

### Frozen Combs.

How many fine birds of the large combed varieties, which their owners regarded as sure prize-winners, have the late severe frosts destroyed for showing purposes? Probably a very great number. The breeder of Leghorns and other large combed breeds has learned by experience that when his houses are heated by artificial means it is difficult to so regulate the temperature that the combs will not be unduly developed, so he prefers to risk something from frost rather than have too much heat. In even moderately comfortable quarters the risk of healthy fowls freezing is very small in day time, when they are active and the blood consequently circulating rapidly. The fancier's care must be to provide for the long and cold nights, when the frost is most keen and the birds inactive. He should provide himself with a few light barrels, and when the night threatens to be very cold, put the birds into these, and throw a piece of coarse sack over the top. Two birds can be kept in a barrel. An inch or so of dry sawdust in the bottom will make the birds more comfortable and the barrels easier cleaned. All that is necessary to do is to turn the barrel on its side in the morning, and it must have been a cold night indeed if the birds do not come out in good order.

In spite of the greatest precautions the combs and wattles will sometimes get frozen. A door or window, accidentally left insecurely fastened, may blow open, or some other of these unforeseen and not to be provided against accidents so fraught in the poultryman's experience may occur, and the damage is done. When it is discovered that a bird is frozen it should be attended to at once, and the frost withdrawn by bathing in ice-water or snow. The operation should be continued until the members are restored to their natural feeling and color. Dry thoroughly and apply a coating of glycerine to which a little turpentine has been added, and little if any damage will result. Two or three applications of the glycerine night and morning will assist in restoring the comb to its natural condition. When a bird has once been frozen it will thereafter require greater care.

### Visit The Shows.

There are many reasons that might be advanced to induce those engaged, or who proposes engaging, in the breeding of fancy poultry to visit the shows.

In the first place the fancier who accompanies his birds to the exhibition, and coops them himself, has a great advantage over the one who does not, in the opportunity given him of removing from them all traces of their journey in the shipping coops, such as ruffled feathers, soiled

plumage &c., and of giving them those finishing touches, brightening up combs and wattles, cleaning the legs, and the other etceteras which add to their attractiveness in the eyes of the judge and visitors, and which in his absence will not be done. Birds are often shipped in the pink of condition, but on their arrival at the show room after a days confinement and travel, they come out of their hampers looking pale and drabbed. A few moments work will do much to restore them to their former fine condition, and the fancier who is bound to be successful must be on hand to give these finishing touches. Many a fancier has anxiously scanned the prize lists expecting to see his favorite birds figuring among the winners, to be disappointed, and cannot account for it until their return, when he sees the reason in their loss in condition, often being scarcely able to recognize in them the beautiful birds he shipped to the show a week before. By all means be on hand to remove all trace of the journey from your birds.

A great deal may be learned by reading poultry books and periodicals, but actual comparison will impress the mind more than much reading. A fancier, who had at his command nearly all the poultry literature of the day, once said to us at an exhibition that he believed he had reaped more benefit, and acquired more knowledge of the points necessary for exhibition birds during his visit of two days to that exhibition, than from all his reading and study. His reading had merely prepared his mind to more readily grasp the knowledge to be acquired by comparison. At the winter shows the birds are generally in their best plumage, and the visitors will be able to compare his own with the best on exhibition, thus seeing where they are deficient and require improvement. Besides this he has an opportunity of comparing notes with other fanciers, and benefiting from their experience.

The exhibitions afford fanciers the best opportunity to select their breeding bird or birds to infuse fresh blood into their stock when this is necessary. A breeder may have been mating with a definite object in view—as every breeder should—but finds it impossible to succeed with the stock at his command; at the shows he is very likely to find in the cages of another just what he requires, and an exchange may be made, mutually beneficial.

We would advise the young fancier to attend at least one of our large poultry shows this winter, and will guarantee that if he keeps his eyes and ears open he will return home convinced that the money expended is well invested in the increase of knowledge gained.

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