

Poultry Chronicle.

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SELECTING BREEDING STOCK.

The selecting of breeding stock is always an important business with the fancier. In it lies the great secret of his success as a prize-taker at poultry exhibitions, while inattention or carelessness frequently causes the breeder chagrin, and the exhibitor disappointment. We have, on more than one occasion, already alluded to this subject, and now again revert to it because of its importance, and the season of the year having arrived for the judicious exercise of the breeder's faculty in selecting his stock.

The introduction of fresh blood into a yard is of the utmost importance. It gives renewed vigor to the chicks, and tends to promote their growth and maturity more speedily, while it effectually counteracts any tendency to debility or weakness which may have been caused from too close, or, as it is usually termed, in-and-in breeding. But, although the importance of this point must not be overlooked, too much stress must not be laid upon it. A breeder, having once established his reputation as such, must be very careful in introducing fresh blood; under no circumstances should he admit a bird into his yards of which he entertains the least doubt of its purity. One cock bird of impure strain may render worthless a whole season's chickens; even more, the progeny for several generations after will reflect the imperfections of their ancestor, until the impurity is again bred out by crossing with pure-bred fowls of their own variety. Let the breeder select from out his best birds as many as will make up three or four pens. From their progeny, he can, from year to year, choose out a few to cross with whose relationship will, as time passes, become farther and farther removed; and, by pursuing a well-established system, have little need of fresh blood, and therefore less liable to have his stock contaminated in the way we have already pointed out. There are other good points to be gained by