

Mating Fancy Pigeons.

FOR BEGINNERS.

Pigeons, generally, are inclined to mate sometime during the month of February, if the temperature be agreeable, but if the weather be cold, they will most likely mate when there comes a warm spell. If they show an inclination to mate in January; it should not be allowed, as, when the young are hatched, (if they are at all,) it may be too cold for them, and they would, in all probability, perish.

The beginner, who has Fancy Pigeons of different kinds, does not want them to mate promiscuously, as they would become mixed, but they should be mated with those of the same kind.

To do this, he must have a mating cage, which is simply a box with wire front and partition. When they are put into it, there will be no trouble to mate the cock, unless he sees the hen to which he was previously mated; to guard against this, a piece of cloth, thin enough to allow plenty of light, should be hung over the front of the cage. When they have been in the cage, one in each part, for two or three days, and do not seem to agree, (which may be seen by the strutting of the cock, and the bowing of the hen in return) the wire partition should be taken away, and if the hen becomes mistress over the cock, she should be taken away, and put in a place where she could hear, but not see, the other birds in the loft; and a little hemp-seed may be given her, and after about three days she should be returned to the cage, after which she will, most likely mate, but if not, she should again be taken away for about a week, and then returned, and

she will, generally, mate with the cock.

If the beginner ever wants to remate birds that are already mated, he should be careful not to let those which were mated before, see each other, or he will have much difficulty to mate the ones he wishes to.

No unmatched birds, either hen or cock, should be allowed to be in the same loft, at liberty, with the mated birds, for they will cause a disturbance and perhaps mate with some which were already mated, but they should be kept separate from the breeding ones.

For same reason, several pairs of newly mated birds, should never be put in a loft together, for if they are, two or three pairs will, most likely, be continually quarrelling over the same nest box, and perhaps get unmatched and remated, in a way which would much displease the Fancier.

If these few precautions be observed, the beginner will have little trouble to mate his birds properly.

F.

Plymouth Rocks.

EDITORS *Poultry Journal*.

DEAR SIRS:—I am now going to say a few words on behalf of this valuable class of Fowls. I won't praise them because Tom, Dick and Harry says they are worthy, but I will give my own short experience, and let the reader judge for himself.

The Plymouth Rock is a new fowl, one which has not yet got fairly established in Canada, and when introduced into any Fanciers yard, they are likely to stay there, providing he wants a general useful fowl. Now a considerable has been said through the American