

Neck,	5
Back,	5
Breast and Body,	8
Wings,	5
Tail,	5
Legs,	5

100

Special Premiums.

My little article on the manner of awarding special premiums at our shows seems to have stirred up some of the members of the American Poultry Association, at Portland, judging from the reports I read of the meeting there. I am glad it did, for, as we all know, there are several improvements or reforms needed in our present exhibition system, and we may as well make a beginning here as anywhere. But it cannot be made in the way some of the speakers suggested. It can only be made in one way, and that way is to make the entry fee cover all the premiums offered. Make the entry fees the same to all exhibitors, and charge no per cent. for specials.

I am satisfied that this is the only fair and equitable manner of awarding premiums, and in any association where I have a voice, it will be the only rule followed. Many exhibitors have good birds, but not having plenty of money, are afraid to risk the ten per cent. entry fee on a large special, and thus, while winning the first and second premiums in a given class, lose the valuable special, which their neighbor with more money and poorer stock, carries off. Nor is the pecuniary loss the only one the poor exhibitor realizes. He also loses the advertisement of "best pair B. B. Games," and his more fortunate rival does not forget to publish to the world that he won the 25 dollar special premium for "best pair Games," at — show. Thus the society helps to rob a poor man, and helps a scarcely honest man to deceive the public. True, he won the special offered for the "best pair," and as winner has a right to so advertise, but, after all, is it right? is it honorable? I say, Certainly not! But one will say, "The society cannot afford to offer such a special unless they get ten per cent. of such special as an entry fee." Well, if they cannot afford it, then why offer it at all? Let the society offer such premiums as they can afford, and pay them. Let the general entry cover all premiums offered.

Supposing the plan I suggest does make the list of premiums, and especially the list of specials, look a little smaller—are they any less in the end? Certainly not. For, if the exhibitors donate the special in ten per cent. entry fees, who is it, in reality, that offers the special—the society or exhibitor?

True, fanciers and breeders care less for the cash consideration of the premium than they do for the honor of it, when there is honor in the winning. But in the case of a third premium bird winning, a special for best, how much honor is attached to it? — James M. Lumbing, in *American Poultry Yard*.

Eggs for Hatching.

The writer is frequently called upon as to the price of eggs for hatching. The answer is never satisfactory. It is and should be the seller's aim to make the price as low as can be afforded, yet there seldom comes a purchaser but wishes to purchase at a little lower figure, at the same time admitting that the fowls from which the eggs are obtained, are as fine as any, and the price equally as reasonable. There appears to be an inherent disposition in many persons to cheapen every commodity they are seeking to purchase. Such individuals generally meet with their deserts. If a seller drops a shade from the first named price, this certain class of purchasers are more ready to buy, with the vain idea that they are getting a bargain, when perhaps at the same time they are paying a trifling advance on the figures the seller in reality feels that he can afford his commodities for. It is better, when dealing with fair, honest people, to pay the price asked, or let the commodity alone, whatever it be. It is the object, and duty perhaps, of every purchaser to obtain his merchandise as reasonable as possible, but he should not harbor for a moment, the idea that he can go to a person keeping and breeding pure and thoroughbred fowls of any description, (which have been purchased in many instances at an extravagant figure) and ask him to sell a setting of eggs for the common price obtained at the country store.

Eggs that are all right, and warranted to hatch, and come true to name, must, except in very rare cases indeed, come at a higher figure than common market eggs. Consider the trouble of enclosure, and extra care of fowls, and the care in the gathering of eggs solely for the purposes of incubation. The very best birds are chosen and separated from the main flock. They must needs be closely confined and carefully guarded that no mistakes occur, and it is seldom that all the breeds lay well in their close confinement, even with the most careful feeding and attendance. The hens of many breeds get too fat for breeding purposes, and will not lay well unless allowed a large grassy run, and this is attended with additional expense.—*Country Gentleman*.

EVERY deer shot in the Scottish Highlands is said to cost, in one way and another about \$250. In France, the keeping of poultry yields an annual return of about \$75,000,000.