

them while young. I do not mean to reflect on friend Butterfield by these remarks, which I make in the interest of a breed that has a great career before it. I hope Mr. B will study this variety more closely, for with his natural ability as a judge it will not be a long lesson to learn. And I take this opportunity of thanking him for his courteous attention to the questions Mrs. Peter put to him. It is not always the case that one can get a man in his position to be so obliging and civil. As a breeder of the Rose-comb Leghorns I feel I must say a few words respecting them; even though I may be thought guilty of seeking a "cheap ad," though this is far from my motive. Your notes about them are correct, Mr. Editor. They are improving, and if they only had the good fortune to be a new breed on the "boom" they would have received unlimited praise, and been pictured in every possible (and impossible) attitude through the poultry press. I hope next year the Association will accord them a separate class in each color. Many more birds would be shown then in the respective classes, and I believe recoup in entry fees the extra prize money. The exhibit, as to merit, was the equal of any variety in the building, and handsomer than many, or I may say most; while their usefulness is beyond question.

I received a letter from an old customer (Mr. A. A. Whitteker, of Morrisburg) last week, in which he says, "You may put me down for another customer who has fallen in love with the Wyandottes, and will breed them exclusively." I shall be glad to see our judges taking more interest in this variety, at least enough to allow them to approach close to giving the "red" to the best specimens.

I am quite anxious to know what is on the "boards" for our, or rather the, winter exhibition of the Toronto P. and P. S. Association.

In looking over Mr. Pitkin's new standard for Plymouth Rocks I note

splashes of white are still to be allowed in primaries of cocks or cockerels. I beg respectfully to say I think if white was not allowed in primaries we should get better colour in our males as a race. We all know the primaries show the foundation colour in a male bird, and as Plymouth Rocks tend to breed light males we must control the colour in the male primaries. The hens having a tendency to breed darker than the required standard colour, white in primaries for hens is not so objectionable. Although I hold in the highest respect Mr. Felch's judgment in all that involves a knowledge of poultry culture I certainly feel with Mr. Pitkin in the matter of symmetry. It is a clause that provides in the greatest degree for the selection of well formed birds; and while Mr. Felch, with his keen eye for form, may punish a specimen that is faulty sufficiently, without applying this clause in the scale of points, it is, it seems to me, one of the best guides as to form for the majority of other mortals not so gifted as our respected head master. The remarks on back are excellent and true, and as the back governs the whole form I am pleased to see it stands a chance of getting a just and reasonable proportion of points in the scale.

WINTER CARE OF POULTRY.

BY A. A. W.

A great deal has been said and a great deal more can and no doubt will be said on the above subject. And it is one of the most important to breeders of poultry, especially in this climate of ours. I don't pretend to have the best mode of caring for and feeding fowls, but will give what I consider a very good one, after fifteen years' experience. My house contains two rooms, each 12 x 12, and one is used exclusively for a feeding room, floors (mother earth) raised higher than outside and covered with sand and fine gravel, which answers for a dust bath and gravel for

grinders. Do not overcrowd. I consider thirty sufficient for house the size of mine. Keep premises clean; rake out droppings every morning (Sundays excepted,) before they become mixed with the sand or scattered through the pen. I use sulphur and coal oil freely and am not troubled with vermin. My feeding is as follows:—On the floor of my feed-room I scatter leaves, straw or hay about six inches deep, and after the hens go to roost I mix a sufficient quantity of wheat or buckwheat with the litter for the morning meal, and should you be there in the morning it would do you good to see them scratch and hear them sing. About noon my good wife gives them a dinner composed of the refuse from the kitchen—such as porridge, bread crumbs, stale bread, meat scraps, etc., gathered from the previous day in a dish kept for that purpose, and when not sufficient a little meal composed of equal parts (by weight) of wheat bran, and cornmeal is added, with salt to season, and occasionally a dash of cayenne. For the evening meal I give whole corn (warmed,) as much as they will eat. I have a box 2 x 6, one foot deep, on legs high enough to allow them to walk underneath, into which I put about three inches of bran, and every few days throw in some oats, and when they have nothing else to eat or nothing else to do they will eat and scratch there. I find oats of great value for poultry, and one of the staple foods. The object of bran is to induce them to scratch and keep them from mischief, as idleness leads to mischief, such as egg-eating and feather-pulling. Give green food in variety, and keep some one kind before them at all times; and don't forget ground oyster shells, charcoal and bone meal. And if your kitchen fails to furnish sufficient scraps call on your butcher, and if he is as good as mine he will give you all that is necessary for the carrying away. Last, but not least, give pure fresh water, and do not allow it to freeze, but change two or three