

A glance at the Standard proves this conclusively.

To illustrate: I take the American class, containing among other utility breeds, the different varieties of Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes and Javas.

In computing the 100 points which are required to make a perfect bird, the Standard provides that 8 points shall be allotted to comb, 6 to wattles and ear-lobes, and about 29 points to color of the different sections throughout the bird, making *in all* about 43 points devoted to what the Professor designates as fancy points. Compared with this there will be about 57 points representing shape or size. So that, roughly speaking, 14 per cent. more importance is attached to utility points than fancy points. But in my opinion this is not all. Of the 8 points representing a perfect comb, a number are directed towards keeping it within a certain size, so that these breeds may have small combs, little affected by frost, which desirable feature is intended to guard against a falling off of winter laying. Surely these 8 points, therefore, are not all *fancy* points. I find it difficult in the buff Plymouth Rocks, to keep the combs down to the desired size, and have been handicapped from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 points for this reason. I will not be exaggerating if I say at least 3 of the points allotted to comb may properly be called utility points. Wattles and ear-lobes have 6 points, which should be dealt with similarly. If the wattles are long they are even more likely to be frozen than the comb; 2 points for size would not be too many, I think. This lenient view would bring the utility points up to over 60 per cent., leaving less than 40 per cent for color.

It is evident to me that the compilers of the Standard were of the same opinion as Professor Mills, that utility points are of greatest importance, and they acted accordingly.

Every fancier of the American variety keeps well before him the fact that *a bird underweight cannot win* in the majority of cases. If he has a pretty bird underweight, and a bird "off color" but up to weight, he invariably takes the heavier bird to show, as he knows the Standard instructs the judge to deduct two points for every pound short. When first I exhibited, many a prize I lost by reason of showing birds underweight. I have had a bird score $87\frac{1}{2}$ cut $3\frac{1}{2}$ points for weight, and of course he did not win. If $3\frac{1}{2}$ points had been added I would have taken second prize. Since then I follow the Standard, and go in for size, and it impresses me so much that now size is my first consideration.

Yes, Sir, the judges are even now acting under instruc-

tions "to award prizes in the utilitarian classes on the basis of practical utility"

I don't want fanciers to assume that I argue 3 points should be allotted to *size* of comb, nor that 2 points should be given for *size* of wattles and ear-lobes. I do nothing of the kind. To say definitely as to this requires more time than I can spare.

Yours respectfully,

ROBT. H. ESSEX.

Toronto, April 21st, 1897.

TORONTO, POULTRY, PIGEON AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

THE regular monthly meeting of the above Association was held in Temperance Hall, Thursday evening, April 8th. The President, Mr. R. H. Essex, in the chair. The minutes of previous meeting were adopted as read. Messrs. James Lindale and E. W. Gill were proposed for membership and accepted.

The Executive Committee were instructed to report at the next meeting ways and means for holding a winter show, and that for this purpose they have the power of appointing additional members to the committee.

Mr. Barber gave the members some useful pointers on the New York show, and very kindly replied to many questions addressed to him on that subject.

The President reported at length on the recent meeting of the delegates to the Industrial Exhibition, which was held in the City Hall, March 26th.

The subjects for essay at the next meeting will be "The Chicken Crank" by W. J. Watson, and "Raising and Feeding of Young Stock" by C. J. Daniels.

The meeting was a very large one, over sixty members and their friends being present.

The May meeting will be the largest of the year, as we have some fifteen buff Leghorn breeders, and there is considerable discussion as to who will carry away the red tickets.

The meeting adjourned at 10.30. Receipts \$5.95.

R. DURSTON,

Secretary.

An open meeting of the above association was held in Temperance Hall, March 26th. The principal object of the meeting was to give our members an opportunity to meet Mr. J. L. Haycock, the Patron member for Frontenac, an old fancier and personal friend of many of our members.

Other members of the Legislature present were:—D. Mc-