

scoring system is judged in all its parts seen and unseen (except to the judge), but where scoring is not justly applied and imperfectly understood, the "look and say" system is perhaps the better one. In Plymouth Rocks the male should be medium dark, mated to female of the same color. Although years ago the matings were extreme in color of of sexes, a larger percentage of even marked chicks will be produced from the medium color, and see that the male is barred well down the feather, and no white in primaries of either sex. If the female is not barred very low and still holds good slate or grey undercolor, she is a fine breeder as a rule. It is better to have the male darker than usual than to use dingy, dark females in the breeding pen.

Poultry Shows And Their Benefits.

NOT long since I attended a local show in a small village of about twelve hundred inhabitants. The show had been well advertised, every man woman and child knew all about it. As I came into town and neared the business center I said, "Where is that chicken show?" "Right there!" pointed a half dozen at a time, who had congregated on a street corner. As I wended my way up-stairs into a spacious upper room I was confronted with a grand chorus equal to that of a May festival, from long rows of choice fowls, systematically arranged, each variety by itself. While I was looking with astonishment at vast numbers of choice fowls, and wondering where they could have come from at such a small place as this, I was also amazed at the throngs of visitors that crowded through the passage-ways, viewing the heavy Brahmas and the diminutive Bantams with equal wonder. This was not only true one day, but every day during the whole show. Everybody was happy, it was a great event in the history of the town. The business men all helped the enterprise along in a substantial way by means of specials, some in the shape of merchandise of different kinds; others cash. This brought out the fanciers in full force. It also brought out the farmers; some brought fowls to show, others came to look, and perhaps buy to improve their stock. There were those there who had some of their birds disqualified, some on one point, others on other points, but you can rest assured they will never get caught on the same thing again; never! "A burned child dreads the fire." There were

many good sales made and stock changed hands freely. Why so? Simply because the show was brought right to their very doors. The farmer is largely a buyer of good stock, and at fair prices, and as you cannot always get him into the city to visit the International show, the best thing to do is to take the show to him, by holding it right in his country town, where he is in the habit of going to trade. He becomes interested, and is soon in for a trade. The result is fancy poultry finds a ready sale at his hands, at very fair prices. Thus you see my aim has been to show in a plain, practical manner, that it is better to hold more of these local shows all over our land, and fewer of the National, or "Big Four" kind. Of course I would not do away with them entirely, but aim to carefully cultivate the smaller ones. You see it is only the few that have the time and the means to spare to get very far away from home to attend a poultry show; there are a class of professionals who are only occasional buyers. It is the beginner, the one just stocking up, that we want to meet and have attend our show. So keep the ball a rolling, institute new societies, hold small but interesting shows in almost every county of our thickly settled States, if need be, and the poultry interest will move with a healthy action. —F. W. Marshall.

The above remarks which we clip from the popular "Poultry Monthly" apply to us in Canada with equal force. Those who can look back to the past ten or sixteen years of fall exhibitions can recall the time when it was hard work to "scare up a few birds of a feather." The poultry exhibit of those days was composed of "white fowls" "black fowls" "yellow fowls" and "black and white fowls." As many as could be got together of a color. It is within my memory that a pair could possess both rose and single combs, and have one bird with five toes and white legs the other with four toes and yellow legs, and it was no disgrace to a White Leghorn to have an odd black, or brown, feather in it and all kinds were excused for sporting the semblance of a "top knot." In fact a few dozen pairs of "decent looking" fowls shown in anything but decent looking boxes; (some so heavy that the united efforts of two strong lads could scarce avail to get them from the waggon onto the piece of ground devoted to the poultry exhibit,) was the humble pioneer of the grand shows of poultry that are now so com-