

that he can be guided in making his selections by observing the character of the dent of the kernel.

An examination of the plots just referred to showed that where the average size of the ear did not exceed 9 inches in length by 7 inches in circumference the largest proportion of good mature ears were found, and therefore the largest yield was realized. This proves the importance of selecting medium sized ears of good type which will thoroughly mature before frost. In ordinary fields of corn it is very common to find a mixture of many different types, some of which are deep kernelled while others are shallower. In such cases there is a very conspicuous lack in the uniformity of maturity of the crop, and as a consequence its value is greatly decreased not only for feeding purposes but more especially for seed. A sufficient number of cases have been given to indicate that the correlation of different characters in plants is not only of scientific interest but is of considerable practical value in revealing to the breeder certain hidden qualities. Care should be taken, however, to avoid concluding too hastily that any two characters are correlated sufficiently to warrant a selection being made because of its existence. On the other hand, the general ratio in which each is found in the general population should decide the issue.

THE PASSENGER PIGEON.

BY W. LOCHHEAD.

Not many years ago the passenger pigeon was a very common bird, and great flocks, comprising hundreds of thousands, were often observed during their periods of flight. Its range extended along eastern North America, as far west as the Mississippi valley and northward to Hudson Bay. It nested in the northern portions of its range. Now, however, it is so rare that there are doubts as to its very existence in America.

The cause of the disappearance of such useful, beautiful, tender-voiced birds in the course of a single generation is not far to seek. They were thoughtlessly slaughtered by the thousands, in order to provide sport and food for a few days. It is stated by a trustworthy eye-witness that "people would come from all parts of the country with wagons, axes, beds and cooking utensils, camping on the ground with their families for days, where they could plunder the nests of the roosts, of the vast army of passenger pigeons." Accordingly, the passenger pigeon has gone the way of the buffalo which existed once in countless numbers on the prairies of the West—awful examples