

not by any means imply pre-eminence in the entire poultry yard, just as the young man learns that gaining the head of the class in the district school or in college does not mean pre-eminence in life. Impertinent admiration of a somewhat aged spinster has given many a young man a sore heart, and many a young cockerel a sore head. The young cockerel, however, does not waste much time in foolish repinings or brooding over a hidden sorrow. He soon learns that the whole world hates and despises a coward. He finds his true level, and learns to fight one of his size, and prudently avoids unequal contests, winning by diplomacy when he cannot win by the length of his spurs. We like to listen, when on the farm in the early days of autumn, to the crow of the young cockerel, and contrast its healthy, joyous note with that of the commencement orations and graduating exercises of the young roosters in white vests and swallow-tail coats, who discourse about the "sorrows and trials of life" and "buffeting the waves of the adversity." The young cockerel is not troubled with "mysterious yearnings," nor tempted to waste his time in poetical effusions. There are but two problems in life for him, which is solved by diligent scratching, and the question of personal honor, which is solved by judicious fighting. He is tempted to no vicious habits, nor does he imbibe wrong ideas of life, nor grieve over the mistakes of the past. The stern discipline of the poultry yard teaches him respect for his superior of the greater courage and the longer spurs, and tolerates no display of the white feather. Altogether, his life is a happy one, and if it comes to an untimely ending in the pot, he has had in his brief life about as much genuine satisfaction in his way as generally falls to the lot of most mortals in theirs.—Western Farm Journal.

## ❖ QUERY \* DEPARTMENT. ❖

### BREEDING PENS.

J. HALL.—What number of hens constitutes a breeding pen for the yard and for the fairs? Do you send an extra number of females to the show and let the judge mate them? Can young hens be put in the pen with old ones?

A breeding pen for the yard consists of as many females as the breeder sees fit to put in, governed by the vigor of the male bird and the season for mating. In summer, or when at liberty, we can allow more females. As a guide for you, however, would say that in light breeds for general breeding season twelve to

eighteen females may be put in; heavy breeds from seven to ten females.

No, the judge does not make up the birds for show. A good many wish he did. The breeder must select his own pen for the show, according to his best judgment. All pairs and pens must match, that is, cocks and hens, birds of a year and over together. Young hens or pullets we suppose you mean, must be paired or penned with cockerels, or their place on the list is disallowed. The number of females for a breeding pen of exhibition birds is generally four, some times three or five; but it is always stated on the prize list how many females are required to make up the breeding pens.

Use the labels "Live fowls, with care" on all birds sent by rail. 25c. per 100 from this office. Shipping tags 46c. per 100.

Keep your poultry houses dry and well ventilated, avoiding draughts of air.

Never cut a fowl's wing to prevent its flying. Pull out the flight feathers of one wing.

### COMING SHOWS.

Industrial Exhibition at Toronto, Sept. 9 to 21. H. J. Hill, Secretary.

Central at Ottawa, Sept. 9 to 14. C. R. W. MacCuaig, Secretary, Ottawa.

Great Central Fair at Hamilton, Sept. 23 to 27. C. R. Smith, Secretary, Hamilton.

Great Northern Exhibition at Collingwood, Sept. 25 to 27. T. J. Crawford, Secretary, Collingwood.

West Simcoe, at Stayner, October 1, 2 and 3.

Dunnville, Dec. 3, 4, and 5. R. H. Marshall Sec'y.

### OHIO.

Central Ohio, at Mt. Gilead, Ohio, January 7th to 11, 1890. J. Y. Bickdell, Judge, W. F. Bruce, Secretary.

Cleveland, January 14th to 19th, 1890. C. C. Schellentrager, Sec., Glenville.

Fayette Association, at Washington C. H., January 14th to 10th, 1890. J. B. Collier, Sec. Union, at Cardington, Dec. 17 to 21, 1889, G. S. Singer, Secretary.

### NEW YORK.

International, Buffalo, N.Y., December 11th to 18th, 1889. H. M. Fales, Sec., La Salle, N.Y.