

ing after his poultry and having proper stock he will have the necessary cash to give himself, his wife and daughter such advantages, in the other case you want to teach the man how by a proper investment of his money in good stock and appliances he can add both to his capital and also to his income.

The question of sale classes is a more difficult one. In our exhibitions we generally are short of coops and space and the attendants have often more than they can attend to, and it will be a serious matter if by adding selling classes with small entry fees a large additional number of birds have to be stored and fed, and if you do not have large selling classes it will be waste of time and money. The coop trouble could of course be met by requiring the exhibitors to furnish their own coops specifying limits with respect to size and shape. At the present time all classes may be said to be selling classes, in fact many persons send their birds to the exhibitions to be sold. It might be worth while to consider the advisability of adopting the English rule of requiring all exhibitors to put an upset price on their birds, but in this country of great distances I fancy the heavy express charges would prevent selling classes from ever being a success.

Upon the subject of fancy points I am afraid to trust myself with a free pen for fear that the Editor would consider my language too strong for publication. The professional breeders who control the American Standard of Perfection have so increased the number of breeds and all sorts of fancy points for what one cannot help believing are purely sordid reasons that one is apt to lose patience. Take as an instance white Javas, what are these birds but white Plymouth Rocks with willow colored legs *i.e.*, greenish yellow. Why to preserve the distinction it was necessary to make it a disqualification for a white Java to have yellow legs. But as there is no corresponding disqualification in white Rocks a white Java can be entered as a white Rock successfully, and in fact it has been done. The white Java men will of course contend that there is a difference in shape, to that I reply compare the description given in the Standard and look at the birds as exhibited. Both these breeds are first class birds, admirably adapted for the farmer, but I contend that no satisfactory reason can be advanced for their maintenance as separate breeds. Then take the standard of points in the leading utility breed—Plymouth Rocks what do you find—14 points given to comb, wattles and ear lobes, 16 to head and neck, 4 each to back, wings and tail shape, 5 each to body and breast shape, 20 to color in those sections, 8 to legs and toes, 8 to symmetry, and 6 each to weight and condition. In other words the comb, wattles and ear lobes are given almost three times the importance

of the breast and this too in the breed that is above perhaps all others the one that should be developed in the farmers interests. The Standard is to be revised and it is sincerely to be hoped, though I hardly think expected, that it may be revised upon a rational basis. Utility breeds developed upon a utility basis, ornamental upon an ornamental basis.

Ottawa.

FRANCIS H. GISBORNE.

#### MANITOBA POULTRY ASSOCIATION SHOW AT WINNIPEG.

THE fourth annual exhibition under the auspices of the Manitoba Poultry Association was held in Winnipeg, from the 15th to the 20th of February. The executive of the association are to be congratulated upon the notable success achieved this year both in point of numbers and quality of the birds shown. One of the great difficulties that they had to contend with was the lack of a suitable place in which to hold the exhibition. Last year the show was held in the Wesley Hall block, since destroyed by fire. The disadvantage of this building was that it was upstairs, but this was compensated for by the fact that the birds could all be shown on one floor. After a thorough canvas of the city this year, it was decided that the most suitable place (in fact, the only one available) was the building recently vacated by Graham & Rolston, on Main street. It was certainly not an ideal place for a poultry show. The birds had to be exhibited on three floors, and it made it a very difficult matter to classify the birds just as they should have been. However, considering the immense number of birds that were brought in, this work was accomplished very satisfactorily. There is no question whatever that the interest is greater and the enthusiasm more pronounced when birds can be shown on one floor in one large building. Mr. Butterfield put up the tickets, and it must be admitted by every one that he is a most painstaking and careful judge. Some idea of the work of judging this show may be formed by noting the fact that it was expected that the prize tickets would all be placed on the winning coops by Wednesday, or, at the outside, not later than Thursday morning, while as an actual matter of fact the judging was not completed until Friday afternoon. Every bird had to be individually examined, and a score card given. It could not be expected that the decisions of the judge would suit everybody. However, we think that taking it all through, the judge's decisions have been accepted by the exhibitors very well.

A very noticeable feature in connection with the exhibition was the fact that birds that were imported with the expecta-