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## PEN WHITE LEGHORNS

Owned by Whiting Farm, Holyoke, Mass.

# THE CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW

DEVOTED TO A

## PULTRY, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

Pigeons, Cage Birds, Rabbits & Pets.

VOL. XX.

124 VICTORIA STREET, TORONTO, JULY 1897.

No. 7

### GAME BANTAMS.

BY H. S. BABCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

#### I.

**R**OTHING in the feathered fancy line has proved of more permanent interest than the Game Bantam. From his first appearance upon the scene until the present he has made and kept friends. The longer he is bred the more popular he becomes, for today I believe it safe to affirm, the world over, that the Game Bantam is the most popular of all Bantams, and it would not be safe to affirm that there is any limit to his popularity. It has increased and will increase. When one thinks the topmost wave has been reached, lo, another billow greater than any previous one comes sweeping up the beach. Just as the horizon recedes as we go towards it, opening to our eyes new scenes and wider visions, just so does the popularity of the Game Bantam advance with every step of our progress.

Why is this so? Probably because the Game Bantam realizes most perfectly all those qualities deemed essential in a Bantam. All Bantams are deservedly popular; all have their friends and advocates; all win some of the plaudits of the public. The small size, characteristic of all Bantams, makes them lovable, and this small size reaches its utmost limit, at least in appearance, in the Game. If there are other Bantams as small as the Game, there are none which look so small, owing to the shortness of the Game feathering and the closeness with which the plumage clings to the body. We have seen rose-combs as small as the smallest Game, but even in such cases the Games look to be the smaller.

Then, too, despite the great beauty of figure possessed by other Bantams, the trimness of the Game gives an appearance of high breeding. One never sees a Game Bantam without thinking of a thoroughbred race-horse, if he is a lover of horses, the highest type of perfection to which

horse-breeding has been brought. In the bold eye, the lean head, the clean-cut neck, the strong but not heavy limbs of the thoroughbred, intelligence, speed and endurance seem typified; and the same, or at least similar emotions are awakened at the sight of a Game Bantam. Though but a speck of life there is the prominent eye, the lean head, the clean-cut neck and the strong but slender limbs.

The Game Bantam, too, has an appearance of courage, and courage appeals even to a member of the Universal Peace Society. The prominence of the eyes, the pride shown in the erect carriage, and the lofty way of lifting the feet, all mark the Game Bantam as independent, self-reliant, courageous. He has an air which says as plainly as words: "I know my worth and am able to take care of myself." He seems to feel the pride of ancient lineage and be conscious of his own attainments. Among Bantams the Game is the aristocrat—among the best a ruler, and hence he is popular with all classes.

### A NEW ASSOCIATION IN SARNIA.

**ON** May 24th we organized a Poultry Association, to be known as Lambton Poultry and Pet Stock Association. We hold our first show in Sarnia, December 14th to 18th, with L. G. Jarvis, of Guelph, as judge. The following officers were elected:—Hon. President, Jas. F. Lister, M.P., Sarnia; President, Peter Wellington, Blackwell Station; 1st Vice President, John W. Kedwell, Petrolea; 2nd Vice President, W. F. Phillips, Sarnia; Sec. Treas., Thos. H. Mills, Sarnia. Executive Committee, A. G. Brown, Watford; Wm. Luscombe, Sarnia; Frank Thomas, Sarnia; John Cairns, Cam-lachie; Wm. Atkinson, Petrolea; D. G. McGregor, Sarnia; Wm. Yates, Lambton Mills; C. A. Wade, Sarnia.

THOMAS H. MILLS,  
Sec.-Treas.

## SELLING EGGS BY WEIGHT.

BY E. H. PERRIN, NEWMARKET, ONT.

IN last month's REVIEW Mr. Essex writes there is nothing gained in selling eggs by weight. If we were all situated like Mr. Essex, and were able to take our eggs to a city store in from 2 to 10 doz. lots, or able to buy in the city or any town and pick as we wanted, this would certainly hold water. But as it is, city poultrymen are not able to supply the city trade, and therefore have to rely on the farmers through the country. These farmers are not able to sell in the city and have to trade at the country stores, and some bring large and some small eggs, and they get as much for one as the other, as much for white as brown eggs, and therefore cannot be induced to raise large eggs. These country merchants have in a week gathered together as many as 1500 dozen. Now, can any buyer go to these stores and assort these eggs, pick out the rotten, the broken, the white, the brown, large and small eggs? No. It would take a week to gather a large load. If buyers went amongst farmers Mr. Essex' idea would work, but this is not done, and cannot be. We have to buy our eggs from stores, and if we bought them by weight the raiser of large eggs would get justice as well as the small. We have to buy by the doz., and sell and guarantee them to weigh  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. per doz., and if not to this weight we have to cull and send the small eggs to Toronto markets. This is what keeps the price of eggs down in the city, whereas if farmers sent large eggs in there would be no culls to send to city markets, and farmers would be enabled to sell their large eggs to better advantage. Mr. Essex says there are prices for large, small, mixed, fresh, stale and colored eggs. There are not at the country stores where the packers all buy their eggs, and if it were not for the packers the cities would be overrun with eggs. Selling by weight there would not, or will not, be diversity in prices as a pound if only 5 eggs would be as good as a pound of 16 eggs, the weight would count every time. There would be no trouble weighing because of large and small eggs, if underweight put in a small egg, if overweight put in a smaller egg and so on, and in the end everybody satisfied, and it is the only correct way, and the sooner started the better. I do not wish to offend Mr. Essex in this article, but as I am continually buying and packing I know and have seen for myself and simply want to see justice done.

## PROFITABLE POULTRY KEEPING.

BY T. A. WILLIAMS, TORONTO, ONT.

(Continued.)

THE brooder shanty should be fitted with several movable roosts or perches, which may be placed in position when the chicks are getting large and nearly ready to be weaned from the brooder, they will soon learn to make use of them, and it will be seen that in such a shanty as this, chicks may be reared from the shell to maturity with the minimum of trouble and the maximum of comfort, safety and convenience.

If all these chicks are intended for the butcher they should be forced as fast as possible, for the purpose of making them as heavy as possible at the age of ten weeks, when they should be marketed as broilers. A friend of mine marketed white Leghorn chicks this season at less than ten weeks old, and they were eagerly purchased. Plymouth Rocks or Wyandottes of the same age, would, of course, be larger.

Now, let us pause a moment and reflect. Here we are marketing our chicks and putting the profit in our pocket in exactly three months from the day we placed the eggs in the incubator. Is there any other rural industry that will make such quick and certain returns? I think not, if there is I should like to know what it is. I fancy I hear some doubting Thomas saying, "it is all very pretty in print, reads well, but it can't be done in Canada." Permit me to assure all your readers that it can be done, *has been done*, and is still being done in and around this city. I will not say that it can be done by anybody, because I am quite sure that it cannot be done profitably by any Tom, Dick, or Harry, and it is a good thing for the expert broiler raiser that it cannot. Success in this business depends to such a large extent on expert knowledge, which can only be attained by practical experience, that I have no fear whatever of the business being over-done during the life-time of any of us who are now interested in it, and it has the advantage over many other lines of business in being free from the shackles of monopoly.

Now let us consider how it may be done. In the first place, you must learn to produce fertile eggs in winter, not simply eggs, but strongly fertilized eggs that will hatch well and produce vigorous chickens; the man who buys his hatching eggs takes tremendous chances, unless he knows exactly where they come from, and can depend implicitly

on the person from whom he buys. All eggs over ten days old should be discarded for incubator use; of course we all know that older eggs will hatch, but not nearly so well as those that are fresh. You cannot afford to use any but the most efficient appliances obtainable. The very best incubators and brooders that are built are none too good, and it is the greatest folly in the world to suppose that a good incubator can be purchased for the price of a "kitchen cupboard." Those people who are always trying to get something for nothing usually get bitten.

To summarise then, good buildings, good fowls, good care, and the best appliances are needed to produce first-class broilers at the season when they bring the highest prices, and, by the way, thirty-five cents per pound may be considered about as high as spring chicks go in Toronto, the first of the season, weighing about three pounds per pair, being one dollar per pair; later on the price falls to seventy-five cents for the same size pair of chicks, or twenty-five cents per pound. This price can be obtained for quite a while, and even into August sixty cents per pair will be realized, but the chicks weighing two pounds each are looked for. It will thus be seen that one pound of chicken early in the season brings as much money as two pounds later on, the greatest profit is obviously with the early ones. When the chicks no longer require the brooder, don't attempt to remove them, but remove the brooder instead, chickens have an aversion to moving, and if anything in this line is attempted there will be trouble. On the other hand, if permitted to occupy the same brooder house unmolested until ready for market they will be very little trouble and will thrive like weeds.

(To be continued.)

**THE QUESTION OF AMALGAMATION OF THE TWO ONTARIO POULTRY ASSOCIATIONS.**

*Editor Review:*

**T**HE question of the amalgamation of the two poultry associations of Ontario, as submitted by Professor Mills, is but another very necessary step towards forcing upon us a consideration of what shall be done towards the advancement of the poultry industry.

It has been suggested that the associations might unite upon similar lines to those governing the amalgamation of the Eastern and Western Dairymen's Associations.

Considering the question from a financial point of view, the dairymen's associations are entirely dissimilar to the

poultry associations. There is no doubt the dairymen will derive great benefit from amalgamation, and the poultrymen certainly would follow their example if they anticipated similar results.

In the dairymen's report for 1895, among other particulars, the following receipts and disbursements appear:

**EASTERN ASSOCIATION:**

*Receipts.*

Legislative Grant.....	\$2,750 00
Fines.....	474 00
Factory Fees.....	1,444 10

*Disbursements.*

Conventions and Regular Meeting....	446 50
Salaries and Expenses.....	3,797 00
Directors' Meetings.....	284 82

**WESTERN ASSOCIATION.**

*Receipts.*

Legislative Grant.....	\$2,750 00
Fines.....	117 82
Factory Fees.....	230 00

*Disbursements.*

Conventions.....	675 09
Salaries and Expenses.....	2,287 98
Directors' Expenses.....	96 05

It is reasonable to suppose that by having only one convention, about \$500 would be saved. By economizing in the number of persons who draw salaries (for instance, only one secretary would be needed), and by a reduction in directors' expenses, another \$1,500 might be saved; so that amalgamation should mean \$2,000 additional to be applied to the distribution of a knowledge of dairying.

The question for the poultrymen is—will we benefit similarly by following this example? In the first place the poultry associations do not pay the expenses of their directors. Next, there are no instructors or inspectors; and the secretaries' salaries are so small, amounting to only \$200, that there can be no saving there.

The grants received from the Government and the amounts received as entry fees are expended wholly in connection with the annual shows, and chiefly as prizes. The poultry industry requires that these competitions should continue. They are the basis of an improvement in the stock of the country. Without them, the country would swarm with mongrels, poor layers and poor table fowl, which it is our wish to displace.

The total receipts of the two poultry associations amount to about \$2,700, including, say, \$200 membership fees.

Aside from prize money there is practically no expenditure. I think that no one will argue that too much money is expended for prize money, although we may contend that the list should be rearranged; as a matter of fact that is the intention of the association.

There are, then, no disbursements that can be reduced. Therefore, under present conditions, mere amalgamation cannot effect us financially either for better or worse.

I am of opinion that it is not sufficient to simply reply to the bare interrogation of Professor Mills. His intention probably is to inquire if the carrying out of his suggestion will benefit the poultry industry, and, if not, what will accomplish it.

The dairymen occupy a more advanced position than the poultrymen. The farmers are already interested deeply in the production of cheese and butter. So long as there have been farms and farmers, there have been, upon those farms, cows, producing milk to be manufactured into butter and cheese.

The farmers are willing to pay for information leading to an increase in their receipts from a source in which they have faith. So they pay (perhaps indirectly), the instructors and inspectors employed by the dairymen's associations. There is money in cows, and they know it. There is money in poultry and they don't know it. The dairymen's associations had a business made. The poultrymen's associations have a business to make. When that business is made, the farmers will be willing to pay for information on poultry raising, as they do now on dairying. It will take years to reach the advanced position of the dairymen. It will be years before we can command an equal amount of money with which to forward the work. Under the present system which governs our associations we can never hope to improve our standing, and it evident that something must be done whereby we will, at least, be able to see an improvement in the future.

After perusing the report of the dairymen's associations, and acquainting myself with the importance and extent of their endeavors, I feel that the contrast is very unfavourable to the poultry associations. Yet I am satisfied that the poultrymen are willing to do all in their power to assist in the good work. It is simply the old story of "What is everybody's business, is nobody's business!"

The fact that amalgamation will not benefit us under present conditions is no proof that such action should not eventually be taken. Conditions may be changed, and I believe all members will agree with me that a change is necessary.

Toronto, 18th June, 1897.

Yours, etc.,  
ROBERT H. ESSEX.

## TORONTO, POULTRY, PIGEON AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

AT a special meeting held by the above Association on the evening of 17th inst. (the President in the Chair) it was decided to hold a show during the coming winter. Mr. Dewey acted as Secretary in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Durston.

The fraternity will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Durston has been seriously ill, but this feeling will be mitigated by the knowledge that she is now speedily recovering her health.

The Secretary made a record for himself, this being the only occasion that he has not attended since he became a member of the Toronto Poultry Association.

The general impression of the Association has been that Toronto should take her place in the poultry kingdom and have an annual show. Since January last the matter has been discussed by regular meeting, by executive, and by special committee; it culminated in the special meeting referred to.

After studying facts and figures for a couple of hours, it was resolved that the President should appoint a show committee, and that the committee should at once take action in the matter.

The Toronto Association will be glad to receive any pointers which may be tendered them by associations which have recently been in the show business. Toronto has had successful shows, but many years have passed since the last one, and everybody will be glad to know that the coming event will be but a prelude to a series.

E. DEWEY,  
Acting Secretary.

## STRAY FEATHERS.

PLEASE insert the enclosed advertisement in some column of June REVIEW. I have received first-class results, both in the sale of Games and eggs, through advertising in the REVIEW. My Game eggs have hatched remarkably well this season and chicks are hearty. Expect to raise about 100 chicks this season.

Clinton, May 19th, 1897.

A. J. GRIGG.

THE BEST FOWL IS—THE ONE YOU LIKE BEST.

I am just a beginner in the poultry business, and would like to secure a good poultry paper. I have kept common hens for some few months now, but I intend doing away



W. G. LADD'S POULTRY FARM  
SOUTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.

with them and getting a good stock. I have not decided on what kind to keep yet. I have a very good place to keep them; a very large yard with a large field next to it, to which they have perfect freedom. My house is a stable about 20x15 and about 12 feet high. I would kindly ask your opinion on what kind you would prefer for general purpose fowl, and also to send me a sample copy of your CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW.

Ottawa.

Yours, etc.

G. TOBIN.

My sale of eggs has been very fair this spring, and I thank the REVIEW for the largest share of it. One of your advertisers, F. B. Nicoll, Kelowna, B.C., reports a hatch of 13 chicks from a setting of Pea-Comb Barred P. Rock eggs that I shipped him.

Petrollea.

JOHN N. KEDWELL.

[Score 100—perfection.—Er ]

Our first experiments with artificial hatching resulted in an 80% hatch the first trip.

Picton.

ALF. BROWN.

[Good!—LD.]

I am getting ready to go into the poultry business at this point, and wish to subscribe for some good live magazines on that subject, and have been given your name as the editor of the best poultry journal in Canada. Inclosed please find stamps for which I shall be much pleased to receive a sample copy of your journal. When in California I was a subscriber to *The Fancier's Monthly*, published by Brother Harker, of San José, and *The Rural Californian*, a Los Angeles monthly, also *The Poultry Keeper*, but in this country conditions are different, and I want to keep up with the times. Any information you can furnish me I shall

deem it a great favor. I don't expect to open my yards before October.

Dunbarton, Ont.

WILL DECKER.

[We wish more were of same opinion. Too many overlook climatic and local conditions.—ED.]

The June number of REVIEW came to hand this morning. Please accept thanks for same; it is a fine monthly. Inclosed you will find one (\$1) dollar for same for one year, and when I get my business in running order you will hear from me again in the advertising line; am hard at work now getting up some good houses, and when completed I hope to have something worth looking at.

Dunbarton, Ont.

WILL DECKER.

[Send us a description of your houses when complete.—ED.]

Have out about two hundred chickens, all doing well and growing like weeds.

Cornwall.

W. ROBERTS.

#### TORONTO'S EXHIBITION FOR 1897.

THE Great Victorian Era Exposition and Industrial Fair is the title chosen by the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association for this year's show. It fits the case entirely, and Manager Hill is to be complimented on his happy thought in proposing it. While the Association has wisely decided, we think, to limit the Fair to the usual two weeks, namely, from August 30th to Sept 11th, the directors have also resolved to make it worthy of the time. Already they have had several meetings and have discussed some extraordinary attractions which have been placed before them. In other directions also the board has shown itself thoroughly alive. It has resolved to thoroughly repair Machinery Hall, thus removing a cause of some complaints in previous years; it has also determined to rebuild two of the large horse stables burned down last fall, to rebuild the pig pens and to make a new ring a quarter of a mile in circumference for the better exhibiting and judging of horses. Work on these things has already commenced. The prize lists have all been thoroughly revised, some pruning being done here and some additions being made there. A number of special prizes have been donated in commemoration of the year. Altogether there is plenty of evidence not only that the directors are alive to the importance of the time, but also that the public are resolved to back them up in their efforts.

Entries for live stock and manufactures this year close on Saturday, August 7th, and for poultry Aug. 21st, with the Secretary-Manager, Mr. H. J. Hill, at 82 King street east, Toronto. At the same time entries close for a special auction sale of live stock, which this year will be a feature on Friday of the second week. For the sale an entry fee of one dollar will be charged, which will be refunded on a sale being made and a uniform charge made of five per cent commission. This sale is open to exhibitors only and will take in horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry.

#### OTTAWA'S GREAT FAIR.

THIS is the record year in the history of the British Empire and the directors of the Central Canada Exhibition Association, keeping pace with the times, will make it also the record year in the history of the Central Canada Fair, now second to none in the Dominion.

The exhibition will be far ahead of any in the past, so far as the prize list is concerned. That is certain. Besides \$15,000 in cash prizes, the directors are offering a very large number of special prizes, including 45 of the beautiful medals which are so highly prized by those who have won them in Ottawa in the past. The increases are principally in the live stock and dairy departments. The directors, desirous of making the fair especially attractive to the farming community and anxious to please their exhibitors, are year by year adding to the prizes in the lines which are being especially followed by farmers. To this end the dairy test is to be made one of the features of this year's show. As will be seen by the list, the prizes for it are munificent.

The special attractions, always an important feature of an exhibition from the spectator's point of view, will be exceptionally fine this year. The directors mean to have the most novel and entertaining specialties that can be had. Already several have been secured, and New York and other leading centres will be visited in search for others.

The night spectacular, now an indispensable part of the Central Canada Fair, has been arranged for. Messrs. Hand & Teale, of Hamilton, who so successfully presented the "Siege of Algiers" last year and the "Siege of Sebastapol" the year before, have been engaged to produce that thrilling historic spectacle, "The Taking of the Bastille," with the usual fireworks and other inspiring accessories. The fireworks in connection with the piece will be of a magnitude never attempted in Canada before, and the military display will be made by 600 of the militia of Ottawa, including the 43rd Batt, one of the crack corps of the Dominion, and which

made such a wonderful showing at the entertainment last year.

At considerable expense, the directors have arranged for the showing of Delorme's great painting "The Blacksmith." This is the masterpiece of the renowned painter of France and sold for \$50,000. In cities in the United States where the painting has been exhibited the thousands who viewed it agreed that it was the grandest picture they had ever seen.

The cinematographic, the wonder of the age, will also be seen at the fair. This marvellous invention presents pictures taken in different parts of the world to the view in perfect life-like action and as though they were actually occurring.

Altogether the annual fair, the tenth, will without doubt excel its predecessors in variety of features, in the magnitude of its attractions, and in the munificence of its prize list. The dates are September 17th to 25th, entries to close on September 14th. Secretary McMahon informs us that he will be pleased to furnish copies of the prize list, catalogues, etc., to all who apply for them.

#### GOOSE RAISING IN RHODE ISLAND.

A CROP OF ONE THOUSAND GOSLINGS IS A MERE SIDE ISSUE ON A THREE THOUSAND HEN EGG FARM.

ISAAC C. Wilbour & Son, of Little Compton, are the most extensive raisers of geese in Rhode Island. Not only do they keep three thousand hens every winter for egg production, and handle the poultry products of their neighborhood, but they raise from five hundred to one thousand young geese each season. They have kept from fifty to sixty geese for many years, and have annually produced from three hundred to five hundred goslings; but last year they exceeded all former operations by raising one thousand from ninety-seven female geese. From one lot of forty-nine geese five hundred goslings were produced, and this was not done by the aid of an expensive plant, or with incubators; neither were many buildings or fixtures necessary.

These goslings were disposed of alive when from six to eight weeks old. For the first two hundred sold in June, they received \$1.25 each, while the remainder, sold later, brought \$1 each. The lowest price they have received since 1890 was in 1894, when they had a new flock and raised but two hundred and thirty-five goslings from fifty-six geese and nineteen ganders. These brought 8½ cents

each. The next year, however, four hundred and fifty goslings were secured from sixty-eight females, and averaged \$1.25 each. The average price received for them alive, each season, has ranged from \$1.09 to \$1.17 at five or six weeks of age. If it costs less than five cents per lb. to raise Pekin ducks, which are fed mostly on grain, and marketed at ten weeks of age, what does it cost to raise a gosling principally on grass, and sell it at six weeks? They were sold to dealers who buy up young geese and fatten, dress and ship them according to the market demand for them. As the first that the dealers send to New York and Boston markets bring very high prices, the dealer anxious to send in the first lot will not only give an extra price for large early goslings, but will take them at a very much younger age. Dealers sometimes pay \$2 for very early goslings when four weeks old. The later they are hatched, and the more inferior their size, the longer they must be kept and fed by the grower.

Mr. Philip Wilbour, who has the principal charge of the operations with geese, produces crosses for market by breeding African ganders with common white or gray geese. The cross bred progeny are large, and have desirable market qualities. The African gander is not only large, but a sure breeder. Africans are objectionable because dark of plumage and hard to pick, but when mated to common geese they produce stock that is easy to pick, while that from the white females is usually white, or light colored, and looks best when dressed. He endeavours to secure young ganders and two year old geese, and usually mates five geese with one gander. If obliged to put up with (or breed from) young geese the result does not amount to much the first season, is about one-half the usual product. The first year he puts each gander and his geese in an enclosure by themselves until they are mated, after which they are allowed to run in large flocks. A few extra ganders are allowed to run with the large flock. The spring price in that section for a breeding flock, four geese and a gander, is from \$18 to \$20. The geese are kept until they do not do well. Then they are sold and a new lot secured. They usually roam the fields and marshes.

During the season, from June until fall, the breeding geese are turned in where the pasture is good and there is plenty of water, and left to get their own living. No grain is given them until green grass is no longer available; then they are fed lightly with oats and whole corn.

They are not given their full ration until February 1st. Then they are fed a mixture of corn meal, shorts, beef scraps and boiled potatoes or turnips in the morning, and grain in

the afternoon. Warm, dry nests are provided, barrels and casks are excellent, and pains are taken to collect the eggs before they become chilled. The geese, which are not allowed to sit, lay an average of twenty-five eggs each during the season. The first eggs of the first litter are infertile. Those geese that are inclined to sit after laying a litter are confined away from their nests for about five days, and then released. They usually lay again in about two weeks. All eggs are set under common hens, and sprinkled after the second week. The goslings are put out with the hen on tender greensward when twenty-four hours old. She is restricted by tying one of her feet to a peg driven in the ground. For the first day or two an enclosure is also used to prevent the goslings from straying away, but after that it is removed, and they are allowed to go where they please. The hen is not given her liberty until she commences to lay, when she is taken away from them entirely. If the weather is severe they are housed at night.

Although some corn meal is fed to the goslings, an abundance of water and tender grass at all times is of much greater importance. Growing goslings will eat more grass than old geese. Mr. Wilbour finds that they will eat army worms almost continually from morning until night if they can get them. No beef scraps are given them until they are shut up for fattening. Before that it is an injury to them, and may cause them to lose the use of their legs. To fatten them they are fed a cooked mess composed of a quart of beef scraps mixed with a half bushel of corn meal. In June it takes about fourteen days to fatten them. In the fall, when it is cool, they will eat better and get fat much quicker. As they are pretty warm blooded creatures they need protection from the hot sun, and lots of cool air, and will not thrive if shut up in close quarters. If the goslings crowd together when shut up they may heat and become unable to stand. If treated carefully they are very gentle and trustful; but if not they easily become panic stricken. It is therefore quite important that but one person does the feeding.

The Wilbours breed Africans to sell and to supply their own breeding stock, having bred from twelve purely mated females the past season. They find the Africans lay a larger number of eggs than their white or gray geese, and the young African ganders are larger in June than the cross-bred ganders, but the crosses dress the easiest, and look the best, and are therefore most valuable. They have goslings that weighed in September, when dressed, eighteen pounds. Mr. Wilbour thinks a swimming hole is very desirable for breeding geese during the laying season, but that it is not absolutely necessary.

Last season Mr. Wilbour and his son turned their attention to the production of wild-cross geese, known in the markets as mongrels. Mongrels are almost as celebrated for their table qualities as the canvas back duck. They bring twice the price of common geese at Thanksgiving and Christmas. They are produced by crossing the wild Canada and domestic geese, and although they yield greater profit it requires more skill and special experience to successfully produce them. Those Mr. Wilbour succeeded in rearing last season were the progeny of African males and wild Canada females, and as the wild females lay few eggs not many were hatched; but those were fine specimens, and in appearance about equal to the best we have seen that were produced from the wild male and African female. The illustration taken last November shows this flock of eighteen mongrels yarded to be fattened.

Although we know goose raisers that give their birds more care and receive a larger number of eggs, get their goslings out earlier, and secure a greater product per goose, we know of no one who succeeds in carrying on such extensive operations.

SAMUEL CUSHMAN in *Farm Poultry*.

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#### TO PREVENT EGGS HATCHING.

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A CORRESPONDENT asks us if there is a way for destroying the germ in an egg, and still leave the egg marketable, as he has some good birds and lots of calls for eggs for cooking purposes, which are sometimes used for setting.

We have heard it stated that dipping an egg for a second in boiling water will destroy its hatchability, but we do not know of any method of destroying the germ. Eggs can be made unhatchable by pricking two or three tiny holes in them with the point of a very fine needle, it being only necessary to pierce the inner membrane encasing the egg, so as to let the air into it. The egg will then never hatch a chicken.—*Farm Poultry*.

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Lime wash is good for hens but bad for lice. Now is the time to use it.

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Rhubarb or pie plant makes excellent shade for the chicks and is easily grown and profitable. It should be more generally used in fanciers' yards.

## FANCY POULTRY CULTURE.

THE following is an address delivered by Mr. C. H. Hallam before the members of the Birmingham and Mid-England Poultry Society, on 27th ult. Mr. J. W. Ludlow, president, was chairman.

After some preliminary remarks, Mr. Hallam said:—I do not pose as an expert in poultry matters. My knowledge and experience are fairly extensive, but are no doubt equalled by most, and exceeded by several, members of our important society.

In his splendidly illustrated lecture, our president (Mr. Ludlow) told us that fancy poultry culture is of quite recent growth; that he remembered, and attended, the first show ever held in this country (that was in Birmingham), and that many of the most beautiful and popular breeds had been "made" during the past twenty years.

There are to-day scores of different varieties and sub-varieties of fowls. Nearly all the most popular are the result of crossing—what many older fanciers still regard as mongrels. They are not original or ancient races of fowls. They are "made" breeds, whose characteristics have now become more or less fixed by careful selection and persistent breeding. In fact there is no such thing as a pure breed. It is only a relative and not an absolute term, at best. Purity of breed entirely depends upon the length of time a variety has been bred without mixing with other races, and the consequent fixity of its characteristics.

The subject of fancy poultry culture naturally touches the much-debated question of utility *versus* fancy fowls. Ought the prime object of breeding to be for utility or beauty? And are these really incompatible objects? There are large arguments on both sides. But I am sure that in the main fancy breeding subserves utility. If it were not for the fancier breeding for distinguishing characteristics, in a very few years there would scarcely be a single distinct variety, and the value of crossing, as well as distinctive size, type, and beauty, would be lost.

I used to have rather large sympathies with the utility advocates, but larger information and experience has carried me into the fanciers' ranks. With indiscriminate crossing there is soon a degeneracy of the two chief utility points, size and egg production. Without careful cultivation there is the same rapid deterioration in all animal and vegetable life. Without careful breeding the cow would not maintain her present wonderful milk supply. And without cultivation the raspberry would soon become the useless road-side bramble.

Science tells us that life has a constant tendency to rever-

sion—in a large sense, deterioration. Nature's great object does not seem to be ideal perfection, nor utility, but survival; and when science speaks of the survival of the fittest, it means not ideally the best, or most useful, but merely the fittest to survive the struggle for life under certain circumstances. So that it is the circumstances in which any form of life has to grow which determine its fitness. The conditions of life almost entirely determine the kind of survival. By altering the conditions of life of plant or animal we can alter and improve its form, usefulness, or beauty enormously.

In consequence of this law of Nature that it is the conditions of life which decide its fitness, it seems often the worst or most undesirable form which does survive. For instance, in our slums it is the worst and not the best humanity born and bred there that the bad and terrible conditions of slum life allow to survive. So, too, with our present competitive system of "grab who can," it is not generally the best and noblest men and women who survive the scramble and achieve power and fame, but those whose natures are most in accord with the competitive principle of each for himself, and who can play, with the least compunction, the ignoble game of "beggars my neighbour." Here as with fowls, by altering the conditions of life we should change the motive of action, and change the type which survived. So with fowls left to nature, it would be those hardy enough to withstand their conditions of life which would survive, and not the largest, the handsomest, the most meaty, or best layers. To get and increase the qualities we must carefully select year after year, and provide conditions of life favourable to them. It is this judicious selection, and the providing of favourable conditions to obtain the desired results, that constitutes scientific breeding. Scientific breeding during the last thirty years has produced some dozens of varieties, some with special laying powers, others with special table qualities, and all with great beauty and interest. The utility man has now but to select that variety most useful to him. The fancier will preserve the variety for him. No doubt in a few breeds the fanciers' idea of type, form, and feather has not improved the useful qualities, but in others he has immensely improved them; and, further, it is to the fancier that all the various breeds are due.

There are several rather large maggots in the minds of utility theorists, one is that by breeding only from extraordinary layers a strain would be produced which would lay 250 eggs a year each. Another is that by careful mating, laying and table qualities can be combined. And another is that we could by these methods produce at home the £4,000,000 worth of poultry and eggs which we annually import

from abroad. These ideas look feasible, but they won't stand examination.

As to the endless layers, the chief difficulty is this, that the most prolific layers are always the most infertile; and furthermore, the few chickens that can be got from them are not nearly so strong as chickens from more moderate layers.

The most prolific hen I ever had was a valuable Plymouth Rock. She fell very sickly from five to seven months old and I had some trouble to rear her. To this circumstance I attribute the fact that she did not commence laying until eight months old. It is important to delay pullets laying where size is desired. This pullet began laying the first week in November, took third prize at the Crystal Palace the same month, and continued laying at the rate of nearly six eggs a week till the following June, when she became broody; however, she began laying again in a fortnight, and continued to the end of August. She then went through a rapid moult, and again commenced laying in November, and has continued without interruption to the present time (six and a half months), and shows no sign of broodiness.

Well, I regard that excessive laying as a great misfortune. This hen's chickens are almost perfect in quality, but are not vigorous, and I cannot get many of them.

The next best layer I have had was a cross-bred Brahma. She laid just 200 eggs in thirty-five weeks, nearly six eggs a week for the whole time, including a fortnight's broodiness. But that effort seemed to exhaust her, for she did not lay again for six months, and then only produced 110 eggs the whole year. I made special efforts to get plenty of chickens from her, but only reared about half a dozen, though other hens in the same pen produced very fertile eggs and strong chickens. The infertility of extraordinary layers, and the comparative weakness of their chickens, are now recognized facts among experienced fanciers.

Then as to the combination of laying and table qualities. As our able president (Mr. J. W. Ludlow) pointed out in a recent lecture, these qualities are absolutely incompatible and contradictory. A fowl whose vitality goes in producing eggs cannot lay on flesh and shape up well for the table; and a fowl that makes much flesh has not much surplus vitality for egg production. The two qualities naturally modify each other, and the attempt to combine them merely results in a useful fowl, but without excellence in either respect.

Then the idea of the possibility of replacing the four millions worth of imported eggs and poultry by home production is an amiable delusion, with which I have much sympathy, but which I am sure is impracticable under our present land and commercial system. So long as the ruling

principle of our industry and commerce is private profit, instead of general social and national welfare, so long will many forms of production and occupation, however pleasant, useful and even necessary, be neglected for those forms of production which are immediately more profitable.

At present we are a commercial people, caring little or nothing about the production at home of the common necessities of life, and their wide distribution and enjoyment among our people, so long as the "captains of industry" and territorial lords are increasingly enriched by the production of minerals, and the manufacture of iron and cotton. The dominant idea of the nineteenth century has been to make Britain the workshop of the world, instead of (as I think it should be) the pleasant home of culture and comfort for her people. The economics of our commercial system practically prohibit the production at home of those necessities which can be more cheaply obtained from abroad in exchange for our manufactured products, because the latter are more profitable to capital here.

Besides, the breeding of fancy poultry pays better than mere utility poultry. It is probable that this country's aggregate returns from poultry exceed that of France, in spite of the fact that France raises three times as many fowls and eggs as we do; simply because our stock of poultry is so much more valuable than theirs. I don't think any figures can be given, but the greater skill and value of our stock breeding is well shown in connection with horses. Last year English breeders exported only 11,000 horses, against 20,000 imported. This looks bad, and as though we lost on the transaction; but the average value of the horses sold to foreigners was £50 each, while the average value of the horses bought from foreigners was only £20 each; so that although we only sold about half as many horses as we bought, yet the total price paid to English breeders by foreigners was half as much again as the total price paid to foreigners. A very substantial profit to British credit.

The British are unquestionably pre-eminent in the breeding of the very best class of live stock of all kinds. It is the quality and not the quantity which is most remunerative. This certainly applies to poultry; and it is clear that while British poultry breeders can produce high-class birds which realize good prices it would be wasting energy to breed inferior fowls in quantities, for the mere sake of competing with continental peasants. It would merely return peasants' wages at best. Well, I think I have shown that we do not lose much, but really gain, in not competing with foreign peasants in the production of eggs at four a penny and chickens at equally starvation prices.

In starting to breed the highest class of fowls there are

many difficulties. There is a good deal to learn, and perhaps some misconceptions to forget. I think the first element of exhibition success is to fix upon one variety. Competition is so intensely keen that very few fanciers have at first either the knowledge, means, or accommodation necessary to breed more than one variety successfully.

The thorough understanding of one breed is sufficiently formidable, and requires much time and patience. The knowledge can only be very partially gathered from books, standards of excellence, and illustrations. The great thing is the comparative knowledge, and this can only be required by much careful study at the best shows. One may make quite a study of a breed from books and illustrations, and yet not know a good bird, and be utterly confused by the awards at the big shows. Neither is the examination of two or three good birds enough. The beginner soon finds that there are considerable differences between the best specimens of the same variety. These differences which are sometimes rather pronounced, are very confusing at first. It takes some time to understand that there is (or should be) one ideal standard of perfection, and various individual approximations to it. Of course the bird which most nearly approaches the standard at all, or most points, is the best. It is rare that even the best specimens combine all the points of a breed. For instance a bird may be almost perfect in shape and rather poor in color, head, legs, or marking; or may be almost perfect in color and marking, but deficient in other important points. All round merit is the chief object. A perfect specimen is never seen. It is always a question of comparative, and not absolute excellence. With so many "ifs" and "buts," so many slight differences in even the best birds of the same variety, it is no easy matter to form a sound judgment.

In judging a large and good class of birds, scarcely two judges in ten would independently agree upon the same bird as being relatively the best. Judges have a decidedly difficult task, and I think they more often deserve our sympathy than censure in their difficulties of selection; and I must say that, though undoubtedly there are some judges who are knaves, I believe the majority—foremost amongst whom is our famous president, Mr. Ludlow—are honorable and impartial men, as well as clever judges.

Well then, having decided upon a breed, and thoroughly mastered its points, the next thing is to get good birds. This is generally done by buying either eggs or birds from a successful exhibitor. The purchase of birds is far more expensive at first, but is generally a surer way.

In passing let me say a few words about the sale and purchase of eggs for sitting. It is sometimes a great hit; it is

sometimes a great failure, even with perfectly fair dealing; and it is generally moderately satisfactory. Often the buyer invests in a sitting in the same hope he would in a "surprise packet"—on the gambling chance of getting a £10 bird from a 5s. sitting. This spirit of speculation is about as often rewarded as it is in the "surprise packet," or sporting "tips." I do not think that the majority of those who purchase sittings have much idea of the difficulties the fancier has to contend with, especially in the early season. Many appear to expect every egg to produce a chick, and all the chicks to be of typical quality. In the first place the fertility of high-bred fowls is much less than common fowls. This decrease of fertility is incidental to all kinds of high-bred stock—horses, cattle, dogs, poultry, and even extends to humankind. It is now generally acknowledged that the more civilized and refined (high-bred) mankind becomes, the more the size of the families decrease, and more common the entire absence of family. At the present time one couple in eight are childless. It is pretty certain that the fear of civilized nations ultimately becoming overpopulated in consequence of increased means of subsistence is baseless. The ultimate tendency of human progress and refinement is almost certain to be decrease rather than increase in population.

Well, as I have said, this loss of fertility is incidental to high breeding; and in addition to this highly bred chickens are less hardy than common chickens. This is of course due to generations of careful nurture and production, and of selection and feeding for size and particular points. This loss of hardihood takes place just the same with animals, fruits and flowers.

Then as to the quality of the chickens. Buyers often have very large notions. But all experienced breeders know that really good specimens are the rare exceptions, and not the rule.

I say that all these things are difficulties which often come in the way of the breeder giving the purchaser of sittings complete satisfaction. The enormous trouble of breeding first-rate birds is only known to those who have thoroughly tried it. Experienced fanciers too often practice a kind of deceit; they rarely mention these difficulties and disappointments. They usually make much of their successes, and say nothing of their failures. I believe this is a hindrance instead of a help to the fancy, because many enthusiastic beginners get discouraged by a few little failures, which if they knew were more general with even expert breeders, would not dishearten them at the outset.

As an instance of the greater skill and care necessary with highly bred chickens I may mention that I have hatched

about 95 per cent. of farmyard mongrel's in Hearson's incubator, and reared eighty chicken's together in the top of a tub, heated by a lamp, without losing one. But I cannot get anything like such a percentage of highly bred chicken's from the same incubator, and cannot rear more than twenty together in one rearer.

Well, however we get our stock, whether by buying eggs or birds, it is essential to get good typical ones, and then the great object to be aimed at is the formation of a strain.

In endeavouring to form a strain sound judgment is required, and even the best judgment may not insure success, because no one can tell how a pair of unrelated birds will "hit off." A pair of remarkably good unrelated birds may produce inferior chickens, and a pair of very moderate birds may by chance "hit" well and produce excellent chickens. It is this uncertainty of even the best birds producing good stock which makes the great value of a good "strain" when once formed. A strain is always the result of in-breeding, otherwise there can be no strain and all is mere chance. A strain is formed by mating good birds with sound judgment the first season, carefully noting which pairs throw the best chickens, and only using these selected pairs and their best chicks the next season. This selection and breeding from the same family is carried on so long as there is no loss of vigor or development of bad points. If any loss of vigor or development of bad points be noticed, a change of blood to correct these become necessary. This introduction of fresh blood must be made with great caution, or it may spoil the strain and the results of several seasons' labours.

This principle of strain does not seem to be generally understood. Many appear to think it consists in some mysterious (but not in-bred) combination in the hand of a prominent exhibitor. Strain is simply and solely relationship—family. In-breeding is the only method of permanently fixing any desired characteristics. As I have said, the progeny of even the best unrelated birds is most uncertain, whereas the progeny of related birds becomes more assured each season.

It is obvious that this principle of strain involves the much disputed question of in breeding. Of course all the arguments are not on one side, but the conclusions of science, as well as the results of long practice, pretty conclusively prove that in-breeding is not in itself harmful to constitution, vigor, and stamina. They are not necessarily impaired in the least by in-breeding. But the very forces of in-breeding which reproduce and perpetuate desired characteristics, are also liable to reproduce undesired qualities either internal or external, if any such are strongly latent in

the parent stock. In-breeding has only this one danger, the possibility of latent imperfections or diseases in the parent stock. But providing there is no special tendency to weakness or imperfections in the original stock, in-breeding will never generate them.

It is clear that the forces of relationship which reproduce good points will also reproduce bad points if there is a strong original tendency, but will not originate them, and of course by skill and careful selection the chief benefits of in-breeding can be obtained with scarcely any, sometimes none, of its disadvantages.

Fancy poultry culture is a large subject, and I must already have taxed your patience; but before sitting down I should like to advert to the subject of new varieties.

All true fanciers must have sympathy with the effort to produce fresh and distinct varieties. It is the triumph of the breeder's art. But I do not think the recent stimulated boom in "Buffs" is worth much sympathy or support. It is not an attempt to popularize a distinctive new variety, but rather to absorb, in the interest of speculators, three beautifully characteristic and distinct breeds into one buff variety. How entirely different and characteristic are the barred Plymouth Rocks, the laced Wyandottes, and the black Orpingtons, but what becomes of the distinctiveness of these three grand breeds when degenerated to a nearly uniform buff hawl, with size, shape, and carriage running one into the other, and the only real distinctions left being the minor points of leg-color and comb?

The only difference between a buff Orpington and a buff Rock is that the Orpington is supposed to be deeper and rounder in body, and with flesh colored instead of yellow legs and beak. The only difference between the buff Rock and buff Wyandotte is a slight theoretic one in shape, and a rose instead of a single comb. When once these three grand breeds are "buffed" they lose every important distinction, and become so merged into each other, that by breeding one you could supply fair specimens of all three. Of course the object of the boom is to make the buff's supersede, at least for a time, these three fine breeds. It is to be feared that some fancy speculators would not mind the effacement of three or four of our best breeds if it brought grist to their mill. I do not pretend to sneer at the financial returns from poultry, but they should follow and not control the interests of the "fancy" at large.—*Poultry*.

You should exhibit at at least one of the large shows for purposes of comparison if for nothing else.

## TO LANGSHAN BREEDERS.

**T**HE American Langshan Club, through its executive committee, after careful discussion, takes this method (through the kindness of the press) of advising you that the club at its regular meeting the coming winter will be solicited to pass laws for its permanent advancement as the protector of the purity of the Langshan fowl, to regulate the judgment of the same, and to provide that none but highly competent persons pass on the specimens at our largest exhibitions, to the end that the purest types of the birds we breed may be preserved and advanced. It will be urged in addition that the dues of annual membership be reduced, and that the life membership fee of five dollars be permitted to remain as now, unaccompanied by *annual dues*; and the committee trusts that every earnest and loyal hearted Langshan breeder in America, now not a member, will at once take out a life membership in this club.

Peoria, Ill.

R. T. NETTLE,  
Sec.-Treas.

## THE BEST HENS FOR MOTHERS.

**F**OR the ordinary work of rearing chickens of the common barn-door type, almost any kind of hen will suffice; but when rearing pheasants, partridges, guinea fowls, and even turkeys, the best kind of hen is a distinct gain. The hens to be avoided are those of the Brahma, Langshan, and even the Dorking type; the two former are heavy, clumsy, and feather-legged, which is in itself an objection on account of the great danger there is in smothering the chickens while hatching. The latter, owing to their having so many claws, are not the best, for there is a danger of their trampling the chicks both in the nest and afterwards. The best form of hen is that with thin legs, few claws, and, what is of equal consequence, they should also be of a gentle and kindly disposition. Even in hens this trait varies considerably. The best kind of hens that I am acquainted with for setting are gold and silver Wyandottes, old English Game, Indian Game, and white Leghorn. Seldom, indeed, do hens of the pure breed of the last-named want to sit; when they do they make the best of mothers. Perhaps the hen to protect her young in the most resolute manner is Indian Game. The natural pugnacious tendencies of the breed are the cause, no doubt, of this trait. Now is a good time to bear in mind this hint

when disposing of pullets for one purpose or another. Those who buy hens for sitting on eggs of the kinds named, would do well to select according to the requirements of next hatching season. If I were confined to one sort of fowl as mothers, I should unhesitatingly select the golden Wyandotte, then the silver of that breed. Both of these combine all the points that go to make the best of sitters and mothers afterwards.—E. M. in *Poultry*.

NOTES  
AND COMMENTS

## THE WESTERN FAIR,

**L**ONDON, of which the popular Mr. "Tom" Browne is Secretary, announces in this issue the holding of next fair from September 9th to 18th. A class has been added for half-bred fowls, and four varieties of handsome pheasants have also been put on. We shall allude in detail to list, etc., in next issue.

## THE TORONTO INDUSTRIAL

lists are now ready, and may be had on application to Mr. H. J. Hill, the Manager. All exhibits in the poultry department must be in by noon of Thursday, September 2nd.

## MONTREAL EXHIBITION

is early this year, August 19th to 28th. The poultry go in on Monday, August 23rd. Several additions to, and changes in, the list have been made, but we regret the names of the judges are not announced, which we think a mistake. We shall likely know, however, for next issue.

## CENTRAL CANADA EXHIBITION, OTTAWA,

is showing great enterprise under Mr. McMahon's management, and will this year eclipse all past efforts. Mr. Francis H. Gisborne is chairman of the poultry committee, and will see that the wants of exhibitors in this department are well supplied. We believe several additions have been made to the lists, which we propose to refer to again. Among the specials we notice a silver cup for the best exhibit of golden Wyandottes, and five dollars in cash for the best exhibit of turkeys, ducks and geese. Mr. Butterfield will judge all classes, and Mr. Benjamin, we presume, will again superintend in his usual efficient manner.

MR. E. H. BENJAMIN, OTTAWA,  
paid us a flying visit a few days since, and reports every-  
thing lovely in the eastern part of the province in "our"  
line. A hot fight is expected for the next show of the  
Eastern Ontario Association. The location will be decided  
at the annual meeting to be held during the holding of the  
fall exhibition.

WILL MR. DILWORTH KINDLY BOW?

Mr. James Anderson writes in the following strain, and  
being as he is, thoroughly practical, we greatly value his  
opinion expressed in such warm terms:

Springfield Farm, Guelph, 15th June, 1897.

*Editor Review:*

I was from home when the May number of your excellent  
journal arrived, and it was only to-day I came across the  
two valuable articles written by Mr. J. Dilworth, Toronto.  
The first especially, "A few general remarks to Farmers,"  
is worth its weight in gold, and should be published in  
every weekly paper in the province, and every agricultural  
paper, as farmers in general are ignorant of nearly all the  
valuable hints and receipts given. "How to prepare car-  
bolate of lime" alone is worth the price of the REVIEW  
for one year. I can also endorse every word said by Mr.  
Dilworth in regard to borrowing and lending poultry for  
exhibition purposes. I hope Mr. Dilworth will continue  
occasionally to give us his experience in the REVIEW, re  
poultry matters, as they are invaluable, not only to new be-  
ginners but to veteran poultry fanciers.

JAMES ANDERSON.

TOP VENTILATION.

Mr. J. L. Page referred to this matter some months ago,  
giving the editor credit for the remark with which he fell  
foul. On reference we find the paragraph was written by  
our valued contributor, "a practical man," who is, in every  
sense of the word, practical, in fact, his bread and butter  
(with etceteras) depends on the practical use of his practical  
experience in the poultry line. We referred Mr. Page's  
letter to him for reply, and following is what he says:

"Your letter and enclosure from Mr. Page, of Woodstock,  
received. The experience referred to was my own on  
several different occasions. The case referred to, or rather  
which gave me the experience that will be lasting, occurred  
in this way. We have in one poultry building a top ventila-  
tor in each wing, in the shape of a large tin tube, about  
2½ or 3 feet in diameter, reaching from outside to the ceil-  
ing inside, where the opening is covered by a window shade

operated by cords from the passage way. One evening in  
the winter of '94 or '95, it may have been in '93, someone  
pulled the ventilator wide open, and it remained open all  
night until I noticed it next day and closed it. Under the  
ventilator were seven Plymouth Rock cockerels, in a pen,  
kept for sale as breeders. They roosted almost directly  
under the ventilator, and were exposed to the downward  
current of cold air from it all night. The result was that  
five of the seven cockerels caught such a severe cold that it  
developed into "swelled head" roup of the most virulent  
kind. Despite all best known applications one cockerel  
died, his head a mass of corrupt matter. He was followed,  
I think, soon after by another. At any rate the most of  
them were so badly affected that we could not breed from  
them, and they were killed. I have had such lively experi-  
ence from top ventilation—from top ventilators—that I  
wish none of it, and have always strongly advised against  
such a system.

P.S.—I don't like to be too dogmatic, but you cannot go  
too strongly against top ventilation. We want fresh air, but  
certainly not in that way."

MONTREAL MEDALS.

Some time ago we inserted a complaint from Mr. A.  
Thompson, Allans' Corners, that he had been unable to col-  
lect the medals won by him at the Montreal Fall Exhibition.  
We, in justice to the association, are now pleased to say that  
about a month ago Mr. Thompson's longing was satisfied.  
If any other exhibitors who are entitled to medals have not  
received them they should apply to the manager.

HESS'S PAN-A-CE-A'S

Canadian business has been transferred to Ingersoll. Orders  
and applications for this well-known and popular specific,  
and also for their stock food should be addressed there.

NORTHVILLE, MICH., ASSOCIATION.

The Northville, Mich., Poultry Association was lately  
organized with a membership of about twenty-five. The  
object of the association will be for mutual improvement in  
the matter of breeding and raising fancy poultry and for the  
further purpose of arranging for a poultry exhibition there on  
Dec. 6th to 11th, at which Mr. J. Y. Bicknell is to judge.  
The following officers were elected: President, C. B. Bris-  
tol; vice-presidents, C. E. Smith, F. S. Fry; secretary, A.  
D. Brooks; assistant secretary, E. H. Lapham; treasurer  
and superintendent, Geo. Bradley; executive committee,  
Wm. Nevison, C. E. Smith, A. C. Fuller.

A pullet that lays is your money-maker. Watch her, note her, mark her with a leg-band, and do not lose track of her. If she lays early and regularly, she will look it. She will be bright, first as to her head; she will have a fairly long body and will have a quick business air about her. She will be active and important; she will be hungry and will meet you when you come with the feed pail. Glance around at the rest of the pen—you will see dumpish, stupid-looking pullets, pale in comb and ruffled in plumage; these are not laying, and the contrast will surprise you. Take out the dumpish ones and pen them separately and leave the bright ones alone to continue laying. The dumpish pullets are out of condition and need special care. They may be brought around and will lay later perhaps, but do not let them hamper your early layers.—*Michigan Fancier.*

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# PIGEONS AND PETS.



## BIRDS I HAVE MET.

BY WM. BARRETT, R. N.

### *The Tumbler Pigeon.*

**D**OUTBLESS there are many fanciers of this variety of pigeons living in the Midlands of England who would have liked to have travelled in the Persian Gulf with me during the years 1881-82.

If they had, probably they would have been astonished at the wonderful specimens of this bird both in color and action which I saw there.

I had the good fortune in 1881 of being introduced to one of the best Tumbler breeders at Bushire, a town situated on the north-east coast of the Persian Gulf. He was named Mahommed, and by occupation a baker. He had the contract of supplying the British Fleet with bread.

When he heard I was a fancier like himself, and fond of the bird, he called "Hum, mum." He invited me to his house, and although I could not speak much Persian and be less English, we nevertheless soon managed to understand each other when once I had a glance at his birds, and oh! what a treat it was to see his stock.

The houses at Bushire are flat roofed, and the principal occupation of many of the inhabitants is to sit on the roofs in the afternoon when the sun has lost its fierceness and bet on the tumbling powers of their pigeons.

My friend showed me up on the roof of his house. On arrival there I was regaled with sweetmeat (called "Hollowah," a mixture of sugar and butter); then I had some otto of roses sprinkled on my clothes. These ceremonies over, I was then shown the birds. My host had a total of fifty of the most even-marked pigeons I had ever seen, mostly Saddles, and all had shell crested heads; their faces were very much like our Rollers, and they also had feathers on their legs like the latter birds. I handled several, and was greatly surprised at their firmness; they were all in the pink of condition.

The loft was a stone structure built on the roof. It was about five feet high and about twelve feet square. The nest boxes were built of stone. For ventilation, small holes

were made close under the roof, which was flat. The only means of entry or exit for the birds was through the doorway.

He made me understand that he fed the birds morning and evening. The morning meal the birds did not get their fill, but after their evening fly they had as much as they could eat.

The food consisted principally of grain much resembling burley, a small amount of dari and millet being mixed with it; the two latter given mostly during the breeding season. One bird in the loft was of a rare color, each feather on it appeared to have blended together the colors of the peacock's tail. Unfortunately I could not understand by what crossings he was so successful in breeding such a handsome bird.

Each bird had a name, and really appeared to know it. You may be sure I was anxious to see his kit of birds in the air, and I can assure you, dear readers, that when I did see them I was more than surprised, for I never up to that time had seen such a grand sight.

He allowed out about thirty of the birds, and they walked out the doorway just like a company of men, going towards my host and his son, and feeding out of their hands. What real fanciers these men must have been, and it was no wonder their birds were in such splendid condition.

I was longing to see how they would start, but at last away they went at a word of command. The only way I can describe their mode of rising into space is just for you to fancy a spiral staircase leading towards the sky, having a base of 200 yards, and diminishing in circles until it was only about 25 yards at the height of about 500 yards, at which height their fun commenced, several rising above the main body and tumbling down to it as it gyrated in the air.

During the performances of the birds I had to take coffee with my host, and that beverage was, like his pigeons, perfect. After coffee, I made him understand that I would soon have to go, but said I should like to see his birds return.

Now, the baker's turn came. He clapped his hands, at the same time kept calling out the word "Beti, beti, beti," and afterwards commenced gesticulating like a sailor making a signal. Naturally, I thought he would frighten his birds; but, no—down they came, but with not the ease they ascended, as they all appeared to have gone tumbling mad. It was a miracle that some were not injured. At last, they pitched around the baker and his son, some of them swarming on their shoulders for all the world like bees.

Before leaving I had the good fortune of receiving a pair of young birds, which turned out all I desired. Many a time I was desired by my captain to give an exhibition of my birds when he had visitors on board. Unfortunately, one day at Bassora I was exhibiting my pets by allowing them to perform in the air, when a hawk flew out of the woods close by and carried one off. The other I fondled for years until it died.—*Feathered World.*

#### PIGEON HINTS.

BY W. FELLOWS.

For the first time since the beginning of the season the reports from the breeding lofts have been generally favourable. Eggs have been more numerous; young ones have been more plentiful and hatched out without much trouble, while those already in the nest are thriving apace. The chief cause of this improvement, without doubt, is the departure of the dreaded East winds, for which all good fanciers have prayed, and the short spell of warm weather we have recently experienced. Let us hope that the former have quitted us for good—at least, for this season—and that the present state of the weather will continue. Since last writing I have heard of some very good results from a number of fanciers who have delayed mating up until what would generally have been called very late in the season—viz., the end of March and the beginning of April. That they were right this year has since been abundantly proved by the results attained, for in the first round the eggs were, on the whole, well shelled, the young ones hatched out fairly well, and the second are doing remarkably well. How, then, can this state of things be explained? To my mind the explanation is simple enough. The extra rest has helped the birds to cast of the enervating-effects of the mild and muggy weather of the late winter, and enabled them to put on strength and stamina sufficient to withstand in a great measure the after effects of the blighting east winds. Besides this, the stock have not experienced the strain consequent on the early breeding, and will be fitter and stronger in the succeeding nest than those mated up a month or two earlier in the year. Those fanciers whose stock had become weakened by the continued laying of soft or partially shelled-eggs, and separated them for a time, will by this have seen the wisdom of their action in the restoration of strength and condition, and may now return them to the breeding loft with every chance of success, provided the weather continues favorable. For those who have delayed doing this there is still time to do so. A week or two separation, with plenty of exercise

in the fresh air and sunshine, will work wonders and enable them later on to have at least one nest of good strong youngsters before the season closes.

*Cleansing the Loft.*—Now that the hot weather has set in it would be well to think about giving the lofts a good clean out, and this is especially necessary where the cleansing operations before the mating up were only partially carried out. Where paint is the medium the boards should be first well brushed, and then washed down with hot water in which a little of some disinfectant has been dissolved. This will not only sweeten the place, but also tend to destroy the eggs and larvæ of those insect pests whose presence in the loft is so undesirable. Where lime wash is used the lime should be fresh and active, and the mixture used as soon as it is made and while quite hot. If this is done it will be more effectual in destroying insect life, while the addition of some disinfectant to the mixture will prove a still further advantage in bringing about the desired result. I have tried several kinds of disinfectants, but after all I consider carbolic acid and copperas the best and most effective one to use. The best time to commence operations is after the morning meal, when the young ones have been fed, the hen has come off the nest, and the cock settled there for the day. First turn out into the flights or otherwise remove the hens and those pairs not sitting or rearing young ones, then clear out the floor covering, well sweep down the walls and ceiling with a hard brush so as to remove all loose particles of the former coat, and remove all rubbish and dirt. While this is being done the lime can be slaking, and by the time you have finished it will be ready for mixing and can then be put on hot. Where the lofts are at all large it is best to divide the labour, on one day doing down the walls, ceiling, and the occupied nest boxes, and leaving the remainder for another day. This gives the place a better chance of drying before it is time to let the birds in again for the afternoon feed and the change of the birds on the nest. Another thing I have found very useful is to give the flooring a coat of limewash, as well as the other parts of the loft, and this can be done whether it consists of wood or concrete. Even where sawdust or sand is used on the floor there is always the danger of it becoming foul with the droppings, and where no such covering is used this is done to a much greater extent, and in the very hot weather is apt to give out a very offensive odour. A coat of limewash has a very sweetening effect on this, but it should only be put on in the hot weather, and should be allowed to dry thoroughly before the covering is put down. After a good many years' experience I have come to the conclusion that paint is, after all, the best covering for the inside as well as the outside of

the loft; at least, for the boarded parts. It has a nicer appearance, can be more readily cleaned down, it is quite as efficient in destroying insect life, and once dry, it does not come off on to the clothes. The chief drawback to its use is that the place must be cleared before the task can be commenced, and a day or two elapse while it is drying and the smell clearing off before the birds can be returned. If, however, this can be done at the commencement of the season, a wash down occasionally would be sufficient while the breeding is going on. The great fault of the lime is that the colour comes off when touched by the clothes; but, on the other hand, it is much cheaper than paint. I have heard of a good many remedies for this rubbing off, but have found nothing to answer as well as size, and even this is not thoroughly effectual. Should I commence loft building again I think I should use paint only, and advise its use to all young fanciers who are thinking of building new lofts.

(To be Continued.)



TORONTO CANARY AND CAGE BIRD SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting of this Society, on June 7th, was the smallest in two years, a quorum not being present till 8.50 o'clock, no doubt on account of rain. The President then took the chair and the business of the evening proceeded.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and adopted, an application for membership was received and accepted.

The exhibition delegate reported that lists would be ready for July meeting, and report from management committee was also received and adopted.

The committee on score cards had them on hand and passed them round, and account for same ordered to be paid. The quarterly election of committee was deferred till next meeting on account of small attendance. Standards for Lizard and cage bird classes were referred to management committee, also suggestions for "stock pairs" and "color fed classes."

In the monthly show competition for Mules, Dr. Boulton was awarded first, Mr. Park second prize.

Meeting adjourned at 10-20 p.m.

A committee meeting was held on June 14th, with Mr. Collins in the chair, Mr. Barnsdale not being present. Standards for Lizard and cage bird classes were adopted.

A class for stock pairs was added to schedule, and a class for "color fed" birds. This last addition is a new department for the society, it being clearly understood that the feeder and not the breeder was being encouraged to show what he could do for the improvement or attractiveness of our little feathered pets. A committee on room for young bird shows was appointed, and meeting adjourned at 10.05 p.m.

A. S. APPLETON.

Secretary.

Following is a copy of score card adopted:

TORONTO CANARY AND CAGE BIRD SOCIETY.

Score Card, 1897.

Description of Bird.....  
Owned by.....  
Scored by..... Date.....

	Points		Points
Beak.....		Crest, Form of Feather.....	
Head.....		" Fall or Droop.....	
Neck.....		" Centre.....	
Shoulders.....		" Front.....	
Back.....		" Back.....	
Chest.....		" Size.....	
Breast.....		" Density and Quantity of	
Wings.....		Feather.....	
Legs.....		" Color.....	
Tail.....		Cap.....	
Cin le.....		Ground Color.....	
Style.....		Eyelash.....	
Feather.....		Spangle.....	
Color, Depth & Purity.....		Lacing.....	
" Levelness.....		Feet.....	
Body.....		Feet.....	
Type.....		.....	
Position.....		.....	
Size.....		.....	
Condition.....		.....	
Total.....		Total.....	



FEEDING RABBITS.

BY T. J. AMBROSE IN *Fur and Feather.*

(Continued.)

In penning these lines, I do not endeavour to instruct the old hands, I leave them to follow their own plans. My object is to help the younger aspirants to compete on even terms with their more successful competitors, but I am even presumptuous enough to think that many of the older hands have a lot to learn in the way of how to put their exhibits down in really Ar trim. Many have a knowledge of what to give, but they don't know how to put theory into practice.

I do not claim that my way is the best, I don't claim any thing original or fanciful, I only claim the results that it has achieved for me, and I impart to others without the slightest

reserve the whole system that I practice. I have no secrets to wit<sup>h</sup> no difficult plan of procedure, but a sound common sense application of those foods which I have proved yield the best practical results. I am very thankful and deeply grateful to many who gave a lot of useful information in my early connection with the fancy.

The present season of the year furnishes me an excellent opportunity to explain how I treat my brood does and youngsters. I feed in the morning with green stuff, such as dandelions, hedge parsley, and cauliflower leaves, the latter I find an excellent food, and at this time of the year they are my chief article of green food. They are easy to obtain in towns during the winter months from greengrocers' shops, and if you can get a fresh supply each day they are, to my mind, equal to roots, and, of course, much cheaper. Dandelion and hedge barsley, as yet, is very scarce, the former to my mind, is the best green food grown; but those picking it in the early parts of the year must use caution in feeding, especially youngsters, as the growth is so full of sap, that trouble will often arise through scours. With the morning green food I also add a handful of nice fresh hay. For brood does and growing stock I prefer English clover that has a lot of growth in it representing little sticks; this, I find, is very much more strengthening and fattening than meadow hay. At night I generally feed very late on bread and milk, and the best white oats I can get. The bread and milk I prepare as follows: The bread generally being odd dry pieces, drawn from a supply I get from the baker, stale loaves that are unsaleable. Breaking all the pieces up I put it in a large pan, pouring in boiling water sufficient to cover it, put a cover over to keep the steam in, let it stand for a quarter of an hour,

then strain all the water I possibly can off, and add sufficient new milk to make it very sloppy, giving each doe a small quantity to commence with, and increasing it each night till it reaches about half a pint.

I suggest commencing with a small quantity because sudden changes of food often disagree with the stock. I also give about two handfuls of the best oats to the does, and always find that no food puts on condition and quality of coat better than sound whole oats. They are an absolute necessity, because of their strengthening properties to increase according to the size and appetites of the does during the trying time of pregnancy.

To me it appears a stupid fallacy to withhold the giving of stimulating foods until the does have littered. My advice is, don't on any consideration withhold anything that may reasonably increase the strength and stamina during pregnancy.

*(To be continued.)*

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### Pigeons.

**Hints to Beginners** (Pigeons) by F. M. Gilbert, new edition, 1894, revised with additional chapters. A most practical, timely and comprehensive work. Indispensable to the amateur. Price paper 50c. Address, H. B. Donovan, Toronto.

**For Sale**—I have several pairs left in the following varieties, Pouters in blue, red, pied and white; Owls in blue and white, black, blue and white Fantails, Nuns, Archangels, Homers, red winged Swallows, black English Carriers, one pair Satinettes, one pair Starling Priests, also odd birds in Dragons, black and silver, Nuns, and blue and black Swallows and Archangels. W M Ander-on, Palmerston, Ont.

**Jacobins—Pair Elegant Black**—Only \$10. Pair of Whites, grand quality, \$10; 3 white hens \$5 to \$7 each. Black and Red Cocks \$5 to \$7 each, white Fan hens \$5 to \$10 each. Stamp. Chas. Massie, Box 202, Port Hope, Ont. 298

**For Sale**—3 pairs nice white Fantails, pair silver dun Swallows, pair of red wing Turbits; pair each, solid red, badge, almond, kite and bald Tumblers, Nuns and Archangels, Russian Trumpeters, prices, etc., for reply—stamp. Visitors welcome. R. Burroughs 14 Phoebe St., Toronto.

**W. S. Perrin, Newmarket, Ont.**—Breeder of Barb, Jacobins, Fantail and Homing Pigeons. Write for prices. Six pairs of Homers 95 and 97 birds, for sale, cheap.

**1897 BANDS**—The official enamelled bands of the Tumbler Club are furnished by me at 4c each or 45c per dozen, without initials, numbered from 1 up. Aluminum bands for pigeons and poultry will not tarnish, always the same color; with year and number, 1 to 100, \$3 per 100, with year only, \$1.50 per 100, with initial 25c per 100 letters; send 2c stamp for circular and sample. Remittance must accompany order. T. Willetts, 180 Lawrence St, Lowell, Mass. 797

### Rabbits and Pets.

**Several Pairs** of fine young Lop-eared Rabbits—Cheap. W. M. Anderson, Palmerston.

**Belgian Hares.** We breed this variety only and offer some fine young stock not related, also three good does in young. J. H. Paton, 167 Ossington Ave., Toronto.

**Fine Young Ferrets for Sale**—\$1.25 each, or \$2 a pair, if taken soon; 1 two year old, \$2.50. Martin Sider, Winger, Ont.