

shells, by "Science," Mr. Editor, I await with much interest. In common with many others, I have my own theory, but cannot demonstrate it scientifically; it is formed upon close observation and experiment; that is all I can say.

It seems to me that the Grimsby show has made a move in the right direction by holding their exhibition earlier in the season. The severity of the weather often prevents the birds being sent long distances in January and February, especially if they have to make many changes in transit, as they are often left on the platform in the biting cold and high winds till the connecting train arrives, unless there is a person in charge of them. It may not freeze the birds, but combs and wattles get nipped, and in consequence the bird feels mopish and looks out of condition in the show-room, perhaps losing the coveted place in the prize list only through this trifling cause.

Friend Ermatinger is right in saying it has been a tough season. And we so far north have had to be extra careful. I do not remember such a miserably late spring, frosty summer, and wretched (oh! how wretched) fall. The last three days it has been more pleasant, but it will not last long. It has been very wet round here, and I have not yet been able to get all the dry earth I want, so the present spell is very welcome.

As there are, no doubt, among your readers many who are making a beginning, I will say to such, be sure to provide for your winter quarters a board under the perches to catch the droppings from the birds during the night. It is surprising what difference this simple contrivance will make in the labor of cleaning the house; and the droppings can be cleaned off often, with so little trouble. In winter the birds are on the perch a great part of the day, so that it keeps the floor very clean. By these small things labor and time is saved, and the work is not so disagreeable; besides one does not experience that disagreeable feeling of treading on

a dirty floor. In my house the dropping boards are fourteen inches high, and perches about eight inches above them; they are about four feet wide, to two perches; under the drop boards are the nests, extending the whole length, and these pass through the partition of the next pen five inches, and a drop-flap over the five inches space is the place we gather the eggs. There is a board in front of the nests, just leaving a dark passage for my cacklers, and they love to go in there and slyly deposit their treasure.

"I often think a hen is something like a man, let her think she is having her own way and she will do just what you have planned for her,"—so says my better half. And whether or no it is true of us poor benedicts, Mr. Editor, it does seem to fit Biddy pretty well. And, as we get along pretty well, it may be because I am so well managed myself, but I had no suspicion of it till the above expression made me put on my considering cap.

Don't forget, breeders all, a thorough dusting with insect powder the last few days of out-door weather for the stock.

Yours respectfully,

W. C. G. PETER.

Angus, Nov. 13, '88.

PROFESSOR T. WESLEY MILLS
ADDRESS

TO THE MONTREAL P. P. AND P. S.
ASSOCIATION.

DR. T. WESLEY MILLS Professor of Physiology in MCGILL University showed a perfectly white Jacobin he had bred from two reds. Was this an example of what is known as *albinism*, i. e., the lack of coloring matter in parts usually thus supplied, as often occurred in the human family, the hair being white and the eyes deficient in pigment, vision being in consequence defective. It was also seen in white rabbits, white mice, white squirrels all of which have red or unpigmented eyes as well as uncolored fur. Was the bird what is

termed a "Sport" i. e., an example of a variation from its parents which could not be accounted for by any known principle? Or was it a case of what the great DARWIN called *reversion*, and fanciers "throwing back."

Prof. MILLS thought it was probably a case of the latter and was to be explained by some antecedent white crosses of a white bird with some other color. MR. GEO. E. PEER of Rochester one of the oldest breeders of Jacobines in America states that he has known "white to crop out after nine years of careful breeding." The subject is of wide general interest DARWIN believed that the appearance of resemblances in form and markings in our domestic animals to certain wild forms allied to them, proved that our domestic races of animals were derived from a few wild species. Thus the frequency with which bars appear on the wings in all classes of pigeons, this writer took to be evidence of the derivation of our domestic pigeons from one wild species the rock pigeon (*Columba livia*.)

Can other breeders furnish evidence of the influence of a cross after long periods, through the columns of the REVIEW, either in pigeons, fowls or other members of the feathered tribe;

DR. MILLS then proceeded to explain how to make a *post-mortem* examination on a bird and to illustrate it by an example.

HOW TO MAKE A POST MORTEM EXAMINATION ON AN ANIMAL.

The purpose of such was of course to ascertain the cause of death. This required that all signs of external injury, all evidence of discharges of any kind be noted. It should also be stated what the actual condition of the bird etc., was before the body was opened at all, thus discharges would point to roup, canker, etc. Blood to injury. If in moult death could be understood, even in the absence of gross evidence of disease from exhaustion. Notes should have been kept of the symptoms of the bird when sick.