

You are anxious to sell as many as possible, as your outlay so far has been far in excess of your income from this source. But, my brother, you cannot for a few years find customers to relieve you of any more of your stock than will pay current expenses, so says my experience at any rate. But you need not be discouraged at this, and it does not differ from starting in a profession. A lawyer puts out his shingle in the county town, and will he have business rushing him at once? He must begin small and work up by degrees, and so will you be obliged to, and you then see the necessity of saving only your very best at present, because, if you keep a large flock waiting for customers, those which you do not sell will eat up the profit of those you do dispose of. I may say that for the first five years I did no more than keep my poultry account even, of course I bought a great number of birds in that time.

Again, you must rear a reputation upon a solid basis, and this is secured by sending out only good birds, the only exception to this rule is where a customer wants stock for fowls and eggs for market. But my advice, is, after years of experience, you can't afford to send out a poor bird at any price as long as they are for fancy. Do not be deluded by the statement that a customer can't afford to pay fancy prices, for you will find if you give him the worth of his money and no more, there is one thing he can do as well—*grumble*.

I have known not a few beginners quit the fancy in disgust because they had raised a large yard of fowls from good stock expecting to sell them all at good prices. They first became aware that their grain bill was pretty strong; as month after month crept by, the feed bill grew larger, and after advertising liberally they still found their flock only slightly diminished, they became disgusted, and quit in debt to their venture. Raise only a limited number at first, cull severely, and if you get rid of these try it a little stronger

next time. And don't forget now is your time to cull and reduce the number of your flock.

JUDGING BUFF COCHINS.

BY FRANK C. HARE, WHITBY, ONT.

It is generally conceded that one of the chief advantages of judging by scoring is the information that it gives exhibitors respecting the merits and defects of their stock, and the facility with which it enables sellers and purchasers to deal honestly and intelligently with each other in business transactions. I am in thorough sympathy with the scoring system and believe it has done much to remove petty jealousy and strife; and that the best way to make the system still more popular and satisfactory is to make the report of the score card so clear and definite that it will be impossible to misunderstand it. In the matter of buff Cochins the trend of modern opinion is in favor of a rich buff surface color, and a good under-color. These are points that intending purchasers wish to become fully acquainted with, and yet there is nothing in the scale of points on the score card by which these can be definitely indicated.

Take for illustration, the point, "Breast and Body." Under this heading the *Standard* says:—"Plumage rich, clear buff, even and uniform in color; breast deep, broad and full; body, deep, broad and well developed." A buff Cochin may be cut in breast and body, either for defective shape or for defective color in plumage. An amateur wants information relating to the shape of the breast, that he may know what type of Cochin to cultivate, but the union of shape and color in the score-card so confuses him that he learns nothing definitely. Another wants information relating to color, but finds this invariably associated with something else, so that the score-card is, to him, useless as a means of tuition. How can this be avoided, and the score-

card made a means of more precise instruction? I would propose a remodelling of the values attached to the different points specified in the *Standard*, and an introduction of two more points, viz., surface color and under color. Under each heading I would leave space for a summary of the parts of the fowl likely to be cut, viz., neck, back, &c., thereby enabling the judge to accurately describe the merits of the fowl with respect to color. Under the heading surface color could be put the color of the tail, and under the heading under-color the color of the wings. The same result can be reached by other changes in the analysis of points in the *Standard*. I have mentioned this method only that the committee of revision on buff Cochins may consider the possibility of making the score-card more definite and thereby more valuable.

(We are happy to welcome Mr. Hare to the columns of the REVIEW.—ED.)

THE ROUEN THE BEST DUCK, &c.

W. C. G. PETER.

In the August number of your excellent journal I note an enquiry from "A North Ontario Farmer" as to the best breed of ducks, etc. As I have had considerable experience with two of the best breeds, perhaps I can give him a hint or so that will help him to a selection. The breeds I have handled are the Pekin and the Rouen, and I may here say that I consider the Rouen are by far the best. And to give your correspondent a full answer I will take his questions in rotation.

The general characteristics of the Rouens are great hardiness, extra egg producers and stock-getters; scarcely an egg fails to hatch; put on flesh quickly and easily, needing no particular diet; have larger bodies and more flesh than many larger looking birds, their feathers being closer and harder; and last and very important item, they are so easily kept at home, and con-