

which must be kept clean. This will obviate any fear of her destroying her young, which she will very likely do should this be neglected. The act of parturition is accompanied with great thirst; hence the reason of supplying the water. The youngsters being born, give the mother, each day, some nice warm bread-and-milk, plenty of good clover hay, oats, and swede, or other roots, and it will be surprising how her family will grow. By-the-way, the number should not exceed four, any over this must be killed or placed to a nurse doe, which, in the case of valuable rabbits, is of course always done. When the young come out to feed, you must increase the food; let them have as much bread-and-milk as they will eat, but only a moderate quantity of swede or other roots must be allowed, or you will develop scours, and see all your care frustrated by the untimely death of your litter. The youngsters should be left with the mother till they are well on with their their silvering, which then comes on much quicker than if separated from the doe. After taking them away, I like to give them a good large hutch or room, the bucks being put together in one place and the does in another, feeding them while here with as much hay, oats, and bread-and-milk as they will eat, with a *small piece* of swede for each rabbit, once a day. As soon as they show signs of fighting, or one domineers over the others, take the recalcitrant one away, and put him in solitary confinement, using hutches which have been nicely lime-washed in anticipation. Don't let the hutches be too large—a two feet square hutch will do admirably. I much prefer to keep my Silvers in the open, in a well-constructed hutch, under a good shed, which will keep all wet off. Never breed Silvers in the summer unless you wish long coats and ears, and rabbits that will more or less be always in a state of moult; and do not cross with the Cream or Brown unless you wish

for light chests. The cleanest and best thing for litter is sawdust, and be sure your hutches are kept scrupulously clean.

KEMPSTER KNIGHT.

The Stock Keeper.

CAGE BIRDS

THE BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF CANARIES.

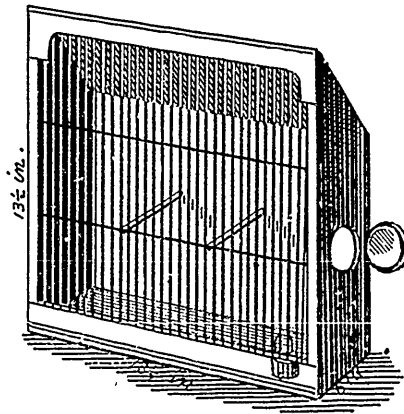
BY G. H. D.—(Continued.)

MOULTING.

This is an annual shedding and renewal usually during the months of August,

“stick in the moult,” as it is called—that is, get rid of part of the old feathers, replacing them with new ones, and stop, the bird generally showing signs of ill-health. I think this stoppage is caused by a poor state of the blood, arising from weakness, and should recommend egg food, warmth, and quinine and iron in the drinking water. If this will not set the process going again I know of nothing else that will. During the whole of this trying period it is absolutely necessary to keep the birds free from draughts.

Feeding for color or moulting on cayenne is simply inducing the bird to eat as much food containing coloring matter as possible, reducing the seed to the lowest limit, and dis-



EXHIBITION CAGE.

September, and October, and takes about three or four weeks for the complete process. All birds must go through it or die. Good feeding and warmth are the best means of getting the birds through. A quick moult is best; avoid green food. Sometimes the bird will

carding green food altogether; you must begin before the bird “breaks,” *i.e.*, before the moult is quite finished.

Birds in their first year do not throw off the large feathers of wings or tail, so these will require pulling out, when putting young birds under the color