

BEES AND POULTRY.

BEE AND HONEY SHOW IN SCOTLAND.

The following is from the *London Journal of Horticulture* :

The East of Scotland Bee keepers' Society held its annual exhibition at Dundee on August 31st and two following days. Notwithstanding the unfavourable nature of the season, the display was unusually full and of splendid quality. Many of the leading bee keepers in the lowland districts were unable to stage a single exhibit, but those from the interior and highland districts came forward in force with large and well finished lots. Altogether, about 2,000 lbs. of honey were staged, and every class was well competed in. The most striking exhibits were those in the classes for the most artistic displays over and under 100 lbs. Mr. Raitt was first in both classes, and his exhibits were justly admired for their excellent finish and tasteful arrangement. Part of the same lots took two first prizes at the great Preston Show in the following week, and there elicited many comments highly flattering to Scottish bee-keepers. Altogether, there were seven entries in the display classes, and in all the quality of the honey was very fair. The poor taste shown in the arrangement of some entries where shelves and stages were relied on, received a check in the awards of the judges in favour of those exhibiting less carpentry work, but more variety in the size, form and decoration of the sections and glasses of extracted honey.

In the classes for living bees the exhibition was unusually full, no less than ten observatory hives being staged, containing bees of four different races—blacks, Italians, Cyprian, and Syrians. Besides these, there were five neat nests of humble bees and one enormous "byke" of wasps. Several of the observatory hives presented novel features in the direction of an attempt to keep the combs in their natural position side by side, while rendering them capable of individual inspection. The one exhibited by the Secretary, Mr. Warden, accomplishes this by having the hive double the usual height, and so arranged that the padded quilt could be raised to the top, and any separate frame thereafter lifted to a position open for inspection.

PROFITS FROM A SMALL FLOCK OF LIGHT BRAHMAS.

H. S., Bergen county, N.J., gives the following statement of the income from a flock of eleven Light Brahma pullets and one cock from July 1, 1881, to July 1, 1882, when they were one year old. The pullets began to lay on the 15th of November, when they were five and a half months old. The account stands as follows: Fifty-eight dozen eggs, sold for \$17.50, seventy-three chickens raised, averaging two pounds each, now worth twenty five cents per pound, \$36.50, one cock used, weighed twelve pounds, at fifteen cents per pound, \$1.80, eleven he is on hand, weighing in all ninety-one pounds, worth fifteen cents per pound, \$13.65; total, \$69.45. The cost of feeding the flock has not been kept account of; the fowls have had the run of a small swampy meadow, and have fed largely upon snails, worms and young frogs, so that the corn given them has lain in the yard neglected for two or three days before it was picked up. They have certainly not consumed, all told, five bushels of corn in the year, which includes the unproductive period of their rearing. Two of the hens set twice and each brought out two broods: the broods were put together and divided among the hens, so that no one had less than sixteen chicks and only four were cooped up. The hens were set two at the same time for

this purpose. Only one chick was lost out of seventy-four hatched.

BREEDS FOR BROILERS.

The modern poultry raisers look for size; and broilers should present plump breasts and small bones. These qualities cannot be obtained with the great Brahma or Cochin, but are met with in the game, Leghorn and Dorking of the English, and the Crevecours, Houden, and La Fleche of the French varieties. An important point is to produce an early feathering breed, as then maturity will come in a degree sufficient for the early chick. The bone of the Cochin is too heavy, and the feathering is too tardy for the early chicks, but they do admirably for roosters. The Plymouth Rocks are better adapted for this purpose, as they are smaller fowls, the Dominique blood giving them more early qualities. The little French Dominiques, a dark, plain fowl, are admirably fitted for this business, as they are always of short, plump body, and make rapid growths, the feathering and maturity keeping equal pace. They are also good fowls to produce eggs, but are more uncertain than the Leghorn for all seasons, all climates and under all circumstances. Hamburgs are great egg producers, like the Spanish, but are white skinned, which is oftentimes an objection.—*Country Gentleman*.

WINTER CARE OF FOWLS.

In building a hen-house, the requirements of the fowls are always to be considered, these are warmth, light, fresh air, an earth floor and sufficient space to avoid crowding, and allow of freedom, as a hen will not do well at laying unless she is contented. Hence, there must be space, not only in ground surface for freedom, but height for better ventilation as well, the windows so arranged and of number and size, as to admit copious air in summer. There are needed in winter a row of low windows on the south side for light, doubling the sash in winter, this is necessary for warmth, and does it effectually, as it forms a dead air chamber, single glass admitting cold without any benefit from the air. If the building otherwise is well fortified against the cold, and double sash well fitted is used with dry earth floor, fowls will do well if a good breed for winter laying, like the Asiatics, and well taken care of, the care to be constant, and required more in winter than in summer. Fresh water must be supplied with a variety of food, including occasional feeds of vegetables and meat of some kind, corn being the principal grain, affording heat as well as substance for eggs.—*Country Gentleman*.

Fowls at this season should have their liberty as much as possible, be fed but moderately with corn, for it is too heating and fattening, and be compelled to forage for a part of their living. It will do them good to glean the wheat fields and scour the hay fields for insects. Exercise is as healthful in summer and fall as in winter. Care should always be taken, however, to have some shelter from the sun provided; and also to have a bountiful supply of water within their reach.

Bees need management just as much as horses, cattle, sheep, poultry, or any other kind of farm stock. What profit would you derive from your farm stock if left to themselves? Very little could be expected; precisely so with your bees. We do not hesitate to say, because we know from actual experience, that there is a profit derived from keeping bees, which is just as sure as the annual product of an intelligently managed farm or garden, but a person must have some adapta-

tion and taste for them, and become thoroughly posted and acquainted with the nature and instinct of the honey bee, and then have a hive that will admit of access to them, so that they can control them.

Dr. M. Mamin, of Huntington, Ind., in an article in the *Bee keepers' Guide*, on the Best Bees, gives it as his opinion, that "the Syrian or Holy Land bees are greatly superior to either dark or light Italians." Then he adds, "In one thing I have been disappointed in them, and that is their want of uniformity in colour. I presume that Mr. D. A. Jones [our Canadian Bee King] procured bees from different parts of Palestine and Syria, and that they differed in colour, and the crossing of these varieties produces the variation in colour in the progeny of the same queen. Mr. Jones deserves the everlasting gratitude of the bee keepers of North America for introducing these bees, and not only their gratitude but their patronage. I am so well pleased with them that I propose to Syrianize my whole apiary within a year or two if I live."

The approach of Thanksgiving suggests to our mind how very careless the major portion of our farmers and suburban poulterers are, when they have every facility to raise turkeys every year for market, but after all fail to do so. Ducks and geese of the improved breeds are profitably raised on many farms. If a supply of water can be given them, all the better. Good feed is more important than water to swim in and fish for bugs. The Rouen duck stands pre-eminent among ducks where size is the consideration; the Aylesbury drake sometimes attaining equal size, but the Aylesbury or any other duck seldom does. The white China geese have their admirers, for they have merits of no mean order, though for size the Toulouse geese are preferred to the former, while the Embden or Bremen have many enthusiastic friends.—*Western Agriculturist*.

The following hint from our good friend of the *American Bee Journal*, is in order. But we submit the rule should be extended, so as to take in every department of rural affairs, in writing upon which men are apt to differ. Correspondents of the *RURAL CANADIAN*, we feel certain, will ever bear this in mind:—Honest discussion of every theory in bee keeping is to be desired and courted, but such discussion should never descend to unkind personal remarks. We admire the sentiment expressed in the following from one of our exchanges: "Discussion has for its true object to elicit truth. When this is the object sought after, it is profitable to hear both sides of the argument. But when the argument becomes interlarded with low personalities, honourable men withdraw from it and leave the field to the hero of the hour. He stands alone in his glory."

SOMETIMES an ounce of prevention is worse than a pound of disease. One day last week the children came running in, shrieking that a big hawk was circling over the poultry-yard. Old farmer Thistlepod dropped his paper, caught his trusty gun from the rack, charged for the poultry-yard. He ran right over a bee stand just the other side of the cypress bush, and was stung in thirty different places before he jumped over the fence of the poultry-yard, alighting upon the old black hen that was brooding thirteen chicks, breaking her neck, and mashing five of the hapless "weeies;" the gun caught in the fence as he jumped, and went off, killing a young turkey, and filling the Durham heifer in the meadow nearly full of buckshot; while the hawk, alone calm and self-possessed in the midst of the tumult and confusion, sailed gracefully away with the one spring chicken he had all along intended to levy on.—*Birdette*.