

## POINTS OF MERIT.

Size, medium, . . . . .	4
Form, erect and symmetrical . . . . .	6
Carriage, graceful, . . . . .	10
Head, fine; forehead prominent, . . . . .	4
Beak, straight; curved only at tip, . . . . .	2
Eyes, full and bright, . . . . .	2
Neck, long, thin and gracefully curved, . . . . .	8
Breast, full and prominent, . . . . .	4
Back, very short, . . . . .	4
Tail, very large, erect and wide spread; composed of a treble tier of from 36 to 42 broad feathers, closely arranged into three-fourths of a circle; the lower extremity of each feather on lower side, touching the ground or nearly so, . . . . .	18
Wings, drooping and meeting at their tips beneath the tail, . . . . .	6
Feet and legs, medium, the bearing upon the toes, . . . . .	2
Condition, must be good or they suffer on every point, . . . . .	6
Temperament, nervous, trembling, . . . . .	8
Soundness of color, . . . . .	12
Color of eyes, . . . . .	2
Perfection, . . . . .	100

*Common Defects.*—Coarseness; thick, short or straight neck; tail, small, divided, ill balanced, lobe-sided, narrow feathers; unwieldy or drooping tail; forward stoop; foul feathered; odd eyes; disease or deformity of any kind.

*Defects of Color.*—Dark or dingy blue; smeared or dappled silver; blue black; dingy, dull yellow or red; impure or dirty white.

Frizzled Fantails should have the whole of their body feathers inverted or curled backwards, and the more conspicuous in this respect the more the bird is valued. Flights and tail should appear as though the fibre had been purposely disordered, turning backwards from the quills, which are generally straighter than ordinary.

Silkies are, as it were, clothed in silky threads instead of feathers; and the nearer approach to the soft silky nature the more highly are the birds prized. The skin of this variety is rather dark; eyes dark hazel.

To this Standard we raise the following objections, asking thereto the opinions of experienced fanciers of the variety:

*Eyes of Blues, Silvers, Blacks, Yellows and Reds* should be PEARL instead of orange. In Blues, while uniformity of color is essential, especial weight should be given to color of back. A bird with back of lighter shade, or as it is known among fanciers, a "light-rumped bird," should be disqualified. This is an extreme fault in a breeder.

## Drinking Vessels for Pigeons.

As none can speak with more earnestness upon a subject than those who have experienced the actual results of misfortune in it, I feel authorized to demonstrate to the fancy the necessity of keeping the drinking water for pigeons pure.

Last summer I had my lofts in a large building 20 by 12 feet, divided lengthways into two compartments, one of which was furnished with a wooden cage 12 by 9 feet, covered with wire netting, in which the birds had their exercise, and the other was occupied by birds having entire liberty during the day. In a smaller building, 10 by 8 feet, I had two other compartments communicating directly with the open air, and unfurnished with any flight or cage. In these four lofts I was very successful in rearing my birds, until as the summer advanced, a singular disease appeared among them. In most cases the birds attacked were breeders, although there were a few exceptions among the younger birds. The bird affected would first appear drooping, with feathers ruffled, and head drawn up between the shoulders, and usually, if a hen, would develop the regular symptoms of wing disease; but the cocks seemed in every case to be differently affected. They would show the same dullness and lethargy in their appearance and movements, but rarely lost their powers of flight, which they only exercised, however, upon extreme compulsion. Their appetite would be morbid and ravenous, and although very light when taken into the hand, they never exhibited the symptoms of scouring which usually characterises "going light."

What surprised me particularly was that the disease appeared chiefly among the common pigeons, kept in a small coop for nurses. A few cases did appear in the compartment of my large loft occupied by the birds constantly at liberty, but no single instance among those confined to the compartment furnished with the cage. After attentive study of these facts, I came to the conclusion that as the birds in all the lofts had the same fare and attention otherwise, the disease originated in the drinking vessels. Except in the compartment with the cage attached, I used wooden bowls covered with pieces of board of just sufficient width to allow the birds to drink between the edges and the sides of the bowl. These bowls were washed out and replenished with fresh water every morning, but during the long summer days the birds standing on the boards covering them, would foul the water, which is usually drunk most freely just before night, when the old birds are feeding squabs.

In the loft occupied by the birds confined to its limits, and the cage attached, I used a contrivance which I can recommend for simplicity and perfect