

paraging terms of the Editor of this Journal, because he was not present at the show

THE COLUMNS OF THE REVIEW

have been very freely used in pushing along the interests of New Hamburg Show, and we modestly think in at least some part, the success of the undertaking was due to our efforts. Under the circumstances it looked, we think, uncalled for and unjust. However, we are glad to know that these remarks did not go unchallenged, and that there were those present at the supper, where the incident occurred, who were not backward in expressing their feelings very freely, and on the other, and, of course, in our opinion, the right side.

900 BIRDS.

But enough of this unpleasantness, though it is our custom to ventilate thoroughly matters of this nature. New Hamburg had about 900 birds, and this without pigeons of which there were none shown, and is to be warmly congratulated on its initial venture. May it prove but one of a series.

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

of the Victoria, (B.C.) Poultry and Pet Stock Association, the following officers were elected:—president, C. E. Renouf; vice-president, Beaumont Boggs; treasurer, W. McKeon; secretary, R. P. McLellan; executive com., Dr. Duncan, Dr. Milne, M.P.P., F. Sturdy, T. Black, J. Stewart, James Flett, Somenos; N. P. Snowden, B. Gordon, H. Creech, R. A. Cunningham, John Braden. Votes of thanks were tendered the retiring officers and the Judges, Mr. S. Butterfield, and Mr. S. A. Roberts. The reports on the standing of the society were of a thoroughly satisfactory nature.

MR. SHARP BUTTERFIELD

while in Victoria, B.C., was called on to act as one of the Judges, to determine which was the best looking baby in the show. The young lady of the Judges choice was Miss Clara Grace Jones, the seven months old daughter of Mrs. A. E. Jones. Where did you get your experience Mr. Butterfield? Isn't this rather out of your line? Next time you are called on to act in this capacity, come to us, we can give you "pointers."

N.B.—We thought Mr. Butterfield's hair looked rather thinner than usual, when we saw him at the Ontario Show.



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POULTRY BREEDING.

By H. S. BABCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

NO. 2.

VARIATION.

EVERY observant person, whether a professed student of nature or not, knows that plants and animals vary. I do not know how it is with the fair Canadian girls, but in the summer-time American girls seek and find four leaved clovers, the possession of which they regard as an augury of impending good. That a clover plant produces occasionally four instead of three leaves is simply an illustration of a tendency to vary. Every poultry breeder knows that his chickens, bred from the same pair of fowls, are unlike each other, different from their parents and in some cases variant from any known ancestor. This tendency to variation appears among them. If one extends his observation he will find that wherever there is life there is change, and that the tendency to vary runs through all nature.

When variation takes place in wild species surrounded by natural conditions it is called natural variation or variation in nature. It usually proceeds by slow steps, the changes being comparatively small, and when they are advantageous to the species inherited and perpetuated in its descendants. Given time enough and this tendency to vary, the face of nature becomes changed. New varieties appear and these varieties become fixed and at last are called new species, and these in turn become the parents of further varieties and species. And so, from simple beginnings, complex organisms may arise, the homogeneous being displaced by the heterogeneous, and the change being one from lower to higher forms.

Under domestication this tendency to variation is greatly increased, and when man selects the varying forms and cares for them, he is able to perpetuate even variations which in nature would disappear. Thus in Massachusetts at one time appeared a ram lamb with crooked legs and long body. This variation in nature, would probably have quickly disappeared through the influences of natural selection, as one that was not advantageous to the individual in the struggle for existence, but as this was of advantage to the farmer, such a lamb being unable to jump fences, the ram was saved for breeding and became the founder of the *ancon* or otter breed of sheep. And so, when fowls vary, if the variation strikes the fancy of the breeder, he is able to perpetuate it in the production of a new variety, as in the case of the rose-comb Leghorns and pea-comb Plymouth Rocks, or in the modification of an old and well-known variety.

The cause, or causes of variation are not definitely known. By some this tendency is ascribed to an inborn force, perhaps impressed upon living creatures at the time of creation, in that dim and distant day when "the morning stars