. In an hour or two the older bees will return to the hive. The bees that remain may be brushed into an empty box and shut up. Now set the box prepared for rearing queens over it, and let the bees creep through a hole left for the purpose up into it. Finding the brood they at once commence enlarging one or more of the worker cells into such as are required for raising a queen. If very warm give a little water in a sponge. They may allowed to fly out in 48 hours.

If there is no honey in the combs, they should be fed a little while shut up, as well as afterwards, unless they can obtain it from the flowers. On the tenth day, if they finish more than one cell, the super-