

NOTES FROM THE WEST.

BY ROBERT JOOS. PEORIA, ILL.

ALMOST all of the Illinois fanciers report a good breeding season, and the indications are that the young bird classes of our coming shows will be well filled.

What has become of the proposed Cincinnati show? Surely George, it will not pay you to be so silent when the show season is so close at hand. The dates of this grand show should have been decided some time back, as there are several smaller shows which would like to set their dates, but as they do not wish to conflict with those of this banner show, they have held back. So come "Professor" let yourself be heard.

Peoria will have a pigeon and poultry show, and the indications are that it will be a "hummer."

I agree with friend Donovan, that the A.C.A. should either get a hustle on it, or that it should receive a decent burial and thereby make room for a new organization. The American pigeon fancy cannot afford to have a national association that is only such in name and not in deeds. I think this subject should be freely discussed as something must be done and done soon. I am not a member of the A.C.A., but would have sent in my application several years ago had the Association not been so dead. Should the A.C.A. wake up and put some new life into it I will be glad to join at once, but should it remain as it is now, I will be only too willing to put my name down as a starter for a new national club.

The band question is a very important topic of discussion at the present time. I am in favor of a band such as the English conference, with a registered loft number added. I do not believe in initials.

Mr. F. M. Gilbert is to judge all of the pigeons at the great Mid-continental Show at Kansas City. I think friend Gilbert will have quite a job, for she promises to be a grand affair.

Chicago is becoming the Western home of the Tumbler fanciers; quite a few fanciers of the Windy City have imported some fine birds of this variety from England, and no doubt they will make it pretty warm for some of the Eastern fanciers.

Why do not the Chicago fanciers wake up and organize a club. If they would make a start they could before long have a club second to none in the country.

BREEDING POUTERS.

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THERE are very few really good judges of Pouters—few who know where to look for points which make the finish of a perfect bird. An experienced eye, on the other hand, can detect a good Pouter in whatever position it may be, whether sitting in repose on a block, standing on the floor or in full show. A block in a show cage helps a short limbed Pouter very little, or even other defects, before an experienced judge. When the girth of body is slender and the shoulders and limbs are properly placed it cannot get into a bad position; whereas a faulty bird can sometimes show itself to advantage.

Position is everything in a Pouter, and to get this the legs must be placed far enough back in the body; however good a crop it may have, if it does not stand the right angle the whole beauty is lost. We have heard the remark "Oh but look at the large crop he blows" "isn't he a good one," this same bird had legs and body which would do justice to a good sized Runt. If the legs are too far forward it puts the body of the bird in a horizontal position and the Pouter loses height, which is an important feature. When passing along a row of cages in the show room notice the tallest bird, he is generally a good one, though often he may not have the longest limbs.

In breeding it is always well to use birds with long limbs, but it does not follow that the result will be satisfactory; the advantage of long limbs is lost if the bird does not show them. Many Pouters will show at six and one-half inches better than others will seven or seven-and one-fourth. This depends greatly upon the length from the ankle to the hock, commonly called the lower joint, which should be as long as possible; then if the thigh joints are close together and the legs straight, little more can be wanted, as far as limbs are concerned. It is not desirable, however, that the thigh joint should be too prominent, but seeing that many of the most slender-bodied and closest limbed Pouters are so formed, although it is a defect, it must not be too readily condemned.

A slender girth is an important feature in a Pouter; when taken in an ordinary sized hand the body should be easily grasped. From both front and behind view it should be narrow, the back being slightly concave rather than convex, round shoulders or hog back, which looks very ugly when playing. The wings should be tightly drawn up to the