

## TORONTO POULTRY, PIGEON AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

REGULAR monthly meeting of the above Association was held in Temperance Hall on Thursday the 12th May, 1892. The President Mr. John Miles in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. The special prize for the heaviest 1892 chick brought out some very nice early birds, Mr. Joseph Bennett winning first on a Plymouth Rock pullet, weight 2 lbs. 4 oz.; Mr. C. J. Daniels 2nd, on a buff Leghorn cockerel. Mr. W. Fox brought a nice pair each of Lop and Dutch rabbits. This closes the show season for the year 1892. Mr. Bennett read a paper on raising young chicks, and a discussion thereon brought out some good pointers for young beginners. It was moved by Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Downs, that we now adjourn until the first Thursday in September. Carried.

JOHN GRAY,  
Secretary.

## POULTRY ASSOCIATIONS. WHO DO THEY BENEFIT MOST: THE FARMER OR FANCY BREEDER?

BY MR. E. H. BENJAMIN, OTTAWA.

THIS is a question that at first thought one would be inclined to answer in favor of the Fancy. This may be true in one sense, but in reality it is for the farmers' benefit. I am sorry to say, however, that as a general rule the farmer is the last one who takes an interest in what would tend to his good and benefit by a live Poultry Association. How few farmers, for instance, do we see at the exhibitions of poultry associations, even when they are held almost at their own doors. By attend-

ing these exhibitions, I contend that they would be benefiting themselves, because they would then see the various improved breeds, and learn that some are noted for their egg producing qualities, others for their marketable purposes, while others embrace both essential points, and make them what they so much require at the present moment, and are for his benefit. A farmer can realize more out of poultry in proportion to the amount expended for their feeding and care than out of the rest of his stock. Yet how few of them look at it in that light. Another reason why the farmer should patronize these associations is that by attending these exhibitions and becoming an exhibitor, he strengthens the hands of those who are engaged in these organizations, he shows he takes an interest in what is intended to advance his interest. In doing this he can give his experience in their care and culture, but I fear he places too little value on such results. How many of us who have attended most of the county agricultural exhibitions, notice year after year the same birds exhibited, and how they are classified. I would almost venture a wager, if the question were asked of them what breeds they are intended to represent, they could not tell, and if they were asked to describe in a general way they could not tell or describe one leading variety from another. Even some of the Judges at these agricultural exhibitions, they are equally in the dark as to what varieties they are judging. This can only be obviated and overcome by either of the following means, viz. by either their becoming members and exhibitors of a good lively poultry association, or by the selection of a competent judge for the county association one who would point out to them the defects in their birds and inform them of the fact that the birds are nothing less than a common cross,

and advise them to at once become members and exhibitors of the nearest poultry association, as they then could see for themselves the various breeds, and at the same time obtain from the judge or members of the association such information as would lead him to select the most useful breeder and if the farmer will endeavor to keep fowls that are known to possess merit as they do with horses, cattle and sheep, and pay more attention to the poultry on the farm, and aim to derive a profit in proportion to the labor and food bestowed, instead of keeping breeds that are expected to lay by chance, or whenever the fowls find food enough to keep themselves in condition and producing eggs also. It is a mistake in farmers to not only overlook the breeds, but also to overlook the importance of giving the poultry a share of their attention as a profitable source of income, for in nearly all cases where poultry have received judicious management a fair profit has been received for the amount invested. Too much praise cannot be given to those who come under the name of "the Fancy Breeder" for the interest and energy they have taken in improving and bringing to the exhibition standard the various breeds of fowl, in order to accomplish this point they have incurred great expense, they pay out annually large amounts in importing new birds to improve their stock and keep them up to the required standard, they pay large amounts to the various express companies for the conveyance of their birds to and from the various exhibitions, they annually lose a large proportion of their birds by sickness contracted in attending these exhibitions. All these losses and expenses are incurred, in expectation of being reimbursed by sales to the farmer of some of their stock. How far their expectations are realized in this respect they alone can tell. There