

UTILITY BREEDS.

Along this line the writer would offer the suggestion that Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes are the ideal utility breeds, being prolific layers, good mothers, and for market purposes the white varieties are the most inviting, having the yellow flesh and the clean yellow legs which are always sought after and fewer noticeable pin feathers than any of the colored varieties.

FOR SHIPPING PURPOSES.

The writer has had considerable experience in shipping live poultry for table purposes, having shipped several hundred birds from London to Montreal with only one solitary bird dying in transit, and in the language of the receiver, "The quality and condition of your stock is all right and hope to do business with you next year." My method being as soon as my poultry was in condition for table purposes, on the morning of shipment they had no soft food but hard food was substituted instead and plenty of fresh water to drink; at noon another variety of hard food was given, then cooped for their destination, arriving in good condition as above stated. In shipping dead plucked poultry the writer has had no personal experience but capable authority inform us that poultry for shipping should not be fed for twenty-four hours previous to killing as the food previously consumed will, by that time, have been digested and the intestines will be free from food, thereby the cause of fermentation lessened.

They should be killed either by the dislocation of the neck or sticking the knife in the roof of the mouth and brain—the former method preferred, as you have no blood to escape to soil the bodies after packing for shipment.

They should be plucked dry as soon as killed, the feathers being more easily removed than if the fowl is allowed to get cold and stiff; the legs should also receive attention, being made clean to correspond with the appearance of the body.

Allow the body to thoroughly cool before packing, which should be carefully done, also in clean cases, and your poultry should arrive at its destination in such condition as will be acceptable to the consignee, and to the satisfaction of his patrons.

NOTE BY THE JUDGES.—This is a grand essay, full of meat and evidently the experience of the writer. He assumes the novice knows nothing, the correct ground to take,

TOO MANY SHOWS ON SAME DATES.

IT seems to the writer poor policy for three associations to hold shows the same week. There is plenty of time from December 1st to January 31st for every association to hold a show on different dates from any other. It would give exhibitors a better chance and each show would be more successful. It is, I think, almost impossible to hold three shows in one week in Ontario, and each one be successful, and if one association is strong and centrally located, as Toronto is, it is a poor lookout for the others.

Toronto show killed Sarnia show. We are not going to beat about the bush to say so. We are glad that Toronto Association "bit off more than they could chew," as the editor said. In their eagerness to wipe us off the earth they over did it. They took our dates, canvassed for and secured many exhibits which otherwise would have come to us and made our show a success. Still, there was no hard feeling on our part. We had it in our power to delay Mr. Jarvis so that he would not get to Toronto on time, but instead of any delay we did all in our power to speed him on his journey.

Exhibitors who went to Toronto and did not win have not even a score card to show for their outlay. Had they decided to show with us they would have had score cards even if they won nothing. We are sorry to see Owen Sound, Brantford and Peterboro' all holding a show the same time. They may all make a success of it, but chances are against them. It divides exhibits up too much. Many birds would go to at least two of them if held on different dates, which can only go to one as it is now.

We intend to hold a show in Sarnia next December again, and hope to make it a grand success. One thing sure, it will be held on different dates from any other show. We will also rent a cheaper hall and hope for better weather. The secretary is already laying plans for a banquet and concert. The county and town councils are to be asked for substantial grants. The business men also will contribute liberally, and we hope to be able to guarantee the payment of all prizes, and give the boys a wild time generally.

All we ask is a clear field and the liberal support of every breeder west of Toronto. Don't forget us.

THOS. H. MILLS, Sarnia.