

appointed for the purpose of divising some pastime for the coming winter evenings on which the club meetings are to be held.

The following schemes were adopted: first, to have on different evenings different breeders bring in different specimens of their birds, showing general types of formation and general characteristics, each exhibitor to read a paper written by himself with quotations from other authorities, if he sees fit, illustrating his remarks with the specimens he brings in.

This is calculated to be of great value to many of the many young fanciers to be found among us.

Second to have young and old birds shown the same evening, but in separate competition, and to offer special inducements for young birds, bred by the exhibitors. It seems to be the general sentiment that no money prize be offered, giving simply prize cards, which will, we believe, be valued by the true fancier far more than money.

A few other pleasant schemes were discussed and will doubtless be carried into effect later, but owing to the amount of business on hand it was not deemed advisable to submit them until later in the season. The report was accepted. It was suggested by W. J. Middleton that the secretary and also other members get up a schedule or prize list showing the dates on which the different varieties shall be shown.

The question of a room was then brought up and thoroughly discussed. Mr. Middleton illustrated, in a style which was truly his own, why we should accept the offer of this room. Mr. Finn thought we ought to accept it as it is and fix the number of nights finally. A motion to secure this hall was made and carried, and the chair appointed the following committee to settle question of leasing this hall: Messrs. Albee, Middleton and Horsman.

The question of cages was brought up, and it was ascertained they cannot be bought from the Spratts Patent, but can be hired at 25 cents each. Without further discussion a motion was made and carried that a committee of three be appointed to look up this cage business and find out just where they can be got and at what cost. The chair appointed Messrs. Middleton, Connors and Willets.

A further motion was made and carried that this committee be vested with full power to purchase 24 or 30 at as reasonable a rate as possible.

Motion to adjourn was made at 10 p.m.

GEO. FEATHER, Sec'y.

## SEASONABLE HINTS.

THERE is no more important work than that connected with the management of the pigeon loft in autumn. Some fanciers encourage the attempts of their birds to produce late young ones. They refrain until the last possible moment from going over their birds, and when this is done they prefer to retain young pigeons which they have bred and to which they have become somewhat attached on that account, instead of deciding to sell them at once and so give the best birds more room and attention, as well as make what money they are worth at the earliest possible moment. It cannot be too often pointed out that there is no economy in keeping inferior specimens in the loft in the hope of effecting casual sales. If pigeons which are of no use for breeding or exhibition were rigidly sold year by year as soon as their character was recognized, the pigeon loft would be cleaner and healthier, fewer birds would be bred by the fanciers, and the prices obtainable would be commensurately higher. As a matter of fact, there is no doubt that multitudes of inferior specimens are kept on in this way and not being sold during the winter, they are again mated in the spring, and so continue to perpetuate young ones no better than themselves, if as good.

Now is the time to go thoroughly into the matter, to overhaul every pigeon, and having decided upon the lines to be followed in next year's breeding, to rigidly exclude every pigeon which is of no exhibition value, or which will not be required for crossing another season. Some birds, it is true, are of little value, for sale, but may be kept for crossing on account of some special feature that they possess. This is a matter that the fancier must deal with himself, and all those pigeons that possess no special redeeming quality should be sold off at once or disposed of into a delicious pie.

The loft itself should also be overhauled where defective and everything removed which is used in the summer season but which is not required in the winter. The nest pans or boxes should be thoroughly cleaned out and coal oiled and put away until spring.

A pigeon loft is so apt to become dirty by the accumulation of filth, feathers, sawdust and sand, that the fewer the articles within it, the better for the birds. The floor having been entirely scraped over and swept clean, and the walls