

show. He is governed by a standard of excellence which states the weight, shape and characteristics his fowls must have if he wants to win prizes and have high scoring birds. The result is that his whole care and time is given to the production of the most perfect specimens, not merely in the matter of feathers, but as perfect specimens as possible in size, vigor, full breasts, and other points that are of as special value in a practical and economic sense as from a "fancy" point of view.

Take the Plymouth Rock again, a breed that I am mostly interested in and have made a study of. Its productions and its propagation to the present time are due wholly to the fanciers. If it were not for them there would be no Plymouth Rock worthy the name in the course of a very short time. There is a science in keeping a breed of fowls to a rigid standard, and the average farmer does not possess a knowledge of that science, and yet the average farmer would be very sorry to have this magnificent breed of fowls lost to the world in its present shape and excellence.

It is a mistaken idea to think for a moment that the fanciers as a class are indifferent to the laying qualities of their fowl. Those most worthy of the name, and those who to-day are doing most to advance the interests of the "fancy," are striving to build up most perfect flocks in all respects, and they are succeeding, too, I feel assured. I would like someone to point out to me a farmer who has tried to increase the size of his fowl or their eggs, and who every year selects the most prolific layers as breeding stock. The truth of the matter is that the people of this country are indebted to the fanciers for every valuable breed of poultry they have, for our fowls would long since, but for their care in keeping the breed pure and of fine quality, have degenerated into the nondescript collections that are to be seen in nine out of ten farm yards. I am further of the opinion that it is high time that, if justice cannot be done them, they should at least be freed from the unjust charge of having been an injury to our domestic breeds of poultry. Some few individuals, improperly called fanciers, have perhaps bred their flocks with such poor judgment as to cause them to lose stamina, but the great body of fanciers, who are working intelligently and for the good of the practical as well as æsthetic side of

poultry culture, should not be held responsible for the failures of a few breeders.

I strongly imagine that one of the chief reasons why some may speak against the fancy—from an experience, perhaps, with a few pure-bred fowls purchased from some fancier—is because they do not give these fowl proper treatment in order to secure the best results. It is but natural that when taking home a fine trio or breeding hen, for which a good price has been paid, that nothing should be thought too good for these birds. They are often penned up by themselves, and fed, perhaps, a dozen times a day on all sorts of good things; and as a result the fowls become fat and indolent. They, therefore, lay indifferently, and the eggs that are laid are naturally largely infertile. The birds and their breeder are, therefore, blamed for what was, perhaps, wholly the fault of the purchaser.

Let the fancier have his due; he has done and is doing the farmer and practical poultryman an exceedingly good turn.

A NEW ASSOCIATION FORMED IN HANOVER, ONT.

PROPOSE TO HOLD A SHOW IN JANUARY.

HANOVER has formed a Poultry Association known as the Hanover Poultry and Pet Stock Association, with the following officers: Hon. president, T. H. O'Neill; president, P. B. Flanagan; first vice-president, Christ. Hertel; second vice-president, Geo. Reiss; executive committee, John Sandlos, A. E. Wagner, Ed. Lynn, C. Winkler and John Hertel; secretary-treasurer, H. G. Kirchner. It was partly decided to hold a show either before or after the Owen Sound, but will let your hear from me later in regard same. Yours, etc.,

H. G. KIRCHNER, Secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Kirchner emphasises the fact that the new association is up-to-date by sending us a first instalment of six new names for REVIEW. Hanover is in the midst of a section that should make poultry a leading feature.