

tendency to prevent the hens from sweating the young ones. Give them some dried moss or one of Hyde's medicated nest bags, which are sold at most seed dealers, and which answer the purpose very well.

You will often be told to take away the eggs as they are laid, and then put them back when the third egg is laid. Now, that is very well with the second and third nests, but I advise you to leave the first lot of eggs in the nest, just as they are laid. My reason for this is that it encourages the hen to sit (more especially a year old hen) by her seeing the eggs, whereas when they are taken away she seems to be discouraged. If, however, you do take the eggs away, you must replace them on the same evening as she laid her third egg. On the fourteenth day from that date the young birds may be expected.

It is a very good plan to mark down the date when the young are expected, so that you will make no mistake in having some fresh egg food put in the egg drawer the evening before you are expecting them to hatch. You will find it to be a very good plan to let the hen feed the young birds by herself for the first week. Then let the cock assist her. They will now want green food at least twice a day, fresh water cress from preference, not the coarse kind, or dandelion.

When the young birds are twenty-one days old, you may give the hen another nest, and put the old one down on the bottom of the cage for the young ones to go into if they so desire. If you find the old ones inclined to pluck them, you must put them in what is called the nursing cage, that is a small cage wired back and front with wood ends. The wire in the back is a bit opener than the front on account of allowing the old birds to feed them through. This you must hang on the front of the breeding cage until they

can feed themselves, to encourage them to do so you must put an egg drawer in the small cage, and give them a bit of egg food, also some crushed seeds.

When the hens have commenced to sit the second nest you may put the young ones off each of your hens in two spare cages you have, taking care to keep them separate—that is each lot of young. Of course, the same procedure will have to be gone through again with each successive nest. This much done, we will go on to the next year's breeding operations. By doing so I shall be better able to explain what you will have to do.

In selecting your birds to breed exhibition stock always give the preference to good stout thick set birds about $6\frac{1}{4}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, if a little less so much the better. The matter of shortness applies more to hens than it does to cocks. It is impossible to breed birds up to the recognised type, if you use the long slim built birds, which you will often see.

You will find it best to select your breeding stock during the month of December, as you will then see which are strong and healthy birds, from the previous season's second and third nests. In selecting them you must pay due regard to quality; this is as essential as shape and size, if not more so. You will also find that the best birds in respect of quality of feather are the best as colour producers, and this means a great deal to a breeder of Norwich plainheads.

It is preferable to mate a buff cock with a yellow hen. The reason for doing so is you will get birds of much higher quality and size than if you use yellow cocks and buff hens. If at any time your birds show deterioration of quality of feather, you can stop it and bring them up to the old standard in the following manner. In putting your birds up, put up a pair of buffs and a pair of yellows, pairing buff to buff and yellow to yellow. You must look very carefully after these double buffs and double yellows, and in the following season the young birds bred from the double buffs should be put up with the parents of the double yellows, and the birds bred from the double yellows should be put up with the par-

ents of the double buffs. After this you may go on pairing in the usual way, that is, yellow to buff, and buff to yellow.—*Fur and Feather.*

Cage Birds, &c.

For Imported Birds—Try Hope's Bird Store 109 Queen Street West, Toronto. Fine young Mocking Birds, warranted cocks, \$4 each.

Cages, Japanned, from 35c.—Cages, brass, from 65c; Cages, breeding, from 75c; Cage appliances nest and nestings, seed &c.; everything in the bird line at Hope's Bird Store, 109 Queen Street West, Toronto.

A Parrot for \$6—Fine healthy young Cuban Parrots, price \$6 each, in nice plumage, also Parrot Cages, Parrot Food, etc., at lowest rates and of best quality, at Hope's Bird Store, 109 Queen Street West, Toronto.

English Birds—Imported, Goldfinches, Linnets, Skylarks, Thrushes, Jays, Starlings, &c. Mocking birds, Cardinals, Fancy Finches &c. at Hope's Bird Store, 109 Queen Street West, Toronto.

Parrots, Cockatoos, Love birds, Paroquets, Gold fish, fish globes bird cages, seeds, &c., &c. Fancy Pigeons, Guinea Pigs, Rabbits &c. A large stock now on hand at Hope's Bird Store, 109 Queen Street West, Toronto.

FULTON'S BOOK OF PIGEONS

Reduced to \$5.

Large full page engravings of all varieties.

New edition re-written right up to date.

For sale by H. B. DONOVAN, Toronto.

Pigeons.

Pouters Only—Standard colours, winners at the Industrial, Ontario, Port Hope and Cobourg Shows. Choice stock and exhibition birds for sale at reasonable prices. Magill & Glidden, Port Hope, Ont.

Tumbler Pigeons—75 cents per pair, also Dragons, Owls, Pouters, Red and Black Pied, Nuns, Magpies, Fantails all colors, Trumpeters, black, Jacobins, black and red, and Swallows, blue and black. W. M. Anderson, Palmerston, Ont.

Ferrets—I have a number of male Ferrets for sale at \$7 each. Make money orders payable at Norwich. Frank C. Hopkins, Newark P.O., Ont.

For Sale or Exchange or offers, 20 pairs of nice Blue Checked Homing Antwerp Pigeons. W.W. Reid, Ayr, Ont.

Jacobins, Pouters, White Fantails of the modern type. Birds that can win for you at the winter shows. The best are the cheapest, as quality is what counts. Stamp for reply. Chas. Massie, Port Hope, Ont. 297

Hints to Beginners (Pigeons) by F. M. Gilbert, new edition, 1894, revised with additional chapters. A most practical, timely and comprehensive work. Indispensable to the amateur. Price paper 50c. Address, H. B. Donovan, Toronto.