

you commence with a pair of blues. Select your best young of the first season's breeding to be used, as I will presently explain; and, for the second season, pair the cock bird of the original pair to a good hen of a different family or strain. Again, select your best youngsters from this cross, and in due time match up the birds thus selected, which will, of course, be half-brothers and sisters, and if you have been judicious in your first selection I venture to predict that you will have obtained a fixity of type that will repay you for the time and patience bestowed on your birds.

In conclusion, I will as briefly as possible touch one or two points that are of cardinal importance. Let me therefore, advise you not to coddle your birds, though you may bestow upon them all the care a true fancier delights to give. Unless they have plenty of fresh air and exercise you can never obtain that hard, tight feather so essential to a Dragon. Do not overshadow your birds. Better not exhibit at all, than show a Dragon in bad condition.

And now, gentlemen, I beg to thank you for so kindly giving me your attention during the reading of this paper, and if my remarks are the means of helping you in any way towards the object you have in view, I shall feel gratified.—*The Stock-keeper.*

RABBITS & PETS

RABBIT NOTES.

Rabbit not Eating.—I observe that one of your correspondents complains that a rabbit of his will not eat. Let him try Jerusalem artichokes, washed and cut in slices. This is the most tempting of all food to Rabbits. I find they will leave everything for these tubers. They are wholesome and nutritious, and in winter, when food is

often scarce, they make an excellent addition and variety. Jerusalem artichokes are easily grown in any soil, and I advise Rabbit fanciers to cultivate them against the needs of winter. All the small tubers produced in my garden go to the rabbitry, where they are greedily devoured.

Doe refusing to Mate.—This is often a great difficulty and vexation. During the last four months of the past year I have persistently tried to breed from an exceptionally good doe in vain, though she was constantly making nests and flecking herself. Having an empty loose box in my stable (12 by 10) I had it littered down with hay, and placed in it a couple of retreats into which the doe might retire if she wished. In this compartment I placed the doe and buck, and left them to *themselves for a fortnight.* They soon became quite happy and fed together. Yesterday the doe produced a large litter which she is nursing satisfactorily. From the date of birth it appears that my object was accomplished on the fourth day of their association. I would not advise a buck and doe to be left together in a hutch. I am sure that with this doe it would have failed, and might have led to injury.—JAMES SALTER IN *Poultry.*

THE SILVER-GREY.

(Continued from May Number.)

We will suppose the young fancier has obtained a doe, a medium or dark, from some well known or successful strain—*this is important*—and this doe is of a good sound color, good saddle, etc., but fails in having a dark head and, possibly, feet. To such a doe I should put a light buck of a good even sound color, well silvered, but which has the fault of either a white (commonly called a putty) nose, or a white spot or mark on face—or, *vice versa*, a light doe to a dark buck. By this means you will counteract the dark head, and although, without doubt, you must ex-

pect some will show the faults of the parents, yet in nearly every case you will find one or more specimens in advance of the parents. When old enough the bucks should be put to the mother, the does to the father, and the progeny from these should well repay you for the trouble. Of course, in ordinary cases, when the fancier has some really good stock, I should always advise breeding from a light buck and medium or dark does, as the case may be, any faults in the one to be counteracted by an excess or otherwise in the other. Never breed from two lights, as in this case you will gradually lose all the color and ticking, mealbags being the result. Extraordinary results do sometimes occur in breeding, and one which shows the crosses that might be attempted happened in my case. I had a Himalayan doe which was struck accidentally by a Silver-brown buck—result, a litter of six, three brown and three black. The browns I killed, and one of the blacks at four months old, but two blacks I kept, and at the end of another month they turned to a peppery-salt, with a beautiful blue ground-color. Happening to be both does, I paired, by way of an experiment, to a very good and even light-shade Silver-grey buck—result, two litters, out of which I selected three, all medium shades, beautifully silvered, very even and grand in color, which won several prizes, and good rabbits they were.

About three weeks after the union has taken place, provide Mrs. Silver-grey with a good quantity of nice soft, clean meadow hay in her sleeping compartment, placing at the same time a fair quantity in the outside. She will, as a rule, at once commence making her nest, lining it with fur plucked from her breast, making the entire arrangement soft and cosy. Some does will leave the nest till the last moment, so that the young fancier must not be uneasy in this case.

The day before the auspicious event, place in the hutch a pan of cold water,