

tion of poultry there I ever saw at a Provincial Exhibition, but in the next place, so far as my humble judgment goes, the worst birds, in many cases, got the prizes. It is not my intention to trespass on your valuable space by criticising the judgment of the judges, except in so far as the Asiatic breeds of poultry are concerned, as I am more conversant with them than the other birds. To give a general criticism would occupy too much of your space. In the case of Dark Brahmas, I found second prize given to a trio, the cock of which had a single comb, while the hens were badly matched and had vulture hocks. In the case of Partridge Cochins, first prize was given to a very inferior, badly matched trio; second prize to a trio which, while they were well matched, the cock was too leggy, while between these two trios was a trio of magnificent Partridge Cochins, the finest by far in the exhibition, passed over altogether. In the case of White Cochins, first prize was given to a very poor trio indeed. Cock miserably small and hens badly matched. Second prize to a trio the cock of which was badly vulture hocked, but hens very good and well matched, while alongside was a trio of White Cochins very much superior to both in size, matching and general appearance. But, perhaps, in the case of Buff Cochins the unfitness or unfairness, or more properly speaking both, of the Judges was most apparent. First prize was given to a trio, of which both cock and hen birds, with other disqualifications, had dark hackles, which would at once disqualify them from exhibiting at any proper poultry exhibition. The second prize was given to a fair trio of Cinnamon Cochins, large size and well matched, but as in the case of the others the finest trio was passed over, and a magnificent Buff cock and two splendid hens did not receive a passing notice from the gentlemen who did or did not judge the poultry. Now, Mr. Editor, while I do not pretend to know about all sorts of poultry, I do know something about these birds, and I dare say it is safe to presume that the judging in the other classes was in a par with this. Why is it? Is it not possible to get gentlemen to judge the poultry or anything else at our Provincial Exhibition who are able and willing to do the fair thing, irrespective of who are exhibitors or from where they come? I understand this is no new thing at Provin-

cial Exhibitions and that there is universal dissatisfaction at the manner in which judging is conducted in all classes of the exhibition, but my short stay did not enable me to do more than give a passing notice to these things. It is really too bad, Mr. Editor, that people should have to take their animals long distances with the hope that if their's is best they will get prizes, but when they, after this trouble and expense, find through favoritism or ignorance, poorer specimens carry off the prizes which ought rightly to belong to them. This is a disgrace to our Provincial Exhibitions, and ought to be, if possible, remedied before another year. But there is no hope of any change unless the press take it up and insist upon a radical change in the manner of appointing judges and the *personel*. The old foggy board who do little besides drawing their pay will do nothing unless made to do so, and there is nothing will teach them fair play like a good hammering through the press, and I do hope, Mr. Editor, you will do your part in as far as the poultry is concerned, by handling them without gloves through your useful journal the POULTRY CHRONICLE.

FAIR PLAY.

OTTAWA AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

TO THE EDITOR, CANADIAN POULTRY CHRONICLE.

Sir:—This time last year I sent you an account of the Poultry Branch of the City of Ottawa Agricultural Society. This year I will attempt the same. Perhaps in some of my remarks I may be rather harsh on the Judges, and on those to whom the duty belonged of seeing that proper arrangements were made for the proper classification of the various breeds. A more miserable or imperfect arrangement could not be had,—Ducks, Geese, Pigeons, and the various breeds of fowls were indiscriminately mixed. This may perhaps partially account for the very unsatisfactory judging, and certainly it could not have been much worse. Good birds were passed over, and birds that showed distinct marks of inferior breeds were awarded the first and second prizes. One of the judges has some pretensions of knowing pure