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THE CANADIAN

Poultry Chronicle.

Vol. 1.

TORONTO, MAY, 1871.

No. 11.

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CLUBS! CLUBS! CLUBS!—

For a Club of TEN Subscribers, we offer one
dozen Hatching Eggs of any of the following varieties:—Buff, Partridge and White Cochins, and
and Brahmas; for a Club of SIX Subscribers,
one dozen Silver-Pencilled Hamburghs; for a
Club of Four subscribers, one dozen Light
Brahmas. Cash to accompany the names of the
subscribers—Canada Funds. Address—
Ed. Canada Funds.

EGG TESTERS.

Box 25, P.O., Toronto.

No housekeeper should be without an Egg-tester; it is an article as essential in the kitchen as the sand-glass, nay more so, because it is unerring. By the application of an Egg-tester the quality of the egg, whether fresh, stale or addled, can be ascertained instantaneously, and its fate decided upon—no need therefore to cook for breakfast stale or addled eggs.

But if useful to the housekeeper as a test of the eggs for domestic purposes, how much more so to the breeder in ascertaining whether eggs are sterile or fertile, and in preventing the time of hatching hens been wasted by setting on unproductive eggs, and it is to its applicability in this way we wish more particularly to direct attention in this article.

Egg-testers are not difficult of construction, and may be made by an ordinary carpenter, or indeed a handy man. The most simple is that known as "Schaefer's," which consists of a small box, say five inches each way, formed on the principle of a camera obscura, with a reflector of 43 degrees. are two funnels; one of them concentrates the light passing through and from the egg on to the reflector, and should be the smaller of the two-the other is for the reception of the egg. The reflector is a piece of mirror cut to the size required for the box and placed at the angle above mentioned. The aperture in which the egg is placed is in the top of the box: that which concentrates the light on the reflector, and which the eye looks through, is in one of its sides.

By this simple yet ingenious contrivance the light is made to pass through the egg, reflect on to the mirror inside the box, and its relative clearness or opacity rendered evident to the eye placed in the position above described. The tester can be used either by daylight or gas-light.

There are certain things which no Thus it is impos-Egg-tester can tell. sible to ascertain before an egg has been set upon whether it is fertile or not, and it is equally impossible to ascertain which egg will produce male or female birds: but after a few days' incubation it can be ascertained with the greatest certanty whether there is or is not a living embryo in the egg. To the uninitiated this may seem strange, and persons who have never performed the operation may receive our statement with credulity; the fact is none the less, A fresh egg placed in the position which we have described, and examined, will appear beautifully translucent, the pores of the shell will be visible, and the air channel at the larger end distinctly seen. After having been set on a few days an opaque cloud seems to spread gradually over the interior. This is caused by the extension of the blood vessels through the membranes under the shell. At the expiration of a week, the egg is prefectly opaque if it contains a chicken, otherwise it remains clear and translucent.

On the eighth day after setting, all hatching eggs should be examined by the Egg-tester, and the clear ones removed, and those that are opaque and fertile replaced under the hen. If two hens are set on the same day, the fertile ones can be given to one, and a fresh batch placed under the other. In large breeding yards this plan should always be pursued; it saves much time in needless incubation.

The Egg-tester we have described is sufficient for all ordinary purposes, but if closer inspection is desired a lens may be fitted on to the eye funnel, then with the aid of a more powerful reflector and an ordinary railway lamp or candle placed over the funnel containing the egg, the interior of the egg with all its details will become more distinctly visible.

REARING TURKEYS.

The rearing of Turkeys is admitted to be a very difficult thing. For the first six weeks or two months the turkey chicks are excessively delicate and require during that time more than the ordinary amount of care bestowed on fowls generally. When about two months old, however, the "shooting of the red" takes place, after which they are as hardy as any other kind of fowls, and can brave any weather with impunity.

Turkeys should never be bred from near relations. If possible, the cocks and the hens should be from different places. The number of hens allowed to a cock may be unlimited, as one visit to the cock is sufficient to render all the eggs of that laying fertile.

Turkey cocks should not be used for breeding before they are two years old, but the hen may at a year old. Size in the hens is of much greater importance than in the cocks, in whom good shape, strength and spirit are of more value.

The tarkey hen is a good sitter, and while kept in the coop, a careful mother. She must never be let out early in the morning with her brood, otherwise she will drag them through the wet grass and tire and exhaust them. The coop should be kept in a sheltered situation with its back to the wind, and be removed every day. The ground on which coops are placed will soon become tainted.

Mr. Trotter, whose experience in turkey-raising is admitted by all to be very extensive, says:—"The turkey chicks should not have food forced on them, at least not in the manner some do, by forcing them to swallow it. A drop of milk or water is of great service to them, and should be given by dipping the finger in the liquid and then putting the drop on the beak; this is better than dipping the beak into the milk or water, as it prevents the chick from

getting wet, a thing to be scrupulously avoided.

"The turkey chick is much more stupid than that of the fowl; the latter soon pecks with facility. On this account it is very recommendable to have two or three of them in every brood of the former, so that they, by force of example, learn to peck much sooner. This is accomplished by placing two or three fowl's eggs beneath the turkey at the end of the seventh day of incubation. The food I have found answer best consists of equal portions of oatmeal and the crumbs of white bread, mixed with a considerable quantity of the leaves of the dandelion, chopped small. mixture should be given very frequently in small quantities, on a clean floor."

The free use of oatmeal is not good, as young turkeys have a tendency to diarrhoa, which the oatmeal rather increases; it should therefore be fed spar-For the first week hard boiled eggs, chopped small mixed with minced dandelion, is the very best food for turkey chicks, and we may add occasionally bread crumbs soaked with water; this latter we have found by experience they are very fond of. Bread crumbs and barley meal should be added to the egg until they are three weeks old, when the latter may be discontinued. Curds are also an excellent portion of the dietary, but must be squeezed very dry before they are given.

Great care is necessary in keeping young turkeys from cold and damp. One heavy shower of rain is sometimes fatal to the whole brood. ('old and windy weather is also injurious; in such weather turkey chicks should be kept entirely under cover, and never allowed their liberty.

During "the shooting of the red," that is, putting forth of the red protuberances of the head and neck, stinualiting food is necessary. Bread minced with onions and nettles or parsley is very good. This once over, they may be allowed to shift for themselves; they are then as robust as they were previsously declicate, and can stand all kinds of weather.

As previously stated, all young turkeys are more or less subject to diarrhoa. When this is noticed, strong alum water may be mixed with the food with good effect; the alum water is an excellent astringent. Animal food should also be supplied to young turkeys not allowed their liberty.

Correspondence.

Editor Canadian Poultry Chronicle.

GOITSTOCK BINGLEY, YORKSHIRE ENGLAND, April, 1871.

Sta,--I notice in your advertisements from England one from Mr. H. Pickles, jun., wherein he states that he is the most successful exhibitor of Hamburghs in England, in 1870, and also that he has won 100 first prizes for Silver Pencilled Hamburgs alone, in 1870. Both statements I beg to deny, and if Mr. Pickles will stand the test, will let you, Mr. Editor, decide the affair from the columns of the Field and Journal of Horticulture, those not inserted in the above not to be taken into account as not being of sufficient importance.

1st. I will take my score of prizes against Mr. Pickles' for Hamburghs in 1870, or any other year, every show to be reckoned, whether we competed together or not; the loser to give FIVE GUINEAS to some show (to be named hereafter) in Canada.

2nd. My score of prizes for Hamburghs in 1870, at the shows where we have competed together; the loser Five Guineas, as above.

3rd. The most value won in prizes and cups; the loser a Five Guinea Cup as before.

With respect to the 100 first prizes for Silver Pencilled Hamburghs alone, in 1870—this is simply a mis-statement or a mis-print.

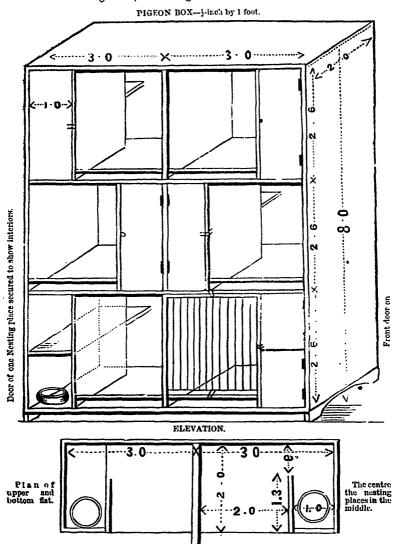
I would not have troubled you had it been in England, where the statement would have told its own tale, and could easily have been disproved; but being so far distant, the advertisement is likely to mislead your readers.

Yours truly,

HENRY BELDON. .

Note.—Mr. Pickles' statement that

he had won over "100 first prizes with his Silver Pencilled Hamburghs alone, in 1870," is not a mis-print. We hold his letter in his own handwriting and over his own signature, containing this statement. We shall be glad to hear from Mr. Pickles in reply, and offer him the same courtesy we have extended to Mr. Beldon.—ED.



PLAN OF PIGEON BOX.

. The sketch herewith shows an arrangement for pigeons, similar to that advocated by me when in Canada. It

is constructed for large birds, but the fancier can alter the dimensions to suit the space at his disposal and size of his birds. He might have it only three feet wide; it can also be made portable by any handy carpenter, if so required, and by putting a false pitched roof to the top, it would do against a wall as well as inside a loft. You will say, "We know all this, you have told us so before." Admitted, but an ounce of experience is worth pounds of theory, certainly in pigeon keeping, so I am going to give my reasons for sending it.

I used to construct them all as in the top or centre rows, whichever place suited best, one over the other, so that except in the distance from the floor, they would be exactly alike, whichever arrangement you followed, top or centre. The consequence of this was, that a bird making a mistake in flight, found itself in the wrong box, and being somewhat dull of persuasion of that fact, caused fights, smashed eggs, etc. I know this to my loss, lately, and to obviate it I have placed the nesting places alternately, thus causing a difference in appearance, so that they are not so likely to go wrong. Besides, it is easier to construct it on this plan, as the cross partitions can be nailed in better.

The bar across each nest is for the birds to roost on at night, and to fasten a door on to, as shown in bottom compartments. I do not approve of any shelf running along the front outside; it forms a neutral ground for fights; and to prevent this, on top flat on plan the centre partition projects a little.

This is by far the best plan of box I have tried or seen. If others have a better plan I should be glad to have it.

F. C. HASSARD.

CUBRAGH CAMP, IRELAND, 7th March, 1871.

"Vulture hocks" is the name given to stiff feathers that project below the knees of the fowl. They occur in all the Asiatic breeds, and are unsightly and objectionable.

POULTRY IMPORTATIONS.

Malay Fowls. — Mr. A. McLean Howard, of this city, has just imported a very superior pair of these fowls, the first of their variety, we believe, ever brought into Canada. They were purchased for him by Col. Hassard, from the Hon. Mr. Massey, in Ireland. The cock took a highly commended at the last Birmingham Poultry Show, and the hen a prize at the Torquay Exhibition. They are both young birds, and have not yet nearly attained their full size. They arrived in excellent condition, and apparently uninjured by the voyage.

It may not be uninteresting to some

of our readers to give a short descrip-

tion of this variety of fowl.

Malays, like all others of our domestic poultry, are of unknown origin, but are supposed to be descended from the Kulm fowl or Gallus giganteus. A full-grown cock will weigh from nine to eleven pounds, and stand from two feet nine inches to three feet high, and be able to peck off an ordinary table with ease. The hens should weigh seven and seven and a half pounds each, and good speciments even more. The neck and legs of the cock are exceedingly long, the carriage particularly upright, the back being almost at an angle of 45° except when they are eating; the wings are carried very high and firmly closed, they are very bulky across the shoulders, but narrow rapidly towards the tail, which is very small, and droops in the cock so as nearly to form a straight line with the back; plumage short and close, but exceedingly brilliant and glossy, and lies as closely as do scales on one another; the head long and snaky, the brow projecting over the eye, which gives a peculiarly hard expression to the face; eyes bright and red, beak strong and hooked, comb very small, low and flat, closely attached to the head.

In colour Malays vary considerably; those usually exhibited partake of the colour of the black and brown-breasted red Game. Malays are unusually hardy fowls, and the quality of their eggs is very superior, but small in comparison to the size of the bird itself. Malay chickens are very long in attaining their first feathers, from which cause they are somewhat easily chilled, and consequently are apt to become stunted and deformed, more particulary in the feet and

legs.

Cochin Fowls.—Mr. John Forsyth still continues to import new strains; this time several coops of White and Partridge Cochins, all of them very rare birds. We notice particularly one trio of White Cochins from Col. Hassard—the pick of the lot purchased by the Colonel from Mr. Zurhorst, and noted at the time in this Journal—we have no hesitation in saying these birds are far superior to any of that variety ever before imported into Canada, and are perfect giants of their kind. Also a pair of very fine

DARK BRAHMAS from Mrs. Varley, of the 13th Hussars, Edinburgh, formerly of this city. The cock is a really fine bird, and took a prize at the last Birmingham (England) Exhibition.

HATCHING EGGS. - We are glad to notice the large numbers of hatching eggs brought out weekly by the steamers which arrive from Great Britain, many of which are from well-known breeders in England, and whose names appear in this Journal. Among the many late arrivals we notice packages labeled from the yards of Mr. Henry Beldon, John Douglas, John Bailey & Son, Mr. Quibel, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Wm. Massey and several others. And while on this subject, we take pleasure in noticing the improved manner in packing adopted by Mr. Beldon this season as compared with the last. This is satisfactory alike to ourselves and the importers.

Notices.

GROUND CORK FOR PACKING EGGS.

—We direct attention to the advertisement of Mr. Ira B. Sampson, Springfield, Massachusetts, who offers for sale ground Cork to be used in packing valuable eggs for shipment. He has sent us a sample which appears to be all that is claimed for it, and we have no doubt when its merits are once tested by shippers of eggs, it will be largely patronized. The price at which it is offered, considering the large number of eggs which it will pack, is a mere trifle.

CHANTICLEER will please accept our thanks for the several newspapers from time to time forwarded us, all of which contain very interesting items of poultry information.

Practical Hints.

CHEMISTRY OF AN EGG .-- An ordinary good sized hen's egg weighs about 1000 grains, of which the white constitutes 600 grains, the yolk 300, and the shell 100. The white or glaire of the egg is a strong solution of albumen in water, and whilst readly mixable with water in its ordinary state, it becomes insoluble when subjected to heat, as in boiling an egg. In 100 parts, the white or glaire of egg consists of: water, 80; dry albumen, 151; salts, &c., 4). The yolk or yelk of the egg is composed of a strong solution of albumen, through which multitudes of minute globules of oil are suspended, which render it essentially an emulsion. In 100 parts it consists of: water, 53%; dry albumen, 173; oil with small portions of salts, 28%.

FECUNDATED EGGS. - Break into a basin a number of eggs, and if fecundated, a small circular speck on each yolk will be apparent. This speck is the rudiment of the young chick, and the construction of the egg is such that on whichever side it is turned the rudimentary germ is always uppermost, so as to receive the heat from the breast of the sitting hen. The mechanism by which this is managed is very simple; the lower side of the yolk is weighted or ballasted by two twisted heavy masses of very firm albumen, termed the chalaze, which hanging down, keep the germ constantly uppermost, on whichever side the egg may be laid.

DAMPING HATCHING EGGS.—After the first week, hatching eggs ought to be sprinkled lightly with tepid water every second day. This is best performed by dipping a brush into the water and then striking lightly on the hand, causing the water to fall evenly on the eggs. The object is to keep moist the membrane or skin which envelopes the white of the egg, and render it easily broken by the chick at maturity. Many chicks are unable to break this skin, and hence it is that so many are found "dead in the shell." If the eggs are stale when set, the operation of damping be-

comes still more necessary. Another method we have adopted, and one which we have found to work well, is to damp the feathers of the underpart of the hen, slightly, after feeding, before letting her on the nest; by this means the moisture is equally applied to each egg.

YOUNG CHICKENS require neither food nor drink on the day on which they are hatched; in fact, both are injurious, as they interfere with the natural digestion of the yolk, which is absorbed into the bowels at the period of hatching, and constitutes the first food. Neither should hens be disturbed when the chickens are coming out of the shell, or the latter assisted, unless indeed by an experienced hand. More chickens are destroyed by the struggles of the hen when thus disturbed, and by the untimely assistance of the over-anxious owner, than are saved by any aid that can be rendered at the period of hatching.

COOPING YOUNG CHICKENS .- Cooping, which is so frequently employed to restrain the wandering of hens with chickens, has objectionable points as well as good ones. The advantages gained are said to be the preventing hens from roaming so far that the chickens become fagged, and oftentimes they are left behind by the hen and lost. This is, no doubt, true; but let it be borne in mind that a cooped hen has no power of scratching for insects and worms, which are the best of all possible food for young chicks, and that unless supplied artificially, they will not thrive nearly so well as those which are free to roam. Indeed, no artificial food is equal to that obtained by the hen when allowed her liberty, unless that of a properly constructed rerminere. Fresh air, fresh grass, and fresh ground for the hens to scratch in, far more than counterbalance the advantage of expensive diet and superior lodging.

EAST INDIAN DUCKS cannot be bred too small. The colour should be pure black covered with bright green metallic lustre. The bill of the duck should be dead black; of the drake as nearly so as possible, but it has always a greenish tinge. The legs black, with a yellowish tinge, seen as it were through the black.

GEESE AND TURKEYS should always be set as early as possible; the earlier the better. If they are out in May it saves trouble and expense; it also insures success. Both Geese and Turkeys have often second hatches which make good table birds, but they are not good for breeders. It may be laid down as a rule, table birds may be hatched at any time, but breeders should be those which are hatched early and have everything in their favour.

HOUDAN FOWLS.

Houdans are large, heavy, short-legged, five-toed fowls, with small light bone, a remarkable absence of offal, and with irregularly speckled or mottled plumage, excellent layers of good-sized eggs, remarkable for being almost invariably fertile. As a table fowl, their merits are of the highest excellence. No pure-bred chickens mature with greater rapidity; are extremely hardy, feather early, and are consequently easily reared.

"This is one of the finest races of fowls," says Mr. Geyelin, "but its qualities surpass even its beauty; besides the smallness of their bones, the fineness of their flesh, they are of an extraordinary precocity and fecundity. They lay large white eggs, and the chickens are fit for the table at four months old. It is, however, observable that they are indifferent for hatching. The weight of the adult is from seven to eight pounds, in which the bones figure for one-eighth. The chickens, when four months old, weigh, without the intestines, about four and a-half pounds."

We copy the following description of the Houdan fowl from a well known

French writer on poultry.

PROPORTIONS AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.—Body slightly rounded, of ordinary proportions, tolerably near to the ground, standing firmly on large feet. Breast high, legs and wings well developed, large head, half top-knot; whiskers and beard, triple transversal comb, five toes on each foot. Plumage splashed or spotted white, black, or straw colour; in chickens black and white only.

An adult cock should weigh from 6 to 7 lbs., made up principally of flesh, the bones weighing only an eighth. He should be put up to fatten at sixteen, and be killed at eighteen weeks old.

His comb should be triple and transversal to the direction of the beak, composed of two lengthened rectangular and flattened spirals, opening from the right to left like the leaves of a book. They should be thick and fleshy, and notched or uneven at the sides. The third spiral should grow from the middle of the other two, be about the size of a lengthened nut, and shaped like an irregular strawberry. A fourth, independent of these, and about the size of a tare, grows above the beak and between the nostrils. Deaf Ears, small and hidden by the whiskers, half crest, inclining backwards and to the sides. Beard begins between the wattles under the beak, and should be larger at bottom than at top. Physiognomy of the head differing from that of other breeds in many remarkable particulars. The head forms with the neck a very close angle, so that the beak takes the appearance of a nose. The square and flattened comb looks like a fleshy forehead, the cheeks are surrounded with curling feathers that look like whiskers, the drooping corners of the beak like a mouth, the feathering cravat joined to the gills simulates a beard, the topknot looks like a luxuriant head of hair, and the whole face immediately gives the idea of that of a man. In the adult the legs should be of a leaden grey, in the chicken bluish grey and white, with rose-coloured spots.

The plumage of both sexes should be entirely composed of black, white and straw colour; those that show any red should be piteously got rid of. The plumage of the Houdan should be either spotted or splashed, irregularly made up of alternate black and white feathers, sometimes of black tipped with white, sometimes of white tipped with black. The adult hen should weigh from 5 to 6 lbs. Both sexes must have five toes on each foot. The hen is an abundant and early layer of large eggs.

This is truly a hardy fowl, and is reared more easily than other French fowl. They are also more domesticated and less destructive to gardens and crops than any other.

See that the main colour or ground colour of your Houdans is either black or white. Shades of other colours should be avoided.

ROUP IN FOWLS.

A correspondent in the Country Gentleman, writing on this subject, gives the following as an effectual cure for this dreaded disease of the poultry yard. "Hydrasti Canadensis (Golden Seal) 2 oz.; boiling water, 1 quart. Make an infusion, and add to this infusion Sulphate tinct., 12 grains to use as w sh and injection. Dilute one-half before using."

"To doctor any fowl requires patience and regular attendance, and the patient should be firmly held or fastened while applying remedies. I use a board three feet long, resting on a barrel, attaching straps by which I fasten wings and legs, thus holding the bird on its side while I can work with both hands and alone. Wash the face and head, mouth and swollen parts with the solution, removing as much of the caky substance from the mouth as finger nails will pull off, and also the scabs from comb and face; apply and wash freely for a few moments, then dry with soft towel the inside of mouth and other parts. Apply glycerine to the scabs and sprinkle pow-Take a small dered alum in the mouth. glass syringe and inject up each nostril and in the corner of the eyes some of the solution: repeat this morning and evening for five or six days. If at the end of this time the fowls seem to be worse, do not use the syringe, but continue the wash, glycerine and alum."

CROSSING GAME FOWLS TO PRO-DUCE DIFFERENT COLOURS.

To produce Brown Reds: Put a Blackbreast 1 Red or Ginger-red Cock to Dark-grey or Dark Birchan Hens. Pile Cocks and Red Dun Cocks will also produce them with the above-named Hens; this cross also throws Duckwings.

To produce Black-breasted Reds: Put Brown Red or Ginger Red, Pile or Red Dun Cocks to Duckwing Hens. Brown Reds put to Duckwings also make Dark Birchens and Greys.

To Produce Duckwings: Put Dark Grey, Dark Birchen, Mealy Grey or Yellow Birchen Cocks to the Partridge Hens. The first-named will also throw Brown Reds as well.

To produce Piles: Put White Cocks to Red Dun or Ginger Red or Partridge or Cinnamon Hens. To produce Dark Greys and Dark Birchens: Put a Duckwing Cock or Mealy Grey or Yellow Birchen Cock to the Brown Red He is, which will pro-

duce them best.

To produce Red Duns: Put a Blue Dun or Dun Cock to the Wheaten-coloured or Cinnamon Hens of the Blackbreasted Reds of that colour. Blue Dun Cocks with Duckwing Hens make the Birchen Duns.

To produce Brassy-winged Blacks: Put the Dark Birchen, Yellow Duckwing or Yellow Birchen Cocks to the pure-bred Black Hens, or the reverse

of this.

To produce Yellow Birchens: The Yellow Duckwing Cock put to Ginger-Red Hens or Cinnamon does this.

To produce Ginger Reds: Put Pile Cocks to the lightest coloured Partridge Hens of Black-breasted Reds.

To produce Mealy Greys: Put the White Cocks to Dark Grey Hens. The lightest Dark Grey Hens are the best.

To produce Red Furnaces or Red Mullingars: Put White Cocks to the reddest Red Dun or reddest of the Cinnamon Hens. These make Spangled Piles.

To produce Spangles: Use Whites, Blacks and Cinnamon. A White or

Cinnamon Cock is best.

To produce Polecats: Use Partridge Hens put to White and Black Cocks.

All three colours are required.

By this it will be seen that the three original wild colours are easily producible by crossing white Whites, Blue Duns or Duns. Cuckoos and Blacks can only be produced by occasional or accidental throws, as the result of domestication.

"Whites, Duns and Duckwing Greys," mixed, will sometimes throw Cuckoos. Crossing will not make Whites, Duns or Blacks; but this does not at all prove these colours to be original. All these crosses are, however, certain to produce much inferior birds to the true made or original breeds for a length of time, and are therefore undesirable and even foolish, except for the sake of experiment.

Piles are called the most mixed blood of all, by some breeders, but this is not always the case, and not so much so as

is generally thought.

In breeding and crossing, it must be observed that though the Grey breeds are almost always harder and stronger than their respective Red originals,

Dark Greys harder than Brown Reds, and Duckwing Greys than Blackbreasted Reds: yet in breeding crosses the red colour is much more powerful than the Grey colour, though Red birds are less strong and hard than Greys, and all the Greys incline wonderfully to breed back to the Reds they spring from, especially in the Cocks. known Pile Cocks (red eyes and white legs), when put to Dark Grey Hens, throw good silver Duckwing Grey Cocks (white legs and yellow-pearl eyes). I also know two breeders who both had Black-breasted Red Cocks mated with Duckwing Hens, both willow-legged, and neither of them could ever obtain a single Duckwing Cock chicken, though Duckwing Grey pullets were freely thrown, as were Partridge pullets, but all their cock chickens were Blackbreasted Reds. This does not agree with those who assert that Duckwing Cocks are easiest thrown from the Blackbreasted Red Cocks. I have always found that if you want good Duckwings, Cocks especially, you must breed from both Duckwing Cocks and Hens, and not from mixed colours. Duckwing Cocks are no more liable to spotted breasts than the Black-breasted Reds are to brown spotted breasts.

I should have mentioned in the former papers, that good, solid corn and peas are far preferable to all sloppy, pulpy made mixtures as food for Game fowls, as hard corn and peas hardens both flesh and feather.—Newmarket, in

Jour. of Hor.

Pigeons.

THE ALMOND TUMBLER.

The head of the Almond Tumbler should be round, broad and high. The forehead especially should be broad and prominent, the feathers rising perpendicularly from the nostril, and the more they give the appearance to the bird of the forehead overhanging the beak the greater will be its value. This is, of course, when looking at a bird in its natural position, but the actual skull of the bird denuded of its feathers, or when they are pressed down with the finger, should form the half of a circle, that is drawing a line from the centre of the nose wattle to the back of the head. A head

such as we have described possesses what is termed by the fancy a good "stop," and is the very opposite to the term "mousey," which means a low, narrow skull, tapering gradually, and in a point to the bill. This latter is, in our opinion, the greatest defect a bird can have. The feathers running from the lower jaw round to and covering the ears should be full, prominent, and slightly curving upwards. feature adds very much to the appearance of the bird, and its technical term is "muffy." In speaking of the beak, we shall not attempt to describe the points of difference between what are termed the Goldfinch, Canary or cher beaks, or instance half an oat or barley corn as a simile. Such guides are, at best, merely ambiguous ones, and point out nothing definite to the young fan-We shall simply say the beak should be as short, straight and fine as possible, and the smaller the nose wattle is the better. It has been said that it should be so fine as merely to resemble a white thread drawn across the roots of the feathers; but we do not wish to cut the matter so fine as this. because, for various natural reasons, we do not think it is to be obtained. On the other hand, we would deprecate anything in the way of a large and coarse wattle. It has also been urged that the beak should be white; but this, again, cannot be depended upon, as it is always affected very much by the colour and age of the bird.

The eye should be a clear pearl, large, bright and prominent, and should be in the centre of the head. If possible, no cere or lash should be perceptible, and the feathers should grow close up to the edge.

The shape and carriage of the Almond are generally taken as one property, and as such is one of the greatest recommendations a bird can have in the eyes of a true fancier, especially for purposes of Such property at once indibreeding. cates a well-bred bird. The smaller a bird is the better, the beauty of the other properties being thereby greatly enhanced. It should be short in body, flights, and tail; the legs short and the The neck should also be feet small. short and thin immediately around the throat, curving gracefully and imperceptibly into the chest, which should be full, broad and prominent. In position, the bird should stand erect, with the head thrown back, so as to be in a direct perpendicular line above the feet, the chest held well up, showing its greatest prominence between the butts of the wings. A low chest is a great disfigurement to the proper carriage, and is what is termed "goosebreasted." The tip of the tail should just touch the ground. The flight feathers should be carried drooping below the tail, showing their colours to greater advantage, and clearly developing the rump, which should be well covered with feathers, and nicely curved. bird in the above position should stand entirely on its toes, the ball of the foot being slightly raised from the ground. Of course an Almond Tumbler is not always to be seen in this position, any more than the Carrier or Pouter are constantly in the positions in which they are invariably pourtrayed, but if a bird has any pretensions at all to a good shape or carriage, whether cock or hen, it will be seen in all its beauty during the time the cock is driving to nest.

In speaking of colour, we must confess we are troubled by the difficulty with which all writers on this subject have had to contend, that is, the want of a suitable term adequately to express what the proper ground colour of the bird should be. The term most in use and which seems to be the best for the purpose, is to call it a bright "Almond Yellow," that is, that it should, as nearly as possible, resemble the colour on the inside of the shell of the almond ${f nut}.$ Having this as the ground colour, the whole of the body should be neatly and evenly pencilled, not splashed spangled, with a clear black. This should be the case particularly on the neck and rump. Each feather in the flights and tail should be evenly and distinctly broken with the three colours, black, white, and the yellow or ground colour. The feathers should be tight and compact, and a bright, glossy hue overspread the whole of the body, the beautiful effect of which, when the bird stands in a ray of sunlight, can readily be imagined. We have omitted to state that any tinge of blue about the tail, or, in fact, on any part of the bird, is very detrimental, at once showing that it is not well bred. The hen should be similar to the cock in every respect, due allowance, of course, being mad for the sex; the hen, in every variety, being never so bold in appearance, and always more delicate in structure than the cock bird. The great insurmountable difficulty, however, with the Almond Tumbler hen is to get the proper ground colour sufficiently broken. A hen up to the standard in all points would realize a small fortune.

Whilst upon the subject of feather, it will be, perhaps, as well to notice the great variety in colour that is produced by these birds, such as Kites, Duns, Red and Yellow Whole-feather, Splashes and Agates, the latter term being applied to all birds which have the red or vellow feather more or less intermingled with white, after the manner of what are known as Gay-Mottles. Kites are black birds, with a brilliant metallic lustre pervading the feather, and the flight and tail feathers are tinged with red or yellow, which is termed "Fiery." These birds generally run better in head and beak than the Almonds, and are most useful for breeding purposes. fact, it is totally impossible without them to maintain strength of feather. Splashes generally run very light in the ground colour, with the black very conand unevenly intermixed. siderably These birds, especially the hens, are also most valuable for obtaining a good Birds of nearly all break of feather. the above varieties of colour now make their appearance with success in the "Shortfaced, any variety" class of our large exhibitions.

For the information of would-be fanciers, we will give a simple plan in regard to breeding, which has been found not only effective, but remarkably suc-The first and most important matter in Almond breeding is properly matching the birds, and on the fancier's knowledge of this much of his success will depend. No precise rule can be laid down, nevertheless a few practical. suggestions may be given. A Kite may he matched with almost anything but a Kite, such as an Almond, light Splash, (that is, a bird with not too much black) Red or Yellow Agate or Whole-feather, but of all, the best in our opinion, is the match of a Splash and a Red or Yellow Agate, the Red preferred. is well not to match the birds too rich in feather, especially if close bred, or white and purblind birds will be the result. Experience and a knowledge of

how the birds are bred are everything in this matter, and even then no certainty as to the colour of the offspring can be depended upon. It is a fact that birds which one year have thrown the most beautiful Almonds, have the next season produced nothing but Kites. great advantage in this variety is the extent to which they can be bred in, not only improving them in character, but avoiding that nuisance to all breeders of other birds, especially the Carrier and the Pouter, of the necessity of finding and purchasing suitable crosses. Almonds, as a rule, are very prolific, and to insure a fair amount of success all that is required is a little attention at the right moment.—Journal of Horticulture.

Kabbits.

SILVER GREY OR CHINCHILLA.

Respecting this lively little creature much may be said in its favour, its glossy silky hair being so prized by the furrier. In Siam, (Indo China) this animal is found in the greatest numbers and state of perfection. A variety of shades are now found in this country as the result of our colder temperature, and the experiments of re-crossing with darker or almost black specimens, and I know of few, if any kinds, where a greater variety of shade may be produced. I have long experimented in producing this variety, and have arrived at the conclusion that the more silverlike the specimen is marked all over, the more perfect. Black feet, ears and faces, generally are objectionable, and as a hint to all breeders I would say, pair two that are perfectly silvered all over, and you need not fear the result.

This animal is not generally large; if of the true kind it is about the weight of the Himalayan. A strong, large animal, called the "Lincolushire Silver Grey," or "Miller" by furriers, with only a small sprinkling of the silvery hair, and at times also designated the "Silver Sprig," may be seen, and I have known them weigh ten lbs. or more, but they are very dark in shade compared to the Chinchilla, which the real Silver-Grey Rabbit resembles, hence the term as applied to this mercurial little fellow. Of all the cute creatures

of the rabbit family, this is one, and generally not so docile nor so easy to tame as other varieties, as the Dutch or Angora, which, if treated kindly, are always ready to be petted. Yet with kindness it is wonderful what may be done, and the law of kindness should be strictly enforced in every rabbitry, if your stock is to afford pleasure.

I think the active manner and cheerful temperament of this rabbit always All breeders render it a favourite. know the young are born quite black, and when about six weeks old they present a greyish shade under the body, and this change extends over from five to seven months, according to the temperature of the hutch; if warm, the process of silvering is sooner completed, the ears, neck and head generally retaining the black shade longest. I have noticed the more jet black the young are at a month old, the more perfectly silvered they become at say eight months, so that I would not have young fanciers be afraid lest the jet black appearance be too great, and to lose hopes of the true silver shade appearing, but, in the words of a once popular song, I would say, "Wait a little longer."

Warmin for all hutch rabbits is of great importance, and this variety is by no means an exception; yet a hardy rabbit generally, and with the requisite care, by no means difficult to rear with success. I have generally had from fifty to seventy of this variety alone in my rabbitry every year, and I suppose that during the last three years and a half, from eleven to twelve hundred have been born of the seven vari-

eties I keep. The doe is rather shy, especially when about to have young, and seems very much afraid, where the nest is made, that it may be interfered with. watches with an anxious eye every motion of the hand when placed inside the hutch, to see if her private domain is to be intruded upon, and I have known any such intrusion punished by the total neglect of the litter. The doe seems to prefer, when about to litter, a rather dark, but clean corner of the hutch, and should have plenty of fresh hay and water, or if milk and bread, all the better to quench the intense thirst experienced at the time. In fact, milk and bread are no objectionable breakfast at all times for the first two or

three weeks, if to be had. The Belgian Hare Rabbit is rather an exception to some of the other varieties, especially the one in question, for I have known does make their nests quite opposite the wire door, as though not the least ashamed for the lookers-on to see what an important event has happened since the last visit.

The Silver-Grey doe generally brings forth from five to eight at each litter, but should not be allowed to pair until nine months old at the earliest, if fine and strong specimens are required for exhibition, the litters should be at intervals of not less than ten or twelve weeks, to keep up the strength of the doc.

MASSACHUSETTS POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

A large number of gentlemen interested in the breeding of Poultry, assembled at the Parker House, Boston, ow Wednesday, 22nd March, for the purpose of forming a Poultry Society.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Philander Williams, of Taunton, and formally organized by the choice of Mr. William J. Underwood, of Belmont, Chairman, and Mr. Edwin N. Rice, of Clinton, Secretary, when it was voted to form an association under the name of the "Massachusetts Poultry Association," with the following officers:—

PRESIDENT.-Mr. Philander Williams,

VICE-PRESIDENTS.—William J. Underwood, Belmont; Atherton T. Brown. Boston; Elbridge C. Comey, Quincy; Moses Ellis, Framingham; Henry F. Felch, Natick; Edmund Rodman, New Bedford; G. Morgan Smith, So. Hadley; George B. Durfee, Fall River; C. Carroll Loring, Boston; John B. Moore, Concord.

Corresponding Secretary. — J. Newton Cady, of Boston.

RECORDING SECRETARY.—William B. Atkinson, of Newburyport.

AUDITOR.-Edwin N. Rice, of Clinton. TREASURER.-Nathaniel Foster, jr., of Belmont.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—John P. Buzzell, of Clinton; Jacob Graves, Reading; Mark Pitman, Salem; William H. Brackett, Boston; Col. George A. Meacham, Somerville; George F. Champney, Taunton; Joseph K. Pierce,

Holliston; Charles E. Tuttle, Boston; Julius K. Bannister, Boston; Charles

L. Copeland, Milton.

RESIDENT HONORARY SECRETARIES .-Great Britain, Lewis Wright, Bristol, England; Canada, S. Sheldon Stephens, Montreal; New York, William Simpson, jr., West Farms; Pensylvania, David W. Herstine, Philadelphia; Illinois, L. L. Greenleaf, Evanston: Ohio, N. B. Sherwin, Cleveland; Connecticut, Sam. J. Bestor, Hartford; Rhode Island, Nathaniel S. Collyer, Pawtucket; New Jersey, C. S. Haines, Toms River; Delaware, W. W. Churchman, Wilmington; New Hampshire, N. A. Shute, Exeter; North Carolina, Alston B. Ester, Townsville; Texas, William R. Evans, Galveston; Missouri, J. C. Hatch, St. Louis; Iowa, D. D. Wilbur, Boonsboro'; Louisiana, O. E. Hall, New Orleans; California, George B. Bayley, San Francisco.

The next meeting of the Association will be held at the Horticultural Hall, Boston, on Wednesday April 19th, at 2 o'clock, p.m., when all interested are in-

vited to be present.

PRESERVING EGGS.—We recommend the following to the attention of our readers, for we have reason to believe that oiling eggs is the best mode of preserving eggs from the summer until the fellowing spring, without their becoming tainted. The following trial seems to have been judiciously conducted. Flax seed oil is commonly known as linseed oil. Continued immersion in lime-water gives the egg a peculiar taste not agrecable; some advise salt water, but it penetrates the egg. Ashes, bran and saw-dust do not preserve it. nishing has been practised, but abandoned on account of the odour and taste which it communicates. The following experiments with pure oil will show their value:-Ten eggs were rubbed with the finger dipped in flax seed oil, just lightly covered with the oil, which dried in a few days; ten other eggs were oiled in the same manner with the oil of the French Poppy, to ascertain the comparative effect of the two oils; ten eggs were not oiled, and received no preparation; the thirty eggs were placed side by side, but not in contact, in a vessel, the bottom of which was covered with sand enough to keep them standing upright, three-fourths of each egg

being exposed; they remained thus for six months; they were weighed when first put into the tub, and weighed in six months after. The following will show the result :- First, the eggs not prepared lost 18 per cent. of the primitive weight, were half empty, and exhaled an odour of corruption; the eggs rubbed with oil of poppy lost 4 per cent.. were full, without odour or had taste : the eggs rubbed with flax seed oil lost three per cent. of primitive weight when they were full, and had the odour and taste of eggs perfectly fresh. Hence flax seed oil may be deemed preferable for preserving eggs .- (English Mechanic and World of Science.)

STATISTICS OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE SHOW, ENGLAND .- A writer in The Field says: "I have arranged the following statistics relative to the show of poultry and pigeons first held at the Crystal Palace, which may prove interesting to some of your readers. There were: exhibitors, 511; total number of pens entered, 2050; number of poultry pens, 1236, containing individual birds, 1932; number of pigeon pens, 814, containing 1539 birds: total number of Many of the birds specimens, 3471. were of great, some of lesser value: but it may well be assumed that the real aggregate value of the entire collection would approach £10,000. This estimate is wholly irrespective of the prohibitory prices placed on many of the pens to prevent their sale. The pens in which birds were shown, if placed in line, would have extended to within 250 yards of one mile. During the week they were in the show the following quantities of food were consumed: Barley meal, 10 cwt.; middlings, 3 cwt.; wheat, I sack; hemp seed, I sack; barley, 4 qrs.; maize, 2 qrs.; beans, 1 sack; tares, 3 sacks; and for salad 60 large market bunches of greens. Besides the two secretaries and clerks and nine members of working committee, one superintendent and nine feeders were constantly engaged, and a special watch-During the Show man each night. there were but two deaths among the poultry, one of which was roupy when sent, and not one among the pigeons.

ULCERATED FEET OF BIRDS.—A writer says: I lave observed that bullifinches seem more afflicted with this complaint than other birds, but I have known canaries affected with it. It

comes on with a sort of swelling, and goes on, if not stopped, till the foot suppurates, and off drop the claws and I found out a cure sometimes the foot. for it: In one-fourth of the solution of chloride of soda and three parts of boiled rain water, with just the chill off, pat into a little galley pot, and the bird's feet put in twice or thrice a day. The same water will do for a day or so; but it must be kept corked up, as this solution is a solution of soda impregnated with chlorine gas, and not, as many of the chemists will tell you, common salt. I have known this to cure birds after one or two of the claws had dropped off.

Our Letter Box.

VERMIN IN POULTRY HOUSES. - A Subscriber writes:—I frequently see receipts for destroying vermin, or shall I say lice, in poultry houses. I have a remedy as simple as it is effectual, which I have not yet seen published. Take green boughs of cedar and place them in the roosting houses and coops, and they will utterly exterminate everything in the shape of ver-I once had my poultry house so bad mir. that the chickens were perfectly covered with insect vermin, and were actually driven out of it, and by this means I destroyed Let anyone who every one of the insects. is troubled with lice in their poultry houses just try this.

MATCHING FOWLS .- (Young Beginner.) The cock has most influence on the fancy points, and the hen most upon the form It is therefore better to breed and size. from small cocks and large hens, than Large chickens may be raised rice versa. from Brahma fowls of moderate size. rapidity with which young Brahma chicks grow, is truly astonishing. In matching Light Brahmas for breeding, it is always beetter to have the hen with a darker hackle than the cock; by this means you will the more readily secure perfectly pencilled hackles in the chickens. The cream colour in the white of the Light Brahmas has its admirers as well as the pure white but the former must not be confounded with the yellow patches of feathers so frequently seen in the Light Brahmas, and which are a decided disqualification.

Vulture Hocks in Fowls.—Amateur asks us "What are vulture hocks?" Take a Brahma or Cochin fowl—as it is only in these large breeds vulture hocks are to be found-and place it on the ground with the tail towards you, examine its legs, and

if you see long feathers projecting straight outwards from the lower part of the thigh so that the hock of the bird may be seen, then this fowl is called vulture hocked, in contra-distinction to one whose feathers curl softly round the hock and completely hide it from view. Vulture hocks, according to the Standard of Excellence, are objectionable, but not a disqualification, vet at all the English poultry shows lately held, judges disqualify birds having vulture hocks.

Egg-Eating Hens .- (W. F. G., Toronto.)-In reply to your question, we cannot do better than give you the following answer, which we clip from the Journal of Horticulture :- "Break an egg and dust the contents nicely with fine Cayenne pepper, afterwards turning the egg round so as to get the pepper below the yolk, if possible, and leave the egg in the offender's nest; or, if he catches her in the act of eating an egg, let him drive her away quietly and place pepper in the remaider of the egg, endeavouring, as stated before, to get the pepper underneath. He will very soon see her running furiously about with distended beak. If one dose is not sufficient, administer another, a little stronger; but I think once will be enough, for I saw the remedy tried, and it turned out to be A PERFECT CURE."

PLAN OF POULTRY HOUSE .- (A Subscriber.) On page 38 will be found plan of a poultry house, which you would do well to study. The plan may be enlarged to suit any number of fowls you choose to keep, and if built as directed will be quite warm enough for your poultry in the winter season, provided you keep them in the covered run during very severe weather. Large fowls not supplied with roosts should have a good clean bed of straw to sleep on, which should be well shaken up and the droppings taken away every morning.

Advertisements.

From stock containing some imported, and many prize birds:—Dark Brahma and Partridge Cochin, 85 per dozen; Buff and White Cochins, and Houdans, 83 per dozen; Black Hamburgh, White Leghorn, Black Spanish, and Silver Grey Dorking. 82 per dozen. Also, a pair of White Cochin, and a trio of Black Spanish Fowls for sale.

J. W. ACRES, Box 143, Paris, Ontario.

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MR. W. MASSEY HAS EGGS LVL to part with from the following varieties, at unine shillings per dozen, or one dozen and a half for three dollars, securely pa 'ed, and carriage paid to Liverpool. Houdan. The stock comprises choice home-bred specimens, crossed with grand imported birds. White Leghorns. Having purchased Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier's stock. Buff Cochin, Very high-class birds, bred by Mr. H. Mapplebeck and other well-known breeders. Spalding, Linguistics, Exceptions, Linguistics, and the second security of the second seco COLNSHIRE, ENGLAND.

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M.R. HENRY PICKLES, JUNIOR, Kayfield House, Earby, Skipton, Yorkshire, England, the most successful exhibitor of Ham-burghs in England in 1870, can now supply eggs

from the following varieties, at \$3 per sitting of 13.
Gold and Silver Spangled, Gold and Silver Pen-cilled and Black Hamburghs, Buff Cochins, Dark Brahmas, Coloured Dorkings, Houdans, Silver Polands, Black Bantams, Aylesbury and Rouen Ducks.
The above will be carefully and scenrely packed,

and carriage paid to Liverpool. A few first-class birds of all the above varieties always on hand for disposal Mr. Pickles has won over 100 first prizes with his Silver Penci!led Hamburghs alone in 1870, including all the principal shows in England.

The Hamburghs are mated for breeding cockerels and pullets, Mooney cocks and hens for breeding pullets, Yorkshire cocks and hens for breeding

cockerels for exhibition.

MGGS FOR HATCHING. from my recent importations of fowls, from some of the best breeders in England. Buff, Parsome of the best breeders in Engagement tridge, and White Cochins, and Dark Brahmas, \$5 per dozen; Aylesbury Ducks, \$3 per dozen; Rouen Ducks, \$4 per dozen. Orders booked now and filled in rotation, and must in all cases be accompanied by the cash.

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ARK BRAHMAS.-FOR SALE, a few trios from prize stock, well matched

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FOR SALE, THE FOLLOWING PURE-BRED FOWLS. One trio light Brahmas, Pea Comb, \$6; one pair Dominique, \$6; One pair Blue Game, \$5; One pair Sumatra Game, \$5; One pair Tailless Fowls or Tailless Dorkings, \$5. Eggs of the above fowls, \$2 per dozen. Address FAGE & CO., Box 1142, Grand Rapids, Michigan. -

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Black Red Game, Dockwing Game, Dork
ings and Dark Brahmas. The most of the succesful yards in England and Scotland has had blood from my yards direct or indirect. 15s. per 13 eggs The Aviaries, Clumber, Worksop, England, JOHN DOUGLAS.

F. CHAMPNEY, TAUNTON, Cochins, and winner of first prize at N. Y. S. P. S for birds of 1870, has for sale a few pairs of extra tine birds, suitable for exhibition or breeding purposes. Also—orders received for a few sittings of eggs, from good stock as there is in this country. Price, \$12 per doz. Cash to accompany all orders:

RURAL EMPIRE CLUB. "What is it?" Send for Circular, and your curiosity will be gratified; we have over 20,000 members scattered over all the United States, Territories and Canada. Postmasters and Can-vassers for Newspapers are particularly interested in this enterprise. Address, J. W. Briggs, P. M., West Macedon, Wayne Co., N. Y.

WHITE COCHINS.-COL. Hassard having purchased the entire stock of white Cochins from F. Zurhorst, Esq. Dublin, can supply in due course eggs from these celebrated birds, \$5 a dozen.—Two or three birds for disposal. Also, Black-Red Game Bantam Eggs, Steel strain, \$4 a dozen, receipt of P. O. Order. Curragh Camp, Newbridge, Ireland.

FOR SALE FROM EGGS FOR SALE FROM hurgs, Rouen Ducks, (very large) and Black Afri-can Bantams. Perfect birds. Eggs carefully packed and warranted to reach destination sound. JOHN D. SHELTON, Jamaica, Long Island, N.Y.

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Houdan, Black Spanish, Golden Spangled
Hamburgh, Black Breasted Red Game, English
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variety, prize stock, one guines per setting. HENRY TOMLINSON,

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As W. F. E. personally superintends the selec-tion and despatch of all his birds, he can ensure

satisfaction to all purchasers.

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