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THE
POULTRY CHRONICLE.

VOLUME I.

FROM THE 1ST OF MARCH TO THE 30TH OF AUGUST.

Being from No. 1 to No. 27.

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TO OUR READERS.

Six months have elapsed since the appearance of our first number, and we are now able to present a volume to the public.

At the outset we were prepared for difficulties, and we acknowledge with gratitude that, thanks to our friends and their kind support, they have been much less than we expected. To them, both as contributors and subscribers, we tender our best thanks; and while we hope we have redeemed all our early pledges in giving useful information and amusement, and in avoiding anything personal or likely to cause pain, we ask a continuance of that support which, while it increases our usefulness, also lightens our labours.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 1.]

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.

Poultry Shows.

Royal Dublin Society's Spring Show, April 18, and three following days. Assistant Secretary, W. E. Steele, Esq., M.B. Entries close April 3.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, Wednesday and Thursday, the 13th and 14th of September. Honorary Secretary, T. McCann, Esq., Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules.

THAT Poultry has of late assumed a position of more importance than was expected, even by its most sanguine advocates, is an admitted fact. This result need astonish no one, when it is considered that a subject, heretofore neglected, has at length come before the public urging its legitimate claims, and that the taste of the public is generally admitted to be, in the main, a correct one.

After a successful beginning, and after five years of continued, or we may say increasing, enthusiasm in the pursuit of poultry knowledge, while shows, amateurs, and exhibitors have multiplied, no journal has appeared as its exclusive advocate. It has been an adjunct to many highly respectable and talented periodicals; but contributors on poultry matters have perforce been content with nooks and corners, and some articles, replete with truth and valuable information, have submitted to muti-

lation, or, from press of matter or vice of form or composition, have been altogether cast aside.

Believing such a state of things to be incompatible with the present position of the question, a few amateurs have determined to try whether something better may not be done for their favourite pursuit. The result is the appearance of this, their first sheet. As from those who come before the public a profession of faith is expected, we would say—

We are the organ of no party. We wish to claim every amateur, every exhibitor, and every society in England and the United Kingdom, as friends and patrons. We offer no fine writing; we ask the contributions of all who have anything to publish of general interest. Our letter-box will be open to all friends, and we shall always be glad to see it full. Every inquiry shall be answered to the best of our ability. We offer and expect the most perfect courtesy, even where differences exist or may arise: on no other terms will anything appear in our columns.

We believe we supply a "want" in the poultry world, and therefore come forward with confidence.

We would wish to be a "Journal of plain things," accessible both in price and matter to all classes.

We believe the poultry question may

be turned much to the advantage of the agricultural cottage population of this country; the subject will often appear in our columns, and we ask the assistance of the rural clergy in carrying out our ideas.

A Few Words on Pheasantries.

MUCH misapprehension exists about these in general. They are of two sorts; those required for a pair or two of gold or silver pheasants, and those required for breeding the birds intended to stock or replenish the coverts.

It is of the latter we would speak in this paper.

A pheasantry should never be a permanent building. Change is necessary for the health of the birds, and often called for by other circumstances, which could not be foreseen at the time of the erection. The least expensive is at the same time the most useful plan, and it is as follows:—

For a cock and three hens, the laying-pen should be from eighteen to twenty feet long, by twelve wide. If there are bushes or brambles on the ground, no other covering is necessary for the birds to hide in or for the hens to lay; if such does not exist, a place should be hollowed out, about six feet by two, shelving to a depth of four or five inches in the middle, and filled with dry sand. They dust themselves in it, and the hens lay their eggs there. If there be no bushes, a felled fir-tree should be thrown over the excavated spot; or a pole may be placed on two uprights thirty inches from the ground, and bavons or fagots laid against it on each side, to afford them a covert or a hiding-place.

The pen should be surrounded by hurdles, made of oak laths, seven feet high, and nailed on cross-pieces at the top and bottom. The laths should be one inch wide and one inch apart, and care must be taken that they touch the ground everywhere. They are fastened to stout poles,

securely driven into the ground. These hurdles may be made of any size, but are usually six feet long, with the exception of one, which is three feet less, in order to admit a door of that width, which, made of the same material and in the same manner, is fastened to one of the posts and shuts against another: for this reason, the door should always be in the corner of the pen.

This is all that is necessary for a laying-pen for pheasants; and the advantages are, first, cheapness, and secondly convenience, because, when the breeding season is over, and the birds are either turned out or put together in the large pens for the winter, the hurdles occupy but little space, and can be laid by in a loft or barn, till required the next year. It also gives facilities for changing the ground for pens, which all breeders know to be most advantageous to the birds, and most conducive to health and consequent success.

A. R.

A few Hints to Committees of Poultry Shows.

IN these poultry-loving days, it may be somewhat interesting to your readers to peruse a few "jottings-by-the-way" that have engaged the attention of one whose connection with poultry exhibitions during the past year has been somewhat extensive. I will presuppose that a few admirers of poultry generally wish to institute an exhibition in a locality where nothing of the kind has been hitherto attempted.

It will be an obvious fact, that, to be *permanently* successful, it is imperative that it should be *self-supporting*. To procure this desirable end, the following arrangements are essential:—*There must be a liberal prize-list*. This secures not only a numerous entry, but, what is far more important, the exhibition of *first-class* poultry; for I beg to assure committees, that unless superior fowls enter the lists (thereby engaging public curiosity), the pecuniary success will prove very questionable.

Some positive arrangement should also be insured, by which each particular member of the committee should fulfil the superintendence of some single department; for it must be remembered, that though in theory the management of a poultry show is all pleasant enough, in practice, difficulties frequently arise that were never anticipated: hence it is, the gentlemen who are "ambitious for office" will do well to keep in memory, that occasionally they must "put their shoulder to the wheel," as well as direct others, even though care may have been already taken to obtain the services of a numerous and vigorous staff of subordinates.

In the selection of a building for the purposes of the exhibition, it is highly important that not only a perfect ventilation should be secured, but also an equality of light, as far as possible, for every pen that may compete. Angry and sore have oft-times been the complaints on the latter head that have reached my ears from exhibitors, the misfortunes of whose fowls it has been to occupy a coop where even their bodily presence was at first sight doubtful. That persons whose poultry are thus situated should think they have just cause for complaint, is natural, especially if their favourites are exhibited in the Hamburg, Sebright, or any other class in which the ground-colour and markings are important points, both with reference to the awards of the judges and the likelihood of sale when they are at length submitted to the public. Where it is possible, I am myself quite the advocate of a single row of pens (not a double row, placed one upon the other), for it is well known by practised exhibitors, to how much superior advantage fowls exhibit when placed near the eye, than in a dark, dismal-looking pen in the bottom story. When the show is thronged with visitors, it is certain the lower competitors often escape observation nearly altogether, more especially if the avenues are somewhat circumscribed for width between the pens. If the top of the pens is wire-work,

instead of wood, it is, of course, decidedly preferable, especially if the show is open in the evening. If two rows (an upper and an under one) are a compulsory arrangement, I suggest that if an exhibitor sends more than one pen in a class, his fowls should be equally divided as regards advantages. If possible, it is well to avoid the introduction of either geese, ducks, or any waterfowl in the upper pens, as they cause sad annoyance to those whose ill-luck it is to occupy a less-elevated position. Another most ill-judged plan (too generally adopted) is, to place Bantams in pens only half (or perhaps even less) the width of the other coops, while the same depth is retained; experience proves, and the slightest reflection will convince any one, that, when huddled together at the farther extremity, they, though the most pert and saucy generally, become all but invisible. The water should be so supplied, that the fowls cannot paddle in it, and should be changed twice each day. Now for a word on the feeding during confinement. By all means, never adopt the plan of HARD corn, it will be the source of much after-regret; let the fowls be fed, as soon as received, on barley-meal, mixed with water, as thick and friable as possible, for poultry generally strongly dislike anything that hangs tenaciously to their bills. A feed of this description, morning and evening daily, with a very small handful of light corn to each pen about mid-day, simply to promote exercise, will be the plan most likely to insure a successful issue. If, on the other hand, whole corn is adopted, the certain consequences will be, numerous cases of "crop-bound" fowls from indigestion, primarily produced by excitement and want of accustomed exercise. Most certainly, if it is procurable, by all means allow a little green food daily; in this, the difficulty is generally to obtain a supply. Should any fowls exhibit symptoms of debility, let them immediately have toast and ale (bread and ale will do) as a stimulant, for my experience tells me that

off-times have valuable fowls escaped certain death by its application.

At the late Manchester exhibition, another excellent (though hitherto unattempted rule) was adopted: the absolute prohibition of sticks, parasols, or umbrellas, in the hands of visitors. This proved to be a most popular one to *amateur exhibitors*; and the comparative rest and quietude of the whole of the imprisoned fowls, spoke volumes in its favour. Sincerely do I hope it will be a constant proviso in future announcements. It is well known the ill usage of a *single fowl* at once raises the noisy ire of ALL the body general. I will guard an infant society from another trouble into which many an unfortunate first attempt has led others, viz., responsibility on their part in case of an *unavoidable* accident. This may be easily and justly attained by the introduction of a clause in the addendum to the prize-list (when first issued), which shall read thus:—"Every possible care and attention will be paid by the managing committee to the welfare and comfort of the poultry intrusted to them; but in case of *unavoidable* accidents, they do not hold themselves responsible, the risk being borne by the exhibitor, unless it is proved the injury arose from the negligence of either the committee themselves or their subordinates." This suggestion has already saved one committee a very considerable sum, in a case where the fowls, too, were entered at a hundredfold their intrinsic value: this, if, adopted, may prove of equal value to others.

The duration of a show must naturally bear some proportion to the expenses incurred; but by all means limit it as far as possible. This leads me to another and very important particular in my little essay: let nothing whatever prevent the *immediate return of the poultry the instant the exhibition closes*. Its fulfilment will give the greatest pleasure to those most interested, you could by possibility offer them; the reverse will entail many wrathful expressions, and destroy that confi-

dence which must be maintained, to warrant success in future years. On this account, a sufficient *force* is indispensable to insure a speedy and correct return. In conclusion, as to the payment of the prizes, the returns for birds sold, and incidental expenses of every kind, let me remind all newly-formed committees, they will not in anywise decrease their popularity by a full acknowledgment of the truth of the old adage, "Short reckonings make long friends."

Birmingham.

E. H.

Cochin China Fowls,

Are they always to remain fancy Stock, or are they to take a place as useful Fowls?

It is a pleasant thing to see our poultry-yards well stocked with the best varieties of fowls, and in this day of poultry fancy there are few families which have not become inoculated with a strong desire at least to find some little corner, if it be no better than a kitchen area, in which to incarcerate half a dozen fowls of some choice kind. In this small space, as many chickens are usually bred as can possibly be crowded into it. For one fancier to rear three hundred is a matter of quite usual occurrence, and we need only attend one of the poultry sales by auction which happen so often, to notice that a sufficient number is forced into the market to make the value very small.

If you travel by a railway, poultry becomes the subject of conversation among your travelling companions; a crowing neighbour salutes you from another carriage, or perhaps a fine Cochin China is held up at the window to show the beauty of his points. If you lose sight for years of some acquaintance, you are pretty, sure to meet him at a poultry show, or to encounter his name among the exhibitors. The poultry fancy is an arena on which all persons, from the prince to the peasant, meet and agree—or disagree—as the case may be. Fowls are, in fact, in every

one's head, in every one's mouth, and in every one's way.

Now we may naturally suppose that a community paying so much attention to poultry must be well supplied with eggs, and that in a metropolis like ours, with so many amateurs and poultry-breeders in its immediate neighbourhood, the markets must be regularly stocked with fresh eggs at a moderate price. But alas for the truth! How far from this natural supposition! In some dairies in London, eggs, during the past winter, have been sold for fourpence each; and *these were not fresh*. Twopence and twopence halfpenny each is the lowest price for new-laid eggs. Yet Cochin China fowls, of which we have so many, are acknowledged by all persons to be excellent layers, and to possess the good quality of giving an abundant supply of eggs at the time when they are most scarce from other descriptions of poultry.

The increase in the consumption of eggs is a matter which cannot be accurately ascertained, as a great number are now used by families keeping fowls, who would not have used so many when they were a purchased luxury; but the importation (as may be seen from the statistical returns) increases. Hence arises the question, whether *good* fowls might not be kept with advantage for use instead of for fancy? and also another, whether, if Cochin China fowls, especially, had been reared and kept with reference to a quality in which they excel most other kinds, we should still be importing eggs so largely?

It has been frequently remarked, that Cochin China fowls are deficient in meat upon the breast, but it is a well-known fact that *all* are not so; from which we may infer that this is a fault which might be corrected by careful breeding. During the three or four years in which these fowls have become so general, what progress have we made towards this desirable reformation? Let those who have of late carefully inspected our poultry exhibitions decide whether we can now show even as *many* plump, deep-made, square-built

fowls as we could have done two or three years ago. Cochin China fowls of one uniform shade of colour throughout are now common enough, but have we not "paid too dear for our whistle," and sacrificed to this one point of colour some of much greater utility?

Would it not be very useful and profitable to the owners also, if many stocks were to be established and kept positively for use. Let the cock which is selected be broad, compactly made, short on the legs, deep-formed, and square-built, with a full, broad chest, and plenty of meat about the breastbone; let him come of a good laying stock, and give him hens that are worthy of him, both in shape and descent. If these fowls are also good in colour, so much the better; if they are *not*, never mind. If the colour *should* be clear and pure throughout, discover, if you can, that this beauty has not been produced by inbreeding, or any other circumstance that may lead to disappointment. If they are very large, notice that they are not also coarse; for it may be a circumstance worthy of observation, whether coarse-looking fowls are not also coarse eating.

It seems exceedingly likely that stocks of Cochin China fowls thus chosen with reference to their useful instead of only to their fancy properties, would prove much more profitable to their owners than raising expensively a very large number of chickens with the hope that some of them may realize fanciful prices, and there is no question whatever that it would be an improvement which would be fully appreciated, if a community like ours could be supplied with fresh eggs for about the price now paid for those which are imported, and with chickens for eating for a moderate charge.

E. W.

Chit-Chat.

It has been decided to hold the Colchester Second Annual Exhibition about the last week in December, 1854.

W. J. Beeby, Esq., of Chaldon, has been

presented with a piece of plate by the committee of the Reigate show, in acknowledgment of his services in acting twice as judge at that exhibition.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS IN AUSTRALIA.
—The first brood of this valuable description of poultry in the colony was hatched yesterday morning. It will be remembered that very high prices were offered in England for fowls of this breed, and eggs of Cochin China fowls were sold at a guinea apiece. For the introduction of these birds we are indebted to Mr. A. Fyfe, who brought them from Singapore. They are a great addition to our poultry, and will materially improve the meagre stock we at present possess.—*The above important announcement was given in the "Geelong Advertiser" for Oct. 29th, 1853.*

Brahma Pootra Fowls.

AFTER the many various opinions that have been published on these birds, and after giving them the weight which is due to many, from the experience of the writers, and their admitted disinterestedness, it is almost a serious matter to publish another, which of necessity must be adverse to many.

We believe, in many instances, they have been most unfairly judged; because birds of unquestionable impurity of race, have been taken as a standard, and an opinion thereon has not only been formed, but published. This has not been wilfully done, but the conclusion has been arrived at without due preliminary inquiry, that they are simply Cochin China fowls, of another colour than those we have hitherto possessed.

As we have to do with the fowls now in this country, it is hardly important to set about inquiring where they came from; one great American authority says he imported them from the neighbourhood of the river in India, whose name they bear. A military officer lately told us he had seen them in Ceylon.

To form a just opinion, it is, we think, necessary to study their habits, and to breed them. We think we see enough in their shape, to justify us in holding them distinct from the Cochin Chinese; but still more do we find it in their habits and produce; at the same time we are rather giving the result of our experience, than wishing to obtrude our conclusions on our readers.

In the shape of Cochin China fowls, no one can fail to remark the absence of breast, which is, indeed, one characteristic, as the lack of it, enables the fluffy thigh to become more apparent, and the wedge-like shape of the bird; while wide behind and tapering to the breast, favours the development of those points which constitute the chief beauties in that breed. Now, in the Brahma Pootra, this lack is materially supplied, inasmuch as there is a breast, amply developed, and possessing a rotundity, approaching, when in hand, to what game-fowl breeders and amateurs call cleverness, which is, that a well-proportioned fowl, placed breast downwards on the palm of the hand, should balance. This cannot be where the breast is wanting.

A main merit of the Cochin China fowl, is its domesticity, and its happy contented disposition; satisfied with a small run, and never seeking to roam. This is the admitted character of the bird, and it never deviates from it. We have known instances where seventy of these birds were kept in a small yard, with a grass run of three quarters of an acre, and where it has been necessary to drive them forcibly out of the yard to the grass; and the owner assured us he thought there were many parts of the field where the birds had never been. The Brahma Pootras wander over acres, and, except to bask in hot weather, never keep at home.

The Cochin China fowl, although a great eater, must have his food provided for him, while the Brahma Pootra will go abroad to seek it. A lady lately imported some of these birds, and after they had been in charge of the man (who had

looked after Cochins for years) some days, asked his opinion. "Madam," said he, "these will get fat, where the Cochins will starve." The Cochin China fowl seeks its roost early, and besets the hen-house door. The Brahma Pootra always roams far from home, till almost dark. We have seen them following a man at plough, and picking in the newly turned furrows, three fields from home. We believe a similar thing was never witnessed in the others.

It is an old axiom in breeding, that if like produces like, it is a proof of purity, because where there is a cross, however remote it may be, the parents will throw back. We have bred a great many, and everything indicates distinctness of breed. The chickens are all hatched either black or yellow; at the age of six weeks a change takes place, the black get gradually grey, and look as if their feathers were covered with a cobweb, while the yellow become white, and then speckled like a silver pencilled Hamburg chicken. At a more mature age, they all become grey, some more pencilled than others. We have no doubt they are even harder than Cochins. In November last, during the hard frosts, and the little snow we then had, we had them five weeks old, in an open field, without any other cover than that afforded by the rip in which the hen was placed. At daybreak they were seen, in spite of the cold, running about in perfect health; and of eighteen, only two died. They are less expensive to keep, and are quite as prolific in eggs as the Cochins.

The only difficult point is the variety of comb, viz. the pea-comb and the single: while we give the preference to the former, therein following the judgment of the best of the recognized judges in America, we do not see why both may not be pure, as in Dorkings. But there are other points in which these cocks differ from their Cochin brethren. The head, the prominent breast, we had almost said protuberant, the carriage of the tail, and above all, its shape. Close observers will notice

that not only is it more upright than in Cochins, but the feathers that would be sickles in another breed, more resemble those in the tail of the black-cock, and, like them, spread outwards from the centre.

As in the early days of Cochins, these birds have been mated with those of other breeds, and the produce has been exhibited as pure specimens. We know many instances of it, where it has been openly admitted that they have been bred between Brahma cocks and Buff hens. Such will lead to disappointment; and no opinion can be a just one, based on such an exhibition.

It may safely be left in the hands of amateurs to decide whether they are or are not a valuable addition to our poultry stock. Seeing, as we do, the vast difference in many essential points between them and the Cochins, we believe them to be a distinct breed. We have given the result of our trials, and the basis of our conclusions. Those who have pure birds may now test them.

J. B.

Schedules of Poultry Shows.

The rules of the Royal Dublin Society include the following: "Chickens, Turkey poults, ducklings, and goslings must have been reared by, as well as be the property of, the exhibitor."

Malvern Poultry Show.—It is with a more than pleasing recollection of two halcyon days last September, that we call the attention of our readers to the prize-list, just published, of the Great Malvern Show. The novelty of this exhibition is, that with one exception (an adult class for Dorkings), it is to be a show for *chickens*, being confined to birds of the year. The prizes amount to about £100, varying from £3 to 10s. Great encouragement is also offered to cottagers of the neighbourhood: Exhibitors are permitted to sell their birds, or retain them, at pleasure; "ten per cent. will be deducted from all

sales made." The hampers containing the birds will be conveyed from and to the Worcester station without expense to the owners. We all know the value of a good character, and therefore cheerfully record that last year every bird was despatched before the show had been closed six hours, and all accounts were immediately settled. The exceeding beauty of the spot, of the garden in which the show is held, the excellence of all the arrangements, and the time of year at which it takes place, make this an exhibition from which no one can come away without feeling gratified.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

EGGS BECOMING STALE.

In reply to your flattering wish that I should become a contributor to your letter-box, I must say I feel my own deficiency too much to have a wish to "rush into print;" still, as I feel a great interest in the infant you are trying to foster (which I hope may become a giant), anything I know relative to poultry shall be at your service from time to time.

Have you ever noticed how much longer Cochin eggs keep *good* than those of any other variety? I mean good both for hatching and culinary purposes. I will give you two instances. I always date my eggs when laid. Last year four eggs, laid at the end of March, were by mistake put in a small basket in the cupboard of a room without a fire, and forgotten. In August I found them; they did not float in water, so I boiled them hard for my chicks. The *smell* and *taste* were quite as good as of eggs a week old; the yolk had sunk slightly, but did not adhere to the shell, although these eggs had laid on the side, *uncovered* and *unturned* for more than four months.

Another proof that they are not easily spoiled I will give. I placed a hatch of Cochin eggs under a game hen in the evening; she sat during the night and part of the next day; when she came off to eat, she forsook them. I left them two days in the nest, to try to induce another broody hen to take to them, but without success. I removed them, kept them apart from other eggs, turned them regularly for more than a week, re-set them, and from four prolific eggs hatched two live chickens. One I reared, the other, which was injured in hatching, died in a week.

I think it would be difficult to find any eggs except Cochins that would have stood either of the tests.

MARTHA.

PHEASANTS BROODING IN CONFINEMENT.

SIR,—I have seen a statement somewhere, that hen pheasants have never been known to sit in confinement. I have it in my power to prove the contrary.

In 1852, I had a cock and three hens in a small place (I will not dignify it by the name of an aviary, for it is open at the top, and the birds are pinioned or have their wings cut); one of the hens made a nest, sat, and hatched five young ones. These, unfortunately, the other pheasants killed directly they came from under the mother.

In 1853, the same hen sat again on eleven eggs, and hatched seven, when I let her out into my small garden, and a better mother I never saw; she would allow no strangers to come near her without flying at them. At the end of seven weeks the gapes (that horrible disease, for which I know no remedy) killed them all.

It was a curious sight to see the old pheasant make her nest of ivy-leaves and hay, the former of which she always used to cover her eggs with when she left her nest, doing so by standing on the edge and throwing the leaves over her back.

I have a cock pheasant who comes into the house, lays himself down on the rug before the fire, and spreads out his wings and tail till he is dry. If he cannot find any person in the room, he walks upstairs to the different bed-rooms, and if with no better success, stands on the top of the stairs and crows till somebody comes. I have now a young cock of last year almost as tame.

I thought these few lines might be interesting from

A COUNTRY RECTOR.

MR. EDITOR,—A few years since every one would have laughed at the idea of a poultry paper; but times are changed, and for the last six months everybody has wanted one. At last you have come forward to chronicle the doings of the Gallinaceous world, and we hail your advent with much pleasure and gratitude.

We hope you intend to take us all on our own merits; in fact, that you will give us a clear stage and no favour. The preference shown by many amateurs for one particular race of us to the prejudice of the others, has caused many differences among us, and has set us all by the wattles. My neighbour the game cock threatens to pitch into every one he comes near, which has so frightened the Spanish *senoras* in the next pen that they are quite pale; the Cochin China cock has roared for help till he is hoarse, and the Friezlands, our neighbours, are so terrified, that they look as if

they had been drawn through a hedge backwards. Now, dear Mr. Editor, it is to you we look for help to put us right. Describe us in your columns in such a clear, lucid manner, that we may know our places, and not, as is now often the case, be found at our gatherings in somebody else's pen, and bearing somebody else's name.

To you we also appeal to advise our masters and mistresses as to the proper care of us, that our food be suitable and good for our health, our beverage pure and wholesome, and our houses warm, clean, and well ventilated. Accomplish this for us, and you will have our best wishes for the success of "The Poultry Chronicle."

Signed, on behalf of domestic poultry in general, BANTAM.

Pigeons.

MANY people view pigeons only as ingredients for a pie, and do not think any more of those beautiful birds they see started after the race on the Derby day, than they did of those they devoured on the course for luncheon. With sharpers, fools are called pigeons; although I do not think the resemblance striking, as any pigeon-keeper knows they are generally exceedingly wary and cautious. They have been domestic pets from time immemorial, and have been made use of in various ways, from carrying the letter of an emperor to participating in the tricks of a street conjurer. They have, from their diversity of colour, shape, and characteristics, occasioned many disputes and arguments as to their genealogy, and many scientific men differ as to whether they be descended from one common stock. Of late years, the "Fancy" has been in a languishing state, and almost confined to the lower ranks of society; but the institution of exhibitions, and the premiums given for good specimens, aided by the real beauty of the birds themselves, have tended much to raise them in the estimation of poultry fanciers.

There are many who, if they could, would keep fowls, but cannot, for want of space; to these, pigeons may form a substitute, and a cheap one, too. There are so many sorts of pigeons, and they are of such different temperaments and habits,

that the amateur may provide himself with pets of a kindred spirit to his own. If he be of a go-a-head nature, there is the Carrier; is he volatile, there's the Tumbler; if he be an anchorite, he may have Capuchins and Owls for his companions; is he fond of female society, he can have plenty of Nuns; or is he of a warlike nature, he can have Trumpeters and Helmets; if he is sulky, he may keep company with Pouters: in fact, almost all dispositions may find a pigeon to agree with them, if only in one point—that of name.

All manufacturing people cultivate pigeons; in Spitalfields, Birmingham, Manchester, and in Belgium, great numbers of first-rate birds are kept.

There are three classes of people who keep pigeons. Pigeon-fanciers, pigeon-breeders, and people who suffer a few mongrels to fly about their premises, and, in a great measure, get their own living. Pigeon-fanciers are those who, from the love of the birds themselves, cherish them for their beauty, and keep the different varieties in various shades of perfection.

The pigeon-breeders are those who have large dove-cots, and supply the markets, pigeon-shootings, &c. There is an immense number of young pigeons imported annually from France for London consumption, and the fact that, at prices as low as six, seven, and eight shillings per dozen, it pays a Frenchman to send young pigeons to England, proves that large numbers may be profitably reared at a small expense.

Hints to Exhibitors.

ALTHOUGH dissimilarity of plumage may sometimes be overlooked by judges in a pen, legs of divers colours will always disqualify.

When you are about to exhibit a cock and three hens, accustom them to be together for some days before they leave home. Recollect in a yard, there is always room for a hen to escape, but in a pen, she can only seek a corner, and resign herself

to the attack of her assailant; as this is generally on the head, death too often follows.

Send no black birds with coloured feathers, no white Cochins with green legs, no Dorkings with four toes, no Cochins with clean legs. It may seem needless to advise this, but how many prizes are lost by inattention. H. R.

To Correspondents.

To J. J.—Corns are uncommon in Spanish fowls, and we are, therefore, induced to ask what can cause them in yours? If the perches are too high, they may be caused by the fall of the birds on the ball of the foot, when they fly down. If the birds are kept in a paved yard, or on other stones, that would cause it. We make no doubt if you bring your perches to within two feet of the ground, and let your fowls walk on grass, they will soon lose their corns. If very large and hard they may be trimmed, but we think if you adopt our suggestion it will be unnecessary.

W. J. B. says, "Perhaps you will kindly inform me in your periodical, what amateurs mean by feeding your poultry too much? For eight years my practice has been to let my Cochins eat as much as they please, and my stock has always been acknowledged to produce first-rate layers." We fancy those who speak of "feeding too much," must allude to a large use of meat, and an exciting diet. We have never found it injurious to give fowls as much as they like to eat of plain corn and meal, with an exceedingly sparing use of greater delicacies.

M. B. H. wishes some correspondent would kindly inform her exactly what should be the points of a Ptarmigan fowl?

Advertisements.

Recently published, price 8d., or by post, 1s., **THE POULTRY PENTOLOGUE**; or, Five Rules for Fancy Fowls and Fowl Fanciers, intended for popular use and practical purposes. By JAMES FURNEAUX, Esq., President of the Devon and Cornwall Poultry Association.

London: W. S. ORR & Co., Amen-corner, Manchester: GEORGE SIMMS, Birmingham: J. H. BEILBY, Liverpool: SMYTHE, Penzance: ROWE, Plymouth: Published by ROGER LIDSTONE, George-street; and Fore-street, Devonport.

Now ready, price One Shilling,

PROFITABLE POULTRY: their Management in Health and Disease. By W. B. TEZETMEIER, author of a series of papers on the Diseases of Poultry in the *Cottage Gardener*, the *Poultry Book*, &c. &c.

Fraser's Magazine, December, 1853, in a lengthened review extending to thirteen pages, states, "There is more good sense and practical knowledge in this modest shilling's worth than in many a more voluminous treatise, and it is only necessary to say that the illustrations are by Harrison Weir, to give a notion of their characteristic truth."

The *Field*, September 24.—"Scarcely a single person among the large number that will be tempted to purchase this book will think his shilling unprofitably spent; the author enters into his subject *con amore*; it is evident that his knowledge has not been gained from hearsay."

The *Lady's Newspaper*, December 10.—"This very excellent and useful work * * With the information derived from it any person may commence poultry-keeping without risk of loss or failure."

London: DARTON & Co., Holborn Hill.

FANCY POULTRY.—A successful Exhibitor has the following very valuable stock to dispose of.—4 Silver Cinnamon Cochin Pullets, short yellow legs, heavily-feathered thick-set birds, all match, £1. 10s. each. 2 superior Black Cochin Hens, £2. 2s. each. 5 very superior well-feathered Black Cockerels, price from 2 to 5 guineas each. White Cock, bred by Mrs. Herbert, about 20 months old, sire of prize chickens at last Birmingham Show, £2. 2s. Several beautiful White Cockerels from prize stock, bright yellow legs heavily feathered, price from 2 to 5 guineas each. Ditto Pullets from £2. 2s. to £2. 10s. each. Ditto ditto, with legs slightly stained, 15s. each. Buff Cochin Cock, very superior bird, from prize stock, 1½ year old, price 30s. Several excellent Buff Cochin Pullets, clear hackle, from prize stock, £1. 1s. and upwards. Also a Silver Spangled Bearded Poland Cockerel and Pullets, highly commended at Birmingham, £3. 3s. per pair, and two frizzled hens, 7s. 6d. each, and two Blue Poland first prize Pullets, at £1. 1s. each.

Amateurs can be supplied with Eggs from any of the above breeds.

Wanted, fine specimens of Rouen Ducks, White Bearded Polands, and Silver and Gold Spangled Poland Hens.

Apply, enclosing stamped directed envelope, to T. S., Post-office, Bridgenorth.

COCHIN CHINA POULTRY, &c.—Eggs from Prize Birds.—In reply to the very urgent applications from numerous amateurs, Mr. JOHN FAIRLIE, of Cheveley-park, Newmarket, is now prepared to DISPOSE OF a limited number of EGGS, from his celebrated prize Cochins, Brahma Pootras, Scotch Bokies, Dorkings, &c., according to the dates of the orders received.

GENUINE PRIZE STOCK.—POULTRY EGGS.—White Shanghae, £1. 4s. per dozen. Black ditto, £1. 4s. Lemon ditto, 12s. Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, 8s. White-faced Spanish, £1. 4s. White Muffed Poland, £2. Ptarmigan, £3. 3s. White Turkey, £2.

Apply to WILLIAM HAMMOND, Stubington, near Fareham, Hants.

EGGS from PRIZE WHITE and CLEAR BUFF COCHINS, and WHITE-FACED SPANISH FOWLS, from 12s. the set.

Apply to SAMUEL HILL, Rose Hill, Heywood, near Manchester.

SPANISH FOWLS.—Eggs from Birds which took prizes at Southampton and Salisbury, themselves bred from winners at Hitchin, Surrey, and Metropolitan shows, crossed with one of Poole's best cocks, may be had at 2s. 6d. each, including package, by enclosing post-office order, payable at Hartfordbridge, addressed to Mr. JOHN CLARKE, Shrub Cottage, Hartley Row.

WHITE, BLACK, and BUFF COCHIN CHINA, WHITE POLANDS, and PTARMIGAN EGGS for SITTING. The White and Black Cochins have taken prizes at the Surrey Gardens, Winchester, Southampton, and Salisbury Exhibitions.

| | |
|---|--------|
| White, per dozen | £2 2 0 |
| Black | 1 10 0 |
| Very choice Buff Cochins | 1 1 0 |
| White Polands (Prize Birds at Southampton and Surrey Gardens) | 1 10 0 |
| A few Sittings of Ptarmigans | 2 2 0 |

A few Ptarmigan Chickens for Sale.

P.O. orders payable to Mr. FREDERIC FLIGHT, 72, High-street, Winchester.

PRIZE FOWLS.—EGGS from White, Buff, and Cinnamon Cochins, White-faced Black Spanish, Gold Pencilled Hamburg, and White Silk Cochins China Fowls which took Prizes at the Great Metropolitan, Hitchin, Yarmouth, Cheveley Park, and Cheltenham Poultry Shows, may be had upon application to J. B., Quay, Great Yarmouth. N.B.—A few first-class birds for sale.

PRIZE BUFF COCHINS.—EGGS for Sitting from Fowls which took First Prizes at Cheltenham, Plymouth, Southampton, Surrey Gardens, Honiton, and Torquay. COLOURED DORKINGS from the same stock which took First and several other Prizes at the Metropolitan Show. Cochins, 21s., Dorkings, 10s. 6d. per dozen, package included.

A few Dorkings, and a pair of first-rate Ptarmigans just imported for sale. Address H. B. HIGGS, Hill Lodge, Southampton.

BUFF COCHIN CHINA EGGS for SALE, from birds that have taken prizes at the Derby, East Kent, Bristol, Taunton, and Yeovil Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen. Also Partridge Cochins China Eggs from birds that have taken prizes at London Summer Meeting, Surrey Gardens' Show in August, Malvern, Yeovil, Honiton, and Torquay Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen.

Apply to JOHN R. RODBARD, Aldwick-Court, Wrington, near Bristol.

EGGS of BUFF COCHIN Well-feathered, and WHITE-FACED BLACK SPANISH, at 10s. per dozen; and a few of PURE INDIAN GAME at 6s. per dozen.

Apply to E. S. H., Aldersvasey, Belper.

FANCY POULTRY.—The PTARMIGAN. —These beautiful and scarce birds have obtained PRIZES at the following Shows during the last few months:—The Surrey Zoological Gardens, Baker-street Bazaar, Norwich, Southampton, South-east Hants, Salisbury, Plymouth, &c. They are a pure white, with topknots, vulture hooked, cupped combs, and remarkably well-feathered legs and feet. Eggs can be purchased at £2. 2s. per dozen, from Dr. Barney's ORIGINAL Birds, which may be seen at Brockhurst Lodge, near Gosport.

BLACK SPANISH, DORKING, and COCHIN CHINA EGGS.—The winner of the first prizes in black Spanish and buff Cochins chickens at Shrewsbury, and of the SECOND PRIZES in DORKING CHICKENS at BIRMINGHAM, and of white Cochins chickens at Shrewsbury, will have a few EGGS to DISPOSE of at the following prices:—Spanish and Dorking eggs, £2. 2s. per dozen; Cochins eggs, £1. 11s. 6d. per dozen. The Spanish are pure white-faced birds from Captain Hornby's breed. The Dorkings are from Captain Hornby's and other first-rate stocks. The Cochins (buff and white) are first-rate birds, purchased at high prices from the best stocks in England. The cocks and hens are of distinct strains.

Apply to Rev. A. B., care of Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Upper Brook-street, Oswestry.

A LADY WHO HAS TAKEN A PRIZE for WHITE CHINA SILK FOWLS, will be glad to exchange one young Cock of that breed for a good young Spangled HAMBURGH COCK; or she would sell the Silk Cock for £1, as she has more cocks than pullets. Direct to F. H., Aldorwasley-Hall, near Belper.

FANCY POULTRY.

PERIODICAL SALES BY AUCTION.

Arrangements for the Month of March.

MR. J. C. STEVENS begs to announce that the SALES by AUCTION at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, will take place as under, viz.—

On TUESDAY, 7th—Periodical Sale.* First-rate Brahma Pootras, including one of the Hens which took first prize at the late Metropolitan Show, and some first-class Cochins.

On TUESDAY, 14th—Extra Sale. Selection from the yard of Mr. Cyrus Clark of (only), Buff and White Cochins from first-prize birds, Spanish, Silver Polands, and Dorkings.

On TUESDAY, 21st—Periodical Sale. Choice Cochins from the Rev. C. Hotham, Rev. J. Hutchinson, Rev. J. Nightingale, and some Ptarmigans from Dr. Burney's famed birds.

On TUESDAY, 28th—Extra Sale. Cochins, Brahmas, Dorkings, Spanish, &c., from several first-class breeders.

These Sales commence at 12 o'clock precisely, and will be continued throughout the season on the first and third Tuesday in every month, with extra sales on the intervening Tuesdays as circumstances require them. Catalogues may be had by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to

Mr. J. C. STEVENS,

38, King-street, Covent-garden, London.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS, AND SUPERIOR BUFF COCHINS.

MR. STEVENS begs to inform Poultry Amateurs that he is instructed to Sell some very fine specimens of the above rare birds, mostly imported, the property of H. Gilbert, Esq., Kensington, at his Large Rooms, King-street, Covent-garden, at 12 o'clock, March 7th.

DOG BISCUITS.—The best in London, at T. STYLES'S (late J. WALDRON), 82, Upper Thames Street, made expressly for Dogs (not old ship-stores, as they are apt to have the weevil in them), 20s. per cwt., bag included. Scotch Oatmeal, 19s. per cwt., and best Town-made Greaves 16s. 6d. per cwt. All post-office orders payable to THOMAS STYLES, will be punctually attended to.

FOR POULTRY-HOUSES.

LIGHT, CHEAP, & DURABLE ROOFING.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 2.]

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.

Poultry Shows.

Royal Dublin Society's Spring Show, April 18, and three following days. Assistant Secretary, W. E. Steel, Esq., M.B. Entries close April 3.

Hexham Poultry Show. Second Annual Exhibition, Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th of May. Secretary, W. Turner, Esq., Hencotes, Hexham. Entries close May 6; the Schedule next week.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties' : Third Annual Exhibition. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule will be ready very soon.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, T. McCann, Esq., Graham House, Malvern.

Birmingham and Midland Counties' : Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close Saturday, November 11th.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules.

SOME of our correspondents who, from living in the country, have not the opportunity of watching for themselves the prices which fowls of merit produce when sold by auction, are anxious that we should give regular reports of the sales which take place in London, entertaining the idea that the result of these sales is a criterion from which to deduce a fair opinion of the market value of surplus stocks of choice poultry. If such reports could give an exact idea to our readers of the prices which they are likely to realize for the

birds which they may wish to dispose of, we perfectly agree with our correspondents that they would convey very valuable information; but sales by public auction may be influenced by so many circumstances which do not relate either to the value of the birds, or the money which the purchasers would be willing to give for them, that it seems just possible that a price realized readily by private sale, would form a more certain scale.

The sums paid for poultry which is subjected to the competition of a public auction, may be influenced not only by the auctioneer, but by the owners. An amateur who has incurred expense in bringing his birds up from the country, may be dispirited by the sight of a room less full of visitors than he had hoped to find it, and sacrifice them at any price rather than add to the already large expense—that of carrying them home again. Another, perhaps, over-rating the value of his favourites, and elated by the presence of many persons appearing anxious to purchase, causes his birds to be bid up to a price which would not otherwise be given. To what extent it is right for the owner thus to raise the price of his own birds is not for present discussion; now, we are only considering how far that which is realized at auctions may be a guide to persons who have choice specimens to

bring into the market. The bidders, no less than the auctioneer and the owner, influence the success or failure of a sale : it is a well-known fact that even *one* eager bidder will raise the price considerably ; and, by the same rule, one person making him or her self active to depreciate, will turn the scale the other way. Agreement among several purchasers will depress, as opposition will raise, the amount of the biddings, and the difference between a bright and a bad day will affect alike the attendance in the rooms, the spirit of the biddings, and the appearance of the poultry.

The unwillingness which some persons feel to buy birds when cooped in a basket, from an idea that it is difficult to judge of their merits under these circumstances, may have its weight in making some sales by auction unsuccessful speculations.

Mr. Stevens, the gentleman whose name is best known in connection with these sales, from having held them, we believe, the first and repeated them most frequently, is of opinion that a bird which will not fetch five shillings is not worth offering to competition : he, therefore, puts up each bird at that sum, and if there are no bidders it is passed ; where the lots are not subject to this small reserve, five fowls have been sold for the same amount. But this is very far from being the fate of all sales, and very high prices are still frequently given at Mr. Stevens's, and, we believe, in other rooms also.

We would not on any account be understood to intend by these remarks, to depreciate the convenient and, frequently, advantageous method of selling fowls by

auction, and we will, with pleasure, from time to time, give such particulars of the sales which come under our observation, as we may deem interesting to our readers : we only wish previously to draw attention to some of the facts unconnected with the real value of the birds offered, which may influence their success or failure, and to request our readers to give these circumstances the weight to which they may consider them entitled in reckoning the prices a criterion by which to judge of the value of birds in general.

A Word to our Irish Friends,

On the Management of their Poultry, both in Feeding and Packing.

IN our walks through Leadenhall Market of late, we have seen many dozens of Irish fowls good to the eye, and yet unsaleable to the poulterers of the metropolis. Some are sold at very low prices, others are spoiled. Anxious, in a work devoted to poultry, to probe to the bottom any such anomalous state of things, we have made every inquiry, with a view to assist our Irish brethren. The causes are, first, they are very badly fed ; secondly, they are improperly packed. Badly-fed poultry may sell the first time it is sent to a market, because a buyer is tempted by a price which appears to be below the market standard of the day ; but if, when the poulterer retails them, he finds that every purchaser complains, he will not be tempted, even by the low price, to buy them a second time. Now, why does the buyer complain ? He says, with justice, the bird will not stand cooking ; it wastes before the fire or in the pot ; and that which remains is, although white, soft and tasteless. The truth is, these fowls are fed upon potatoes, and the food is not good enough to make good meat. They are packed in

soft oat-straw, and put in tea-chests, or boxes, or anything that may come first to hand. The consequence is, they have no air, they work up into a heated mass, and from their bad state for keeping, they are unsaleable. Our province is not to find fault, but to point out mistakes and the cure for them.

Although the breed of the fowls may be improved, still they are better than the majority of the poultry from the distant counties of England. Instead of being fed on potatoes, they should have good oat-meal and milk. They would not be quite so fat, but the quality would be wonderfully improved. We would not advise at first that they should be crammed; but simply shut up and fed as peckers, as described in Baily's book on fowls. Before they are killed, they should be fasted at least fourteen hours, in order that they may keep; and this is very essential, as they will have to travel to London, and to compete with fowls killed within thirty miles of that place. They should be laid out for some hours in a cool place, and when thoroughly cold should be packed in a hamper, that will hold four dozen, in layers, or rather rows, head to head. Every layer should be well secured from contact with that beneath by a good layer of stout, straight wheat-straw. If the dozen of fowls, or nine (according to the size of the basket), that constitute the row, should not quite fill the space, then a wisp of straw should be put in, to make it quite tight. If they get loose in the package they become limp, and fowls will not sell in the market unless, when unpacked, they are stiff and fresh. It is bad policy to send them by a slow conveyance. A few shillings are saved in carriage, and three times the sum is lost in condition of the goods.

Another bad plan that is followed, is to wait till a large number is got together. While this is being done, the oldest fowls are become either hard from the increased age, or spoiled by over fat. If four dozen fowls of different ages are to be sent, it

will pay better to send them one dozen at a time, in separate lots, and thus to sell all in their prime, than to spoil half of them by keeping them until the rest are ready to send.

We say nothing of killing, because they are killed and laid out well enough for any market.

These remarks apply equally to the turkeys and geese.

We say nothing of the old argument, that they pay the senders or they would discontinue the trade; but we affirm, that if they will follow our suggestions, the value of their poultry will be doubled, while the increase in their cost will be trifling indeed. In these days of speedy communication there is no reason why some of the many hundreds of thousands of pounds now paid to a few counties in England should not go to Ireland; and we believe some of our friends in the eastern counties may profitably take notice of these hints offered to Irish poultry-breeders.

H. R.

Poultry Mania.

It has been truly said, that we are all, though actively alive to the failings of our neighbours, tardy in the belief in our *own* imperfections; in short, that whilst our own hobby (whatever it may be) is considered the extreme of rationality, we are too apt to suppose the very reverse as to that of another person—a circumstance which, perchance, may have tended to identify one of the principal features of late years, with the term, "Poultry mania."

Be this as it may, I myself candidly confess to an early pleasure in poultry matters; and that, too, at a time when it was by no means so fashionable a pursuit as at present. Indeed, when a summary castigation was far more *probable* than the hope of celebrity, on account of the excellence of my specimens, this hobby was quite as dear to me as now.

The result of much careful observation tells me, that others like myself have received much pleasure from the care and culture of domestic poultry, and in this present day, not a trifling pecuniary advantage from the ease with which, under *favourable* circumstances, considerable quantities may be produced, and the extremely ready sale *first-rate specimens* now find in our markets. The most singular incongruity of character, perhaps, in the poultry fancy is this, that nine out of ten of those who commence keeping fancy fowls in these days, *do so simply because it is a popular movement*, quite regardless of the stern question, whether or not the premises they occupy are at all suitable for the intended purpose. If, under this kind of arrangement, non-success follows closely on the heels of the whole plan, the *cause* would be frequently of the most easy possible solution; nor perhaps does any one matter so frequently tend to the discomfiture of such aspirants to present fame, as the cold, *damp* character of the habitations selected for their favourites. This subject thus fairly before them,—no doubt there is scarcely a single reader among those of your really useful paper, whose own memory does not recall numerous instances, among his friends and acquaintances, where this egregious error has been fallen into; and with consequences which are but little calculated to raise the spirits, or to induce a continuance of the pursuit.

Let any reflective mind ponder for an instant on the exposed and fearfully *damp* aviaries they have probably themselves seen erected in the gardens attached to some of the villas in the neighbourhood of large towns, where the fowls in *rainy* weather were literally wading the whole day long in mire, which their vain (though constant) efforts to keep up animal heat had produced; whilst the earth seemed so completely saturated, it would absorb no more.

It seems strange, but so it is, their witless owners then commence a most piteous

complaint, “of some sudden ailment having overtaken their fowls,” generally adding, “they *ought* to do well, for they are fed as regularly as the family,” evidently quite overlooking both the cause and its remedy. It is caused, in almost every instance, by *excessive* and *long-protracted damp*. Deprived of proper exercise, and of course compelled to remain prisoners in their assigned quarters,—colds, bronchitis, and at length roup (the greatest bane of poultry), inevitably follow, while not unfrequently, paralysis adds its unwelcome presence to the list of troubles.

But is this a hopeless case? Certainly *not*; remove the cause, and the sufferings of your poultry are at an end, if disease has not advanced too far already for *cure under any circumstances*; which, if long neglected, will probably be the case.

I will premise what I have now to say, by simply adverting to the incontestable fact, that some of our most successful exhibitors constantly keep their fowls in aviaries; but they do so with this proviso—*effectual* means have been adopted to exclude damp.

If thus kept, the roof should be “weather-tight;” and certainly one of the most satisfactory arrangements I have yet seen was where coarse semi-transparent glass was used for the purpose, as it allowed the poultry to enjoy at all times that essentially health-producing habit, of basking in the dry sand placed purposely for them. The expense was not a great one; the result—that for several years past (when all around, the amateurs were daily deploring the loss of one or other of their pets), here all were as perfectly healthy as could be desired. I do not mean to advise that fowls should by preference be kept in such confined premises, but simply to say that frequently they *are* thus kept, and when cleanliness has been scrupulously adhered to, somewhat advantageously. It is certain, too, that parties will always be found who are desirous to have a few fancy fowls for eggs and ornament, who cannot allow their poultry to run riot in

their gardens, and for *their* benefit more especially (as they compose a most numerous body in society) are these hints intended. With this supposition, permit a few words of advice to those thus fettered for accommodation. Granting the roof (whatever the material) impervious to rain, ever remember the importance of its projection considerably beyond the front wire-work, or (which is quite an improvement) let a light zinc spout carry away the surplus water, lest the winds should drive it into the aviaries. Let the floor of the aviary be also raised some few inches above the surrounding land; and last (not least by any means), cover the whole of the floor with a coat of some four to six inches of drift-sand, which is generally easily attainable after *heavy summer storms*, in the lowest levels of the immediate lanes and highways. This kind of sand contains small pebbles, which are absolutely essential to the digestion *continuing perfect* in poultry of any kind during close confinement; and, on that account, it is far better than all other matters for this particular purpose. It therefore should be obtained if possible, even though it may entail some little additional expense and trouble.

Under these simple arrangements, it is really almost incredible the successful result which, both as regards the old poultry, and also the chickens, I have known attained; and with occasional supplies of lettuces or other green food, not unfrequently have I seen a *beauty of feather* that could not be *surpassed*. These remarks are quite as applicable to pheasants, and game of all kinds, as to domestic poultry.

To insure both appearances and health, whitewashing, of these limited arrangements for poultry, should take place at least annually.

Having written these few short rules, I hope in some future paper, to give the more *sunny side* of the picture, viz., where the lucky amateur possesses all the advantages of a locality and premises, suitable

for the full enjoyment of his taste for poultry. Meanwhile, let me dismiss this subject (so far as concerns the interests of those for whom I have *now* been writing), with the following trite suggestion:—
“Where there is a will, there is a way.”

E. C.

Poultry Exhibitions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE “POULTRY CHRONICLE.”

SIR,—In addition to the very sensible and proper remarks from E. H. in your first number, will you allow me, as one who has had to work pretty hard at a show, to add my mite of hints to Committees of Poultry Shows.

The first would be, that on no consideration should the birds be received excepting each lot in its own separate hamper. Many parties are fond of sending their fowls in immense packages, with three or more subdivisions, containing birds of all classes; and but too frequently packed in the wrong divisions, and not unfrequently with the divisions broken down, and a dismal view of bloody heads and damaged combs: they little think of the trouble of carrying these cumbersome articles through the crowded avenues of a poultry show.

Next, in all cases of sale, that the hamper in which the birds have arrived shall be included in the sale: this will save the trouble of providing an uncertain number for the purchasers; of returning the empty ones to their proper owners, to whom they but too often never get (having fallen into one of the many pitfalls which abound on all railways and other places for empty packages), and who consequently pester the unfortunate secretary with numberless letters, expecting him to answer for the sins of the whole world, in addition to his own mishaps. Let the cost of the hampers be one shilling or ten shillings, it will be the same in the end if added to the price of the birds.

I quite agree with E. H. that birds *must* be returned immediately after the close of the exhibition; and will vouch for the fact, that after a late exhibition to which he alludes, the 920 pens exhibited were all repacked and ready for despatch by 6 A.M. of the day following the exhibition; it having closed at 10 P.M. previously. Alas! but with little purpose, for the railway companies will not take their share of the trouble, and but too frequently the birds are stopped at some station one, two, or even three days. The blame of this all falls on the committee of the show, and until the railways will use greater despatch, I fear the immediate return of birds is a consummation devoutly to be hoped for by all exhibitors, but not to be expected.

Yours very respectfully,
W. W.

Schedule of the Birmingham Poultry Shows.

THE Schedule of the Birmingham show is issued, and announces a considerable increase in the amount of prizes, with an addition of seven silver vases to those in money which are usually given. We publish the Prize List itself, from which our readers will see that several new classes are also added to those of last year.

THE PRIZE LIST, 1854.

POULTRY.

GOLDEN PENCILLED HAMBURG.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----|-------|
| <i>Birds exceeding one year old.</i> | | | |
| Class 1.—For the best Cock and three | Hens | £3 | 0 0 |
| | Second prize.. | .. | 2 0 0 |
| | Third prize .. | .. | 1 0 0 |
| <i>Chickens of 1854.</i> | | | |
| Class 2.—For the best Cock and three | Pullets | .. | 3 0 0 |
| | Second prize.. | .. | 2 0 0 |
| | Third prize .. | .. | 1 0 0 |

GOLDEN SPANGLED HAMBURG.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----|-------|
| <i>Birds exceeding one year old.</i> | | | |
| Class 3.—For the best Cock and three | Hens | .. | 3 0 0 |
| | Second prize.. | .. | 2 0 0 |
| | Third prize .. | .. | 1 0 0 |
| <i>Chickens of 1854.</i> | | | |
| Class 4.—For the best Cock and three | Pullets | .. | 3 0 0 |
| | Second prize.. | .. | 2 0 0 |
| | Third prize .. | .. | 1 0 0 |

SILVER PENCILLED HAMBURG.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----|-------|
| <i>Birds exceeding one year old.</i> | | | |
| Class 5.—For the best Cock and three | Hens | .. | 3 0 0 |
| | Second prize.. | .. | 2 0 0 |
| | Third prize .. | .. | 1 0 0 |
| <i>Chickens of 1854.</i> | | | |
| Class 6.—For the best Cock and three | Pullets | .. | 3 0 0 |
| | Second prize.. | .. | 2 0 0 |
| | Third prize .. | .. | 1 0 0 |

SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURG.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----|-------|
| <i>Birds exceeding one year old.</i> | | | |
| Class 7.—For the best Cock and three | Hens | .. | 3 0 0 |
| | Second prize.. | .. | 2 0 0 |
| | Third prize .. | .. | 1 0 0 |
| <i>Chickens of 1854.</i> | | | |
| Class 8.—For the best Cock and three | Pullets | .. | 3 0 0 |
| | Second prize.. | .. | 2 0 0 |
| | Third prize .. | .. | 1 0 0 |

POLISH FOWL.—(BLACK, WITH WHITE CRESTS.)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----|-------|
| <i>Birds exceeding one year old.</i> | | | |
| Class 9.—For the best Cock and three | Hens | .. | 3 0 0 |
| | Second prize.. | .. | 2 0 0 |
| | Third prize .. | .. | 1 0 0 |
| <i>Chickens of 1854.</i> | | | |
| Class 10.—For the best Cock and three | Pullets | .. | 3 0 0 |
| | Second prize.. | .. | 2 0 0 |
| | Third prize .. | .. | 1 0 0 |

POLISH FOWL.—(GOLDEN.)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----|-------|
| <i>Birds exceeding one year old.</i> | | | |
| Class 11.—For the best Cock and three | Hens | .. | 3 0 0 |
| | Second prize.. | .. | 2 0 0 |
| | Third prize .. | .. | 1 0 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|
| Class 12.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | £3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

POLISH FOWL.—(SILVER.)

Birds exceeding one year old.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 13.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 14.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

POLISH FOWL OF ANY OTHER VARIETY.

Birds exceeding one year old.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 15.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 16.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

SPANISH.

Birds exceeding one year old.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 17.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 18.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

DORKING.—(COLOURED.)

Birds exceeding one year old.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 19.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 20.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

DORKING.—(WHITE.)

Birds exceeding one year old.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|
| Class 21.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | £3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 22.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

COCHIN CHINA.—(CINNAMON, AND BUFF.)

Birds exceeding one year old.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 23.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 24.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

COCHIN CHINA.—(BROWN, & PARTRIDGE FEATHERED.)

Birds exceeding one year old.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 25.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 26.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

COCHIN CHINA.—(WHITE.)

Birds exceeding one year old.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 27.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 28.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

COCHIN CHINA.—(BLACK.)

Birds exceeding one year old.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 29.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|
| Class 30.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | £3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

“BRAMAH POOTRA” FOWLS.*Birds exceeding one year old.*

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 31.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 32.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

GAME FOWL.—(WHITE, AND PILES.)*Birds exceeding one year old.*

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 33.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 34.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

GAME FOWL.—(BLACK-BREASTED, AND OTHER REDS.)*Birds exceeding one year old.*

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 35.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 36.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

GAME FOWL.—(BLACKS, AND BRASSY WINGED, EXCEPT GREYS.)*Birds exceeding one year old.*

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 37.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 38.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

GAME FOWL.—(DUCKWINGS, AND OTHER GREYS, AND BLUES.)*Birds exceeding one year old.*

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|
| Class 39.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | £3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 40.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

MALAY.*Birds exceeding one year old.*

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 41.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Hens | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Chickens of 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 42.—For the best Cock and three | | | |
| Pullets | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Seven Silver Vases, of the value of six guineas each, will be awarded, instead of money prizes, for the best pen of Pencilled Hamburg, Spangled Hamburg, Polish, Spanish, Dorking, Cochinchina, and Game Fowls.

Class 43.—FOR ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.

The Judges will award first, second, or third prizes, in this class, according to their respective merit, to deserving specimens of a Cock and three Hens above one year old, and also to a Cock and three Pullets, chickens of 1854, of any distinct variety not named in the above classes; *making their awards separately on each variety shown in the class.*

BANTAMS.—(GOLD-LACED.)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 44.—For the best Cock and two | | | |
| Hens | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 1 | 0 | 0 |

BANTAMS.—(SILVER-LACED.)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 45.—For the best Cock and two | | | |
| Hens | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 1 | 0 | 0 |

BANTAMS.—(WHITE.)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Class 46.—For the best Cock and two | | | |
| Hens | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Second prize.. .. | 1 | 0 | 0 |

BANTAMS.—(BLACK.)

| | |
|--|--------|
| Class 47.—For the best Cock and two Hens | £2 0 0 |
| Second prize | 1 0 0 |

BANTAMS.—(ANY OTHER VARIETY.)

| | |
|--|-------|
| Class 48.—For the best Cock and two Hens | 2 0 0 |
| Second prize | 1 0 0 |

GEESE.

| | |
|---|-------|
| Class 49.—For the best Gander and two Geese | 3 0 0 |
| Second prize | 2 0 0 |
| Third prize | 1 0 0 |

DUCKS.—(WHITE AYLESBURY.)

| | |
|--|-------|
| Class 50.—For the best Drake and three Ducks | 3 0 0 |
| Second prize | 2 0 0 |
| Third prize | 1 0 0 |

DUCKS.—(ROUEN.)

| | |
|--|-------|
| Class 51.—For the best Drake and three Ducks | 3 0 0 |
| Second prize | 2 0 0 |
| Third prize | 1 0 0 |

DUCKS.—(ANY OTHER VARIETY.)

| | |
|--|-------|
| Class 52.—For the best Drake and three Ducks | 3 0 0 |
| Second prize | 2 0 0 |
| Third prize | 1 0 0 |

DUCKS.—(MUSCOVY.)

| | |
|--|-------|
| Class 53.—For the best Drake and three Ducks | 1 0 0 |
|--|-------|

TURKEYS.

Birds exceeding one year old.

| | |
|---|-------|
| Class 54.—For the best Turkey Cock and two Hens | 3 0 0 |
| Second prize | 2 0 0 |
| Third prize | 1 0 0 |

Birds hatched in 1854.

| | |
|---|-------|
| Class 55.—For the best Turkey Cock and two Hens | 3 0 0 |
| Second prize | 2 0 0 |
| Third prize | 1 0 0 |

PIGEONS.

CARRIERS.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Class 1.—For the best pair of Carriers | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

ALMOND TUMBLERS.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Class 2.—For the best pair of Almond Tumblers | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

BALDS OR BEARDS.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Class 3.—For the best pair of Balds or Beards | £0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

MOTTLED TUMBLERS.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Class 4.—For the best pair of Mottled Tumblers | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

OWLS.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Class 5.—For the best pair of Owls | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

NUNS.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Class 6.—For the best pair of Nuns | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

TURBITS.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Class 7.—For the best pair of Turbits | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

ARCHANGELS.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Class 8.—For the best pair of Archangels | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

JACOBINES.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Class 9.—For the best pair of Jacobines | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

FANTAILS.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Class 10.—For the best pair of Fantails | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

TRUMPETERS.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Class 11.—For the best pair of Trumpeters | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

POUTERS OR CROPPERS.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Class 12.—For the best pair of Pouters or Croppers | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

BARBES.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Class 13.—For the best pair of Barbès | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

RUNTS.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Class 14.—For the best pair of Runts | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

DRAGOONS.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Class 15.—For the best pair of Dragoons | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

ANY OTHER NEW OR DISTINCT VARIETY.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Class 16.—For the best pair of any other new or distinct variety | 0 15 0 |
| Second prize | 0 10 0 |

A separate form of Certificate will be this year issued for Pigeons.

Silver Medals may in all cases be taken by the Exhibitors instead of money prizes. Medals of

the value of 2l., 1l., and 1s., have been prepared by Mr. Ottley.

By order of the Council,
JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Secretary.
Offices of the Society,
No. 38, Bennett's Hill, Birmingham,
February 23rd, 1854.

The chief alterations in the regulations are the following:—"None but donors, or subscribers of not less than 1l. per annum, will be entitled to compete for prizes; and it is particularly requested that the subscriptions may be paid *before the closing of the entries*, in order that the exhibitors' cards of admission may be properly forwarded."

"Subscribers of 1l. per annum will be entitled to exhibit poultry; but no subscriber can enter more than two pens in any one class, nor more than four pens in the whole."

"Exhibitors of pigeons only may enter six pens; but not more than two pens of any one variety."

"Persons entering poultry and failing to send the same for exhibition, will be required to pay a fine of three shillings for each pen so left vacant."

"No member of the society or of the council, or other person, will be admitted to Bingley Hall before the opening of the exhibition on Tuesday, December 12, with the exception of those who are actually engaged in the arrangements within the building, and who have received admission cards signed by the chairman of the General Purposes Committee. Special cards of admission will also be forwarded to the judges, to be used on Monday, Dec. 11."

At the close of the Schedule we find the intimation that the "Annual Dinner will take place on Tuesday, December 12; and the annual general meeting of subscribers will be held on Thursday, the 14th of December, when a resolution will be proposed to limit the number of the council, and to fix the time during which such council shall remain in office; and a code of laws for the future government of the society

will be submitted for approval; and such meeting will afterwards proceed to the election of the president, vice-president, and council."

Poultry for Cottagers.

In the introduction to your first impression of the "Poultry Chronicle," I find that one of the objects sought to be attained is its circulation among cottagers; and every person who has the well-being of his fellow creatures at heart will, I am sure, do all in his or her power to aid you in so praiseworthy an attempt. I am aware that I am not singular in a feeling of surprise that more attention is not paid to the rearing of poultry in this country by our rustic labouring population, and though at some few exhibitions encouragements and rewards have been held out to cottagers, I fear that we shall look in vain for a list of competitors; at all events, if we find one, it will be very small. It is not my aim to inquire from what source this apparent disinclination arises, but I would rather endeavour to point out to the parties under consideration what advantages they are allowing to pass by unnoticed, which are reaped by the foreigner, and every day and year on an increasing scale.

Great ends are often attained by small beginnings, and as it is not my intention to try and cajole the honest labourer into the belief that he is to secure an independence by keeping a few fowls, I hope the sneer of criticism will be suppressed when I state that my wish is to improve the condition of the poor man, and that at a trifling cost; and should his resources be carefully husbanded, I would venture to hope, that ere long we may see the programmes of our various exhibitions containing a respectable array of cottagers as competitors. The first step to be taken would be the erection of a house for the stock, and this is an affair that may be managed by the most com-

plete bungler. The principal thing to be observed is, that it have a warm aspect, facing either the south or the south-west. The size of it must be regulated according to the number of fowls kept. A few close sheep hurdles, thatched either with straw or heath is all that is necessary for the sides. Some stakes as rafters at the top, placed in a slanting position, and well thatched with straw, complete the roof. Space must be left of course for a door, with an aperture in it, for the fowls to go in and out, which should be covered up at night. Place a few nests in the interior, with a perch two feet from the ground, and the house is finished. But how is it to be tenanted? I will suppose, first, that fowls are kept for the purpose of laying eggs for the table, and as they are an article of such general consumption, more especially in the metropolis, where the majority of the inhabitants are obliged to *regale* themselves with the stale smatchy commodity exhibited in very long boxes at the various shops, which commodity was certainly never produced in this country, and where, from long usage, they consider the musty odour and taste as a peculiar component of it, being totally ignorant of the rich nutritious flavour of a new-laid egg, I would suggest to my poorer country brethren, by whom I mean, those who cannot afford to embark in a larger speculation, the propriety of commencing operations, by purchasing a sitting of eggs from fowls which are noted for being layers. Numbers of their richer neighbours would afford them the loan of a sitting hen to hatch them; and as regards the raising of the clutch, I will not attempt to offer one word of instruction, inasmuch as the wives and daughters of our agricultural servants are remarkable for their success in that particular. In many parts of England, increased facilities present themselves from "right of common land," and where this privilege exists, the advantages are twofold as regards the cost of keeping the birds, and the benefit to their health in having a large space to roam

over. It will happen that out of the brood hatched, the majority may be cockerels; on the other hand, pullets will prevail, though not often the case. If the latter, so much the better. If cockerels predominate, I should sell those that are not wanted to parties who collect chickens for the markets. Should that not be practicable, they will, when allowed to attain a sufficient size, afford the means of subsistence to the family. I would advise, that the eggs be hatched as early in the season as possible, consistent with their doing well. The pullets will then lay in the autumn and through the winter, at which time, even in the country, eggs will fetch three halfpence each. With the advantages above cited, and the saving of scraps for food, the cost of keep would bear no comparison to the profit, which, I trust, would be carefully deposited in some savings-bank, creating a fund which might be drawn upon in time of need, sickness, or old age. What benefit might result to the cottager, if the owner of only half-a dozen hens!

COTTAGE ORNEE.

The best Use of the Poultry Fancy.

THAT excellent philanthropist, Mr. Sturge, of Birmingham, has an establishment for the reformation of criminal out-cast boys. He says he has found poultry a most useful auxiliary in awakening kindly feelings in the breasts of boys who never knew one before. When they have been found proof against all the kindness shown to them by their benefactors and overlookers, and when the total absence of anything like kindly feeling has been dreaded, then the present of a pen of bantams to which they have become attached and which have looked up to them, has awakened a new feeling, and formed a connecting link between them and their master, from which the happiest results have flowed.

How Prize Fowls are made.

COMPETITION is now becoming so great at the different poultry exhibitions, that it requires every attention and exertion to breed fowls with a fair hope of success.

The most interesting trials of strength between amateurs take place at the early shows in July, August, and September, and are confined to chickens of the year. May chickens are, we believe, the most vigorous, and will often in December defeat their elder brethren; but for the three months we have named, earlier birds must be had. They should be hatched in January. This greatly increases the difficulty of the undertaking. The nights are long and cold, the weather unfavourable for growth, and few hens disposed to sit. All these things must be considered before the attempt is made. Let us imagine that they have been considered, and that the amateur is determined to enter the lists.

First, eggs must be procured from first-rate birds, and next, a sitting hen must be found. Having these two, choose the place for the hen; it must be sheltered from any draught or cold current of air. Advantage must be taken of any circumstance to add to the warmth and comfort of the hen. There is no place more desirable than a vacant stall in a shed, where cattle are either fattening or kept for other purposes; it should be an end stall, away from the door, and where she can get into a corner. She should always have clean fresh water and good soft food at hand, such as oatmeal mixed with milk, also a small heap of wood-ashes. These afford all she wants, and render it unnecessary for her to leave her eggs long. This is important, because they soon chill when the temperature is low, and if the eggs are chilled, although they may not be spoiled, the chicken will never be as strong as if it had not been checked. Next, the hen should not have more than seven eggs put under her, and if more than one sitting hen can be found, it is better to put five eggs under each. This may appear a

ridiculous number, but in breeding birds which are to be subjected to great competition, advantage must be taken of every favourable point. It must be borne in mind, these chickens are produced before the natural time. Let alone, the hens should bring out their young in April or May, when the nights are short, and the weather warm, and when the earth affords ten times more food for chickens than in January or February. A hen covers five eggs better than a larger number, and they are always at the bottom of the nest, there are no outside ones. Say they all hatch. In the two early months, the night is fifteen hours long, and very cold; this is a long time for the chickens to fast, but if well covered by the hen, the warmth keeps and nourishes them, and she can cover five *well*, so long as they require it. For the first fortnight, she could cover more, but as they get larger some would be exposed to the chill air, and they would struggle and work themselves down, till they had displaced a more fortunate brother, and exposed him to the chill that had already injured themselves. Thus, from having too many, all get injured, and either die or grow up sickly, while the five would have lived and been well hovered by the hen till the time arrived when from their age and the genial season they could dispense with her maternal care.

It requires no judging to say which of these two broods would be successful, if shown at six months old.

Again, the food given by hand is not the only food required by chickens; there are lots of nourishment found by the hen for her progeny, of which we know nothing. The proof of this is, that when the little ones are running about she will give the peculiar call, and they are all busy picking something which none but a fowl can detect. Now there is no doubt this food exists in greater quantities in the mid-spring than in winter, and it is also unquestionable that this natural food is highly necessary. If then you wish your birds to have every advantage, and you

hatch them before their season, let the small number of chickens correspond with the quantity of food to be picked up.

It is most essential the chickens should always be fed at daybreak, and as this occurs earlier so must they be fed earlier. They must never wait for their food. During the day, they should be fed every hour, or oftener, and it is well to substitute new milk for any other drink. The chickens will not always hatch at the same time; if then one or two come out first, remove them at once, place them in some flannel in a basket, and put them before the fire till all are hatched. They may then be put under the hen, and for the first ten hours require no feeding. They must then have eggs boiled hard and chopped fine, oatmeal mixed with new milk, but sufficiently dry to break when thrown on the ground, roasted mutton chopped very fine; it is well to mix some chopped onion with their meal at times, and if the weather be very cold, but not otherwise, they may have twice per day a little stale bread soaked in strong beer, and a little bruised hempseed. After they are three weeks old, they may have tailing wheat twice or three times per day. The hen should remain under the rip in January and February, at least six weeks, or even two months, taking care to move it every day. The hen should also be fed quite as well as the chickens. The longer the chickens are fed as chickens the better they will thrive, but when they reach the age of six weeks, they do not require feeding so often. I, however, advise the same food to be continued until they are three months old, by that time the earth affords them more food, and they are able to seek it. The rule, however, still holds good, they must be able to get out at daybreak; at that time, of a spring morning, the grass teems with insect and reptile life, all food for poultry, and which disappear when the sun is risen. Now they only require feeding three times a day, provided they have a good run of grass, access to shrubberies, &c. Their food

should be barley and oatmeal, varied, but principally the latter mixed with milk, and given them in balls of a size they can easily swallow; these should be thrown to them so long as they will run after them: when they cease to do so, no more should be given. They should be fed early, at mid-day, and late. If it is observed they are dissatisfied between the meals, give them a little whole corn, wheat, or barley; the former is the best, but it should not be thrown down so that they can eat a fill in a few minutes, but it should be scattered in the grass, as though it were being sown broad-cast. It amuses the fowls while they are looking for it, and it does them more good after they have found it. They must never be without pure and clean water. Those who have not carefully fed in this way, have no idea of the growth of fowls under such treatment.

If your space permit, it is now well to divide the cocks and pullets. If you have two yards, keep all the cocks in one, all the pullets in the other.

Your eye will soon detect the prize pens, but to be secure from all accidents, if you want to exhibit *four* have *eight* ready.

H. R.

The First Birmingham Poultry Show.

Held December, 1848.

At the very time that we have the pleasure of presenting to our readers' notice the greatly increased prize list of the Birmingham *sixth* annual Exhibition, together with amended regulations, rendered *imperative* from the necessity to limit the number of entries in a small degree, an account of the first Birmingham show, from the pen of our valued contributor "E. C." will, we are sure, be especially interesting to our readers.

It is universally admitted with how keen an interest a geologist investigates the formation of the antediluvian world—the insatiable relish felt by the antiquarian for all that is grotesque, mouldering, or antique, will also be willingly acknowledged—whilst, turning from ancient to modern times, it will be as generally allowed, that after a careful and lengthy review of the beautifully adjusted machinery of an express locomotive of *our own days*, there are certainly very few individuals indeed who would not feel their pleasures still greatly enhanced by a brief visit to the *primary* effort (though so far removed from present perfection) of the justly renowned and self-immortalized Watt. Following then this train of thought, perchance many of your readers may feel considerable interest in perusing a succinct and veritable account of the *first* Poultry Show that was ever held in “the good old town of Birmingham,” when, beset with all the untried difficulties of such a proposition, and the dearly-bought experiences of the present day—*then altogether unavailable*—a few spirited individuals carried to a successful issue an event that has now proved the foster-parent of the many others of similar character, that abound in almost every principal town of the United Kingdom, and also many of the less important ones. It is quite essential that I may be clearly understood to preface my narrative by assuring your readers, in those former days poultry amateurs were by no means as generally existent as at the present time; few and far between were their locations—and though even *then*, among the few who felt interest therein, emulation did exist, generally speaking, the keeping of poultry was regarded as a “*useless hobby*,” “*a mere individual caprice*,” “*an idle whim from which no good result could by possibility accrue* ;” nay, sometimes it was rather ungenerously hinted, “What a pity they have not something better to *employ* them during leisure hours !” They were even styled “*enthusiasts*.” But have not the records

of every age proved that enthusiasts are ever and invariably the *pioneers* of improvement? And time, too, substantiated the verity of this universal rule in reference to *our subject*, for among other proofs it brought incontestable evidence that the raising of poultry was by no means the *unremunerative folly idlers supposed it to be*, and *hesitated not to rashly declaim it* ; likewise, that it simply required to be fairly brought under public notice to insure its general utility, and the acknowledgment of how strangely so important a source of emolument had been hitherto neglected and overlooked.

It was when calling for a chat with a brother amateur on the subject of our favourites, that the first intimation of the proposed Poultry Show in Birmingham came under my notice, from an advertisement in “The Midland Counties’ Herald,” declaratory of the intended event, and which also asked the aid and assistance of parties who might look with favour on the movement. The very *novelty* of the idea, the natural curiosity to know *who* purposed carrying it out, and, egotism apart, I will add the impulsive desire of *both* that it should be successful, induced us immediately to join cause with the projectors. Hence my knowledge of all the circumstances connected with the “Pig and Poultry Show,” as first instituted in Birmingham. It was at *this* time by no means an easy attainment to *insure* a collection worthy of a sight-seeing public (from the *then* disinclination of parties to exhibit their specimens), but a little personal exertion of *ALL* the active committee soon realized the *certainty* of success, so far as this part of the affair was concerned; though whether or not the public *generally* would feel equally interested was of course still an *open* question. A spacious building (since removed for railway purposes) was the selected one for the exhibition, and as far as the pigs alone on the *ground-floor* were concerned, it was all that was necessary or could be desired; while the poultry department was a

granary, lighted from the roof, but which was sadly too low for ventilation, and what added seriously to the inconvenience, was **ONLY** accessible by a *narrow and winding stair*, capable of allowing two moderately sized persons to pass *sideways*, but which was completely unavailable both for egress or access, till they had left: if a party of unusual obesity was in possession, as being *walled on both sides*, visitors could not accommodate each other in any way. This was the worst feature in the whole affair, and was decidedly increased by the desire of those leaving to pass speedily away. Singularly enough, the last occupant of this exhibition-room was *literally a poultry fancier*—a tame fox—and like many another tenant, he left his tenement so untidy, that it required no little trouble to *sweaten* and make it habitable. In this room, then, the pens for the poultry were arranged in a (double height) row down each side and the one end, the other being occupied by a large window opening to the street, and the *impromptu* method adopted for the fronts to the pens would scarcely be tolerated in **THESE** days, being all open wicker-work except five, reserved for the Chinese golden and silver pheasants, and also English *pie*d pheasants of an amateur in the neighbourhood, who, for greater security, at his own expense, had these of wire-work. The arrangements for the reception of the poultry were, of course, of a very primitive and incomplete character: there being no *prior entry*, those willing to show them bringing their fowls the morning of the exhibition till 10 a.m.: and, strangely different to expectation was the *result*, for before the time just specified, **ALL** the pens were filled, and quite as many were *refused* admission (from inability to accommodate them) as were actually received.

At mid-day the show was announced to open, and long prior the street was thronged with parties—chiefly agriculturists, being market-day—anxious to obtain admittance, and sometimes amusing themselves not a little uproariously, by beating the

door noisily with their sticks. A very important duty, however, was still to be performed, viz., awarding the prizes; for which purposes the services of a gentleman from London were secured, and his decisions were final. The number of pens being only about 160, this work was soon completed, and when the doors were thrown open, a perfect crush commenced, and the place was speedily crammed to excess. A very great drawback to receipts was, from persons not being able this day to gain admission from the confined character of the premises. The visitors, however, were evidently intent on jocularity, and the cock-crowling of numerous boys, idling about in the street, served the nature of a public advertisement of what was going forward.

Gas being introduced, it was found necessary to take out many of the panes of glass in the skylights for the admission of air; for *now* both the poultry and visitors were suffering very severely from the intense heat: hence, on the following day, the annoyance from a heavy, continued rain was very great, and not only prevented many visitors attending at all, but seriously inconvenienced those who did follow the bent of their curiosity. A very considerable amount was undoubtedly lost, from the current supposition that it would be still open to the public on the Saturday. *It was not*, and thus many were disappointed. The fact was, all who did obtain admission seemed pleased and satisfied, as the different classes came under their inspection. A few Cochins (they were scarce and almost unknown in those days), some *excellent* Malays, and equally good silver-spangled Hamburgs, two (!) pens of coloured Dorkings, and several lots of game, all had their admirers. Geese there were *none*; of ducks *one pen only*! whilst the Sebright bantams mustered forcibly; and as regards the golden and silver Chinese pheasants, the query was oftentimes heard "What sort of fowls do you call these?" a proof of how little poultry had occupied public attention

hitherto. Once aroused, however, how different the result. From *that* time, the interest in poultry *has been ever on the increase*; thousands in this empire, who *always* possessed the necessary advantages (*but had before-time neglected them*), for the lucrative support of poultry, now took this matter systematically in hand; while the return, which formerly was considered only a scanty and precarious pin-money for a wife or daughter, *now* not unfrequently clothes a household, and that not sparingly. But as my subject more especially relates to the Birmingham shows, pray contrast this truthful narrative of our *humble* BEGINNING, with the immense meeting held in December last, when, though 2,300 pens were *actually exhibited* (more than 600 from the entries being "*too late*" were also *refused*), and I must add, for the further information of your readers, unless properly restricted, it is beyond the intervention of doubt, *another season* will still see that amount of entries inconceivably augmented. E. C.

Consumption in Fowls curable by Cod-Liver Oil.

I do certainly feel positive that many of the disheartening and sudden deaths of poultry in the present day are indisputably caused by the artificial modes of management that most amateurs pursue in feeding and housing their poultry. The latter (more especially) oft-times produces consumption; while, if the inquiry of "How does the poultry get on?" is made at some farm "where they take their chance, and roost *where* they can," not a single death ever, or at least very rarely, ensues. I am no friend to doctoring, and find it far better to remove causes that induce disease, than the consequences disease may produce. I will therefore just call attention to a folly that causes many a vexation, while the owner seems in happy

ignorance as to any mal-arrangement on his part. It frequently happens, that, to secure valuable poultry from the intrusion of thieves, a very closely-built hen-house of brickwork is appointed, to which, most probably, the only access is a small door placed below the perches. From such a practice, the fowls naturally roosting all night in the heated air caused by their own respiration, are certain to suffer severely when, in the chills of opening day, they hurry forth to procure insect food. I am not alluding to winter alone, but all seasons (the bad effect of confined air needs no argument, it is obvious to all); but my surprise is, that whenever I visit the new (and perhaps costly) erections for poultry of a new beginner, the chances are ten to one they are so constructed; whilst their owner is commencing his complaint of "he does not know what ails his fowls." All they want is proper ventilation, and that is easily secured by having a small opening close to the roof; and any one that will trouble himself to climb there before his fowls "turn out," will perceive the advice is not unnecessary; he could scarcely accredit it unless he proved it. Having heard so many complain of individual fowls "dwindling away to perfect skeletons," I thought it well to notice the symptoms of this disease; these were in all cases at *first*, invariably, a trifling loss of appetite (though by no means sufficient to create alarm, or even to attract particular observation), and a slight ruffling of the feathers; still, if the fowls were even at this stage handled, the waste of flesh would be very obvious, and feel to the hand limber and powerless. After some week or ten days, the disinclination for food increases very rapidly; and generally a never-satiated and dreadful thirst sets in (though, on the contrary, I have known a few cases in which the fowls thus affected have absolutely refused liquids altogether). The feathers now lose much of their accustomed brilliancy, and in about a fortnight from the first attack, the fowl is found wasted to perhaps scarcely

one-fourth its original weight. The comb now shrinks almost entirely away, the wattles are also shrivelled; both become livid; whilst that deathly and peculiar glare of the eyeball, denotative of extreme prostration, is coupled with the fact that, at this critical stage, on the slightest effort the bird falls, and if not replaced carefully on its feet, very frequently thus lies, until a lingering death ensues. It must be remembered, that all this time no discharge whatever takes place from the nostrils, nor is there the least approach to difficulty of respiration; hence it is impossible for a careful person to confound it with roup. I must say, poultry thus afflicted, seem to suffer comparatively little; they content themselves with drawing away from their companions, or composedly walking to their food, perhaps taking up one or two grains, and then, if the disease has not reached the crisis, walking listlessly away. It was after mentioning these matters to a medical acquaintance, that he advised me to try cod-liver oil, and knowing a friend who had a Cochin cockerel well grown, but whose breast-bone resembled more the keel of a ship than anything to which I can liken it, and that, if moved, it fell *instantly* from weakness, the attempt was made. The best way to exhibit this medicine is in Scotch oatmeal, for, singularly enough, it mixes with it much better than with barley flour. The dose is a full teaspoonful three or four times daily. After about two days, the circulation seems improving, for gradually the livid character of the comb and wattles, as also their contracted appearance, gives way; and from this time (the medicine still continued) the bird improves alike in flesh and spirits. I repeat, I am not friendly to much doctoring of poultry; but finding not a single instance has come to my knowledge of recovery by the many other means adopted, and where the oil was freely administered, *not a death occurred*, I have ventured to forward my experience for the benefit of your readers.

E. C.

Poultry Houses.

SIR,—At the present time, when so many persons are beginning to keep poultry, who have not done so until now, some of whom would be glad, no doubt, to make use of a building which they may have ready, an account of the arrangements of a friend of mine may be interesting. My friend has turned a three-stall stable into a capital poultry-house. Each division is enclosed with wire netting to the roof, the mangers are partitioned off for nests, and two wooden bars are placed about two feet from the ground, for the fowls to roost upon; these places are swept out daily, and spread with fresh sand.

A small door in each division opens into a court-yard belonging to it. The courts are ornamented with evergreens, and have a grass plot in the centre, surrounded by a firm gravel walk; there is a border at the end of each court, where fresh cabbages and lettuces are planted twice a week, during the summer, as the green meat is found very beneficial to the chickens.

In these houses three sorts are kept—white and buff Cochins, and golden pencilled Hamburgs.—Yours truly,

TODDLEKINS.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

SOFT-SHELLED EGGS.

Mr. Editor,—That immature eggs are frequently caused by a relaxed habit, through improper food, few persons who have long kept poultry will, I think, be disposed to deny; but that, in some cases, it is caused by external injury a little incident that happened here, some years since, fully proves. I had a small Bantam hen, kept for the purpose of hatching and rearing golden pheasants; she was of homely exterior, but her tender carefulness of her little nurselings rendered her an especial favourite. I had at the time a large tame falcon,—a curious inmate of a poultry-yard, you will say, but he was not loose,—and "Gyp" was so well behaved he would allow the fowls to put their heads between the

bars of his coop, and *peck there unharmed*; yet if a mouse darted across, it was certainly caught by him before it could make its exit. Early one summer's morning, a loud outcry was heard; and as Biddy's voice was recognized, a chamber window was hastily opened to see what was the matter. The hen was struggling in the grip of the hawk; he had caught her by the wing, and in spite of her screams and struggles was dragging her towards him. A loud shout from above caused the falcon to let her go, and the little hen ran off, apparently only terrified; but after that she never produced a *perfect* egg, before then she had *never* laid a *soft* one. She was in good health, but the eggs were always laid at the stage when the skin was so thin as to be almost transparent.

And here, though a digression, I can hardly forbear telling you an anecdote of poor Gyp, that shows kindness is not forgotten, even by the rapacious tribes. Though fond of the bird, as I had now lost confidence in his good behaviour, I parted with him to a gentleman who had long wished to have him. I heard nothing respecting the bird for four years, when business took me to the house of his new owner. On inquiry, I found they still had him, and the lady of the house kindly offered to take me to see him; poor Gyp! they had put him in a wooden box, hardly large enough to turn round in, with a piece of wire nailed across the front. The bird looked very dull and drooping; his new mistress spoke kindly to him,—he did not raise his head, or take the slightest notice of either of us. I had not spoken till she observed, "He has evidently quite forgotten you;" "Oh, I should think so," I replied: at the sound of my voice he raised his head and looked wildly round; seeing this, I called his name in my usual manner. He knew me now, and darted at the wire with such determination to come to me that we were both glad to make our escape, lest he should break from his fragile prison.

MARTHA.

"POULTRY CHRONICLE."

Mr. Editor,—I do hope you are the "coming man" of the Poultry Question, and that we who take an interest in it may freely disburden our cares, publish our joys and sorrows, and ask advice in your columns. I have often gained much valuable advice and assistance; I also confess I like to see myself in print. My brother writes to me from Oxford that my letters are "twaddle," and only fit for the "Ladies' Magazine," and the breakfast-table. This is unfair, as when he returned to Norfolk last year, he brought with him three bull-dogs and a

monkey, and I know he writes for the sporting papers.

It will be for you to judge whether my letters are worth your notice. I have exhibited twice with some success, having been commended both times. I teased one of the judges till I ascertained that my birds were excellent, but badly matched. I have had numerous answers in the different poultry papers, but although I have found them correct they are too short to be really valuable. Will you, therefore, kindly give this letter space, and either give me the information I want, as to matching my birds, or ask some of your correspondents to do so, as I am bent on success?

I have read your first number with much pleasure, but one point has escaped E. H. Pray impress on Committees, that a brass band in a confined building, as was the case at our show at Norwich, adds to the expense of the Committee, but not to the comfort or pleasure of the visitors.

MARIA.

Column for Beginners.

CHAP. I.—THE HEN-HOUSE.

As the humble pages of "The Poultry Chronicle," will fall into the hands of many persons who have a wish to keep half-a-dozen fowls, and to enjoy the luxury of eggs which they *know* to be perfectly fresh, without aspiring to the far more extensive appliances of the amateur; a few chapters of hints for the use of beginners may be found suggestively convenient to this rapidly increasing class of readers.

Before the little colony is brought home to its new quarters, a suitable house must be provided, and many who have no building which they can conveniently spare to turn into a hen-house, will be glad to build one after the cheapest plan. A house of brick or stone, as being most impervious to cold and heat, is best; but one of a much cheaper construction will answer the purpose very well, provided it have a good dry floor, and be wind and weather tight.

An account of the cost and manner of erecting two houses which were considered cheap and easy to make, and good enough

for the purpose for which they were intended, namely—the housing of a *small* number of fowls—may prove interesting, rather as a hint to be improved on, than an example to be followed. The plan for two semi-detached *villa residences*, with a gable before and behind, was made in card; each of the two houses was to measure five feet square, five feet high at the part where the partition was to be introduced, and three feet at the lowest part. A house, as simple as this, of the cheapest description of carpenter's work, reckoning it at the low estimate of 4*d.* per square foot, would cost £3. 0*s.* 8*d.*

| | £. | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Back and front, - 80 square feet | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Two sides - - - 30 square feet | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Roof (allowing for eaves) 72 sq. ft. | 1 | 4 | 0 |

Total cost £3 0 8

The cost of the houses in question was rather less than this. The gardener (about to turn builder) went to the saw-mills and bought three deals for eighteen shillings; these, without any additional charge, were sawn into quartering, battens, and slaters' laths, and proved more than sufficient. This provision of wood made a frame for the houses (to be covered with patent asphalted felt), and doors wholly of wood. When they were finished, the account stood thus:—

| | £. | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| 3 deals - - - - - | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| Cartage - - - - - | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Men's work at 3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per day- | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Felt, 20 yards, at 8 <i>d.</i> - - - | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| Nails, &c., &c. - - - - - | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| | £2 | 8 | 0 |

Cheaper houses than this might be made, and one *would do* instead of two; but the advantage of having two houses will become quite evident when the chickens begin to grow up, however small their number may be. In the above-mentioned case the partition was merely one breadth

of the patent felt on a frame, placed across, and finished up to the top with laths.

When the house is so far completed, the next thing is to floor it. A floor of beaten earth may be kept pure by having the surface occasionally renewed, but it is no safeguard against rats; those destructive depredators by whom chicken-houses are generally watched, and to whose marauding incursions, chickens, eggs, and provender, alike fall a sacrifice. It is a good plan to dig out earth from the floor a foot deep, to fill the cavity with the burnt brick earth, which may often be bought in the neighbourhood of new buildings and railways for from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per load, and to spread over all a concrete floor made of lime, cinder ash, and the fine portion of the before-named burnt ballast.

This is a plan which might easily be improved on; a different locality might save the expense of one or even of two sides, or a greater height would make it more airy for the fowls.

The interior fittings may be either a bench made of slaters' laths, or a stout perch, placed within a foot of the ground. Fowls, especially those which grow to a great size and weight, should never be allowed the opportunity of high perching, in which all fowls will indulge if they can. Sufficient ventilation to prevent the house becoming too hot or close in summer, with the means of partially closing it in severe weather, must also receive attention.

Chit-Chat.

AT Mr. STEVENS'S rooms, on Tuesday, Feb. 28th, a sale took place of Cochín China, Spanish, and Dorking fowls, and Aylesbury ducks, the property of Mrs. L. Stow, of Bredon. There appeared to be a spirited competition for Spanish, several of which sold for from £3 to £5. 10*s.*, and one cockerel for £11. 10*s.* Several of the coloured Dorkings sold for a trifle over

£1, and one at £2. One pair of Aylesbury ducks was £1. 2s.

The sale of the Cochins was not very good: a small number only exceeding £1. One, a good-shaped black cockerel, reached the price of £2. 10s.

To Correspondents.

To *R. J. S., Esq.*—We assure our correspondent, that we intend to be entirely guided by a spirit of honesty and impartiality. We shall be delighted to aid country cousins in a "wish to find out what sort of an animal a good Cochin China, Spanish, or Dorking fowl should be," and to that end our "Letter-Box" is open to all amateurs for the exchange of opinion.

A *Country Clergyman* is anxious for some plans for the construction of Poultry Houses. "Other publications," writes our correspondent, "give us plans of homesteads, open or covered, dwelling-houses for men and beasts, why not for poultry also?" Will some of our correspondents oblige us with plans of good plain useful poultry-houses, and their probable cost?

C. W. will find the term "sitting," as applied to the incubation of a hen, more correct than "setting,"—*vide* Johnson's Dictionary, folio edition, "To sit,—to brood, to incubate." The examples which are given are from the Prophecies of Jeremiah, Bacon, and Addison.

R. F.—The old Culm fowl was a grey Malay, but differing in many points from those of the present day.

S. C.—Spanish cocks become quite white-faced at an earlier age than pullets.

M. L. Sebright.—Bantams are not prolific.

A *Non-Exhibitor.*—Next week, with many thanks.

** We regret exceedingly that some Advertisements last week were omitted. We had not calculated on so large a number for our first impression; the difficulty has been met by doubling the size of the work; there shall be no recurrence of the apparent negligence.

Advertisements.

FANCY PIGEONS.—On Sale, a number of Fancy Pigeons, including birds and their relations which obtained Prizes at Bedford, Bristol, Shrewsbury, and Birmingham Exhibitions.—For price and particulars apply (first by letter) to Mr. HENRY CHILD, Jun., Sherbourne-road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham.

GOLD PENCILLED HAMBURG FOWLS.—A limited number of EGGS to be disposed of shortly from the above birds. The hens are own sisters to those which took the First Prizes at Bury St. Edmunds, Norwich, and Metropolitan Shows, and equally handsome. Price per dozen, with package, 13s. These Fowls have never been exhibited.—Apply to Mr. F. W. Rvst, Stowmarket, Suffolk.

BUFF COCHIN CHINA EGGS, for early hatching, from First Prize and highly commended birds, may be had at 21s. per dozen, warranted fresh, and packed in a box, by enclosing a post-office order for that amount to Mr. WM. TOMLINSON, Bank Plain, Norwich.

Also for Sale, Two Cocks and a few Pullets, from same stock, 2 and 3 years old.

FANCY POULTRY, PIGEONS, &c.—Mr. T. MASON, of King's Cottage, North End, Fulham, London, having entirely disposed of his own stock of birds, is anxious to undertake the SALE or PURCHASE of Ornamental Poultry, Fancy Pigeons, Gold, Silver, and common Pheasants, Eggs for hatching, &c., wherein his judgment and experience as a breeder may now be rendered available as an Agent on Commission for their selection or disposal. Letters to inclose stamps, and none but good birds undertaken.

PROFITABLE AND ORNAMENTAL POULTRY.

P. JONES, High-street, Fulham, will supply

Eggs from the following Varieties:—Bramah Pootra, from 1st and 2nd Prize birds at Winchester and Norwich, £4. 4s. per dozen.

Silver Poland, from birds which have taken five prizes, and highly commended wherever exhibited, £1. 1s. per dozen.

Buff and Silver Cinnamon Cochins, 12s. and £1. 1s. per dozen.

The birds can be seen at the above address.

SPANISH FOWLS.—EGGS from birds which took Prizes at Southampton and Salisbury, themselves bred from winners at Hitchin, Surrey, and Metropolitan Shows, crossed with one of Poole's best cocks, may be had at 2s. 6d. each, including package, by inclosing post-office order, payable at Hartfordbridge, addressed to Mr. JOHN CLARKE, Shrub Cottage, Hartley Row.

COCHIN CHINA EGGS, from perfectly clear-coloured birds, also from partridge-marked birds, 15s. per dozen; from vulture-hocked, 21s. Address,—Poultry-maid, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

EGGs from PRIZE WHITE and CLEAR BUFF COCHINS, and WHITE-FACED SPANISH FOWLS, from 12s. the set.
Apply to SAMUEL HILL, Rose Hill, Heywood, near Manchester.

WHITE, BLACK, and BUFF COCHIN CHINA, WHITE POLANDS, and PTARMIGAN EGGS for SITTING. The White and Black Cochins have taken prizes at the Surrey Gardens, Winchester, Southampton, and Salisbury Exhibitions.

| | |
|---|--------|
| White, per dozen | £2 2 0 |
| Black | 1 10 0 |
| Very choice Buff Cochins | 1 1 0 |
| White Polands (Prize Birds at Southampton and Surrey Gardens) | 1 10 0 |
| A few Sitings of Ptarmigans | 2 2 0 |

A few Ptarmigan Chickens for Sale.

P.O. orders payable to Mr. FREDERIC FLIGHT, 72, High-street, Winchester.

FANCY POULTRY.—The PTARMIGAN. —These beautiful and scarce birds have obtained PRIZES at the following Shows during the last few months:—The Surrey Zoological Gardens, Baker-street Bazaar, Norwich, Southampton, South-east Hants, Salisbury, Plymouth, &c. They are a pure white, with topknots, vulture hooked, cupped combs, and remarkably well-feathered legs and feet. Eggs can be purchased at £2. 2s. per dozen, from Dr. Burney's ORIGINAL Birds, which may be seen at Brockhurst Lodge, near Gosport.

PRIZE SHANGHAE EGGS.—W. WANK-LYN, Jun., will have a few sittings of his Prize Black, Buff, and Partridge Shanghaes to dispose of.—For particulars address Greenbank, Bury, Lancashire.

EGGs.—BRAHMA POOTRA, SPANISH FOWLS, and AYLESBURY DUCKS' EGGS, from birds of first quality, the property of a well-known Amateur (owner of the three magnificent Brahmans with which he challenged the world). Brahma Eggs, £2. 2s. per dozen; Spanish Fowls' Eggs, 12s. per dozen; Aylesbury Ducks' Eggs, 6s. per dozen.—Address D. C., Mr. Hinton's, 8, Winchester-street, Oxford-street.

BANTAMS.—Eggs for Sale from first-class birds, white and black, feathered hooked, and heavily booted. Also from Gold and Silver-laced, very superior. Price 10s. 6d. a seat.—Apply to Mr. C. WADE, Stowmarket, Suffolk.

EGGs FOR SALE, from Prize birds, from the Yard of C. RAWSON, Esq., The Hurst, Walton-on-Thames.

Buff Cochins; Spanish; Coloured and White Dorkings; Gold and Silver, Spangled, and Pencilled Hamburgs; Gold and Silver Bantams; and Aylesbury Ducks, 12s. per dozen.

White and Black Cochins; Gold, Silver, and Black Polands; and Toulouse and White Geese, 21s. per dozen.

Brahma Pootra Eggs, from imported birds of the best strains, £2. 2s. per dozen.

Post-office orders (including 1s. for packing) to be sent with the order. The Eggs will be sent out in rotation according to the date of order.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS.—A few sittings of EGGS of this breed to be disposed of (according to priority of application) from the prize and selected birds of a gentleman, Brahmans of whose breeding have, during the past year, taken prizes at the following large Poultry Shows,—The Royal Agricultural, Great Metropolitan, Birmingham, Great Yarmouth, Doncaster, Winchester, Norwich, and Manchester.—Apply to W. C. G., Post-office, Sandbach, Cheshire.

MR. W. POPE, of Compton Pamfort, Castle Carey, is now willing to dispose of a few sittings of Dorking Eggs (from the same stock as his prize birds) at 8s. 6d. the dozen.

GENUINE PRIZE STOCK.—POULTRY EGGS.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| | Per doz. |
| White Cochin China | £1 4 0 |
| Black Cochin China | 1 4 0 |
| Lemon Cochin China | 0 12 0 |
| Partridge Cochin China | 0 12 0 |
| Silver Pencilled Hamburgs | 0 8 0 |
| White-faced Spanish | 1 4 0 |
| White Muffed Poland | 1 10 0 |
| Ptarmigan | 2 2 0 |
| Pure White Turkey | 2 0 0 |

Also, a White Cochin China Cockerell and Two Pullets for Sale, price £8.

Also, a fine Ptarmigan Cockerell and Pullet, now laying, for Sale, price £12.

Apply to WILLIAM HAMMOND, Stubington, near Fareham, Hants.

PRIZE FOWLS.—EGGS from White, Buff, and Cinnamon Cochin China, White-faced Black Spanish, Gold Pencilled Hamburg, and White Silk Cochin China Fowls which took Prizes at the Great Metropolitan, Hitchin, Yarmouth, Cheveley Park, and Cheltenham Poultry Shows, may be had upon application to J. B., Quay, Great Yarmouth. N.B.—A few first-class birds for sale.

COLOURED DORKINGS.—For Sale, a Cock and Hen, aged 10½ months. They took the First Prize at the South-east Hants, and Second at Dorchester and Surrey Zoological Gardens Winter Shows.—Apply to F. BERNAL, Esq., Fareham, Hants.

GOLDEN SPANGLED HAMBURG EGGS, from birds that took First Prizes at Dorchester, Southampton, and Surrey Gardens in 1853; Salisbury and Great Metropolitan Shows in 1854;—the only places they were exhibited. Thirteen for One Guinea, box included, and carefully packed.—Apply to Mrs. HENRY FOKES, Whitechurch, Blandford. Sent in rotation of orders by remittance or post-office order, Blandford.

SPANISH (pure White-faced), **DORKING**, and **COCHIN CHINA EGGS**.

A Gentleman who gained the Second Prize in Dorking Chickens at Birmingham, and the First prizes in Spanish and Cochin Chickens at Shrewsbury, will sell EGGS from the same breed as his prize birds:—Spanish and Dorking Eggs, £2. 2s. per dozen. Cochins (buff or white), £1. 11s. 6d. per dozen. The Spanish from Capt. Hornby's breed.

Also, Two good white-faced Spanish Cocks to be sold.

Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry.

PRIZE BUFF COCHINS.—EGGS for Sitting from Fowls which took First Prizes at Cheltenham, Plymouth, Southampton, Surrey Gardens, Honiton, and Torquay. **COLOURED DORKINGS** from the same stock which took First and several other Prizes at the late Metropolitan Show. Cochins, 21s., Dorkings, 10s. 6d. per dozen, package included.

A few Dorkings, and a pair of first-rate Pouter-gins just imported for sale.—Address H. B. HIGGS, Hill Lodge, Southampton.

EGGS of **BUFF COCHIN** Well-feathered, and **WHITE-FACED BLACK SPANISH**, at 10s. per dozen; and a few of **PURE INDIAN GAME** at 6s. per dozen.

Apply to E. S. H., Alderwasley, Belper.

A LADY WHO HAS TAKEN A PRIZE for **WHITE CHINA SILK FOWLS**, will be glad to exchange one young Cock of that breed for a good young Spangled **HAMBURG COCK**; or she would sell the **Silk Cock** for £1, as she has more cocks than pullets.

Direct to F. H., Alderwasley-Hall, near Belper.

BUFF COCHIN CHINA EGGS for SALE, from birds that have taken prizes at the Derby, East Kent, Bristol, Taunton, and Yeovil Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen. Also Partridge Cochin China Eggs from birds that have taken prizes at London Summer Meeting, Surrey Gardens' Show in August, Malvern, Yeovil, Honiton, and Torquay Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen.

Apply to JOHN R. ROBBARD, Aldwick-Court, Wrington, near Bristol.

EGGS from **FIRST CLASS** and **PRIZE BIRDS.**—JOHN BAILY has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebrigh, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOWS.

Postponement of the proposed Show of Store Stock and Agricultural Implements.

AT A MEETING of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** of the **COUNCIL**, held on Thursday, the 23rd of February instant, the subjoined Resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That, as from unavoidable circumstances, the plans for holding the Show of Store Stock and Agricultural Implements in June next cannot be sufficiently matured, it is resolved that the Show be postponed until 1855, and that proper notice be given to the public without delay."

By order, JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Sec.
Offices, 38, Bennett's-hill, Birmingham,
February 25, 1854.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE AND POULTRY SHOW, 1854.

THE Sixth Great Annual Exhibition of **STOCK** and **DOMESTIC POULTRY** will be held in Bingley Hall, on the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December next. The Prize Lists, and any further information, may be obtained from

JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Sec.
Offices, 38, Bennett's-hill, Birmingham.

Now ready, Parts I. to III., and Nos. 1 to 10, of

DR. LARDNER'S
MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ART.

A MISCELLANY OF

INSTRUCTIVE AND AMUSING TRACTS ON THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES, AND ON
THEIR APPLICATION TO THE USES OF LIFE.

Illustrated by Engravings on Wood.

Continued in Weekly Numbers, at 1d.; Monthly Parts, at 5d.; and Quarterly Volumes, at 1s. 6d.

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3. The Planets. Chap. 2.
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6. The Planets. Chap. 3.

7. Lunar Influences.

8. Meteoric Stones and Shooting Stars. Chap. 1.

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9. Railway Accidents. Chap. 1.
10. The Planets. Chap. 4.
11. Meteoric Stones and Shooting Stars. Chap. 2.
12. Railway Accidents. Chap. 2.

Title and Contents of Vol. I.

* * * Volume 1, price 1s. 6d., in handsome boards, will be ready on the 15th of March.

LONDON: WALTON & MABERLY, UPPER GOWER STREET, AND IVY LANE,
PATERNOSTER ROW.

Now ready, price One Shilling,

PROFITABLE POULTRY: their Management in Health and Disease. By W. B. TEZETMEIER, author of a series of papers on the Diseases of Poultry in the *Cottage Gardener*, the *Poultry Book*, &c. &c.

Fraser's Magazine, December, 1853, in a lengthened review extending to thirteen pages, states, "There is more good sense and practical knowledge in this modest shilling's worth than in many a more voluminous treatise, and it is only necessary to say that the illustrations are by Harrison Weir, to give a notion of their characteristic truth."

The *Field*, September 24.—"Scarcely a single person among the large number that will be tempted to purchase this book will think his shilling unprofitably spent; the author enters into his subject *con amore*; it is evident that his knowledge has not been gained from hearsay."

The *Lady's Newspaper*, December 10.—"This very excellent and useful work * * * With the information derived from it any person may commence poultry-keeping without risk of loss or failure."

London: DARTON & Co., Holborn Hill.

FANCY POULTRY.

PERIODICAL SALES BY AUCTION.

Arrangements for the Month of March.

MR. J. C. STEVENS begs to announce that the SALES by AUCTION at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, will take place as under, viz.—

On TUESDAY, 14th—Extra Sale. Selection from the yard of Mr. Cyrus Clark, of Street, (only), Buff and White Cochins from first-prize birds, Spanish, Silver Polands, and Dorkings.

On TUESDAY, 21st—Periodical Sale. Choice Cochins from the Rev. C. Hotham, Rev. J. Hutchinson, Rev. J. Nightingale, and some Ptarmigans from Dr. Burney's famed birds.

On TUESDAY, 28th—Extra Sale. Cochins, Brahmans, Dorkings, Spanish, &c., from several first-class breeders.

These Sales commence at 12 o'clock precisely, and will be continued throughout the season on the first and third Tuesday in every month, with extra sales on the intervening Tuesdays as circumstances require them. Catalogues may be had by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 3.]

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

Poultry Shows.

Aylesbury Local Show, April 12th. Secretary, Cheplyn Hall, Esq. Entries are closed.

Royal Dublin Society's Spring Show, April 18, and three following days. Assistant Secretary, W. E. Steel, Esq., M.B. Entries close April 3.

Hexham Poultry Show, in the Abbey Grounds, Second Annual Exhibition, Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th of May. Secretary, W. Turner, Esq., Hencotes, Hexham. Entries close May 6.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries close May 10th.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, T. McCann, Esq., Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close Saturday, November 11th.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

THE *Te Deum* should not precede the victory, but thanks may be given for a first success which is looked upon as the harbinger of future exploits. In this, our third number, we have to record, and to

thank our friends for, a support almost without a parallel in the history of periodicals. Our circulation has justified us in doubling the size of our "Poultry Chronicle." The misgivings of a first undertaking disappeared on the day of its publication; and our modest efforts have met with a success we hardly dared to hope for.

We do not profess to stand alone; and we ask of our supporters their continued countenance, as subscribers and contributors.

We hope we are about to realize our "*chateaux en Espagne*," and to have none but friends among those who read our weekly sheet; to them we return our thanks, and hope we are destined to years of successful and useful co-operation.

"Poultry Mania."

In a previous article I expressed my intention of forwarding you a few stray recollections as to poultry when kept with the united advantages of *locality* and *suitable* premises, in contrast with situations where the limited space allotted to them by poultry amateurs, although it did not prevent them being maintained to *some* considerable benefit, was evidently a restriction, and unless carefully attended, a manifest disadvantage.

I cannot do so, however, until I have openly expressed my opinions of the utter folly so many beginners have evinced in

reference to the unjustifiable prices given for "brood-stock."

I am myself, *in toto*, an advocate for (as the term is generally accepted) "beginning well;" that is, with the best stock that can by possibility be obtained; but certainly nothing can be conceived much more absurd than giving forty, fifty, or even a hundred pounds per head for poultry, and at the same time indulging the hope of ever making them pay a suitable return. Had not this been frequently done of late years, there would have been but trifling necessity for mentioning it; but were many who have paid *such* prices *candid* in their acknowledgments, I doubt not they would themselves admit to having, ere this, both *seen*, and also *paid* for, their inexperience and folly.

Perhaps there is not (where kept in considerable quantities) any range for fowls that seems so suitable as a "straw-yard;" and most unquestionably the very best grey and speckled Dorkings (as a whole) I ever saw, were allowed the run of out-buildings, where generally at least 100 beeves were tied up for stall-feeding. The benefit of untold food, the opportunities of selecting (according to the state of the weather) the most sheltered of the cow-houses, and the constant scratching in the unlimited amount of fodder supplied to the cattle, were advantages, I am aware, not generally to be obtained; but my object in the narration is this, that though for many years, from 80 to 100 fowls *here* composed the breeding-stock, and (till some of the earliest broods were ready for the market) in summer-time that amount was frequently *six-fold*, the occupant's wife stated to me, "they never lost half-a-dozen grown fowls, from disease, in seventeen years, and that their chief mishaps were from the cows treading on the chickens when little." These fowls had *no regular poultry-house*, but roosted either in some neighbouring pear-trees or on the cross-beams in the roofs of the cattle-sheds.

Under this treatment eggs were attain-

able all the year round, and chickens were produced very much earlier than at the surrounding farms, while, though the rage for fancy fowls did not *then* exist, and consequently the returns were *entirely* limited to their value for *table-purposes*, I was informed that "the result was far better from the *poultry* than from any other description of stock around the homestead." By the above plain and ungarished statement I trust other agriculturists, similarly situated, may be induced to *try the experiment fairly*; and (if so conducted) it is pretty certain to produce even better results, as no doubt a *portion* of the produce would *now* realize much better prices for brood-stock, than when, as above stated, they were *all* sent either to the poulterer or taken to general market.

My next narration is in respect of a tolerably large farm, where there were originally some purely-bred, golden-spangled Hamburgs,—and which at that time were best known as the "pheasant fowl;"—here the natural advantages were very great, the premises being almost surrounded by plantations for the preservation of game. Finding, however,—from the Hamburgs being *non-sitters*—the great difficulty of raising *fresh* stock, their owner had introduced a few of the "black-breasted red" game-fowls, the result of this cross being a good-laying and steady-sitting offspring; the deterioration in the eyes of an amateur of the present day being occasional single-flap combs, and oftentimes those unseemly large-lop rosy combs now too prevalent in show-pens; but I must fain here acknowledge that a more beautifully-feathered and credit-deserving yard of fowls it has rarely been my lot to witness in any agricultural district. These fowls generally ran in the woods, and roosted indifferently in the various out-buildings; whilst the chickens were celebrated for being always "plump and ready,"—a very *significant* remark of their owners,—that at any age they were sure to be in good condition; and being in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, the eggs were anxiously sought for, at a much

higher than market-price, by the principal hotel-keepers, as they could always be depended upon for the purposes of the breakfast-table; and the rich, brown colour of the shell was a feature that customers generally approved. Though several large baskets of these eggs left the farm weekly, it is certain, had the supply been twenty-fold, they could, *at the same rate*, have been easily disposed of; and scarcely any week passed by in which messengers did not apply who could not be accommodated. The result was an admission by the owners, "the fowls paid as well as anything they possessed."

One of the chief drawbacks to success was the determined inclination of some of the *old cock pheasants* (the *wild game* of the woods) to destroy the chickens of these fowls, till three weeks or a month old, by pecking, and *literally scalping*, their heads; and as, from the immediate attendance of the game-keepers, *reprisals were quite out of the question*, the plan was constantly adopted of cooping the mother-hens close to the house till the chicks attained that age, as the pheasants did not like to venture so near an occupied building, and *after* the age specified there seemed no inclination to molest them *anywhere*.

For many years the produce of the poultry *alone* "clothed the family;" the generality of persons in this class, at that time, being by no means so expensively attired as in the present day. I must now leave the habitations of the comparatively affluent to approach the thatch-roofed cottage of the humble labourer.

The party to whom I shall particularly allude was, at the onset, a workman under the trustees of the road, a man considerably past his prime, and whose weekly pay was only 8s., from which 1s. 9d. was deducted for the rental of his little two-roomed cottage and garden. This man, from the difficulties, with a large family, "of making both ends meet," not unfrequently undertook little jobs after the close of his general duties, at six in the evening. It was on such an occasion the stepping-stone to

future comparative affluence suddenly awaited him; for, going to a farm-house, and, work ended, he was asked into the kitchen for refreshment, and there, in a basket placed before the fire, were six young goslings, the parent-bird having been killed, a day or two previously, by some mischievous wanderers from the town, who, simply because she naturally defended her newly-hatched offspring from the rude advances of their dog, deliberately destroyed her by stone-throwing, and then speedily absconded. Truly has it been said, "The wind is a bad one that blows luck to none;" for, being only a few days old, and *neglected*, their owner, in speaking to my informant, said, "they will *never be reared*, and if you like, Robert, to take them home, and be bothered with them, you can have them." The offer was at once thankfully accepted; and though almost all the goslings were now perfectly unable to stand from sheer exhaustion, the result of careful attention proved *what can be done under difficulties*,—all were reared! and thus two ganders and four geese were now located in a slope-roofed hut, purposely erected against the back-wall of their present owner's cottage.

The cottage, I must here digress to say, was situated on the borders of a common, and almost close to a large sheet of water; and therefore *every possible facility* for well-doing was at hand. I think it a duty to record an act of thoughtful gratitude on the part of their present owner, that forms a pleasing contrast to that of many others so situated. He offered, at Christmas, a pair, not intended for breeding-stock, to the party from whom he received them, and, as my object is simply the narration of a veritable anecdote, I state without comment, they were accepted, thus leaving a gander and three geese as brood-stock for the coming year. During the season, two sat *twice each*, and the other produced a single hatch. Memory will not tell the *exact* produce of this year, but sufficiently close for *my* purposes. Of an eleven, two nines, and a seven, I am confident,

the number of the remaining brood I have forgotten ; but as all were reared *except two*, it amounted certainly to fully forty. I will compress the sequel of my story. With the money raised by the sale of *these* birds at autumn a *small* heifer was purchased ; and the year following a second was obtained by the *same* means ; while their owner's well-merited success did *not* induce supineness ; and some few years afterwards, we find the once indigent cottager comfortably situated as the tenant of a small farm of thirty-four acres, with a dairy of seven cows, a good team, several pigs feeding, and, indeed it *must* be mentioned, *all* four of his *old* geese, which he himself very graphically named "his friends in need." I will add, that when solicited by inquisitive listeners, oftentimes have tears of honest gratitude swept down the cheeks of this still plainly-clad couple, while engaged narrating the eventful advent of their justly-esteemed favourites. Since their removal from the old cottage, a roasted goose *always* smokes on their board at the family reunion of Christmas-tide, and the slaughtered pigs afterwards claim a place as bacon in their own kitchen, in most pleasing *contrast* to the time when the taste of the one was unknown, and the then solitary pig (for they even then fed one) was, all but one side, sold to pay the miller's account for food it had itself consumed.

It will be at once obvious from the circumstances just narrated, and which form a mere *unit* in the remembrances of the writer, that though the absurdity of the fictitious prices in many cases received and paid for fancy fowls is fully acknowledged and deprecated, it is equally maintained, in its fullest acceptance, that poultry have been hitherto frequently kept, and may now still be readily maintained, with very considerable emolument to their owners, irrespective of any undue value placed upon them by the arbitrary and capricious follies of ever-varying public opinions ; in short, when subjected to the exclusive and severe ordeal of their intrinsic

value *for table purposes only*. Surely, then, the unwarrantable expenses that *some* parties think fit to incur, does not convince that the term "poultry mania" is at all applicable to those who, from their own or others' experience, think fit to embark in the management of an amusement that, if properly conducted, will certainly yield both pleasure, occupation, and compensatory reward.

To what I've now written I willingly place An *adage* that will not my subject disgrace, Its *truth* I have *proved* (which you cannot deny),

"It's wonderful what we can do if we try." Supineness may whisper, "The thing can't be done ;"

Let energy struggle ; the battle is won ; Determined, all obstacles quickly will fly, "Oh ! it's wonderful what we can do if we try."

E. C.

On Feeding.

If you go to a physician to consult him for a disordered stomach, he inquires your habits, and particularly your diet, and manner of eating. From defects in these, he finds the origin of your disease, and for its cure he inculcates a new and better system. When men lived in a state of nature, ailments were less numerous ; and so it is with poultry. In a natural state, they have few diseases ; with us they have many, because we have forced them into an unnatural state of life. We would then trace them to bad feeding, and would also, by plain suggestions, point out a cure.

Pheasants, wild fowl, and poultry, where they are wild, as in India, are always healthy, and the scars and seams, well known to all those who are in the habit of plucking them, testify to the condition that enables them to recover from the most serious wounds. Our feeding, then, should most resemble that of the wild bird, if we would seek the same result both in condition and feather. We should also seek to give the same food as

the bird would find if left to its own resources.

The faults of modern feeding are, giving meat,—feeding out of vessels of any description,—throwing down large heaps of food, irregularity,—and too often the substitution of anything that is cheap for that which is wholesome.

Meat is an unnatural food for poultry. It was extensively given during the Cochinchina mania, in order to make weight; and many are the buyers who have paid from ten to twenty pounds each for very heavy hens, so unnaturally fattened by this process, that they could never lay a perfect egg, and numbers died in the attempt. A fowl is not provided with digestive organs for meat.

In a state of nature, fowls run over a great extent of ground before they get a crop-full. They pick up food grain by grain, and with it small pieces of dirt, blades of grass, and other things, that all help digestion. What, then, can be said of the various feeders in use? Placed before the fowls filled with barley, the birds do in five minutes that which should be the work of two hours: they eat a greedy fill, and suffering from unnatural repletion, they have recourse to drink. The corn swells in the crop, and the sufferers, instead of walking cheerfully about, hide in corners, and squat about to the detriment of their health. This applies to the equally bad practice of throwing down the food in heaps.

Irregularity. In a natural state at break of day, all birds are in search of food, and they find it. What an evil it is, then, for them to be fed one day at seven, next day at nine, and sometimes not till mid-day. A still greater evil is, to endeavour to make up for previous neglect by an extra quantity.

Among the improper food given to fowls we include two rather popular articles, viz., Indian corn and rice. We can only add, we have tried both; the former makes fowls extremely fat, but it makes no flesh. We consider the latter worthless, as we

have tried it to our cost; and we have no hesitation in saying, no good is ever done either in condition or feather, when the birds are fed with it.

Having disposed of our complaints, we will now endeavour to point out a better plan for general feeding, not with a view to fattening or extra condition, but to keep a yard in really good plight.

They must be out at daybreak, and should be fed directly with oatmeal slaked, and thrown down to them. Let it be so mixed, that when cast down, it will crumble. As soon as they cease to run after it, leave off feeding. At mid-day, give some whole corn, wheat is best, but throw it as far, and scatter it as much as you can,—throw it among the grass: you will see the fowls spreading about in a natural way, and seeking the stray grains. In the afternoon, feed again as in the morning. Our system then is, regular feeding three times per day, and no food, save what they can find, at any other time. It will cost no more than the systems we have blamed, and the condition of the fowls will amply compensate for the little extra trouble. H. R.

Kind Treatment.

It is said on the highest possible authority, "The merciful man is merciful to his beast." Is it taking too high a stand to consider that uniform kindness to our feathered favourites also may hold a place even among Christian duties?

Those who are fond of living things will feel pain to see them treated with cruelty, although this cruelty may arise (as it generally does) from thoughtlessness, not from design. To see a little miserable chicken beaten about among older and stronger fowls, and to hear the owner say, "Never mind—the little misery will never do any good," has many times excited the remark—or perhaps only the thought—in the tender-hearted, "Then why not show it the mercy of having it put out

of its misery?" It is far from my meaning to attribute this kind of neglect to intentional unkindness, but surely, it would be a forethought which would pay itself to consider, before filling our poultry-yards with little sufferers, what would be their chance of living there in comfort and enjoyment.

Perhaps with all of us the greatest fault may be, that when we get a number of chickens hatched, we forget to reckon the space they will require when *nearly grown up*. At three weeks old, the little twitterers run about, are strong in health, enjoy life, and are happy. At three months old, "a change comes o'er the spirit of their dream;" the house, in which there was plenty of room for its inhabitants while they were still in the down, is now too full; the ventilation becomes insufficient to supply so many breathers, and the task of maintaining the degree of purity and cleanliness needful for health, is a matter of increasing difficulty. The chickens, under these circumstances, assume a new aspect; they lose their liveliness, in their eatables they are hard to please, they mope about, and become pallid and sickly in appearance. Then begins the amateur's most painful, troublesome, and generally unrewarded task—that of nursing up a parcel of sick chickens. Most amateurs find this a duty towards their feathered dependents, which generally ends in disappointment, but still it is a duty; and if we derive from the inhabitants of our poultry-yards profit or amusement, as the case may be, we can scarcely refuse to them the return of trying to make their sufferings less when they are sick, or of ending their pain by having them killed.

Another duty we owe to our chickens is to take care that they are neither teased nor neglected by those we employ to look after them. I do not exactly participate in the sentiment of Anthony Charles Fluid (of Olympic memory), in a general hatred of boys; but certainly, girls will often be found more unremittent in their

attention, more neat in their habits, and more devoted to their task than the junior members of the nobler sex. But whoever we may employ to attend to the fowls, let us see that they are tended and cleaned with regularity; and let us never intrust them to the care of a person of a teasing disposition. In spoiling the temper of the fowls, in interfering with the sitters, and in bringing about apparent accidents to the young chicks, an interfering, meddling, teasing attendant may do more mischief among the stock than the owner has any idea of.

Accidents and mischances in my own poultry-yard first led to these reflections. A fine Spanish cock was once so spoiled in temper by being constantly teased by a young Flibbertigibbet, whose duty it was to take care of him, that the members of the family could not pass through the yard in which he was kept without a stick or a birch broom, or some equally potent weapon of defence. The expectations of the early chickens of one season ended in disappointment from the inquisitive habits of a young lass, who liked to see the sitting hens raise their feathers and to hear them scold, and to investigate, by handling the eggs, the progress of the hatching process. These are but two examples among many similar. E. W.

A few general Remarks on Fancy Poultry and Poultry Shows.

It is quite certain nothing has become so general, or so universally popular in modern times, as a taste for the culture of domestic poultry.

This has arisen most probably in a great measure from the twofold fact, that though a most exceedingly pleasing recreation, it has proved itself far more *remunerative*, in a pecuniary point of view, than any other public fancy of recent date; the latter no doubt having ensued in no slight degree from the anxiety of exhibitors to obtain

first-rate specimens wherewith to compete at the numerous public exhibitions of poultry. A few years since, the prices *now obtained easily* for fancy fowls would have been considered fabulous, and their purchasers jeered right heartily on the utter improbability of ever "seeing their money return." Time, however, that proves all things, shows that some of those who were thus situated had displayed greater foresight than their neighbours, and thus attained very considerable emoluments from a source that had for many years been almost altogether neglected, or the profits of which (thus carelessly and indolently obtained), were only appropriated as "*pin-money*" for the wife or daughters of agriculturists generally. It is now far different, and many have largely increased their scanty incomes by the produce of some three or four heads of *well-selected* poultry.

There appears to have been two *radical* errors into which aspirants for poultry honours have, by far, too generally fallen, viz.: the supposition they *might* get very first-rate *produce* from indifferent stock; and others have erred quite as glaringly by adopting the plan of buying, at any price, those fowls *only* that have taken first prizes at the different poultry shows. A few moments' quiet reflection will tend to prove the fallacy of either plan.

It is a well-known fact, that even when fowls are bred from the purest strains, ALL the *produce* will not evidence equal purity with their parents, as to the characteristics of that particular variety to which they belong: it will therefore be easily conceived how infinitely removed are the probabilities of obtaining such where the "Brood-stock" are of only *tolerable* character; and as regards the purchase of first prize pens only, this arrangement is open to the very serious objection that by so doing we have no *change* of blood, and the past experience of many a disappointed amateur *has* proved, and doubtless the dearly-bought knowledge of others *will yet confirm*, that the undeviating and

inevitable consequences of such "interbreeding" will be imbecility and deterioration of character in the offspring.

It is hardly necessary to draw the attention of breeders generally to the fact, how few amateurs in England have *maintained* their superiority for a series of years in any particular variety, unless by the exhibition of the *same identical* birds; this doubtless arises from the same cause which exists when first-prize pens only are purchased for breeding-stock by a wealthy new beginner. All being from the same blood, their offspring (if any) are puny, weakly, and highly susceptible of disease. These much-to-be-dreaded consequences are easily obviated by obtaining the male birds from one strain, their hens or pullets (as the case may be) from a different one; then (if *well selected*), there is but little fear but there will be ample cause for self-congratulation as to their *produce* for a couple of generations, *after* which period deterioration will certainly ensue if the same plan is not again re-adopted.

Now, the subject naturally leads onwards to the "chicken classes;" I cannot forbear making a passing remark on a condition we generally find introduced into prize lists, viz.: "that the respective ages of the chickens must be *accurately* stated." I do not hesitate to affirm that this rule seems "more honoured in the breach than the observance;" and that while some exhibitors deduct only a few weeks from the ages of their respective stock, others (less scrupulous) do not hesitate to assert, with the most unblushing effrontery, they have not attained half their real age. This is evidently unjust to the conscientious exhibitor, and entails a most unpleasant task on those whose duty it is to adjudicate the prizes; for, in case the judges (as empowered) disqualify a pen from this cause, it is almost certain the disappointed one turns round on his rivals and points out (and perchance *proves*), that they too have been guilty of a similar mis-statement, though

in a less degree. To draw a line of demarcation as to how far such practices should be allowed to pass unpunished, on the one hand, or where a stand should be made on the other, is impossible; and now the prevalence of this objectionable habit is so generally admitted, perhaps it would not be ill-judged for the managing committees of future poultry exhibitions to gravely consider whether it would not be well to leave the *ages of the chickens* an open question for the judges, thereby leaving no opportunity for the gross misrepresentations so commonly indulged in.

I will just advert to one other most universal mistake, into which an unreflective novice is almost certain to inveigle HIMSELF, unwittingly, viz., a thirst for MORE poultry than he has the means to accommodate; the consequences on the adult fowls are bad enough; but on the "younger branches," it acts with *crushing* effect; and certain it is, that many a one has seen contagion spreading its baneful influences on every side (and gaining strength every hour) within the precincts of his poultry-yard, without the slightest supposition ever crossing his mind, that his *own* former imprudence was the foster-parent of all his present troubles. I need scarcely insist on the all-important subject of the most scrupulous care, as to *cleanliness* in every department of a poultry-yard, whether in regard to water, food, or the roosting-houses. If proper attention is *REALLY given, good food used*, and "though last, not least," the fowls have been carefully and wisely chosen in the *first* instance, I for one do not fear an unsatisfactory result.

E. H.

Schedules of Poultry Shows.

AYLESBURY SHOW.—There will be a poultry exhibition, of a novel character, at Aylesbury, on the 12th April.

The Baroness Meyer de Rothschild will give a silver tea-pot to the owner of the best collection of four pens of poultry, preference being given to the most useful sorts, and not to contain more than one pen of ducks. The competition is restricted to farmers of not less than fifty acres in the vale of Aylesbury, within the limits of the Baron de Rothschild's hunt; but farm-servants are allowed to compete.

All the amateurs and poultry-feeders are on the *qui vive*, and the competition will be great.

BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND POULTRY SHOW.—The Schedule of the Bath and West of England Society announces the annual exhibition to take place in the city of Bath early in June, as noticed in our weekly list of poultry shows. The prizes which are offered are of an amount calculated to entice exhibitors. They are,—three of £3, £1. 10s., and 15s., respectively, for mature birds of the Spanish, Dorking (coloured and white), Cochinchina (the four varieties), and Brahma Pootras. For chickens of 1854, of the same classes (except Black Cochins and Brahma Pootras, which are not mentioned), two prizes of 17. 10s. and 15s. are offered.

Game fowls (four classes), Malay, Hamburgs (four classes), and Polands (the usual three classes), have each two prizes of £1. 10s. and 15s. In these classes no chickens are mentioned.

"The judges will award, in class 27, two prizes of £1. 10s. each to deserving specimens of a cock and two hens of any age, and of any distinct breed not named in the foregoing classes."

"The judges will award, in class 28, two prizes of £1. 10s. each to deserving specimens of a cockerel and two pullets, hatched in 1854, of any distinct breed, not named in the foregoing classes."

For bantams there are two prizes for each class of gold-laced, silver-laced, white and black, of £1 and 10s., and the prizes for ducks, geese, and turkeys are of the same amount. Pigeons, one prize to

each variety, of 10s. Total of prizes, £114.

A silver cup, value £5, will be awarded, in addition to the exhibitor obtaining the *greater number of first prizes* in the classes, for mature Spanish, Dorking (coloured and white), Cochín-China (four varieties), and Brahma Pootras; in fact, to the person who receives the greatest number of prizes of 3l.

We give the rules and regulations :—

All exhibitors will be required to pay for coops, food, attendance, &c., as follows :—

| | Per | Pen. |
|--|-----|------|
| For classes of mature birds, of the large varieties ... | 4 | 0 |
| For classes of chickens, and for the smaller varieties ... | 3 | 0 |
| For classes of bantams, turkeys, and water-fowl ... | 2 | 6 |
| For classes of pigeons ... | 1 | 6 |

The above fees include the free delivery of all birds to and from the show-yard to the railway station; but all expense of carriage to and from Bath must be borne by the proprietors, and all carriage to Bath must be pre-paid, or the specimens will not be removed from the station.

All certificates must be forwarded to Mr. Henry Spackman, honorary secretary, No. 6, Terrace-walks, Bath, together with the amount of fees chargeable at the above rates, on or before the 10th of May, 1854, on printed blank forms, which will be furnished by him on application. Application should be made not later than the 26th of April.

Exhibitors must state the price, breed, and age (if possible), calculated up to the day of exhibition, of their specimens, on their certificates; and all birds competing for any chicken's prize must have their *exact ages* entered thereon. And a sale *must take place* if the price be offered through the secretary, when the exhibitor will be charged £5 per cent., towards defraying expenses.

High condition, quality, beauty of plumage, purity of race, and uniformity in the

markings, combs, and other characteristics, will, in all the classes for fowl, be taken into consideration by the judges in a greater degree than mere weight without these distinctions, if the more perfect specimens are at the same time of a fair average size.

All specimens (shown for prizes) must be *bonâ fide* the property of the exhibitor, the discovery of any wilful mis-statement will exclude the exhibitor from all future exhibitions.

The competition for prizes is strictly confined to amateurs, but poultry dealers may send specimens for sale, on payment of 6s. for each coop, which *shall not contain more than six birds*, to be entered and paid for before the 10th of May, 1854.

The judges will be empowered to withhold any prize where specimens are not considered of sufficient merit.

The poultry department will be subject to the rules and regulations of the director.

Medals will be given instead of prizes, if desired.

All the specimens intended for exhibition must be at the show-yard before seven o'clock on the evening of Tuesday, the 6th of June, otherwise they will not be admitted; and no specimen can be removed before twelve o'clock at noon of Friday, the 9th of June.

All eggs laid will be destroyed.

It is particularly desired that no birds be sent unless in a perfectly healthy condition.

All birds to which prizes have been affixed may be claimed at the price put upon them after three o'clock on the first day. Application to be made at the secretary's office, where all sales must be effected.

Subscribers of 20s. are entitled to two transferable tickets, to admit their nominees during the whole show; of 10s. to one ticket, not transferable.

Exhibitors are particularly requested carefully to examine the prize lists and regulations of the show, in order to avoid errors in making their entries. It must also be understood that *no alteration can be*

made in the prices as stated on the certificates, and set forth in the catalogue; that the specimens must be sold in pens, and not divided; and that the persons who have the management of the sales cannot take charge of fowl which are disposed of privately. Exhibitors who do not wish to effect sales are recommended to name a really prohibitory price, say £1,000 per pen. Attention to these regulations will greatly facilitate the business of the show, and prevent errors in the accounts, and in the despatch of the specimens at its close.

It is particularly requested that all parties applying to the secretary for certificates name what class they wish to enter in, and inclose postage stamps.

Admission to the poultry show only (the first day), 2s. 6d.; second day, until six P.M., 1s.; six until eight P.M., 6d.; third day, until twelve o'clock, 6d. No re-admission.

Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq. (late of Bath), 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London.

Honorary Secretary, Henry Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath.

HEXHAM SHOW.—The Schedule of the Hexham show announces an entirely new system for arranging the prizes, which will be best explained by giving the rule relating to it:—

“The whole of the receipts of the exhibition, after payment of the necessary expenses, will be divided into equal parts, and distributed in prizes. (The value of a part last year was a shilling.) The judges will be empowered to withhold a prize or prizes in any of the classes in which specimens are of an inferior quality.”

Thus to the Spanish are allotted, “best cock and two hens,” a first prize, consisting of 15 parts; second prize, 10 parts. Best cock and one hen, first prize, 9, and second prize, 6 parts. Best cockerel and two pullets of 1853, one prize of 12 parts.

To the Dorking classes, cock and two hens, first prize, 15; second prize, 10.

Cock and one hen, first prize, 9; second prize, 6. White Dorkings, the same.

To Cochin-Chinas (buff, partridge, black and white), the same scale of prizes to each class; and two prizes, 12 and 9 parts, “for the best cockerel and two pullets, chickens of 1853, of the various breeds of Cochin-China.”

The same number of prizes are offered to Malays, game fowl (white, piles, duck-wings and greys), game fowl (black-breasted, and other reds), the usual classes of Hamburgs, Polands (black, golden, and silver), and to a new class for Andalusian fowls; but the amount varies from 12 parts to 6.

The prizes for bantams, turkeys, geese, ducks, and pigeons are much lower; and eleven classes are introduced for canaries and other singing birds.

It is feared the plan of arranging the prizes will prove very puzzling to many persons.

Five per cent. only is to be deducted from all sales.

We will give the following extracts from the rules, as likely to prove interesting to persons wishing to reckon the probable amount of the prizes. The last rule will be very pleasing to those who exhibit their birds:—

“No exhibitor shall enter more than two pens in any one class, and one shilling entrance shall be paid for each pen. Exhibitors of less than four pens shall be entitled to one, and exhibitors of four pens and upwards, to two tickets of admission to the show.”

“Charges for admission on Friday, the 12th of May, from two o'clock till five, 1s., and from five till seven, 6d. On Saturday, the 13th, from ten till one, 1s., and from one till six, 6d.

“The committee will attend to the care and feeding of the poultry, and to the collecting and breaking of all the eggs during the show. Any person detected taking eggs out of the show will be rigorously prosecuted. All sticks and umbrellas must be left at the door.”

Poultry Judging.

In judging poultry, some rules are imperative, others are not. There are two reasons for this. If it be made absolutely necessary that a prize fowl shall possess all the characteristics of the breed to which it belongs, then of necessity it follows, the absence of them will disqualify from taking a prize. If this be the case, then, even at the best exhibitions, half the prizes will be withheld, and even those who are most desirous for fixed rules for judges will feel disappointment when their pets are denied their anticipated honours, and those to which, as the best of their class, they were perhaps entitled.

The office of Judge at a poultry show is not an enviable one, but it is in the power of exhibitors to make it easier, by attending to those rules that are imperative. Now, none is more so than proper matching, and perhaps a few suggestions on this head may not be thrown away.

Those birds are the most difficult to match where colour is not a test of purity, and where comb is not an indication of merit, or otherwise. Let us then begin with Dorkings.

In these we unhesitatingly assert that neither comb nor colour is essential; but it is most important that the birds exhibited in the same pen should be all alike in every respect: because, although where an ill-matched pen distances all competitors, it must have the prize; yet, where competition is very close, a defect in matching will be fatal to a pen.

Grey Dorkings. Any colour of grey Dorking hen may be put to a black-breasted and black-tailed cock with light hackle and saddle; and here the grey means any colour but brown or speckled. But it is a mistake to overlook or condemn a cock because he has a speckled breast or a light tail. We may say again, any cock will match grey hens, except a red, black-breasted red, or cuckoo.

Cuckoo Dorkings must of course be all similar in colour, although a slight dif-

ference in shade should never tell against them, as some of these birds have more blue in the shade of their feathers than others.

Speckles are of three characters, chocolate with black speckle, chocolate with white speckle, and grey with white speckle. The first-mentioned belong to the same class as the brown with dark hackles, and admit of any cock except a light one. The proper mate for them is a black breast and tail, dark straw hackle, and a red saddle. The second mate with the browns, and to these the cock should be red, or red with black breast, or red and white speckle. The third have no cock properly belonging to them, and must be put with a light mate.

Combs must be uniform, and all must have five claws, which should be well defined.

Spanish are true as regards colour, but the cocks want to be well looked at, lest there be any red feathers in the plumage; the legs should be all blue, and here there should be if possible diversity of comb, inasmuch as that of the cock should be upright, while those of the hens should fall well over the face. But although the upright comb is preferable, it is not essential, and is not a point of sufficient importance to palliate any red in the face.

The comb of Hamburg fowls is of vast importance, and should be strictly uniform throughout the pen, well pointed, sitting well and upright on the head. In the chicken classes of these birds, it is most essential to exhibit them all of one age. There is here no difficulty of colour.

Matching, both in colour and legs, is most imperative in game fowls, more so than in any other breed, and if there be any difference or degree, the legs are more important than the feather, seeing that when judges go round a first time, every pen showing legs of divers colours is at once disqualified. The cocks must be dubbed.

Polands must all have blue legs, and here uniformity of marking and top-knots

is desirable. There is a great difference in spangling: some are heavily, some lightly marked; again, some top-knots have much white in them, others very little; if birds thus various in points are put together in a pen, they can only at best hope for an inglorious victory, due rather to the worthlessness of their opponents than their own merits. Not only should the spanglings be alike, but the ground colour of all in the pen should be the same.

Wild Fowl.

Nothing can be more beautiful on a piece of ornamental water than domesticated wild fowl. Few persons possess a large sheet of water without desiring to have them; yet, after many trials, they are compelled, by repeated failures, to give up the attempt. Now, as those who are fond of poultry, are generally lovers of this class of birds as well, we are led to believe, that a few remarks of a practical nature, tending to lessen, if not to overcome, the difficulties hitherto insuperable, will not be out of place.

If the piece of water is supplied by a stream running into it one way, and out of it the other, it will always be difficult to keep them, as, although pinioned, and consequently unable to fly, they swim down the stream, and become an easy prey to thieves or vermin.

If it be a pond or lake without fence around it, the most important thing is to consult the habits of the birds you are about to place upon it. Any sort of geese will do, as they become tame as soon as they discover their inability to fly. The ducks should be the tufted duck (black-headed Pochard), dun bird (red-headed Pochard), and any other divers. These latter remain on the water, because being divers, their feet are placed far behind, and they are consequently badly adapted for the land. If they attempt to run, they fall forwards on their breasts.

If the piece of water be inclosed, and a fence three feet high is amply sufficient, then a large and varied selection may be made. Sheldrake, pintail, gadwall, shoveller, whistling ducks, common and Garganey teal, and widgeon, may be kept with security.

The first thing is, they must be all securely pinioned; this is a very trifling operation. The wing of a duck has two joints above the spur. The amputation must take place below the second; indeed, the simplest plan is to count eight feathers, which takes the whole flight. Place a sharp stout knife below the quill of the eighth feather, on the bone of the wing, as it lies flat on a block, post, or table; let some one strike the back of the knife a smart blow with a mallet or hammer, and turn the duck immediately into the water. The whole flight will be removed, and the spur of the wing remains to cover and protect the wounded part. It is useless to cut off less than this.

The next thing is, to have four landing-places for the ducks, one at each side. These should be cut through the bank, and shelve down into the water. It is well to make the path hard, by ramming down large gravel stones, as otherwise it will become muddy. These landings are necessary, because ducks cannot climb up perpendicular, and sometimes over-hanging, banks, and a beaten bird is often killed by his pursuer for want of these means of escape.

If birds have been travelling, or in confinement for some time, they must not be at once turned out on a large piece of water, as, strange as it may seem, they will drown, their feathers being dry, and unable to resist or repel the water. In this state, if turned out, they immediately begin washing, they struggle into the middle of the water, and as it reaches their down, from the bad condition of the feather, they sink lower and lower, till they die.

This may be avoided by putting them first in a small place or cage, about six

feet square, being two-thirds land and one-third water. Here the birds can wash, and in four or five days may be safely turned on any piece of water, however large. Where birds are frequently turned out, such a cage should be put up at the edge of the water; but where not often required, one may be easily constructed with four hurdles. The birds, while in this confinement, should be very liberally fed.

There are very few places so productive of food, that ducks require no feeding by hand. The best food is barley; for a change, buckwheat and hempseed. The latter are more expensive, and need only be given at times, or I am not sure that need is a proper term, as there is no real need for it at all. All persons who keep wild fowl, wish to have them tame; and nothing helps more to accomplish this, than to feed them at stated times with food of which they are fond, and it should always be thrown into shallow water. For this purpose, nothing is so good as bread, both because they like it, and because it floats.

We would close this paper by one remark. The first difficulty is to get a few tame birds on the water, thoroughly reconciled to their captivity, and attached to their feeder. These must be divers; and those easiest to obtain and domesticate are the dun bird and tufted duck. These, with some sheldrakes (always to be had tame-bred), will form the nucleus of a larger collection, and prove the means of taming the wilder varieties, provided they be put on the water in small numbers, not exceeding half the tame birds with which they are to associate. A few really tame wild ducks are useful for the same purpose; and if it is not desired to breed them, mallards alone, while they are more ornamental, will be equally useful with pairs.

H. R.

You may take it for an infallible rule, that all white-feathered poultry are tender, save Aylesbury ducks.

Review of New Books.

The Poultry Pentologue; or, Five Rules for Fancy Fowls and Fowl Fanciers, intended for Popular Use and Practical Purposes. By James Furneaux, Esq. W. S. ORR & Co., London; and ROGER LIDSTONE, Plymouth.

"FOR fear that the reader should not go beyond the first page," commences the spirited writer of this little treatise, "I think it as well to put him at once in possession of those which I consider to be the *five great Rules* that should constitute the Pentologue of a fowl fancier:—1. PURE BREED; 2. FRESH BLOOD; 3. VARIED DIET; 4. EQUABLE TEMPERATURE; 5. STRICT CLEANLINESS." But we fancy there is little danger that the person who lays out his eightpence, becomes possessed of the little work and opens it, will fail to read on to the end. "Having paid his money," continues the writer, "he is entitled to take his choice;" and the choice of most persons will certainly be to read and profit by the contents of this concise, humorous, and sensible book of directions.

In a chapter which the author facetiously calls "domiciliary," in which he remarks that, "A few yards of wire fencing and a little common sense will go a long way in providing suitable pens" for fowls, he gives the following truthful account of the caprice of hens respecting their nests:—

"Hens exhibit peculiar fancies about nests, which, like our watering-places, suddenly become all the rage at one time, and are pronounced unfashionable at another. Out of about ten nests in my own house, but three are at present popular, why or wherefore I know not, as they possess very different qualities. One of these is in a cold corner on the ground, the second is in a window exposed to light and heat, and the third is situated in a dark nook in an iron pot. Although I am of opinion that nests had better be left an open question for the consideration of the

hens themselves, I will give my ideas on the subject. Of all materials usually employed in their construction, I think heather or straw the best. Hay is bad, as it soon generates insects of a kind 'not to be mentioned to ears polite.' My own experience is in favour of shallow holes in the floor, loosely lined with a little clean straw; and I have almost invariably found that the largest and strongest broods are hatched on the ground."

The following recipe, if successful, may prove useful to some of our readers:—

"In order to give 'quality' to the plumage, particularly on special occasions as a poultry exhibition, boil half-a-pint of linseed in a quart of water until it is reduced to a pint. Pour the seed and liquid over as much meal as will absorb it, and give this every other day for a fortnight to your pen of birds, *i.e.*, a cock and two hens."

We strongly recommend a perusal of the little book.

Routledge's Illustrated Book of Domestic Poultry. Edited by Martin Doyle. G. ROUTLEDGE & Co., Farringdon Street.

THIS is the eighth number of a serial work on poultry, conducted by the enterprising house of Messrs. Routledge & Co. The preceding numbers have treated of the Cochin China and Spanish fowls, the Dorking, the Polish, and its varieties; the Malay, Javan, and eastern varieties (including the Brahma Pootra); the different kinds of game fowls, and the Bantams.

The present number speaks of Pea-fowl and Guinea-fowl, to the latter of which, we have been told, the editor has devoted much attention. We cannot do better than cull a few short extracts from his account.

"Even in domestication," remarks the author, "these birds observe the monogamous disposition common to fowls in a state of nature. Though they associate in 'packs' they are strictly paired, the rare exceptions to the rule arising only

from very peculiar circumstances. Naturalists have not sufficiently, if at all, noticed this (though evidently an important point when their eggs are to be hatched); and, on the contrary, some supposing the male to be as polygamous as a Turk of high degree, have limited him to no fewer than ten wives. * * * * The eggs of the Guinea-fowl, which are much smaller than those of the common hen, and surprisingly diminutive in proportion to the size of the bird, are furnished with a very hard shell of reddish hue, which becomes paler soon after it is laid. The round spots with which the shells of the wild bird are variegated, disappear under the influence of domestication.

"As the Guinea-fowl rarely sits * * * a deputy hen must be provided for the purpose of hatching her eggs, and she must be engaged to sit steadily during an entire month. At the end of this lengthened period the chicks appear, in a state of vivacity and vigour much exceeding that of other newly-born fowls, and can soon use their tiny wings, fluttering about their foster-mother at her call, and ready to accompany her through orchards and shrubberies, where they find congenial sport in the pursuit of grubs and maggots, insects, and such like game, on which it is their nature and delight to prey. They are beautifully striped when young, and do not then show any of the speckled feathering which they afterwards display. To the eye of the observer, the sexes are, as has been partly intimated, undistinguishable until they are at least six months old: then the larger horny substance on the head, rising from it like a peg, and the larger size of the body will enable one to decide as to the sex. * * * *

"The best chance of having a quiet, stay-at-home pair of Guinea-fowls (which, however, must have an extensive range) is to have them hatched on the premises, from which they will be less disposed to ramble than if they had been brought there when grown up."

Books for the Country. The Poultry Yard; including the Management of the Cochon China Fowl. By W. C. L. Martin. G. ROUTLEDGE & Co., Farringdon Street.

TRULY this is the day for cheap books, for here we have an 8vo. volume containing 144 pages for one shilling. The largest book does not, however, always contain the most information, and the present work is in parts somewhat lengthy, especially in the discussion of that frequently-mooted question—the origin of our domestic fowls. Not so, however, where the author treats of the more practical part of his subject. We extract the account of rearing young turkeys:—

“As in the case of young fowls, the turkey chicks do not require food for several hours. It is useless to cram them as some do, fearing lest they should starve; and, besides, the beak is as yet so tender that it runs a chance of being injured by the process. When the chick feels an inclination for food, Nature directs him how to pick it up. There is no occasion for alarm, if for thirty hours they content themselves with the warmth of their parent, and enjoy her care. Yet some food must be provided for them, and this should be, of course, suited to their nature and appetite. Here, too, let the simplicity of Nature be a guide. We say this, because some have recommended *spices*, wine, and even bathing in cold water.

“The first diet offered to turkey chicks should consist of eggs boiled hard and finely minced, or curd with bread-crumbs, boiled nettles, and the green part of onions, parsley, &c., chopped small and mixed so as to form a loose crumbly paste. Barley or oatmeal kneaded with a little water and mixed with the pulp of potatoes and Swedish turnips, to which chopped beet-leaves are added, may also be given. They will require water, but this should be put in a very shallow vessel, so as to insure against the danger of the chicks becoming wetted. Fresh milk is apt to disagree with the young birds, and is not needful.

Both the turkey-hen and her chicks should be housed for a few days. They may then, if the weather be fine, be allowed a few hours' liberty during the day; but, should a shower threaten, they must immediately be put under shelter. This system must be persevered in for three or four weeks. By this time they will have acquired considerable strength, and will know how to take care of themselves. On the first drops of a shower, they will run for shelter to their accustomed place of refuge, which should be warm and weather proof. As they become older, meal and grain may be given more freely. They now begin to search for insects, and to dust their growing plumage in the sand. At the age of about two months, or perhaps a little more, the males and females begin to develop their distinctive characteristics. In the young males the carunculated skin of the neck and throat, and the horn-like contractile comb on the forehead, assume a marked character. This is a critical period. The system requires a full supply of nutriment, and good housing at night is essential. Some recommend that a few grains of Cayenne pepper, or a little bruised hempseed be mixed with their food. The distinctive sexual marks once fairly established, the young birds lose their name of *chicks*, and are termed *turkey poults*.”

A kindly spirit of humanity gives its tone to the book throughout. The author would have his favourites killed with as little pain as practicable. “As fowls are to be killed for the table, it may be as well to point out a merciful way of destroying them—a point on which few concern themselves. Fowls are never bled to death (like turkeys and geese), as, from the loss of blood, the flesh becomes dry and insipid. Poulterers and higglers either strain at the vertebræ of the neck till their dislocation takes place, or produce the same effect by a sudden twist. The former mode is very cruel; the second plan is more merciful, but is not always skilfully managed, and requires considerable dexterity.

The best plan is to take a blunt stick, such as a child's bat or a boy's wooden sword, and strike the bird a smart blow at the back of the neck, about the third joint from the head; death follows in a moment.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS.

SIR,—Having perused the first number of your "Poultry Chronicle," I feel confident that the poultry world cannot too highly appreciate your supplying the want they so long have felt; and feeling it a duty incumbent on every one to enlighten the ignorant, and caution the uninitiated, I will give your readers the origin and characteristics of the race of poultry called Brahma Pootras, which I consider to be especially needed at this present moment. They are natives of India, and take their name from a river in that country; they may be distinguished by their elegantly-pencilled neck-hackle, erect single regularly-toothed comb (the person who says that he prefers the pea-comb in these fowls is mistaken in this particular), white body, black tail and wing feathers, yellow legs, feathered (not often very heavily), length of body, rotundity of breast. Their general appearance is most pleasing and graceful; they are much more active than the Shanghae, and I am satisfied can be kept at half the expense, as they prefer wandering in quest of food at a great distance from home to being fed in a confined yard. As far as my experience goes, which is now about two years and a half since my birds first arrived, their laying properties are second to no breed of poultry, their eggs being as large as the Dorking or Spanish; they will, as they become more generally known, gain preference to any species of poultry yet known to us. I regard those specimens lately sent us from America to

be altogether spurious, which says little for the experience of those entrusted with the important post of adjudicating upon the merits of poultry, who have awarded the laurels to a decidedly cross-bred fowl, being nothing more nor less than the Brahma crossed with the Malay in America, whence their dark, unsightly plumage, and various-coloured legs, some of them being white, others green, some again are mud-coloured; yet these particular points were winked at, inasmuch as the decision of the judges must not be called in question.

No one, for a moment, can suppose that the Brahma is a native of the United States, consequently must have been borrowed; and these magnificent birds have been abused with the Malay in America, just as the Shanghae have been in England with the Dorking, so that even now a genuine Shanghae is a *rara avis*. As I have no doubt many others may wish a corner in your "Chronicle," I will not, for the present, trespass further on your valuable space, and am, Sir, yours, &c.,

A NON-EXHIBITOR.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LETTER OF A COUNTRY CORRESPONDENT.

I DULY received the "Poultry Chronicle;" I observed two stamps on it, therefore please inform me the subscription by post, and * * * I hope it will succeed. I was much pleased with the article signed E. W. All the Cochin China fowls want is more meat upon the breast; this I am certain is to be obtained in a short time without the sacrifice of any good quality, and in this point I think the pure-bred Brahma Pootras excel them.

It would I know with country amateurs greatly increase the interest of the "Chronicle," if there were an account given of the sales of poultry that take place in London, and sometimes in the country, as then persons at a distance would be enabled to form some idea as to who has

the best birds, there being no better test of quality than a public auction.

A COUNTRY CORRESPONDENT.

[We beg to mention in reply, that the second postage-stamp, which was made use of for the first number of the "Poultry Chronicle" only, will in no case be charged to subscribers; it was rendered necessary from a miscalculation of the time that it would take to obtain the stamp for the stamped edition.

We shall be happy to give insertion to concise accounts of poultry sales which may take place in the country with which our correspondents may favour us; but we shall feel obliged to them to ascertain that they are *bonâ-fide* sales.—ED.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "POULTRY CHRONICLE."

SIR,—I was very glad when I saw your work advertised, and I can bear witness to the truth of J. B.'s statement as to the wandering propensities of the Brahma Pootra fowls. I have for the last three years, at least, kept the Cochin China fowls, and I have always found a fence of three feet in height keep them in their proper place; and, confiding in the truthfulness of those who told us Brahma Pootra was only another name for grey Shanghae, I hoped that they would be equally well-behaved. Alas! I soon found how foolish I had been in thus believing; my fence was jumped over, and my garden invaded. I had hoped for an early crop of radishes, I must now look for them in the crops of my Brahma Pootras. My asparagus beds have been well scratched over for insects, until I almost fear to hope for asparagus; and as for greens, my family and I must wait till the spring comes, for, except in being so green as to believe that Brahma Pootras were Cochin Chinas, we shall have no greens for a long time. I must say, *en revanche*, that they are magnificent fowls, and that their eggs are much larger than Cochin China, and, to my thinking,

much more delicate. Pray have any of your readers noticed how much larger and longer the wing feathers of the young chickens are than those of the Cochin China fowls? With many apologies for intruding on your valuable space, believe me, most respectfully yours,

POLLY PARKINS.

DOUBLE-YOLKED EGGS.

SIR,—As it may ofttimes have been a disputed fact, whether double-yolked eggs can, by possibility, produce *two perfect* birds, I forward you the following:—In the year 1836, I purchased from a farmer in this neighbourhood, a set of nine ducks' eggs: these I placed under a small hen for incubation; one egg proved unprolific, but, from another egg, which I had purposely selected (on account of its great size), two quite perfect ducklings were the issue. Though at first much smaller than the others of the same brood, a very few weeks only passed by before they equalled their fellows in size, and when reared, the two drakes (for they happened to be both male birds) proved so exactly alike, they were difficult to distinguish. They were of the Rouen breed.

Last season, a friend of mine, whose Cochin China fowls have frequently figured as A 1 at the different poultry shows, also procured two distinct and perfectly formed chickens from a single egg; but, unfortunately, the hen trampled upon and destroyed both. In this, as in the former instance, the similitude of "the twins" was most striking.

In all other attempts to obtain the same result I have been unsuccessful, the produce of such eggs being constantly some repulsive, abhorrent-looking deformity, with, perchance, two heads, or an additional number of wings or legs; or even more frequently, two tolerably perfect chicks, but connected by a membrane, the severance of which produced instant death. In the two first-named instances,

most probably, the yolks were perfect and entire prior to incubation; in the latter, it is equally certain the yolks were united by a membrane, that the warmth of the sitting hen only tended to strengthen and increase. As such eggs are useless for reproduction, and equally valuable for the use of the table with any others, it will be well for unpractised amateurs to bear in mind, that independent of greater size, they invariably are much *longer* than usual, and therefore easily distinguished; whilst it may prevent the annoyance of finding themselves deceived by the supposition, "that a large egg *must* produce the largest chicken."—Yours, truly,

EDWARD.

SELLING POULTRY TO STRANGERS.

SIR,—Will you allow me through the medium of your paper, to advise my brother amateurs to use caution in selling fancy poultry to *perfect* strangers?

I have lately had the *pleasure* of sending four valuable birds to a party of swindlers, who, I have since learned, make a practice of such things.

They answer your advertisement, or write to you after some exhibition, professing to buy your birds. The birds are sent, and it is needless to add, you hear no more of them or their money. As, according to the present custom, there is every facility for such a trade prospering, I think it well to tell you my experience and put you on your guard.—Yours, truly,

A VICTIM.

POULTRY EXHIBITIONS AND RAILWAYS.

SIR,—I am led to trouble your readers with a few remarks on this subject from what was said in your last number about birds being detained at the stations after the exhibitions, and from having been a sufferer myself from this cause; but first I would have an active person appointed by the committee, to visit the station

constantly on the days that birds are expected to arrive before the show. I have often seen hampers waiting at the station when the birds ought to have been in their pens, and in making observations have been told somebody ought to send for them. Many a bird arrives "too late for competition," from not being forwarded directly from the station to the place of exhibition.

As to returning birds after the show is over, I do not think the railways can be blamed for not sending off an unlimited number of hampers, unless notice has been given them beforehand of what they may expect. I think railways might be more accommodating; but let us remember if there were no railways, we could have no great exhibitions of poultry.

After a horse or cattle fair, I believe it is usual for persons to order a certain number of boxes or trucks to be ready at the station. Why should not the same plan be adopted by the managers of poultry shows? Let them order the requisite number of vans to be ready at a certain time and day, and then let them take care to have the birds all packed and ready to go off at the appointed time.—Yours, &c.,

H. G.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.

YOUR correspondent E. W. asks, "Are Cochin China fowls always to remain fancy stock?" He then, very properly, canvasses their "points," and takes exception to the want of flesh on the breast; for we may all well exclaim, with Marc Antony, "Oh, what a falling off was *there!*" I would state, with all confidence, that, in this utilitarian age, utility must, and *will* eventually, decide the point of shape for us, and give to the Cochin China a plump breast.

Judges and amateurs may stickle for "the true Cochin shape" awhile longer; but, be assured, that they must either give way, or the body public will turn away from them. What further object, I would

ask even now, have the fancy in breeding Cochins? All the points of the true Cochin shape we have already,—and as to colour, that, too, is now obtained “to a feather.” The real aim now should be, to improve the points of utility; and there can be no question, but that the plump, fleshy breast could be obtained in a few seasons.

E. W. is correct when he says, that they are less in the breast now than they were a few years ago; inasmuch as many strains at that time contained Dorking blood. All such birds are now eschewed, and nothing but the pure Cochin shape satisfies us. But how is this to be remedied? I believe it can only be done by committees of shows,—by the Birmingham committee especially. I can assure you, that judges will not, or dare not, take the initiative; as the following incident will show. I was last year judging with two of our most popular judges. Mr. A. (and the letters are suggestive) did not agree with Mr. B. as to the excellence of two cockerels. I was of Mr. A.'s opinion, and observed, in telling over the excellencies of my favourite, “See, how well-breasted the bird is.” “The very thing I object to,” said Mr. B.; “that’s not Cochin shape;”—the bird was cast because he had too much flesh on the breast!

As the Cochin China fowl has risen so highly and so rapidly into favour because of its usefulness—because of the number of its eggs—and the early maturity of its chickens, it does seem to me to be inconsistent to put a bar upon this usefulness by declaring that, though we value it for its early chickens, yet these very chickens shall have little flesh on their breasts!

TRISTRAM SHANDY.

Hull, March 10th, 1854.

Chit-Chat.

THE Poultry sales in London last week did not create great interest; they were but badly attended, and the prices were generally low. A rather high reserve saved some good birds.

The exceedingly moderate prices at which Cochin China and other excellent descriptions of fowls are now selling, will doubtless, in due time, effect great improvements with regard to the general supply of eggs in the country.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

The supply this week has been moderate, and the trade scarcely an average. As usual at this time of year, no lots of Fowls are good enough to command the best price throughout; many of them show the time of year by their maturity, and consequent hardness.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Fowls | 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. | each. |
| Chickens | 3s. 6d. to 4s. 0d. | „ |
| Goslings | 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. | „ |
| Ducklings | 5s. 0d. to 5s. 6d. | „ |
| Pigeons | 0s. 9d. to 1s. 0d. | „ |
| Guinea Fowls .. | 3s. 0d. to 3s. 6d. | „ |
| Rabbits, tame .. | — | 1s. 6d. |
| Do. wild | 0s. 8d. to 0s. 9d. | „ |

There are large quantities of inferior poultry, which, from the change in the weather, are difficult of sale at low prices.

To Correspondents.

J. C. B. would be much obliged to any contributor or correspondent of the “Poultry Chronicle” who could give him a good description of some fowls shown on the last day of the Birmingham exhibition, and again in London, called Ghou-Rooks. He wishes to know about their appearance, disposition, and qualities as layers.

A Correspondent living in Kent wishes for information “how to get up a Poultry Show, and to make it self-supporting.” We hope the papers of E. H. and W. W. will have given him some useful hints. The subject will be followed up, we have reason to hope, by both these able contributors.

To M. B. H.—In answer to this correspondent’s request, I beg to state, having the original imported birds, that they are of the purest dead white, deeply vulture-hocked, very handsome top-knots, cupped combs, heavily-feathered legs and feet, and very *short on the legs*, not like some miserable pictures which I have seen of them, reminding one of a tall thin girl of fifteen years of age, with short petticoats and long trousers.—H.B.

H. J., Esq.—We cordially hope our correspondent will oblige us with an account of his successful method of rearing chickens. May he not partly thank his wise moderation with regard to number for his success. We are much gratified by the flattering manner in which he speaks of the "Poultry Chronicle."

Rev. S. D.—Watch the hen when she goes to nest, and remove the egg immediately; if this is done for a day or two, she will discontinue the practice. Let there be some bricklayer's rubbish thrown down in their haunts,—old ceilings, mortar, &c. Generally speaking, a hen first eats the egg for the sake of the shell. An old remedy was to blow an egg, and fill it with mustard, pepper, ginger, or anything distasteful to the bird, and to put it in her way.

G. H.—We have received G. H.'s contributions with pleasure, and shall be much pleased to have the communications, which he kindly promises.

Advertisements.

PRIZE COCHINS FOR SALE:—

1. Buff Cock, H. C. at Doncaster, and 1st Prize at Leeds (Chicken of 1853).
2. Yellow Cock, H. C. at Doncaster, and 3rd Prize at Leeds (Chicken of 1853).
3. Black-breasted Grouse Cockerel.

For particulars apply to *Rev. G. HUSTLER*, Appleton, Tadcaster.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS and EGGS for SALE.—A First-rate Buff Andrews' Cock, very short-legged and well-feathered, a son of Mr. Andrews's "Nankin." A Clear-necked Buff Cock, well-feathered, son of a first-prize Andrews's Cock. Two or three Lemon Hens, clear-necked and well-feathered.

Eggs from above 18s. per dozen. Eggs from Winchester and Yarmouth Prize White Cochins, 21s. per dozen. Aylesbury Ducks' Eggs, 7s. 6d. per dozen. A few sets only.

Apply to *R. GRIGGS*, Marchwood, near Southampton. Letters to inclose a stamp.

DUFF COCHIN EGGS.—A few may be had during the season, from birds selected with great care from the strains of Sturgeon and Andrews's prize birds, Capt. W. W. Hornby, and Miss Watts. The latter birds were commended at the Metropolitan show in 1852. Price 21s. per dozen, package included.

These birds are of fine plumage, heavy, short in the leg, and no other variety kept.

Apply to *Mr. HOWARD JAMES*, Bridge-street, Walsall.

USEFUL AND ORNAMENTAL POULTRY.

WILLIAM JOHN CHURCHILL, West-gate-street, Gloucester, will feel a pleasure in supplying parties with any description of useful and ornamental Poultry; also Eggs, from pure breed:—

| | Per doz. |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Buff Cochins | £0 12 0 |
| Black do. | 1 4 0 |
| White do. | 1 4 0 |
| Cuckoo do. | 1 10 0 |
| Spanish White-face | 0 12 0 |
| Dorking | 0 12 0 |

Prices of other Eggs and Fowls on application. A splendid Cuckoo Cochin Cock and Two Pullets for Sale.

BLACK SHANGHAE COCK.—Wanted, a Pure-bred, Jet-black Cock, of two years old or more, with no white or red feathers on him;—either for purchase, or hire for two months.—Apply, by letter, to the Editor of the *POULTRY CHRONICLE*, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

PARTRIDGE'S COLOUR CHINA FOWLS.—The best Stud of Hens in England of this choice variety for Sale.—Address to *T. A., Esq.*, care of the Publisher of the *POULTRY CHRONICLE*, 1, York-street, Covent-garden, London.

GENUINE PRIZE STOCK.—POULTRY EGGS.

| | Per doz. |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| White Cochin China | £1 4 0 |
| Black Cochin China | 1 4 0 |
| Lemon Cochin China | 0 12 0 |
| Partridge Cochin China | 0 12 0 |
| Silver Pencilled Hamburgs | 0 8 0 |
| White-faced Spanish | 1 4 0 |
| White Muffed Poland | 1 10 0 |
| Ptarmigan | 2 2 0 |
| Pure White Turkey | 2 0 0 |

Also, a White Cochin China Cockerell and Two Pullets for Sale, price £8.

Also, a fine Ptarmigan Cockerell and Pullet, now laying, for Sale, price £12.

Apply to *WILLIAM HAMMOND*, Stubington, near Fareham, Hants.

COLOURED DORKINGS.—For Sale, a Cock and Hen, aged 10½ months. They took the First Prize at the South-east Hants, and Second at Dorchester and Surrey Zoological Gardens Winter Shows.—Apply to *F. BERNAL, Esq.*, Fareham, Hants.

**PROFITABLE AND ORNAMENTAL
POULTRY.**

P JONES, High-street, Fulham, will supply
Eggs from the following Varieties:—

Brahma Pootra, from 1st and 2nd Prize birds
at Winchester and Norwich, £4. 4s. per dozen.

Silver Poland, from birds which have taken
five prizes, and highly commended wherever
exhibited, £1. 1s. per dozen.

Buff and Silver Cinnamon Cochins, 12s. and
£1. 1s. per dozen.

The birds can be seen at the above address.

FANCY POULTRY.—The PTARMIGAN.

—These beautiful and scarce birds have
obtained PRIZES at the following Shows during
the last few months:—The Surrey Zoological
Gardens, Baker-street Bazaar, Norwich, South-
ampton, South-east Hants, Salisbury, Plymouth,
&c. They are a pure white, with topknots, vul-
ture hooked, cupped combs, and remarkably
well-feathered legs and feet. Eggs can be pur-
chased at £2. 2s. per dozen, from Dr. Burney's
ORIGINAL Birds, which may be seen at Brock-
hurst Lodge, near Gosport.

EGGS FOR SALE, from Prize birds, from
the Yard of CHRISTOPHER RAWSON, Esq.,
The Hurst, Walton-on-Thames

Buff Cochins; Spanish; Coloured and White
Dorkings; Gold and Silver, Spangled, and Pen-
cilled Hamburgs; Gold and Silver Bantams;
and Aylesbury Ducks, 12s. per dozen.

White and Black Cochins; Gold, Silver, and
Black Polands; 21s. per dozen.

Brahma Pootra Eggs, from imported birds of
the best strains, £2. 2s. per dozen.

Post-office orders (including 1s. for packing)
to be sent with the order. The Eggs will be sent
out in rotation according to the date of order.

**EGGS from FIRST CLASS and PRIZE
BIRDS.**—JOHN BAILY has now for Sale,
Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma
Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Ayles-
bury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully
selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls
and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.;
by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts,
17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts,
13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—
The plainest and most practical treatise of the
day.

113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square.

PRIZE BUFF COCHINS.—EGGS for Sit-
ting from Fowls which took First Prizes
at Cheltenham, Plymouth, Southampton, Surrey
Gardens, Honiton, and Torquay. COLOURED
DORKINGS from the same stock which took
First and several other Prizes at the late Metro-
politan Show. Cochins, 21s., Dorkings, 10s. 6d.
per dozen, package included.

A few Dorkings, and a pair of first-rate Ptarm-
igans just imported for sale.—Address H. B.
Higgs, Hill Lodge, Southampton.

**EGGS of BUFF COCHIN Well-feathered,
L and WHITE-FACED BLACK SPA-
NISH,** at 10s. per dozen; and a few of PURE
INDIAN GAME at 6s. per dozen.

Apply to E. S. H., Aldersley, Belper.

**A LADY WHO HAS TAKEN A PRIZE
for WHITE CHINA SILK FOWLS,**
will be glad to exchange one young Cock of that
breed for a good young Spangled HAMBURG
COCK; or she would sell the Silk Cock for £1,
as she has more cocks than pullets.
Direct to F. H., Aldorwasley-Hall, near Belper.

BUFF COCHIN CHINA EGGS for SALE,
D from birds that have taken prizes at the
Derby, East Kent, Bristol, Taunton, and Yeovil
Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen. Also
Partridge Cochin China Eggs from birds that
have taken prizes at London Summer Meeting,
Surrey Gardens' Show in August, Malvern,
Yeovil, Honiton, and Torquay Poultry Shows,
at £1. 1s. per dozen.

Apply to JOHN R. ROBBARD, Aldwick-Court,
Wrington, near Bristol.

**GOLDEN SPANGLED HAMBURG
EGGS,** from birds that took First Prizes at
Dorchester, Southampton, and Surrey Gardens
in 1853; Salisbury and Great Metropolitan
Shows in 1854;—the only places they were exhib-
ited. Thirteen for One Guinea, box included,
and carefully packed.—Apply to Mrs. HENRY
FOOKES, Whitechurch, Blandford. Sent in rota-
tion of orders by remittance or post-office order,
Blandford.

DRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS.—A few sit-
tings of EGGS of this breed to be disposed
of (according to priority of application) from
the prize and selected birds of a gentleman,
Brahmas of whose breeding have, during the
past year, taken prizes at the following large
Poultry Shows.—The Royal Agricultural, Great
Metropolitan, Birmingham, Great Yarmouth,
Doncaster, Winchester, Norwich, and Manche-
ster.—Apply to W. C. G., Post-office, Sandbach,
Cheshire.

BLACK POLANDS with **WHITE CRESTS**. **D**—EGGS for Sale at 12s. per dozen, fresh laid, from birds which obtained two prizes at exhibitions last year.—Apply C. W., Hemsby, Yarmouth.

VERY CHOICE COCHIN COCKERELS (Sturgeon & Andrews), from the Yard of James Nightingale, Esq., of Hersham. Also, some first-rate **PULLETS**, and some Prize Birds bred by Captain Snell, to be sold by Mr. STEVENS, on 21st March, at 38, King-street, Covent-garden.

EGGS.—**BRAHMA POOTRA**, **SPANISH FOWLS**, and **AYLESBURY DUCKS'** EGGS, from birds of the most superior description, the property of a well-known amateur (owner of the three magnificent Brahmas with which he challenged the world).

Brahma Eggs, "from birds of pure Per doz.
blood" £2 2 0

Spanish ditto, "from birds perfectly
white-faced" 0 12 0

Aylesbury Ducks' ditto, "from
Edwards & Ridgway's prize birds" 0 6 0

Address D. C., Mr. Hinton's, 8, Winsley-street, Oxford-street.—The most satisfactory references can be given as to quality of all the birds; they are a few miles from London, and could be seen by an appointment being made.

FANCY POULTRY.

EDWARD H. STRANGE, Amptill, Beds., has for sale a few pairs of the following birds:—Black Spanish, from Captain Hornby's strain (these Birds obtained 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes at the Bedford Exhibition, 1853); Golden Pencilled Hamburg and White-bearded Poland (first prizes were awarded to each of these varieties at the Hitchin and Home Counties Exhibition, 1853); White and Buff Shanghaese, fine heavy birds; Silver Spangled Hamburg, (these birds gained a prize at the Bedford Exhibition).

E. H. S. will have a few sittings of Eggs from each of the above fowls to sell, and from the Staffordshire pile Game, from birds that took a prize both at Hitchin and Bedford.—Price and other particulars sent on receipt of a directed envelope.

MR. EDWARD HEWITT, of Eden Cottage, Sparkbrook, near Birmingham, will immediately dispose of **ALL** his **PURELY BUFF COCHINS**, selected from the best strains in the kingdom.

SPANISH (pure White-faced), **DORKING**, and **COCHIN CHINA EGGS**.—A Gentleman who gained the Second Prize in Dorking Chickens at Birmingham, and the First prizes in Spanish and Cochin Chickens at Shrewsbury, will sell EGGS from First Class and Prize Birds:—Spanish and Dorking Eggs, £2. 2s. per dozen. Cochins (buff or white), £1. 11s. 6d. per dozen. The Spanish from Capt. Hornby's breed.

Also, Two good white-faced Spanish Cocks to be sold.

Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOWS.

Postponement of the proposed Show of Store Stock and Agricultural Implements.

A T A MEETING of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** of the **COUNCIL**, held on Thursday, the 23rd of February instant, the subjoined Resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That, as from unavoidable circumstances, the plans for holding the Show of Store Stock and Agricultural Implements in June next cannot be sufficiently matured, it is resolved that the Show be postponed until 1855, and that proper notice be given to the public without delay."

By order, JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Sec.

Offices, 38, Bennett's-hill, Birmingham,
February 25, 1854.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE AND POULTRY SHOW, 1854.

The Sixth Great Annual Exhibition of **STOCK** and **DOMESTIC POULTRY** will be held in Bingley Hall, on the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December next. The Prize Lists, and any further information, may be obtained from

JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Sec.
Offices, 38, Bennett's-hill, Birmingham.

FANCY POULTRY.—PERIODICAL SALE.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will sell by auction at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on Tuesday, 21st March, at 12 o'clock precisely, a very Choice Selection, including Brahma Pootras, Cochins, &c., from the yards of J. Fletcher, Esq., Rev. J. Hutchinson, J. Nightingale, Esq., and others, many being first-class birds; also a few pure Ptarmigans, bred by Dr. Burney, and other Fancy Stock.—Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent-garden.

SPANISH FOWLS.—EGGS from Prize Birds at Southampton and Salisbury, and from first-rate and imported Stock, purchased regardless of expense, whose progeny took prizes wherever exhibited last year, are now selling at 2s. 6d. each. As the applications are numerous, they will be executed in the order they arrive. — Address, inclosing post-office order, payable at Hartford-bridge, to Mr. JOHN CLARKE, Shrub-cottage, Hartley-row.

**FANCY POULTRY.
PERIODICAL SALES BY AUCTION.**
Arrangements for the Month of March.

MR. J. C. STEVENS begs to announce that the SALES by AUCTION at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, will take place as under, viz.—

On **TUESDAY, 21st**—Periodical Sale. Choice Cochins from the Rev. C. Hotham, Rev. J. Hutchinson, Rev. J. Nightingale, and some Pouter-gans from Dr. Burney's famed birds.

On **TUESDAY, 28th**—Extra Sale. Cochins, Brahas, Dorkings, Spanish, &c., from several first-class breeders.

These Sales commence at 12 o'clock precisely, and will be continued throughout the season on the first and third Tuesday in every month, with extra sales on the intervening Tuesdays as circumstances require them. Catalogues may be had by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to

MR. J. C. STEVENS,
38, King-street, Covent-garden, London.

BRAHMA POOTRA & COCHIN CHINA FOWLS,

From **MR. FLETCHER,** of Kensington.

MR. STEVENS will **SELL** by AUCTION, at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-Garden, on **TUESDAY, March 21st,** at 12 o'clock precisely, several Brahma Pootra Fowls, selected from Mr. F.'s most choice and interesting collection; also the Cochin China Cock "The Pilot," believed to be the best specimen in England; a Hen, "The Empress," 20 months old, weighing 11½ lbs.; an imported Hen, "Nelly" (purchased of Miss Watts), of great size, and perfect in all points; a Hen, "Fairy," vulture-hocked; a very fine fowl Mr. F. bred from her last year; nearly all his vulture-hocked fowls, which sold for such extraordinary prices; several other hens, and two vulture-hocked cocks. Amateurs will do well to embrace the present chance of obtaining fowls such as are seldom met with. None of them have been publicly exhibited, as Mr. F. never exhibits. — May be viewed the morning of Sale, and Catalogues had.

EGGS from **PRIZE WHITE** and **CLEAR BUFF COCHINS,** and **WHITE-FACED SPANISH FOWLS,** from 12s. the set.

Apply to **SAMUEL HILL,** Rose Hill, Heywood, near Manchester.

SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY-HOUSE, £4, consisting of house 4 feet square and 6 feet high, and roofed run for fowls 9 feet by 4 feet. Drawings of several sent free. The above are portable, and can be taken down or put up by any ordinary labourer. Wire work from 6 to 15 inches wide, 6½d. per square yard, to enclose poultry, &c.—**R. RICHARDSON,** 21, Tunbridge-place, New-road, near King's-cross. **N.B.** Maker of garden summer-houses, and iron and wood houses for emigrants; drawings of 21 houses sent free.

FRUIT TREES, POULTRY, RABBIT, SHEEP, and CAT FENCING.—Worsted NETTING to protect the bloom of peach, nectarine, and other trees, flower, or seed beds, from frost, blight, and birds, two yards wide 5d. per yard. New twine netting (tanned if required), one yard wide, 1½d. per yard; two yards wide, 3d. per yard; four yards wide, 6d.; half-inch mesh ditto, two yards wide, 6d. per yard. Tanned netting, two or three yards wide, 1½d. per yard; four or six yards wide, 3d. per yard. Elastic hexagon garden net, or scrim canvas, 4½d. per square yard. Cocoa-nut fibre, or hemp sheep-folding net, of superior quality, four feet high, 4d. to 6d. per yard. Rabbit net, four feet wide, 1½d.; six feet wide, 2½d.; eight feet, 3d. per yard. Each edge corded, ½d. per yard extra, suitable for poultry fencing. Square mesh cricketing net, fix its full width and length made of stout cord, 3d. to 4d. per square yard; this is the best article made for fencing against fowls, cats, &c.—**At W. CULLINGFORD'S,** No. 1, Edmund-terrace, Dalston. Orders by post, with P. O. order or town reference, punctually attended to. Fishing-nets of all kinds in stock.

DOLBY'S WEDDING AND HERALDIC STATIONERY.—**CREST DIES ENGRAVED** as gems of art without charge where the order amounts to 21s. **H. DOLBY** having crest dies appertaining to more than 10,000 families, can supply even 100 envelopes with the desired crest. Wedding and Visiting Cards engraved and printed in the perfection of fashion. Pedigrees traced, with illustrative notices, antiquarian and topographical. Arms found, emblazoned, and engraved for book-plates, seals, &c.
HENRY DOLBY, Heraldic Draughtsman and Stationer, 56, Regent-street-quadrant.

**FOR POULTRY-HOUSES.
LIGHT, CHEAP, & DURABLE ROOFING.**

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons. Price **ONE PENNY** per **SQUARE FOOT**. Croggon's Patent **NON-CONDUCTING FELT** for covering Steam-boilers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and testimonials sent by post, on application to **CROGGON & CO.**, 2, Dowgate-hill, London, who also supply **SHIP SHEATHING FELT**, and **INODOROUS FELT**, for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

WM. DRAY & CO.'S PATENT WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot. Ordinary Wire Netting, from 2½d. per yard, 2 feet wide.—Address **WM. DRAY & Co.**, Agricultural Implement Manufacturers, Swan-lane, Upper Thames-street, London.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Preserving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage-free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 4.]

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

Poultry Shows.

Aylesbury Local Show, April 12th. Secretary, Cheplyn Hall, Esq. Entries are closed.

Royal Dublin Society's Spring Show, April 18, and three following days. Assistant Secretary, W. E. Steel, Esq., M.B. Entries close April 3.

Hexham Poultry Show, in the Abbey Grounds. Second Annual Exhibition, Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th of May. Secretary, W. Turner, Esq., Hencotes, Hexham. Entries close May 6.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries close May 10th.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties, Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, T. McCann, Esq., Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close Saturday, November 11th.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

THE cycle of the poultry year has performed its round, and brought us to the commencement of another chicken season. The little ones of last year having fluttered their tiny, quill-less wings, assumed their

feathery garbs, sported at home, and, perhaps, triumphed at poultry shows, are now (like staid, respectable domestic characters) engaged in the more sober task of replenishing their owners' stocks, and rearing representative recipients of future honours. Nor is the opportunity for gaining these future laurels unprovided;—witness our weekly swelling list of promised exhibitions. There are few amateurs who have not enjoyed pleasant days,—some of the sunny days of existence,—in visits to poultry shows in different localities. It is a pleasure which is augmented to the successful exhibitor, not only by the honour, but by the increased value of his stock. The poultry shows give pleasure and valuable aid both to exhibitors and visitors; they are serviceable alike as a test of merit and an arena for comparison, and useful to all persons who follow the pursuit, whether they do so for pleasure or for profit. May the poultry shows prosper! they cater well both for exhibitors and spectators.

But could anything *besides* be done for the cottager? something to improve the cocks and hens that run about in lanes, and scratch by the roadsides? Could any plan be devised to give us an increased supply of eggs by promoting improvement, especially among those fowls to which we must look for the increased supply?

There is an unsatisfied demand for new-laid eggs; persons who have any to sell have no difficulty in finding a market for them. If landed proprietors and the gentry, who take an interest in the concerns of their poorer neighbours, would bestow attention on this question, there is little doubt but that it might be made beneficial to those in whose welfare they take an interest.

Although committees of poultry shows often kindly favour cottagers by allowing them to exhibit free of cost, the poor man cannot afford the expense of carrying his fowls to a distance, however much he may wish to compare them with others. When there, perhaps, he can scarcely compete on equal terms with the amateur, who has every expensive appliance at command. This may or may not be the case, but be that as it may, the advantage is one which entails cost. These reflections bring us to the question, whether local shows,—on a simple plan, for cottagers only,—would not tend towards the desirable result of getting our markets well supplied, and, by so doing, of benefiting alike the producer and the consumer. The arrangements need not be on a magnificent scale; a gentleman's stable-yard, or a waste bit of land, might be made the arena for the friendly contention; and where is the amateur who has not plenty of amateur friends that would most willingly help in such a work?

Variation of Chickens' Food.

SIMMER pearl barley over the fire until it is soft, and roll it until dry in meal of any kind.

The Sebright Bantam.

THERE are certainly very few, if there are any, varieties of poultry which, for beauty and general conformation, equal the Sebright bantam, and from early youth to the present hour they have been my most especial favourites. They are comparatively non-injurious in the ornamental grounds around a villa; their plumage and markings justly entitle them to the appellation given by the late Sir John Sebright (the amateur from whom they derive their name, and to whom we are indebted for *this variety*), as "BEING THE VERY PRETTIEST OF ALL DOMESTIC FOWLS!" and when hereditary breeding has not been too closely persisted in, they are not without *utility* likewise.

The Sebrights as foster-mothers for partridges, quails, &c., are not to be surpassed, and I have frequently known even pheasants reared to great advantage by them, (the golden Chinese pheasants more especially), though, for raising *pheasants*, I myself would always give the decided preference to a cross breed between the game fowl and the bantam, simply because, being larger, they impart more warmth to their offspring, and therefore, as a natural consequence, bring them on more rapidly to perfection. As layers (if well managed) they are by no means indifferent. The heaviest drawback to breeding is this, that frequently a great part of the eggs are *unprolific*. Thus situated, of course the disappointed amateur has no possible relief, except in exchanging the male bird, for he may depend upon it, the imbecility of his favourite will not give way and make things turn out better, by continuing the experiment with him through consecutive seasons: it is caused by, and is the inevitable penalty of *breeding too closely*; therefore, certainly, improvement with the same bird is quite out of the question, and the sooner the change is made, the less protracted will be the annoyances, vexation, and disappointment of its owner.

If the eggs of bantams as laid are *not* removed from the nest, they are a variety that soon become prone to sit; it is this trait in their character, combined with a zealous attachment to their chicks, that causes a bevy of them to find a location, at most gamekeepers' for the purposes of partridge and pheasant breeding; they also, certainly take to *strange* broods, with greater ease than most kinds will do, and never harshly maltreat the little, newly-hatched strangers, let them be ever so different in appearance to their own offspring—intermingled with them—or even should it extend to three or four *different* varieties in the same hatch. This renders them of incredible service in case of an *EARLY* hay-harvest, when eggs of different kinds of game are suddenly exposed by the mower's scythe, and as the natural parent would then certainly desert her nest: the plan generally adopted is, to place the eggs thus collected in the care of bantams, and, by this means, numbers are reared that would be otherwise lost altogether.

When we reflect that the Sebright bantam is quite as careful of the charge committed to her, as any other variety in this Lilliputian class, we shall no longer feel surprise at finding them so frequently about the premises of the nobleman or country gentleman who feels interest in his game, and to whose amusements they thus prove no mean assistants, more especially as they *outrive* all other kinds as much in beauty as they *equal* them in usefulness. The eggs are a fair size, in proportion to that of the bird itself—very large in the yolk—and the flavour is excellent.

Of Sebrights, there are two distinct varieties, well known, one as the "gold-laced," the other the "silver-laced" bantam; the markings in each are precisely similar, the great difference being in the *ground* colour; that of the golden is a purely clear light bay; the silver-laced, on the other hand (if decidedly a perfect bird, by no means easily obtained, how-

ever, of late), is a *clear, bright, frosted silver*, which, from the very great contrast with the "black lacings," gives it a decidedly superior appearance to its less conspicuous neighbour. Every feather, from the head to the tail, of a well-bred Sebright, is "laced" or bordered *all round the edge* with a line of *pure* black, about one-sixteenth of an inch in width, and it is quite essential that regularity should exist all throughout the whole lacings, even on the coverts of the wings; for if the line widens towards the *extremity* of feather, it becomes a fatal objection: this is one of the most common failings in these birds, and is best obviated by a little careful management in the selection of "brood stock." The tail should be only *tipped* with black, and the ground colour ought not to be clouded, but perfectly clear and distinct throughout its whole extent.

Although, for "showing," smaller birds are preferable, I, by no means, give my assent as "brood birds," to any less than the following:—the cocks, from seventeen to twenty ounces; the hens, from fifteen to eighteen, and if even a little larger, the error will most likely be corrected by a far less degenerate race of chickens; for I am convinced, much of the disappointment in *this* class, so loudly and generally complained of, is consequent altogether from the foolish plan of *purposely* selecting the most diminutive, and therefore the most weakly fowls, that can be procured. This is a plan, it is well known, the breeders of *any other kind of stock would not for a moment sanction*, on account of its evident tendency to deterioration; and, no doubt, this will also accelerate the utter extinction of this favourite breed, if, with dogged perseverance, it is still continued.

If perfectly laced birds are mated, it by no means follows that equally perfect chickens are the produce; but if a too heavily marked bird, and one that shows a trifling insufficiency of lacing, are used as stock-birds, not unfrequently they throw the best chickens that can be produced: this, I myself have frequently

tested, and with the same results almost invariably. The comb of the Sebright *must* be a rose comb: here, too, a very prevalent fault is from a depression at the back part (instead of a point) of the comb, and it is somewhat singular (as a fact) that there is not any failing that proves itself so *hereditary*, nor will any feature tell more unfavourably in an exhibition-pen against the interests of the owner, unless, perhaps, it may be, the single combs, which are sometimes thoughtlessly placed for competition by an inexperienced exhibitor. The Sebright cocks should be altogether devoid of either hackle or saddle feathers; the sickle feathers, too, must be wanting; in short, the plumage should assimilate as closely as possible to that of the hen. Whether this character of plumage does really tend to lessen the chances of an increase in our Sebrights, is, to myself, a dubious question, though it has frequently been so asserted: my want of acquiescence arising from the fact, that one of the most "heny-feathered-cocks" I ever saw, was the parent of all my young stock for many years, for I kept no other male bird, so that mistake was impossible, and one of my hens reared twenty-two (of her own) chickens to him in a *single* season; while, on the other hand, I have purposely tried others, that *did* incline to hackle, which proved *altogether unprolific*. It is these stubborn facts that compel me to suppose degeneracy from very *closely-allied breeding* is more frequently the cause of non-success, than peculiarity of feather. I will add, if possible, always breed this truly fashionable and beautiful variety of fowls, from old birds, not chickens; as, when so managed, your success will be *far more certain*.

The chickens are hardy to excess, if kept in a perfectly dry place the first week or two, and upon sand that is *perfectly dry* ALSO; it is quite necessary to enforce this, as the least damp at this early age, is certainly fatal alike to your hopes and your chickens.

The gait of the Sebright bantam is the very extreme of self-esteem, vanity, and assurance, and whether silently walking on a lawn in search of insects in the green-sward, or hurrying with the most agile and *noisy* impatience from the too near advances of your favourite dog to some friendly covert of evergreens, it is impossible to conceive a more lovely ornament to your grounds, or one that claims more general admiration and astonishment, from those who thus see them for the *first* time.

These birds when "petted," as they frequently are by ladies, become exceedingly tame and domestic, and will follow their fair owners from place to place, in their peculiarly self-important manner, and when thus docile, these fowls are, perhaps, seen to greater perfection than under any other circumstances whatever, and raise their offspring with greater chances of success, to advance which, I have written these few hints, as I, for one, should feel the greatest sorrow if—under the idea that they could *not* be propagated,—this beautiful variety should, from sheer neglect, become extinct.

E. H.

Sic Transit.

Who has not been to Bartholomew Fair? I beg pardon of our young lady readers, of whom I hope we have many, and address myself to those who, like me—alas! that I should say it—have passed the meridian, whose temples have lost "Hyperion's curls," and who have become accustomed to the snowy whiteness of age on that head, of which mayhap, it could once be said, like John Anderson's,—

"Your locks were like the raven,"

follow up the song, fair young friends, and say—

"Blessings on your frosty pow,"

and I will continue my narration.

But, true to my motto, I cannot forbear a passing reflection, for we do not like to get old. The quiet pleasures of middle age have their merit; but there is a buoyancy about youth—a sort of heedlessness of consequences—an impunity, which, when lost, is lost for ever.

But what has this to do with Bartholomew Fair? Forgive me, but I have been reading one of Jules Janin's *feuilletons* in the "Journal des Debats," and it is reported, George III., when he was told Nelson was mad, said he wished he would bite all his other admirals. Reading the *feuilleton* has bitten me. If Nelson had bitten all his brethren, their madness would not perhaps have had as much method in it as his own, and the desire to write like Jules Janin does not convey the power to do so.

What has all this to do with Bartholomew Fair? and above all, what has it to do with the "Poultry Chronicle?"

"Who," says some fair reader, "ever went to Bartholomew Fair? Faugh! the vulgar place." Granted. But many went, although it was *incog*. The thirst of the knowledge of good and evil is rife among us. May the latter never predominate. If none of my readers have ever been there, I will explain that, at one of the shows, there was a wonderful animal exhibited, which, to use the words of the showman, "came over in two ships." Well, but what about poultry? Simply this: in the early days of Cochins, Mr. Punchard exhibited at Birmingham a marvellous pen of birds, which took first prize and medal for unusual merit. They richly deserved it. Everybody admired them, all wanted to buy them; but then the price! two guineas each! Now comes the application of all my verbosity. The animal took two ships to bring it over—the pen, two people to buy it. One bought it, and the quotation may be permitted in a poultry paper, "ran about like a goose in the agony of egg-laying," to find another as extravagant as himself. This was the wonder of the day; the poor

fowls had no names; they were unknown to fame till they came to Birmingham; but as the snowball launched from the mountain becomes an avalanche in the valley, so these fowls, by selling for two guineas each, set the fashion and example for all the extravagances that have followed. The next year, Mr. Sturgeon showed beautiful birds, and as a prohibitory price, put five guineas each on them. They were admired and coveted; at last a desperate man bought one. Duly labelled "one sold," the admiring crowd doubled; another was sold, and then all found purchasers.

Men, like sheep, follow one another. Mr. Andrews's celebrated pen was sold for £30, and Mr. Steggall sold his pens also at large sums.

The next year, so soon do we become reconciled to that which at first seemed unreasonable, many birds were sold at £10 each. Then "a change came o'er the spirit of the dream," and the value of these birds could only be arrived at by a sale by auction. It took the value of a small farm to buy a dozen. The descendants of "Jerry" (himself sold for fifty shillings) made from £3 to £15 each. "Sir Robert" sold for £40; the "Duke" £28. Andrews's old hen £30, her sister £22. Next "Phœnix," well named, sold for £100, and then the cord was strained too tight, and it snapped.

Buyers gave £30 each for fowls, but the value of the produce of these expensive birds bore no proportion to their cost. The investment seemed a bad one, and a cry arose among the holders of this high-priced stock, *Sauve qui peut*: mythologies, classics, and history were ransacked for names, and the birds were hurried up for sale. But "what's in a name?" "The Regent" sold for eight shillings, "Marie Antoinette" for six, "Peri" was deservedly disconsolate, for she found no bidder. "Lydia Languish" sighed in vain for more than fifteen shillings. "Marguerite de Valois," like her great original, was neglected; and "Richelieu" was openly set at naught.

Thus they fell, because they were made to soar too high: the fault was not their own. Being in a discursive mood, we would say they did not fall like Lucifer, to rise no more. Their virtues shall keep them in a steady popularity. We would be prophets. Cochins shall never again rise to the height they once attained, but they shall have the praise they deserve. It is much even for man endowed with reason to excel in one thing. Why should more be asked of the animal creation? These fowls were sent to provide food for man; we do not think them good table fowls, but when others fail, if you keep them you shall never want the luxury of a really new-laid egg on your breakfast-table. The snow may fall, the frost may be thick on your windows when you first look out on a December morning, but your Cochins will provide you eggs. And your children shall learn gentleness and kindness from them, for they are kind and gentle. And you shall be at peace with your neighbours, for they will not wander nor become depredators.

They have fallen in price because they were unnaturally exalted; but their sun is not eclipsed,—they have good qualities, and valuable. They shall now be within the reach of all, and will make the delight of many by their domestic habits, which will allow them to be kept where others would be an annoyance.

A. B. B.

A Warning to Amateurs.

It is in my humble opinion a positive *duty* (a feeling in which I am sure you will "join cause"), to expose delinquency for the benefit of poultry amateurs generally. I am aware that the *cupidity* of the victims generally leads to their misfortunes; still, as some parties may be prevented falling into their clutches who ill deserve such treatment, perhaps a very succinct account of the *modus operandi* of a regularly organised gang of poultry swindlers may

be useful to your readers. I am well aware it is only the resuscitation of the villany of last season, but, strange to say, they now seem to practise with very far greater success than formerly, and, as the regular police say, the affair is legally only a simple debt transaction; the columns of your valuable journal will, I feel certain, prove the *best* bulwark against the furtherance of these nefarious designs.

Then to my subject.

A letter is received by the party selected as a victim, couched in gentlemanly language (the address being *evidently* taken from the catalogue of the poultry shows, as even little MISPRINTS *are here perpetuated*), stating "that having long been a fancier of the — fowl" (the blank being filled up according to the reputation of the amateur addressed), "and having, on account of the severity of the late winter, lost many first-rate birds, I trust you will excuse the liberty of my inquiry (though I must plead my *enthusiasm* for this truly valuable variety as my excuse), if you have any really superior birds to dispose of, and the lowest *cash* price. I do not wish to deceive you, but unless perfect specimens, they would be altogether useless; if good, however, I am quite willing to pay a fair price, as I know the difficulty of obtaining such. Your early reply," &c., &c.

All these letters are evidently in the same hand, all are couched in very nearly the same words, and *tally* exactly with those of *last* spring. Whatever may be the reply as to price, a slight apparent *surprise* is manifested in the rejoinder, but after very little quibbling as to figure, the bargain is closed, with "if you will pay the carriage and hamper, I will take them. Please to forward them * * * * as soon as convenient." If the dupe is sufficiently incautious to act as directed, he either never hears anything more of his poultry (except from the railway officials, who say they delivered as directed, and had them signed for), or a reply in a fresh hand acknowledges the *safe* receipt, pleads

some sudden call from home of the original buyer, and states the amount shall be sent in a few days, "*the moment he returns.*"

It is really worthy of remark that the signatures in the railway books are NOT in the same hand as the *first* applicant, nor yet the individual who states "their receipt safely to hand," therefore it is evident several parties are concerned, and though these *orders* come from two *different* towns the postage-stamps have been consecutive, and bear POSITIVE testimony of their original juxtaposition. It is carried out after this fashion. An empty house is taken, partially furnished, and for a few days the arrivals are somewhat numerous in the poultry line. After perhaps paying a week's rental they decamp in the night, without settling with the landlord, and (the worst and most HEARTLESS part has still to be narrated) they generally leave behind them too many testimonies that valuable poultry have been sacrificed, *as edibles* (at least, in some instances). Now all this may be as easily prevented as possible, by the wise precaution of *having the cash beforehand*. The trial has been made here, in several instances, within this last fortnight, and unfortunately not without some success, though parties that are tricked thus do not like to own it freely. Last year I was twice tried myself: this year they have not honoured me with a communication, most likely because I then replied rather facetiously, having been forewarned of danger.

Amateurs thus having the *apparent* opportunity of easy disposal at *high* prices of surplus stock, induces credence, and therefore the above hints as to necessity of care and prudence in forwarding them, will most likely fail to prevent some from falling into the trap of these truly deceptive ones.

E. C.

Hints to Poultry-Show Committees.

In addition to the hints thrown out in your two first numbers, many more can be given which may be useful to poultry show

committees, and at the same time be the means of saving useless expense to intended promoters of a show, and thereby enable them to surmount the main stumbling-block of many poultry shows,—to wit, a failing purse.

Now in order to make these hints valuable both to established shows as well as to projected exhibitions for the ensuing season, I will venture to sketch the "getting up" of a poultry show on the most approved plan.

We will imagine the projectors to have snugly met together, all "broody" over the project. Now the first step should be the appointment of a secretary: let them, if they wish to flatter and eventually to flutter any one, appoint an honorary secretary; but if they wish to have their work well done, be content to have a working secretary, for, after all, the honorary secretary will want a working man, and when he has him, will be to all intents and purposes himself about as useful as a capon in a breeding-stock yard.

Far be it from me to cast aspersions on all honorary secretaries: there are brilliant exceptions to be found, but *rare aves* in their way, aye, quite as rare as a genuine Brahma Pootra. But to the point. The secretary must be judiciously chosen, for woe to the unfortunate show if he fail them at their hour of trial, their time of need. His good qualities must be innumerable: he must be courteous, yet firm; conciliatory, yet commanding; obedient, yet capable of ordering; acting with promptness, yet with judgment; indifferent to insolence, yet attentive to correction; patient, yet not sluggish; a good accountant and correspondent; indefatigable and careless of personal comfort; and last, though by no means least, must have his heart in the cause. In fine, if the feathered bipeds over whose career he exercises no inconsiderable influence must have nine good points, I firmly believe that nine times nine would hardly be too many for a perfect secretary to display in order to give satisfaction to the committee,

the exhibitors, and the public. We will suppose him selected, penned, and hampered (the reverse of the feathered tribes, who are first hampered, then penned), with the cares of his office, and adjourn the subject to another paper. W. W.

Column for Beginners.

CHAP. II.—THE REQUIREMENTS OF FOWLS.

IN these days of poultry keeping it is a well-known fact, that there are several things which fowls require, and which are decidedly necessary to their well-being, besides a proper supply of food and water.

Lime is requisite for the formation of the eggshell, and when deprived of the use of this, in some form or other, the hens will frequently lay eggs with imperfect shells. The mischief attendant on having eggs of this kind in a poultry-yard is very great; they often get broken in the nest, and thus teach the fowls the exceedingly troublesome trick of eating their eggs, and if inadvertently given to a fowl for hatching they are sure to get broken, and thus interfere with the order and cleanliness of the nest, which all poultry keepers (especially poultry keepers on a small scale), and beginners always like to preserve. Lime may be given to the little stock in different forms: nothing is better than a barrowful of old building rubbish, especially that which may be collected after the removal of a dilapidated ceiling or plastered wall; it will furnish the birds with endless amusement, as well as many profitable morsels to help towards the egg-shell. Lime may also be given in the shape of oyster-shell, either broken up with a hammer, or burnt, when it will break up with a touch.

Those who keep their fowls in a confined space, for whom these very elementary hints are written, will do well to bestow much attention on supplying their hen-yards with these various needful substances, which fowls will generally find for them-

selves far a-field when they are permitted to wander.

Another requisite for keeping fowls in good health is access to gravel, from which they will pick and swallow a number of small stones. The necessity which fowls feel for stones to assist digestion may be especially noticed in cases in which they may have become crop-bound, when it will very often be found that instinct has prompted the sufferers to endeavour (in vain) to overcome the evil by swallowing apparently the most incongruous substances. Even newly-hatched chickens cannot retain a healthy digestion if debarred from the use of gravel for several days, and it is curious to notice how a mother hen will pick up tiny stones to present to her little ones, and really *teach* them to swallow their flinty dinner pills.

A dust bath to aid poultry in their natural love of cleanliness is an appliance necessary to their comfort, which should by no means be overlooked. For it is quite imperative to give dust to fowls which are kept in partial confinement, as, if they become infested with live stock, that circumstance alone will prove quite sufficient to interfere with success.

To furnish the fowls with a dry bath involves the necessity of making some arrangement to keep it so. For this purpose, as well as to give the inhabitants of the poultry-yard the opportunity of sheltering themselves from wet and intense heat, a shed is an important addition to the arrangements of the hen-run. A shed of very humble pretensions will answer for the purpose; one of a simple kind may be made with a framework of scantling, having a number of *double laths* placed transversely, and near together; this can be raised on four rough legs, and covered at the top with patent asphalted felt. The shed should be two feet and a half high in front, with an ample slope for carrying off the wet. It should not be higher than this, as, if it were, the rain and snow would drift under it; nor lower, for then the ground beneath would remain cold and

damp from shutting out the sun and air too much. Those who like to add figures to their facts may be pleased to be told that this kind of scantling is to be bought (in London) for a penny a foot, that the double laths are twopence each, and that the felt is eightpence per yard, or one penny per square foot. The shed, and also the hen-house, should, by all means have a warm aspect, and should, if possible, be well sheltered from sharp winds.

If, in addition to shelter, lime, gravel, and dust, the fowls can have a little grass, they will do all the better for it; but this is a matter of greater difficulty, as even a very small number will soon destroy a grass plot to which they are entirely confined.

We must not on any account overlook the fact that a wide range is *very* advantageous. If you can with safety allow the fowls to run out into a lane or field, though it may be only for an hour or two each day, they will benefit considerably from even this small licence.

Poultry for Cottagers.

No. II.

THE plan for starting the cottager in business, as recommended in my last paper, may appear tardy in its results, inasmuch as some few months must elapse before he can expect to realize a profit from his hens. It appears, however, the only method to be pursued, in which he can act independently. Doubtless there are a good many persons who would willingly supply the necessary stock, ready for laying, and thereby immediately open a credit account as well as a debit, but I fear they must be placed in a minority, and if a price were put on each fowl, to be repaid by small instalments, excepting it were a very nominal one, difficulties of an unpleasant nature would oftentimes arise. My wish is that a feeling of independence should be secured in the embarkation on

the undertaking, and where this latter suggestion can be carried out satisfactorily, the beneficial results will be more speedy to all parties.

But we will now suppose the house built and the fowls laying. As for the disposal of the eggs, I take it that the acumen so generally predominant where one's own pocket is concerned, would soon point out the best market. Should the season prove anything like that we have just passed through, little fear need be entertained, as eggs realized, wholesale, from 10s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per long hundred (120), and with shame be it said they were *exotics*, but *not* of the choicest nature; and, can it be credited, they were the only eggs to be obtained in the principal shop of a rather populous village about forty miles from the metropolis, where every advantage is offered in the shape of ample common right. I may appear to be rather fond of *duelling on the common*, but my reason for so doing is, that as there are so many tracts of land in free old England (I do not mean *wastes*, without a house visible for miles), studded all round with cottages, the means seem to be so well within our reach.

But to proceed. Where the hens are kept solely for the eggs they supply, the object would be to obtain as many as possible, and, as I observed in my former contribution, care should be exercised in having hens remarkable for their laying properties.

Spanish, Cochin China, and Hamburg fowls comprise, I believe, those that are most prolific, and I would recommend that the breeds be kept pure, for the reasons following. In the event of chickens being hatched there may, peradventure, be among them some good specimens, which would command a handsome price from the more wealthy inhabitants of the locality, if amateurs, or which might compete with a reasonable expectation of success in the cottagers' list at the provincial exhibition. Again, the cockerels destined to be killed would realize a higher price

when sold to the collector, as cross-bred birds are almost a drug in our markets. But how is it possible to keep a breed pure on a common? The plan is very simple. It is only by bringing into operation a little more of that desirable union which is so much needed amongst all classes, in that which is good. The inhabitants on each piece of common should have *one* sort of fowl, and if, as is the case in the part of the country where I reside, it is divided, by patches of cultivated land, and in other ways, the various sorts specified may be reared without the slightest fear of contamination, thereby producing eggs of different sizes, which would be suitable for all classes of customers, especially those who like quantity for money. I would particularly urge the necessity of Cochins being kept on a somewhat large scale, for as they are such constant layers in winter they would fill up the void occasionally produced by the cessation of laying of the Spanish and Hamburgs at that season of the year, exclusive of which they would be useful to hatch a fresh progeny in the spring, as the other two sorts specified seldom or never evince a disposition to sit; moreover, should the Spanish be that way inclined, it would be advisable to coop them up until the desire has passed away, as they are inconstant sitters and bad mothers. A difficulty appears to present itself in obtaining Spanish and Cochin China eggs, owing to the costliness of their price. It can only be met in this way, viz., that possessors of those birds who are desirous of advancing the interests of our cottage population should sell them at a very reduced rate. With Spanish more particularly this may very readily take place, as many birds of that description are reared totally devoid of any of those points which constitute their beauty, excepting their plumage; and, be it observed, these very inferior specimens generally lay the largest eggs. To a certain extent these remarks apply to Cochins, though the chances of raising

good chickens from good stock are more apparent than in Spanish, from which a person must be content if he obtain three good birds out of a dozen. Plumage being one of the principal points of a Cochin China fowl, and as in most instances an opinion may be formed as to its future hue from the time the hen leaves the chickens, a great number of the foul-feathered birds might be transferred to the cottager, which would answer every purpose for producing eggs.

Little more need be said on the subject, neither does it require any abstruse calculation to show that the results would be beneficial. Health, as well as circumstances, would frequently be improved; many a poor delicate child or adult person would enjoy a variety of diet, which at present is known nothing of. The never-ending bill of fare of bacon and cabbage, or, as is the case too frequently, the cabbage without the bacon, might be interspersed occasionally with eggs dressed in numerous ways.

If our land of light and liberty cannot be called a self-supplying country in the matter of corn, that is no reason why it should not be so in eggs. The trial is worth making. The first step to be taken will be to impress upon the cottager the advantages he would derive from keeping fowls, the next to furnish him with the necessary means. Surely there are numbers of persons possessed of kindly feelings who will enter on the work, and in appealing to the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," especially the fair ones, to make the attempt, I am led to hope that my feeble efforts will not have been made in vain.

COTTAGE ORNEE.

Caution.

NEVER be induced to put one more fowl than is necessary in an exhibition pen, because if four are put where three will be sufficient, an imperfection in the extra bird will very likely cost you the prize.

Curious Account of a Pair of Bantams.

SOME years since a circumstance in reference to poultry, completely "*turning the tables*" on everything I have yet seen, came under my observation; and the simple narration will, I am sure, amuse your readers.

At the time I speak of, I very greatly admired the sports of the gun, and being invited to pass a few days where game was exceedingly plentiful, became a *frequent* eye-witness of the oddity I describe. The children of the bailiff, it seems, in some of their rambles in early spring discovered a partridge's nest, containing two eggs; and with that proneness for meddling often noticed in childhood, went home, and finding three eggs of their father's black-breasted red bantams (which were kept to rear game), without any but childish motive, placed them carefully in the partridge's nest. I find afterwards these children frequently went to see the result, but did not again *actually* interfere with the poor bird's privacy: she continued laying until twelve of her own eggs were also deposited, and then sitting, hatched *all* her own, and *two* of the three bantams' eggs. Her numerous and strangely incongruous offspring were all reared, and, in the autumn it was, I first saw them living together as comfortably as possible.

Great care was taken by the owner that nothing should endanger the life of any of *this* covey; so that spring came on, and found the birds paying a tolerable revenue to the game-keeper, whose plan it was to gain "a perquisite from every comer," by running a stanch old pointer, and when discovered "*flushing*" the birds. On these occasions the pair of bantams (for they were a cock and hen) would always fly equally with the partridges, both as to rapidity and distance, sometimes *traversing six or seven fields at a single flight*, and if their companions happened to "*drop short*," and run to cover, the bantams would (with depressed head and tail) still manage to make a "*dead heat of it*;" in

fact, were as wild and retiring as possible; quite as much so as their companions!

But it has been truly said, "*Instinct is never quite suppressed*," for *invariably*, when disturbed, the little fellow, after gaining supposed security, indulged in two or three hearty flaps of the wings, and as many shrill *crowings*—a practice he would repeat as frequently as he was subjected to these almost endless rehearsals, a feat that generally produced a *hearty laugh* from spectators. At early dawn this bird might occasionally be seen traversing the meadows, and when any very "*dainty bit*" happened to be espied, calling haphazard either his fellow or the birds to partake of the proffered food, which was generally "*scrambled for*" from his bill. He seemed, too, as fond of some of this covey as of his own mate, a matter which greatly increased the vexation of its owner when his loss was discovered. Not hearing the bird *crow* as usual, the off-adopted plan was tried, to discover his whereabouts, but proved futile; and, after a lengthy and determined search, in which both owner and all the household were engaged, a number of partridges' feathers lying loosely about, in one of the fields, among which a "*sickle feather*" from the bantam was also discovered, told too plainly that the treacherous meshes of some midnight poacher had caused his sudden disappearance.

E.

Pigeons.*(Continued from page 9.)*

FARMERS are very often involuntary pigeon-keepers, although I do not think that there is as much harm done by these birds in the fields as is placed to their account. Mr. St. John, in his excellent work entitled "Highland Sports," mentions that he shot some which were taking their homeward flight from the fields one afternoon, and on examining their crops, they were found to be full of seeds of some

trouble that would have cost no end of trouble to get rid of.

Great numbers of pigeons are kept in a semi-wild state in the eastern counties of England, costing very little for food, and amply paying for their house-room with their young ones. They are generally of a slaty colour, sometimes brown, and not unfrequently white; but when many young ones are thrown of this latter colour, it is a sign the flock is getting degenerate, and that fresh blood is wanted. In some parts of England wild pigeons are so common (indeed, most of the birds before mentioned are but offshoots from the wild roc pigeons) that they intermingle with the dove-cote birds, and render the introduction of strangers unnecessary.

Many dozens of young birds are produced by an average flock in the course of a year, and these when killed young, are esteemed much before the French pigeons, although the latter are much larger. Twelve pairs of pigeons bred between the runt and common roc (not Sinbad's), have been known to rear eleven dozens of young ones, between the 1st of January and 31st of December. To any one with convenience for them (and they do not require much), half-a-dozen or a dozen pairs of common pigeons will soon pay for their keep, and leave a margin for profit if taken a little care of. Their house should face the south, there should be three times as many nests as there are pairs of birds, and the house kept tolerably clean, *i. e.*, cleaned out often enough to keep it sweet, but not to disturb the breeding-birds. The sweepings of the house, mixed with loam or earth, make excellent manure for gardens, &c., but are almost of too heating a nature to be applied alone. There is one objection often advanced against pigeon-keeping, in which there is a good deal of truth, *viz.*, that they destroy the roofs of the buildings. In a great measure this may be obviated by allowing them to have a heap of mortar, salt, and bricklayers' rubbish mixed together and placed where it will be easy of access for all of them. M. S.

Golden and Silver Chinese Pheasants.

THERE are certainly no varieties of our domestic poultry so beautifully resplendent in the feather as those above named, and as the writer has kept them many years with success, a few hints may, at least to some "*beginners*," be acceptable. They may with proper care be reared perfectly tame, but have always a decided tendency to be a good deal alarmed at the sudden appearance of a *strange* dog, cat, or even an individual; for which reason only, I think it quite advisable they should be pinioned *if allowed an out-of-door run*, lest they may be tempted to fly away, or on to the surrounding buildings: for, unlike common poultry, they are only tempted to *return* with great difficulty, and the moment they get from their accustomed range, seem as wild and uncontrollable as birds reared at large in a state of nature. As this can be easily managed without the *slightest detriment to the appearance of the bird*, it may save a great deal of trouble and vexation to keep this rule *invariably*. I admit I have known many kept for years in walled yards without loss or even accident; but this is decidedly the exception to the general rule. Let it too be always kept in mind, in handling pheasants (or feathered *game of any kind*), never to lay hold of the legs or by a wing, for an injury is certain to ensue; but take up the bird with both hands tightly round the body *over* the wings. This is the *ONLY* safe way of capture, and they then may be taken about without any injury at all, either to their plumage or themselves.

I would myself advise aviaries for their accommodation *covered in entirely* from the rain, as nothing tends so much to keep them in *perfect* feather; and then it will not be by any means difficult to guard them against another great annoyance, *viz.*, cats prowling about during the night and at twilight. From this cause, numbers of pheasants of either kind have been destroyed, not from an actual hurt received from the cat herself, but from the

birds, in their affright and consternation, flying *furiously* against the roof or the wire-work, and literally scalping themselves. All this may be prevented by letting a "tar-sheet" be fixed *closely* every night, to cover the whole of the open-work of the aviary. It has this *double* service: it prevents sudden rain wetting the sanded floor and causing damp (producing *rheumatism* in the inmates), and by being opaque, prevents the shadow of cats passing being seen; for invariably if they see cats at night, the birds *will* fly, and thus seriously damage themselves. I found simple canvass for this purpose of *no use whatever*, being semi-transparent; the tar-sheet *is effective*, from its density. It is on moonlight nights that the greatest danger is to be feared, for on these occasions the cats come very long distances, attracted no doubt by scent, and when they have once found your birds, will be *sure to pay them almost nightly visits*, as they appear to follow them with greater avidity than any other birds. As certainty of *trifling expense at the onset* is far preferable to the danger of neglect and the losses it occasions *afterwards* (that may be very considerable, even in the interval of a few minutes), I would not advise any one to place such valuable pheasants in an exposed situation till thus provided with a proper security. As these birds are always valued for their beauty, as well as the comparative ease with which they may be reared, it will add considerably to the perfection of their plumage to place a sufficiency of perches for the accommodation; not spare and *thin* ones, but the best are made of deal spars about an inch and a half square, the sharp edges being taken off with a plane: this will prevent their tails rubbing, and whether intended for attraction or sale, add not a little to their value.

In selecting the brood-stock, a cock with four or even five hens will be a fair proportion; but always bear in mind, the eggs laid to a *young* cock (of either the *gold* or *silver* pheasants), the spring following the year

in which he was hatched, will be *unprolific* until he has assumed the *adult plumage*, and *this takes place when about a twelvemonth old*. I always prefer a cock-bird of the *second* year, and hens too (simply because they *then* lay far more eggs), but the eggs of *pullets* of the preceding year are *productive with a male, as above stated*. The young hens will only lay ten or twelve eggs in a season, but the older birds when carefully managed will frequently lay thirty to forty eggs in the same period. These eggs require a longer incubation than those of common fowls, as they generally hatch on the twenty-fourth day, though I have repeatedly known them continue in the shell a day longer; therefore, if desirous of rearing a chicken or two with them (to insure greater familiarity), the fowls' eggs must be deposited accordingly, as nothing tends so sadly to unsettle a hen at hatching-time as some portion of her chicks coming a day or so previously to the remainder, and not unfrequently leads to the most obstinate desertion of her nest.

I would suggest that all eggs should be at once removed from both golden and silver pheasants directly they are laid; the *latter* being especially inclined to peck and eat them the moment they are produced. The best remedy I know is to procure half a dozen artificial eggs, and let them lie about always, and then the birds, seeing them constantly, regard them less. This will be found quite as useful in respect to *fowls that eat their eggs*, and is the most effective plan I myself am aware of. These kinds of pheasants are raised in confinement much more *easily* than the common pheasant of our preserves, the young growing with incredible rapidity if well and frequently fed, on curds, boiled eggs, good old cheese,—all chopped fine—and mixed with *bruised* hemp, and canary-seed. The maggot produced in flesh from the blue fly (that annoys our larders so sadly in summer-time) will tend very greatly to their rapid improvement. I am perfectly aware that ants' eggs are pre-

ferable, but when these are not available in your locality, this will be found an excellent substitute, and should be given daily till the poults are somewhat considerably grown. Wheat, hemp, and barley, are the best food for the old stock. It is somewhat singular that neither the one nor the other will agree comfortably with the common pheasants in a wood; notwithstanding I have frequently seen the hybrid produced between both these kinds and a common pheasant. Both are *very beautiful* of their kind, the half-bred golden being of a strikingly rich auburn, shading into every variety of gold-colour; whilst "*the pencillings*" of the hybrid silver are not equalled by any of the gorgeous plumage we see in bird-skins, from foreign climes. I have had opportunities of seeing them constantly for some years, but will add that such an offspring *invariably* was unprolific, and sought every possible opportunity to evince their pugnacity to *all other birds* confined with them. Both golden and silver pheasants will endure every severity of our climate. Some years since I sent some eggs of the latter, from which birds were hatched and turned loose in a large plantation; they bred *freely* the ensuing year, and well stocked the preserve, from which, the year following, some withdrew to a covert at some considerable distance, and driving away the common pheasant, took possession of the whole. Many were *purposely* shot the next winter, but proved by no means so well-flavoured an addition to our dinner-table as their less gaudy brethren. Some *golden pheasants'* eggs which I forwarded as a present to a friend whose preserves are among the largest in the kingdom, were last season (very early) hatched and turned loose; these bore all the *fearful rigours of last winter* as well as any others, but even now (March 7th) begin to show a decided aversion to their fellows of more sombre hue. The flesh of the golden is far preferable to that of the silver pheasant. The crest feathers, and "the cowl" (or neck-feathers) are those so universally

coveted by our fishermen, and are always saleable at *extremely high* prices; for this reason a careful amateur will diligently look after them when shed by birds kept in an aviary.

It may be said that pheasants are unfairly brought into a Chronicle on *poultry*, but I know many parties who feel *very* considerable interest in their culture, and *profit also*. If, therefore, these few remarks may tend to relieve any of your readers *from one or other of the besetting troubles I have named, the end I seek is won*; for I am well convinced that too many amateurs feel completely disheartened if unsuccessful at the *onset*, and give up all hopes in sheer despair. It is really a pity it should be so, for a little reflection and foresight might frequently obviate disappointments; and among friends and acquaintances, few will be found so utterly unconscious of beauty as not to appreciate fully the unequalled splendour of the two varieties I have just described, and which are so well calculated for an aviary.

E. C.

Schedules of Poultry Shows.

MALVERN SHOW.—At the time we noticed the announcement of this Show (in our first number), we had not space to give the full particulars of the prizes and regulations, which we are sure will prove interesting to our readers. The prizes are:—

Class 1. Dorking, mature birds.—First, second, and third prizes of £3, £2, and £1.

Class 2. Chickens of 1854, three prizes of £3, £2, and £1.

This first class "for mature Dorkings," class 20 "for any distinct variety," and the bantam classes, are the only exceptions in this exhibition's being entirely a *chicken* show.

Class 3. Spanish (chickens of 1854). Three prizes of £3, £2, and £1.

Classes 4 and 5. Cinnamon and buff Cochín China fowls and white Cochín

China fowls (chickens of 1854). Three prizes to each class of £3, £2, and £1.

Classes 6 and 7. Grouse and black Cochins (chickens of 1854). Two prizes to each class of £3 and £2.

Classes 8 and 9. Game fowl, black-breasted and duckwings, and for any other variety (chickens of 1854). Three prizes for each class of £2, £1, and 10s.

Classes 10, 11, 12, and 13. The usual four classes of Hamburg—the silver pencilled, gold pencilled, silver spangled, and gold spangled; and

Classes 14, 15, 16. The three classes of Polands—black, silver, and gold (all chickens of 1854), the same amount of prizes as for the game fowl.

Classes 17, 18, and 19. Bantams (of any age) gold laced, silver laced, and any other variety. Two prizes to each class of £1. 10s. and 15s.

Class 20. For any distinct variety of fowls (of any age) not named in the foregoing list. Four prizes of £1 each will be awarded to the most deserving specimens of a cock and two hens.

Classes 21, 22, and 23. Aylesbury, Rouen, and Buenos Ayres ducks. Two prizes to each class of £2 and £1. These also must be hatched in 1854.

Class 24. Geese (of 1854). Two prizes of £2 and £1.

Large prizes will be given to cottagers living in the immediate neighbourhood of Malvern, for the best pen of fowls, chickens, geese, and ducks.

Except in the case of cottagers, the exhibition will not be limited to any particular district.

It is at the option of the owners to sell their birds or not. Ten per cent. will be deducted from all sales made.

The following are the last four of the rules and regulations:—

All hampers, &c., must be addressed in full, and the name of the Exhibitor stated on the cards forwarded for that purpose. Carriage in all cases to be pre-paid to the Worcester station, whence they will be conveyed without delay, and after the

show re-conveyed to Worcester, *without charge*, to the Exhibitors.

Admission to the *Private View*, on Tuesday, at One o'clock, 5s.; to the General Exhibition, on Wednesday, 2s. 6d.; and on Thursday, 1s.; between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Subscribers of 10s. 6d. will be entitled to two cards of admission to the *Private View*, and to the General Exhibition; Subscribers of £1. 1s. to four cards, and of a larger amount, to cards in the same proportion.

The whole of the poultry must be delivered in the gardens by 7 p.m., on Monday, the 11th of September.

N.B.—Trains from Birmingham and Bristol arrive at Worcester a little before 6 p.m.

Thomas M'Cann, Honorary Secretary, Graham House, Malvern.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

POULTRY SALES BY AUCTION.

IN perusing your second number, I find reference is made in your leading article to auctions of poultry, and the information you offered to amateurs, more particularly those at a distance from the great "Poultry Mart," must be very acceptable; if the auctions were *genuine*, and the fowls sold to the best bidder, the prices obtained would be the best criterion of value. With regard to the usefulness of auctions, in my opinion, they cannot be overrated, as they give to the possessor of a few fowls, as well as the amateur on a larger scale, a ready and inexpensive medium of disposing of their superfluous numbers, and generally for their full value. An auction is also the best market an inexperienced amateur could select for purchasing, as he has the opportunity of using the judgment of others, and if he only gives a few shillings more than the market value he cannot sustain much loss:

often he may obtain the opinion of well-known amateurs to guide him in his selection, which is a great advantage. So auctions are alike advantageous to sellers and purchasers, and few will be found to doubt that auctions have been the means of enhancing the price of poultry to its present standard, and producing the "Poultry Mania." A few friends of mine who have been under its influence have made, during the last year, five hundred to one thousand pounds each, and, to all appearances, they are as sane as other people, and at present free from restraint.

You are in error in stating that Mr. Stevens held "these sales from the first;" I have before me a catalogue of the first poultry auction: it took place at Kensington, in Mr. Fletcher's poultry-yard, on the 22nd May, 1852; the auctioneers were Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, of Piccadilly, and the prices obtained considered high; the sale comprised 53 lots, and fetched £90; the fowls offered were chiefly chickens bred during the year, many being three and four months old, and, as far as my observation goes, chickens have not been produced so early since in so great a number, all being bred from one cock and three or four hens. The cock has been subsequently known as "Phœnix," he was sold last year for £100, the highest price ever given for one fowl; some of his produce, purchased at Mr. F.'s sale for 6s. each, sold, when full grown, by auction at prices varying from 20 to 40 guineas; one pullet bought by Mr. Sparham for a few shillings, produced, last year, chickens which he sold for £140.

I have been encouraged to trouble you with this communication by your stating in your first number that you "Wish to be a journal of plain things, accessible both in price and matter to all parties."

ONE OF THE MANIACS.

JERSEY.

MR. EDITOR,—If any of your correspondents live in the Island of Jersey,

could they give your readers an account of the progress and state of the poultry fancy there? What choice kinds of fowls are kept? and what kind is most common for supplying the market, and for eggs?—Yours, &c.,

A BIT OF A WANDERER.

BOUGHT EGGS.

Queenstown, Cork, 10 Mar., 1854.

DEAR SIR,—I bought some Cochon China eggs some time since at the rate of 12s. per dozen, and I now find, at the end of twenty-five days, there is not a single chicken, though some pullets' eggs in the same clutch under the same hen have been out since the 20th day. Could you kindly favour us with a few hints in your next number, as to the way (if any) that prolific eggs can be known? I am sorry to say the practice of dipping the eggs in hot water to prevent the chance of the eggs being hatched, is becoming very general, and is much to be reprehended. For my part the disappointment has fretted me so much, I would willingly have given five times the amount so as to secure a March brood.—I am, Sir, yours truly,
AN AMATEUR.

P.S.—Is it right when one or two chickens come out, say on the twentieth day, to remove them to another hen with a clutch some days older?

POULTRY FANCY.

MR. EDITOR,—Not long since I noticed in an advertisement that the "Poultry Chronicle" was looming in the future, and am now much pleased to find it has become a reality. I assure you it has been sadly wanted; and when I state my case, I hope you will not think me selfish. I am an incipient poultry fancier, exceedingly fond of all kinds of birds, with no more room or convenience to keep them than the Vicar of Wakefield had for his

family picture; in fact, when I tell you that my only stock consists of two cases of stuffed birds and a piping bullfinch, you will wonder at my ignorance in talking to you about that as poultry; but I hope for more space, and dream of keeping fowls in the country at some time or other. I attend every poultry show and sale that I can, and have taken in all of the poultry books; but in many of them have been fearfully disappointed. I have no doubt there are very many situated as I am, and to whom the "Chronicle," will be a great boon, for it seems to be filled with really useful information, such as will guide us when we purchase our stock, and instruct us how to feed and treat it afterwards.

With every wish for your success, I remain, your obedient servant,

AN INCIPIENT FANCIER.

SINGULAR CASE OF TENACITY OF LIFE IN A CHICKEN AT HATCHING TIME.

It being the day a nest of gold Sebrights ought to hatch, the hen was looked at about eight in the morning, when one egg was found with a piece of the shell rudely torn off, apparently by the toe of the hen, from the side of the egg near the broad end; the chick was motionless, and apparently quite dead. The egg was laid on a table in the kitchen opposite an outer door, then, as the weather was hot, wide open; there more than two hours afterwards I found it, and told the servant to throw it away. Curiosity—as she had never seen a chicken *within* the egg—induced her to examine it closely, and for this purpose she broke another piece off the shell: a startled exclamation that it moved induced me to take the egg from her; to my surprise a slight twitching was certainly perceptible at intervals on the side of the head and neck. Curious to ascertain whether it was suspended animation, or mere movement of the muscles, I gently disengaged the chicken from the shell, and placed it between my hands,—it was quite *cold*; in

a quarter of an hour the pulsation became stronger, though fitful; in another quarter, a strange spiral, or worm-like, motion commenced within the chick, for outwardly it did not move at first, but in a short time this movement increased in strength till its purpose became obvious,—the chicken was trying to unfold; I aided it by gently laying the head and neck in a line with the body, and turning the little creature on its feet. A faint chirp was my reward. The motion continued a little longer, and then ceased; the chicken lay quite still, but chirped loudly, and in an hour and a half from the time I took it from the egg I had as nice a chicken as any of the brood. It thrived well, and I felt much interest in it, and desired to rear it, but unfortunately it was killed suddenly by an accident when about three weeks' old.

MARTHA.

THE BANTAM'S GRIEVANCES.

MR. EDITOR,—I was delighted to see one of us in print last week; but he does not define our grievances, and their name is legion. I expect he is one of the Sebrights. Between ourselves, they are a parcel of fops, very upstart, and I cannot consent that our demands for redress should rest with him. Were they confined to him alone, I should not interest myself about it, but the gallantry of a bantam is proverbial, and, for the sake of the sex, I will speak of all our tribe. First, why should the prizes be less for us than other fowls? I heard £15 offered for myself and partner; we are then worth as much or more than many others. Why should the number of prizes be so small? Why should we be left for the rag-end of an exhibition, and then be put in some dark corner, in a narrow deep box, where no one can see us? At a late show, I set myself out, and took a prize, although judged by candle-light. I will never do it again. Being decorated with a prize ticket, every one wished to see me,

and I was poked and hooked with sticks till I ached all over. I am not so flowery as my Sebright predecessor, but you will, I think, admit more practical good may come of my remonstrance than his.

DUCK-WING BANTAM.

GYPSUM FOR FOWLS.

SIR,—I am delighted to observe that my old friend "Maria" reads the "Poultry Chronicle," because she is an inquiring spirit. Would she kindly inquire of her brother at Oxford, or some other learned man, if gypsum is beneficial or injurious to fowls? If the former, it is an excellent substance for keeping a poultry-house sweet by strewing it on the floor, particularly if the house is not cleaned out daily. We know that lime is required, and sought after, by fowls, and there is a considerable quantity of sulphur in the yolk of an egg; it is therefore probable that the sulphate is better than the carbonate, and it is not expensive; the phosphate is too expensive to be given, except in the food.

W. S.

["Maria's" brother shall be consulted.
—Ed.]

"Poultry Mania."

In your third number appeared my second article on "Poultry Mania," and although quite sufficiently long already, I cannot forbear forwarding to you as an *addendum* to the concluding anecdote, a few very relevant facts with which I have since its publication become acquainted; and such, too, that whilst they add strength to my opinions as there advanced, show how a slight passing event may cast its sunshine or its shade on the prospects of the whole remainder of our lives. I doubt not also, they will prove quite as pleasingly interesting to at least some of your readers, as they were really satisfactory and totally unexpected "news" to your well-wisher and contributor.

To be brief. Your correspondent was informed "a gentleman was waiting to see him particularly." I immediately met what proved to be an old schoolfellow, who, with the offer of his hand, asked me "if I had forgotten him?" I had not, though no positive recognition had ever passed between us, I believe, after the days we were playmates at our boarding-school, from some twenty-five to thirty years since.

My surprise at his visit was greatly increased when, without prelude of any kind, he requested to know, "whether I was not the author of the article in question, in the 'Poultry Chronicle?'" After a short confab. I admitted it was so; and it then appeared, the attention of my informant had been aroused from the fact of the "Poultry Chronicle" being offered to him for a few minutes' perusal, by a perfect stranger, in a railway-carriage, the morning of the very day on which I am writing.

The narrative of the geese being as well known to him as myself, he at once concluded, "from the facts and my love of poultry, that I *must* be its author;" and, taking from under his arm a small parcel, said, "I wish I had known these facts were about being *published*, I myself could have added something considerable to its *interest*." I will (thus premised) very curtly narrate *his* additions.

The parcel alluded to proved the draft of the conveyance of the freehold of the farm! (dated twelve years since) to our old mutual favourite, the cottager; although the estate was at the onset "encumbered," I found the "release" had since been made out a few years afterwards, by my old playfellow (now a legal man), on the same most feeling and liberal terms, with the original deed; and though my informant is generally reputed to belong to that most worthy class, "who do good by *stealth*, and blush to find it fame," I must here record that only the stamps and parchments were charged for in *either* instance.

For a moment I feel I must digress. How wonderful is the impulse, when with a quickness and lightning-like brilliancy, the remembrances of childhood rush simultaneously on our recollection, though hitherto long since forgotten, amid the turmoils and "expediencies" of after-life. Such were *my* feelings when listening from my visitor to the reproduction of all the hair-breadth escapes and schoolboy sufferings of my early days, to which let me add also the history of our former united visits to the *then* humble habitation of the cottager alluded to.

I will return to my subject briefly. The hero of my former anecdote still lives, though silvery hairs proclaim the ravages of time; still, however, he is able to superintend the affairs of his (own) farm. His better half is sadly broken, a second childhood has taken possession of her frame. Incapable of any exertion of any kind, she partially reclines all day long on a comfortable (though somewhat rude) sofa, "*that her good old man got for her.*"

I wish the history I am now about to tell were different, but my object is veracity, and therefore it must be truly narrated or *entirely withheld*. "*Truth is stranger than fiction.*" One of the original geese, from some unexplained cause, died a few years after I left school; the gander and another goose were shot by some well-dressed miscreant (and left on the spot), in the winter of 1847, who (defeated in finding small birds on which to operate) thus cruelly and thoughtlessly entailed almost endless suffering on their honest owners.

The other goose (incredible as it may appear from its wonderful longevity) is *now* sitting on eleven of her own eggs, and lest danger might overtake this last remnant of "their friends in need," she is provided with a berth within only a few feet of her old mistress (nor is she allowed to leave home to graze without an attendant); and, though strange, "appears not one jot the worse for wear." Long may she continue!

E. C.

The Poultry Fancy.

LEAVING Stevens's poultry auction a few days since, we could not help thinking of the change that has taken place in public opinion with regard to poultry within the last few years. When the late Sir John Sebright was engaged making the beautiful bird that now bears his name, he was regarded by most people as an enthusiast, and if he had offered some of them to a friend, on the condition he should carry them through the streets in his hand, or to a lady provided she placed them on the top of her carriage, they would most probably have been declined. But, on the occasion to which we refer, the fowls were being carried away in open wicker baskets by gentlemen, ladies took them on the tops, and sometimes inside their carriages, and it elicited from passers by, no other remark than the occasional exclamation from one of those boys who must say something; "There goes another Cochlin!"

If "The Spectator" could re-appear, we should certainly have a paper on the poultry mania. Addison was not without a knowledge, if not an admiration of fowls; for he speaks of a lady so beflooned and furbelowed, as to look like a Friesland hen. We believe ladies are employed more profitably and more healthfully in tending and rearing poultry, than they were in his days, when he found it necessary to criticize the manoeuvres of the fan, and the position of patches. The gift of a pen of prize poultry might have caused Sir Roger to fare better with the widow.

A. R.

Chit-Chat.

SALE OF POULTRY AT MR. STEVENS'S.—That which took place on Tuesday, the 14th instant, proved quite a disappointment, on account of many of the best birds (which should have arrived by the Great

Western Railway in time) not being delivered until after the sale was over, and the company had left.

Those which were sold were of an ordinary description, and very few of the lots exceeded £1. There were two young Brahma Pootra fowls, not included in the catalogue (introduced as star lots), which, we are informed, were well competed for; the pullet fetched £6, the cockerel £2. 17s. 6d.

APPRECIATION OF ENGLISH POULTRY IN AMERICA.—Half a dozen Sebright Bantams, which were recently purchased in England and sent to an extensive breeder of poultry in the United States, have taken first premiums for both silver and gold-laced at the great National Poultry Fair. The Bantams were bought of Mr. Clinton, of Maidstone, and are, it is believed, of the same family as those which (in the possession of Mr. Rawson) have frequently taken prizes with us.

PICKLED EGGS.—The eggs are boiled quite hard, and boiling vinegar, with spice, is poured over them after the shell is removed. They are ready for use directly, but will not keep many days.

EXPERIMENT WITH AN EGG.—It is well known that an egg will sink in water and will float on brine, and is therefore used as a test of the proper strength of the latter for pickling, &c.; nearly all "Cookery Books" direct "a brine strong enough to bear an egg on it;" but the following manner of showing the fact of the egg sinking in water and floating on brine, may be new to some of our readers. Make the strongest brine with common salt, strain half-a-pint of it through a fine muslin into a finger-glass, then draw up the muslin that it may just touch the surface of the brine, and, very gently indeed, pour through it as much water as will fill the finger-glass to within an inch of its brim. Then take away the muslin, and gently place an egg in the water, it will sink until it touches the surface of the brine on which it will float. The ex-

periment is curious, because the water and the brine being equally clear and transparent, the egg appears to be magically balanced in the middle of the finger-glass, and the natural question is, "Why does not the egg sink to the bottom?" The reason is that the egg, although heavier than its own bulk of water, is lighter than its own bulk of brine; it therefore sinks in the former, and floats on the latter: half-a-pint of water is lighter than half-a-pint of brine, so that water will float on brine, or, in scientific terms, the specific gravity of brine is greater than that of water.—T.

To Correspondents.

An Amateur (see Editor's Letter-Box).—If an egg is stale, the increased size of the air-bladder may be perceived by holding it against a strong light, but we fear there is no way by which it can be known, either whether it is fecundated, or whether it has been tampered with. Should any of our readers know any rule from which to judge, perhaps they will kindly oblige us and "An Amateur" with their knowledge. It would not be safe to place newly-hatched chickens with some a few days older, as the hen would not brood them as much as they require at that early period.

C. H.—People may talk about Dorking cocks of 10 lbs., and hens of 8 lbs., being the average, they are so only on paper, and no yard in the world can produce many such. We know that one of the most successful breeders and exhibitors in England lately tried, and could, out of a large number, only select three cocks of that weight, and five hens.

J. K.—If you take your farm for purely agricultural purposes, we cannot help you; but, in answer to the latter query about poultry, we say, take light land; and we also think the common right of which you speak will be valuable.

S. C.—Your question about markets is fully answered in this number.

Spaniard.—Do not be induced to breed red-faced Spanish; they are as valuable as the white-faced as layers, but if you wanted to sell them they would make no more than common barn-door fowls.

Hants.—You may increase the number of eggs you set under your hens as the weather gets warmer till you reach thirteen; a hen should never have more than that.

T. B. F. complains that "misfortunes have of

late attended his poultry circle," that he has "lost two of his best Brahma chickens;" and that "others look but poorly." We strongly recommend him to pay particular attention to the paper of our excellent practical contributor, H. R., called, "How Prize Fowls are made (vide "Poultry Chronicle," p. 24). Take care that the chicks (at this early season) do not run into damp grass, or suffer from cold; and notice especially that they have access to gravel.

One of the *Maniacs* writes, "I fear, unless some steps are soon taken, that we shall not have another London Poultry Show. An association of amateurs should, I think, be formed after the model of Birmingham, and no exhibitor should be allowed to show more than two pens in one class, so that it should in reality be an exhibition of choice poultry, instead of a market as before." Perhaps there is no plan better calculated to facilitate the wishes of our correspondent than placing them before fellow amateurs.

To S—, *Essex*.—It has been announced that the Colchester Show will take place late in the season, but we believe the exact date is not yet fixed.

The letter of a correspondent who wishes for information about the Curassow has been mislaid, but we hope to be able to say something about them next week.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

The supply of poultry during the week has been moderate, and fowls of good quality have been very scarce. Trade has been dull.

Our quotations for first quality are as follow:—

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| Fowls | 4s. 6d., | 5s. 0d., | 5s. 6d. each. |
| Chickens .. | 3s. 6d., | 4s. 0d. | " |
| Goslings .. | 8s. 0d., | 9s. 0d. | " |
| Ducklings .. | 5s. 0d., | 5s. 6d. | " |
| Guinea Fowls | 3s. 0d., | 3s. 6d. | " |
| Pigeons | 0s. 9d., | 0s. 10d. | " |
| Rabbits, tame | 1s. 6d., | 1s. 8d. | " |
| Do. wild | 0s. 8d., | 0s. 9d. | " |
| Turkeys, cocks, | 9s. 0d., | 10s. 0d., | 11s. 0d. " |
| Do. hens, | 6s. 6d., | 7s. 0d., | 7s. 6d. " |

With the change in the weather, all the numerous supplies, as woodcocks, snipes, larks, and wild fowl, have ceased to be in demand.

Some excitement was caused last week by the circulation of a paper cautioning dealers that the gentlemen and magistrates of Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk had determined to pay those who informed against all who continued to deal in game after the legal season, or otherwise at any time not allowed by Act of Parliament. If these gentlemen are in earnest, and will carry out their published determination, they will confer a boon on all who have to do with these articles, as in

the present state of the trade the annoyances are legion, and the profits *nil*. The notice was therefore approved by all.

Advertisements.

COCHIN CHINA POULTRY, &c.—Eggs from Prize Birds.—In reply to the very urgent applications from numerous amateurs, Mr. JOHN FAIRLIE, of Cheverley-park, Newmarket, is now prepared to dispose of a limited number of EGGS, from his celebrated prize Cochins, Brahma Pootras, Scotch Bakies, Dorkings, &c., according to the dates of the orders received.

MR. FISHER HOBBS has EGGS for SALE from his Prize Dorking Fowls, at 5s. each, package included. Also a few Golden-pencilled Hamburg Eggs, from his birds that took First and Second Prizes, at 1s. 6d. each. A few Dorking Cocks, fellows to the prize birds, for Sale.—Apply at Boxted-lodge, Colchester.

EGGS FOR SALE.

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---------|
| WHITE Cochin China | per doz. | £0 18 0 |
| Cinnamon Cochin China | .. | 0 6 0 |
| Ptarmigan | .. | 2 2 0 |
| Black Spanish | .. | 0 6 0 |
| Dorkings, grey and white | .. | 0 12 0 |
| Sebright Bantams | .. | 0 5 0 |
| Partridge Bantams | .. | 0 5 0 |
| A Ptarmigan Cock | .. | 1 1 0 |
| A Black Spanish Cock | .. | 0 15 0 |

(Both quite young.)

Six Cinnamon Cochin Pullets, now laying each 0 10 0
Apply to **GEORGE FAYNE**, Preshaw Farm, Bishops' Waltham, Hampshire; who on the receipt of postage stamps, or a post-office order, will forward the above.

GOLDEN PENCILLED HAMBURG.—The Owner of Mr. Drewry's First Prize Pen at the last Birmingham Show, has a few of the EGGS to dispose of.—Apply, Mr. T. SHEPPARD, St. Mary's, Bedford.

DUFF COCHIN EGGS.—A few may be had during the season, from birds selected with great care from the strains of Sturgeon and Andrews's prize birds, Capt. W. W. Hornby, and Miss Watts. The latter birds were commended at the Birmingham show in 1852, and took the first prize as chickens at Yarmouth. Price 21s. per dozen, package included.

These birds are of fine plumage, heavy, short in the leg, and no other variety kept.
Apply to Mr. HOWARD JAMES, Bridge-street, Walsall.

PRIZE BUFF COCHINS.—EGGS for Sitting from Fowls which took First Prizes at Cheltenham, Plymouth, Southampton, Surrey Gardens, Honiton, and Torquay. COLOURED DORKINGS from the same stock which took First and several other Prizes at the late Metropolitan Show. Cochins, 2ls., Dorkings, 10s. 6d. per dozen, package included.

A few Dorkings, and a pair of first-rate Ptarmigans just imported for sale.—Address H. B. HIGGS, Hill Lodge, Southampton.

BUFF COCHIN CHINA EGGS for SALE, from birds that have taken prizes at the Derby, East Kent, Bristol, Taunton, and Yeovil Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen. Also Partridge Cochins China Eggs from birds that have taken prizes at London Summer Meeting, Surrey Gardens' Show in August, Malvern, Yeovil, Honiton, and Torquay Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen.

Apply to JOHN R. ROBBARD, Aldwick-Court, Wrington, near Bristol.

BRAMA POOTRA FOWLS.—A few sittings of EGGS of this breed to be disposed of (according to priority of application) from the prize and selected birds of a gentleman, Brahas of whose breeding have, during the past year, taken prizes at the following large Poultry Shows,—The Royal Agricultural, Great Metropolitan, Birmingham, Great Yarmouth, Doncaster, Winchester, Norwich, and Manchester.—Apply to W. C. G., Post-office, Sandbach, Cheshire.

SPANISH (pure White-faced), DORKING, and COCHIN CHINA EGGS.—A Gentleman who gained the Second Prize in Dorking Chickens at Birmingham, and the First prizes in Spanish and Cochins Chickens at Shrewsbury, will sell EGGS from First Class and Prize Birds:—Spanish and Dorking Eggs, £2. 2s. per dozen. Cochins (buff or white), £1. 11s. 6d. per dozen. The Spanish from Capt. Hornby's breed.

Also, Two good white-faced Spanish Cocks to be sold.

Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry.

EGGS FOR HATCHING, ALL FROM PRIZE BIRDS.

White-crested Black Polands 15s. per doz.

Golden-spangled Hamburg .. 10s. „

White Aylesbury Ducks .. 5s. „

1 Cock and 3 Hens Golden-spangled Hamburg Fowls for Sale, price £2. 5s.—Post-office orders payable to THOMAS P. EDWARDS, Lyndhurst, Hants.

PRIZE WHITE SHANGHAES.

AN AMATEUR, whose Stock Birds have during the past season gained high and distinguished awards at Bedford, Birmingham, Bury, Farningham, Gloucester, Leeds, Manchester, Metropolitan, Surrey Gardens, and Southampton Exhibitions, is now in a position to take orders for CHICKENS, to be delivered (carriage paid) to any part of the metropolis, on and after the 1st June, 1854. All the chickens are FIRST-RATE in symmetry, and possess short, heavily-feathered, bright yellow legs. Also for disposal, a few first-class PULLETS, now laying, including some Birmingham and Metropolitan Prize Birds of great merit. Also two first-rate heavily-feathered, vulture-hocked COCKERELS; and an imported Bird, winner of Prizes at Cheltenham, Halifax, and Yarmouth, lately weighing 10½ lbs.—For price, &c., apply to T. B. F., Post-office, Braintree, Essex.

EGGS.—BRAHMA POOTRA, SPANISH, COCHIN CHINA FOWLS' and AYLESBURY DUCKS' EGGS, from birds of the most superior description, the property of a well-known amateur (owner of the three magnificent Brahas with which he challenged the world).

Brahma Eggs, "from birds of the purest blood" £2 2 0

Spanish ditto, from birds perfectly white-faced. "The hens bred Mrs. L. Stow, &c., the cock by Captain Hornby" 0 12 0

Aylesbury Ducks' ditto, "the drake from Ridgway's prize birds, the ducks from Edwards's prize birds" 0 6 0

Cochin China, "from feathered-legged buff hens and a very fine vulture-hocked Andrews's cock" 0 6 0

Address D. C., Mr. Hinton's, 8, Winsley-street, Oxford-street.—The most satisfactory references can be given as to quality of all the birds; they are a few miles from London, and could be seen by an appointment being made.

TURKISH BANTAMS.—A few Sittings of EGGS to be disposed of at £1. 13s. per dozen, box included. These birds have been recently imported, are of great beauty, perfect in symmetry and plumage, and very small.—Address, E. D. SWARBRECK, Thirsk, Yorkshire.

EGGS from PRIZE WHITE and CLEAR BUFF COCHINS, and WHITE-FACED SPANISH FOWLS, from 12s. the set.

Apply to SAMUEL HILL, Rose Hill, Heywood, near Manchester.

FANCY POULTRY.—The PTARMIGAN.

—These beautiful and scarce birds have obtained PRIZES at the following Shows during the last few months:—The Surrey Zoological Gardens, Baker-street Bazaar, Norwich, Southampton, South-east Hants, Salisbury, Plymouth, &c. They are a pure white, with topknots, vulture hooked, cupped combs, and remarkably well-feathered legs and feet. Eggs can be purchased at £2. 2s. per dozen, from Dr. Burney's ORIGINAL Birds, which may be seen at Brockhurst Lodge, near Gosport.

EGGS FOR SALE, from Prize birds, from the Yard of CHRISTOPHER RAWSON, Esq., The Hurst, Walton-on-Thames:—

Buff Cochins; Spanish; Coloured and White Dorkings; Gold and Silver, Spangled, and Pencilled Hamburgs; Gold and Silver Bantams; and Aylesbury Ducks, 12s. per dozen.

White and Black Cochins; Gold, Silver, and Black Polands; 21s. per dozen.

Brahma Pootra Eggs, from imported birds of the best strains, £2. 2s. per dozen.

Post-office orders (including 1s. for packing) to be sent with the order. The Eggs will be sent out in rotation according to the date of order.

EGGS from FIRST CLASS and PRIZE BIRDS.—JOHN BAILY has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

FANCY POULTRY.—EXTRA SALE OF CHOICE STOCK.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will SELL by AUCTION at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on TUESDAY, 28th March, at 12 o'clock precisely, a selection of Cochins from Lord Cottenham's yard; the entire brood stock of first-class Cochins belonging to Mr. Stainton; some good birds from Mr. Bridges, Mrs. Fooks, and others.—Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent-garden.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—MR. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, near Haverhill, Suffolk, disposes of Eggs from his Buff, and also from his original Partridge-coloured, Birds, price 1s. each, and 1s. for package.—Applications for either variety will be supplied in the order received.

SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY-HOUSE, £4, consisting of house 4 feet square and 6 feet high, and roofed run for fowls 9 feet by 4 feet. Drawings of several sent free. The above are portable, and can be taken down or put up by any ordinary labourer. Wire work from 6 to 15 inches wide, 6½d. per square yard, to enclose poultry, &c.—**R. RICHARDSON, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, near King's-cross, N.B.** Maker of garden summer-houses, and iron and wood houses for emigrants; drawings of 21 houses sent free.

BLOSSOM OF FRUIT-TREES.—B WORSTED NET to effectually protect the blossom of wall fruit-trees from frost and blight, and the ripe fruit afterwards from wasps and flies, 7d. per square yard, in various widths. All kinds of garden, fishing, and sheep nets, made by machinery, and at very low prices.—**R. RICHARDSON, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, King's-cross.**

WIRE FENCING, 6½d. per Square Yard, in various widths from 6 feet to 15 inches, mesh less than 2 inches. An effectual fence against Hares, Rabbits, Sheep, Deer, &c., and for the enclosure of Poultry, Pheasants, &c.; 4-inch mesh, 4d. per square yard.—R. RICHARDSON, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, London.

EMIGRANTS' IRON AND WOOD HOUSES from £10 each; Drawings of 21 houses sent free. Also Maker of Iron and Wood Summer-houses for Gardens. Portable Poultry-houses, Pheasantries, &c.—**R. RICHARDSON, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, near King's-cross, London.**

DOLBY'S WEDDING AND HERALDIC STATIONERY.—CREST DIES ENGRAVED as gems of art without charge where the order amounts to 21s. H. Dolby having crest dies appertaining to more than 10,000 families, can supply even 100 envelopes with the desired crest. Wedding and Visiting Cards engraved and printed in the perfection of fashion. Pedigrees traced, with illustrative notices, antiquarian and topographical. Arms found, emblazoned, and engraved for book-plates, seals, &c.
HENRY DOLBY, Heraldic Draughtsman and Stationer, 56, Regent-street-quadrant.

FOR POULTRY-HOUSES.

LIGHT, CHEAP, & DURABLE ROOFING.

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons. Price ONE PENNY per SQUARE FOOT. Croggon's Patent NON-CONDUCTING FELT for covering Steam-boilers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and testimonials sent by post, on application to **CROGGON & CO.**, 2, Dowgate-hill, London, who also supply **SHIP SHEATHING FELT**, and **INODOROUS FELT**, for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

WM. DRAY & CO.'S PATENT WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot. Ordinary Wire Netting, from 2½d. per yard, 2 feet wide.—Address **WM. DRAY & CO.**, Agricultural Implement Manufacturers, Swan-lane, Upper Thames-street, London.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Preserving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage-free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

To be had in any quantity at **GEORGE EATON & Co.'s** Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory, 6 and 7, Crooked-lane, London.

TO SALMON AND TROUT FISHERS.

JOHN S. HOLROYD, Manufacturer of **RODS and TACKLE**, 59, Gracechurch-street, London, begs to call the attention of Anglers to his large and superior assortment of Fly Rods, warranted made of the best seasoned materials, and for action and workmanship excelled by none in London.

J. S. H. has also a very compact Fly Rod, having the appearance of a neat umbrella, and interfering in no way with the utility of the Rod. Artificial Bait in great variety. The best Trout Flies on Limerick Hooks at 2s. per dozen.

59, GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON.

SUBSTITUTE FOR GARDEN MATS.—

S Waxed Sheeting nearly 2 yards wide, 1s. per yard run—admits light and excludes cold; thick Canvas Tarpauling, 1s. per square yard; thick Canvas Waxed Sheeting, 1s. per square yard, may be had various widths; these Canvases are excellent for roofing Sheds and Outhouses, as they are quite waterproof.—**R. RICHARDSON**, 21, Tonbridge-place, Judd-street, New-road, London.

DOG BISCUITS.—The best in London, at **T. STYLES'S** (late **J. WALDRON**), 82, Upper Thames Street, made expressly for Dogs (not old ship-stores, as they are apt to have the weevil in them), 20s. per cwt., bag included. Scotch Oatmeal, 19s. per cwt., and best Town-made Greaves 16s. 6d. per cwt. All post-office orders payable to **THOMAS STYLES**, will be punctually attended to.

7, Baker-street, London.

EXHIBITION PRIZE MEDAL.

CAISTOR'S LADIES'SADDLES combine elegance and lightness with strength and durability. They are horizontal from head to cantle; and by the construction of the seat, enable the lady to keep her proper position without inconvenience, irritation, or exertion.

CAISTOR'S PRIZE HUNTING SADDLES are superior to any other for ease to horse and rider. The tree is so constructed as to sit well behind the shoulder, and does not confine or impede the action of that important joint. They are narrow in the grip, flat in the seat, light, and durable.

CAISTOR'S System of Saddle-making is based upon Anatomical principles, he having studied the natural requirements of the horse and its rider.

The **PRIZE SADDLES and HARNESS** may be seen at 7, Baker-street, where a large Stock of Saddlery and Harness may be inspected, as also every requisite for the Stable. A detailed list of Prices free, on application to

A. B. CAISTOR, SADDLER, &c.

7, Baker-street, London.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 5.]

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

Poultry Shows.

Aylesbury Local Show, April 12th. Secretary, Cheplyn Hall, Esq. Entries are closed.

Royal Dublin Society's Spring Show, April 18, and three following days. Assistant Secretary, W. E. Steel, Esq., M.B. Entries close April 3.

Hexham Poultry Show, in the Abbey Grounds. Second Annual Exhibition, Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th of May. Secretary, W. Turner, Esq., Hencotes, Hexham. Entries close May 6.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries close May 10th.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries close, June 1st.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition. 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, T. McCann, Esq., Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 29th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close Saturday, November 11th.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

It is an indubitable fact, that every class works for the advantage of the others,

which, with itself, form the great mass of society; and those who, with the means to do so, take up the fancies of the day, and carry them out, are real benefactors. If we take agriculture, for instance, now going hand in hand with every science, and becoming daily more perfect as a pursuit, and as a means of producing many of the necessaries of life, to whom may the great change be attributed?—to the late Earl of Leicester, and other noblemen and gentlemen, who, regardless of the expense, and the ridicule (too often the reward of those who, even in the cause of utility, are innovators), tried those experiments which were beyond the reach of men whose first care it was to earn their daily bread. For these reasons we believe the term "mania" which has been applied to those who are following the Poultry movement of the present day, to be a misnomer; and we believe the result of it will be, to induce those who have the means of keeping any, to keep only such fowls as shall be the most productive, either of meat or eggs, and thereby increase the amount of food in due proportion to the increase of population.

There is also a good field open for the amateur, who has time and talent, to compile a statistical paper, proving which of the many popular breeds will produce the greatest quantity of food, of any sort, at

the least cost. Such labours will not be thrown away, and will come with authority sufficient to carry conviction, where the mere assertion of a brother amateur is disregarded.

It is precisely the case where those who have leisure and means can help others, who, fully employed in their necessary daily avocations, have no opportunity of arriving at such conclusions, or of acquiring such accurate knowledge. The connection between the former and latter part of our subject is proved by the liberal prize list of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, which we publish this day.

Hints to Poultry-Show Committees.

To continue the subject in the same form as my last, we will suppose the committee, with their appointed secretary, to have again assembled; and having appointed a chairman, they should proceed to draw up the "Prize List" and regulations. Nothing requires greater care than the "*carte*" of their exhibition. Of course, the amount of prizes must greatly depend upon the funds at the disposal of the committee, and these are equally dependent on the support they dare calculate upon from visitors; for the amount paid in subscriptions, on the usual scale of charges, will hardly cover the cost of pens. The safest way for the committee to guard against heavy individual loss, is to canvass the neighbourhood for a guarantee-fund, and if they can get from fifty to seventy friends to undertake a risk of £5 each, they will fully insure against losses. To make a Prize List sufficiently attractive for the principal amateurs and breeders, will require £120 to £150. It is true that a much smaller sum will make a decent list if great judgment is displayed in dividing the

amounts of the different classes. The committee should give *one* handsome prize in each class, viz., 1st class £2, 2nd class £1, 3rd class 5s., is better than £1. 10s., £1, and 15s.; for *one* large prize will undoubtedly draw more good birds to a show than three prizes of more equal but smaller amounts. Indeed, I question the policy of a third prize altogether. Judges will give a third prize to a pen which would not command a first even if its more successful competitors first and second were withdrawn; and to the very profuse prizes may be attributed the immense number of "prize" bird eggs, advertised all over the country; mind, "prize"—not first nor second, nor third. It would be a curious analysis if one could dissect the various stocks advertised, and ascertain how many truly first-class prize birds could be displayed. But I am digressing and must return to the subject. I would recommend the committee to adopt the classification of some of the older established shows, rather than endeavour to draw up one of their own. They can, of course, alter the amount of their premiums to suit their funds.

I do not mean to say that even the best prize lists are perfect, for I look upon poultry shows as a proper means for benefiting and improving the domestic poultry of this country, and not as they are too frequently made, the arena for competing amateurs to contend for the leadership of the poultry world. And this can best be effected by having a prize for the best single cock of each class, and also one cockerel and pullet, and it would most benefit the neighbourhood if the winning birds of each class could be sold by auction after the show. No breeder need be afraid of not having a fair price for his bird, for if it had won a first prize it would, in the present state of poultrydom (I do not like the word "*mania*," and therefore coin a new one), command its full value.

And now for the regulations. The first should be respecting the time of the show. It ought not to be at the same time as any

of the leading shows unless at a great distance; but in all cases it is better to avoid this, as birds will be sent from all parts of the country, and distance appears to be no obstacle. If the show is intended to be a very large one, it is well not to fix the time within a month of any large show, for it is impossible for any amateur to get his birds into first-rate order in less time, after the fatigue and excitement of a previous show.

The proper months for a show are from the beginning of November to the end of January for *mature* birds; but very good shows may be made of chickens from June to the end of October, and during that period the premiums for the older birds should be reduced and added to the chicken class; or they might be altogether omitted, as few old birds will be fit for exhibition, their plumage being worn out by the cares and fatigues of hatching.

The committee, in fixing the date of their show, should bear in mind the best days of the week. Wednesday and Thursday will allow most exhibitors' birds comfortable time for travelling. If it is designed to have the show on a Tuesday, the day for receiving the birds must be Saturday; for in the first place, the judges ought to have a clear day allotted to them for their decisions, and it is better for the birds to be comfortably penned in the show-room than starving, freezing, or fretting somewhere; or perchance taking a permanent part in a cock-fight, for the special edification and amusement of a few railway porters or worse characters. But on this subject more anon—having already occupied too much of your valuable space.

P.S.—What adventures and strange scenes some of our prize poultry would describe if they could; I wonder they do not employ an amanuensis! W. W.

Domestication of the Curassow.

ALL the writers who have given accounts of the crested and galeated Curassows,

concur in the opinion that they might be domesticated without great difficulty, and introduced with advantage as members of our poultry yards. Few steps appear, at present, to have been taken towards this desirable end; but some hope is offered in the questions contained in the letter of our correspondent, "T. S."

In many parts of South America, we are told, and also in several of the Dutch settlements, they have been reclaimed, and that in Holland they were once acclimated, and were *as prolific in their domesticated state, as any of our common poultry*. Surely this is an assertion calculated to lead on an enterprising amateur. The establishment in Holland in which this success was attained, was broken up by the civil commotions following the French revolution, and all the pains which had been bestowed on the birds, lost to the world.

The Curassows are natives of South America, but they are said to become *easily* habituated to our climate; and this statement appears likely, from their thriving pretty well in the gardens of the Zoological Society, Regent's Park; for persons who live in the neighbourhood of Hampstead, to which the same soil extends, find it disadvantageous to poultry on account of the cold clay subsoil. The result of experiment there made in breeding the birds is not very satisfactory, as may be seen in the reply to T. S.'s query, contained in our answers to correspondents this week.

The author of the "Poultry Yard," published by George Routledge and Co., W. C. L. Martin, writes, "We think that private individuals, with moderate means at command, and bent upon the accomplishment of the desirable object of naturalizing these birds, would be far more successful than any institution or society, more especially in some of our southern counties, as Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, and Kent. The birds should be kept in a large dry yard or netted enclosure, with a grass plot and water in it, there should

be two or three trees of moderate elevation. To this should be attached a good, high barn, perfectly weather tight, with perches at some distance overhead; to this barn they must be induced to resort every evening, which may be done by giving them their evening meal there, and then closing the door. There should be a window or two in the walls, well secured by netting, in order to give them sufficient light; boxes placed at the ends of the perches, or in such situations as are in accordance with their instincts, should be provided for the hens to lay in, and be lined with straw and dry leaves. Should the hens exhibit no disposition to incubate, the eggs may be placed under a common fowl. The food and general treatment is much the same as for the Turkey."

The Curassows appear to be arboreal in their habits; more so than the Pea-fowl, the Turkey, or the Guinea-fowl. They build large nests on trees of sticks and long herbage, and line them with grasses and leaves (this is the crested variety). The galeated Curassow (with a sort of excrescence surmounting the head) perches on trees; but it is stated that the female makes her nest on the ground, and leads forth her young brood like a hen.

The eggs which they lay are similar to those of the hen, but larger and thicker in the shell; the number is generally six or eight, but it seems likely that in a domesticated state they might, after *several generations*, lay a great many more; like other fowls which, in a wild state, no doubt, confine themselves to an equally limited number.

The Curassow is about as large as a Turkey, with plumage of a brilliant black. The hind toe instead of being placed as in rasorial birds generally, is on a level with the rest, thus adapting the feet to arboreal habits; the legs are spurless. The tail is ample and composed of stiff feathers; the crested variety has fourteen tail feathers.

Berries, and various sorts of grain, constitute their food; the young (and, no

doubt, the old ones too) are fond of worms, larvæ, and insects.

They are mentioned as remarkable for their tameness and soon becoming familiar, but this account is at variance with recent trials.

The flesh, in delicacy and whiteness, surpasses that of the fowl or the pheasant.

Some varieties pair like the pigeon; this is a point which should receive attention from those who are anxious to breed them.

In an attempt to domesticate, the greatest danger to them appears to arise from wet or damp, especially to the feet, which, if subjected to its injurious effects, will sometimes mortify.

If any of our readers should be encouraged to follow out an attempt to domesticate the Curassow, will they kindly favour the "Poultry Chronicle" with the result?

What Variety of Fowls is best to keep?

THIS is a question that is not unfrequently propounded to the writer of this article many times in a day, the querists apparently altogether overlooking dissimilarities of situation, character of soil, and aptitude of habitation; for on these peculiarities, whether combined or separately considered, very much depends as to the results consequent on a poultry amateur's first attempts.

I need scarcely say that any land well calculated for sheep or a rabbit warren is highly suitable for the profitable production of poultry, damp being equally adverse to the successful rearing of the one as the other. For this especial reason a high-lying and gravelly soil is ever to be preferred at the outset, for on damp boggy lands (except for aquatic birds, which there may be kept to the greatest advantage possible), success will be worse than uncertain, and a grievous disappointment the most probable result.

There are, however, very considerable differences in the various kinds of fowls as to their hardihood, and it is not less remarkable with what aptitude some breeds struggle with difficulties that would at once prove fatal to those of more weakly constitution. It is, therefore, my intention to lay before your numerous readers a few hints (not from theory but actual experience), and then leave each to determine for himself whether he gives the preference (in his own individual case) to ornament or utility. Circumstances are not unfrequently connected with different localities that render it expedient to adopt a breed in reference to the fact as to whether *chickens* or *eggs* are the most *saleable* and *remunerative* in the neighbourhood, and to this point I wish your readers to pay especial attention, as it is one on which *they alone* can arrive at a positive and satisfactory conclusion. It must also be constantly borne in mind the very great difference in value of eggs, if laid during the heat of summer or the severities of winter time. In the former they are frequently found to average from twenty-four to even thirty for a shilling, whilst during the latter period they oft-times range from three halfpence to twopence each. This is in reference to the generality of our market towns, for in the metropolis I find the disparity of prices is even far more remarkable; but as comparatively few persons can possibly avail themselves of the London market, and my remarks appertain *rather to the many than the few*, I wish to confine myself to the more extended sale generally throughout the country. From what has just been advanced it is manifestly apparent that a variety of fowls that lays well in the winter is infinitely the most profit-producing to its owner, even if the amount of eggs laid is *numerically the same* as those of a breed that lays chiefly in the summer months. It is my opinion also, and one in which I find agriculturists generally freely coincide with me, "*that eggs pay better than chickens*," take the season through. One

reason for this is obvious: the chickens require attentive and generous feeding to render them marketable, whilst on the other hand the production of eggs is attended with no additional expense whatever. I must here, too, mention another fact *that is indisputable, but little noticed*, viz., that all young poultry are by far more susceptible of disease than the parent birds; therefore where numbers of fowls are congregated it is generally found that contagion not only manifests its presence in the *first* instance among the "younger branches," but what sadly increases the perplexity, it *there* is found the most difficult to eradicate. If chickens are from peculiar circumstances the most desired, experience tells me that those of a "cross breed" are by far both the most *hardy to rear* and (generally speaking) carry more flesh than birds of perfect purity of blood. I must here say no individual more highly appreciates or more anxiously desires to encourage the attention of amateurs generally than the writer himself, to the great importance of keeping their respective stocks pure and undefiled from the approaches of other varieties; but where chickens are produced *exclusively with the intention of applying them to table purposes*, I am certain the opinion I have advanced will be found (*on trial*) not far from the correct one. I must also willingly acknowledge my innate dislike to the appearance of mongrel-bred fowls of any kind, but am not so completely enthralled by amateur prejudices as to be incapable or unwilling to recognize merit where merit is justly due, and thus qualified, I repeat my convictions in favour of cross-breeds, *to kill the same season for the purposes of the table*. It cannot be amiss here to mention a few prominent peculiarities of some of the leading varieties of the day, as to their hardihood, egg-producing qualities, and also their advantages as table fowls. I am aware that most amateurs think their *own pets the best*, and many will dauntlessly throw down the gauntlet of defiance in their favour; mine

is not a desire to rush headlong into controversy, but simply to jot down the experiences of many years for the benefit of those whose opportunities have been comparatively limited, and to prevent an undue outlay of time and also of expense in parties thus situated.

As a general rule, it will be found that fowls which "roost haphazard anywhere in the outbuildings" enjoy a far better state of health, and are more productive, than when subjected to the restraints of a hen-house for a roosting-place. This is easily accounted for, they roost farther apart, and consequently the ventilation is decidedly superior. Against these advantages, I am willing to admit fully they are, after night-fall, far more exposed to the depredations of thieves; still, it is equally notorious, that when such parties have "fixed their minds on having them," closed doors, bolts, and bars afford but very little real security; indeed, I myself consider "a wholesale sweep" even more improbable (than it may appear at first-sight) in the *former* instance, than the latter, and I have known very many parties whose poultry roosted either in an old yew or fir-tree close adjacent to the premises for a long succession of years, without any molestation whatever.

Now the general utility of the various classes must be considered.

In the neighbourhood of brakes and wild places, no doubt, the game fowls are the most successful; they are a variety ever alive to the approach of danger, and far more capable of avoiding it than most others; they take wing most readily, and from the smaller kinds of vermin, they will most resolutely defend their newly-hatched offspring, and seldom fall a prey to those mishaps that would be certain (under these circumstances) to befall the larger and more lethargic kinds. They are, however, very annoying to their owners by their dire pugnacity; and frequently, when heretofore as friendly with each other as could be desired, they suddenly, without any apparent real cause,

fall to fighting, and the chances are then many pay the forfeit of their lives before the combatants have arranged their differences; in these sudden outbreaks, the hens prove their valour *equally* with the male birds, and from this cause, undoubtedly it is, the battle soon becomes quite universal. They are also most apt to injure the very young chickens by their own anxious desire to *defend* them. They are certainly not surpassed in flavour by any fowl. They lay freely, but chiefly in the summer, and sit *very* closely. It is, too, a very hardy kind, if enjoying a nice open walk, and allowed freely to "take their chance."

In the cultivation of Dorkings, a perfectly dry straw-yard and extensive outbuildings are quite an advantage; no fowls show the nature of the management to which they have been subjected more than they do, nor do any, as *farm fowls*, repay additional attention with greater certitude; hence, their far-famed notoriety for the table. With great care as to liberal feeding, this variety will attain a most unusual weight (I have myself several times partaken of cockerels that weighed eight and a half, and even nine pounds, *when dressed*), but of course this was the result of excessive feeding, and, though we may not unfrequently see Dorkings in an exhibition-room of even greater weight, they are instances rather of the exception than the general rule. On damp soils or in very cold exposed situations, Dorkings rarely attain a medium size, they delight so much in warmth and a dry atmosphere; this accounts for their intrinsic merit being so generally acknowledged in the southern counties of England. They are tolerable layers; the chickens grow quickly, and *generally maintain pretty much the same condition at all ages*, therefore are always available for market purposes. They are exceedingly hardy, on a suitable walk, but confinement affects them very severely; hence, I would not advise them (if crippled for room); though, for *all purposes combined* (on ex-

tensive premises), I consider there is not any *purely* bred fowl that will give greater satisfaction, or, when plucked, so easily secure an immediate sale.

The Cochins are as hardy a race as any; they are capable of bearing hardships (such as close confinement in unsuitable places) with far less injury to their health than most others; they are excessive layers, and that too when the eggs are most valued (mid-winter), and, if *really* well bred, *profusely-feathered birds*; the severity of the season, however great, very little affects their laying, very far less than that of *any other known variety*; they appear to endure the effects of damp better than most, and, as before hinted, as winter-layers, are certainly without an equal. The eggs, being very strong-shelled, keep better than others, and are good-flavoured as well as good-looking. These fowls are very lethargic, will not attempt any fence a yard high, and, from their truly domestic habits, will succeed well in confined premises (if only kept for the eggs); but I entertain the strongest doubts whether they are really *profitable* if *chickens for the table only* are sought for, as they eat heartily (the young cocks *ravenously*), and in the market (*when dressed*), have but few admirers, the great bulk of the meat being placed on those parts which, by general acceptance, are regarded as the most common. If considered as to the fictitious value sometimes obtained for the produce, in the hope such chickens will "make future *prize birds*," I will be silent; my object being simple tests of *utility* only. In severe weather, the young chickens feather very slowly, and frequently become completely denuded of even the down (*except on their heads*), and at such times, I think the most enthusiastic amateur will have occasionally his qualms and misgivings as to any benefits (as far as his interests are concerned) which may be "looming in the future." Though, as I have stated, *confined* space will suit Cochins if kept exclusively for laying, certainly their chicks require a good grass run, to

progress favourably. The flesh of the young birds is of very good flavour, if well fed; but *roasted Cochins are far preferable to boiled* as regards appearance on the table, for when cooked the latter way, both the colour and great thickness of the skin are alike unpleasing to the eye of any who may be unaccustomed to seeing them. My remarks appertain only to *real Cochins*, not the weedy, stilty fowls sometimes so called; for while I freely attest the excellence of the former, as being the best fowls for egg-production we can select, the latter are unworthy of commendation altogether.

Of the Bramah Pootra fowls, I know but little, therefore shall be very brief: they are far more willing to wander about and "try to get their own living" than the Cochins; the well-bred ones carry a *vast deal more* on the *breasts* than Cochins, and there is no doubt, for constitution, the chickens are most unusually *strong*. I have seen them early in the morning, in fact at break of day, wandering about *blithely* and *unconcernedly* in the most intense hoar-frost of last winter (though only two or three weeks old), and when the writer of this article found three coats but little protection from the severities of the weather in railway travelling. The eggs are freely produced, and assimilate very closely to Cochins, both in flavour and appearance. They carry favourable ideas as to their flesh whilst *living*, but it has not been *my lot yet* to see them cooked, though I have heard those who have tasted them speak favourably.

Malays are not free layers; they are fowls naturally very hardy, but most cruel and vindictive to all around them, whatever poultry it may be; they stand a damp soil well (but not confinement); the flesh is good, abundantly supplied, the wings, merry-thought, and breast, telling *very* favourably under the hands of an experienced carver.

The Polish, except on dry upland, warm soils, are tender and liable to disease; if favourably situated, they are good *summer-*

laying fowls. Both the eggs and flesh of the fowls themselves are good, but the chickens grow slowly. Under damp and hardships, they suffer severely, both old and young.

The Hamburgs. Here perhaps we have fowls whose laying properties are unequalled, but then most or all the eggs of this variety are produced at that season of the year when eggs are *most plentiful*; those of the golden spangled are large when compared with the eggs of the pencilled varieties, and I am persuaded, as regards the fowls themselves, the *spangled* of both kinds of Hamburgs are the most hardy and useful; the chicks grow rapidly, carry well of flesh, which is also of excellent flavour, and, on a favourable site, are *easily* reared. The combined produce generally, too (both of chickens and eggs), is found satisfactory to their owners, while their great beauty is no mean addition to their other good qualities.

Spanish *must* have a warm, dry, and comfortable "walk" to be successful, and, unless these essential adjuncts are at hand, I have not, *with purely-bred birds* (and of such *only* am I now speaking), strong hopes of a satisfactory issue. Under hardships, such fowls are undoubtedly great sufferers; though, under favourable circumstances, perhaps it is impossible to select any variety of greater beauty or more *aristocratic* bearing, still more so when in a strong light all the metallic radiations of colour in their plumage tell wonderfully in their favour when brought out in powerful contrast with the curd-like colour of the face and ear-lobes. Still, it is useless to deny the stern fact, that the chickens are only reared with considerable difficulty; that the old fowls are more susceptible than others of injury from the effects of *frost* to the wattles and comb, from both of which I have frequently known large pieces "die away," to the most intense suffering of the poor bird itself, and the grievous mortification of its owner; for a bird thus mutilated is, of course, for ever useless in the exhibition-

room, and fearfully injured in constitution. If well cared for, they lay freely, and very fine-sized superior eggs; the chicks for table purposes are good-flavoured, but the deficiency of *breast* in "dressed" specimens is apparent on the most trivial inspection, besides which, they while young are too apt to fail as to "condition."

I must now very briefly draw to a conclusion. The foregoing remarks will evidence some of the leading advantages and also faults of our principal purely-bred varieties; it will be also seen that for winter-layers, Cochins are *the* fowls, and where eggs are required in the *warm*er periods of the year, the Hamburgs must claim the laurels, from the combined advantages of *productiveness* and *hardihood*, features which I have forcibly borne in mind throughout the whole of my remarks, and which I trust may prove of some little use to your agricultural readers.

I thus give the most decided preference to purely-descended stock for the purposes of the egg market, and here I will draw attention to the *fact*, that no article of farm produce sells more freely than eggs, the demand always far exceeding the supply; hence their advantages. In regard to chickens (for general purposes *only*) the best chickens I have ever seen, are the product of a cross between a Malay and Dorking. All the hens are of the latter breed, and like the sire, are each quite pure of their variety; the chicks assimilate very closely in their *general contour with the maternal parent*, but in great size, and constitution, they very far outvie the competition of surrounding farms, where equal care is lavished on the poultry. The mistress of this farm boasts, "she can always bring her chicks to market, at any age, fit for killing, from a pound to two pounds heavier than her neighbours; consequently, from eighteen pence to two shillings superior price per couple is always attained, and *deaths rarely occur*." *None* of these chicks are *ever kept as stock*, but killed off every season, and the profits (from a diary I

there saw) were far from inconsiderable ; whilst the farm is not by any means calculated for the production of delicate varieties, being very bleakly situated, a cold clayey soil, and but ill drained ; so that natural advantages of situation are sadly in their disfavour. As their *value for the TABLE is the real test-stone of utility*, to that only have I strictly adhered, leaving both personal fancies, and fancy prices, altogether out of the question.
E. H.

Schedule of the Royal Agricultural Society.

EXTRACTS relating to Poultry from the Schedule of the Royal Agricultural Society. The meeting is to take place at Lincoln, during the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July, 1854.

Regulations for the Poultry Department.

- 1.—Members of the Society to pay 2s. 6d., and non-members 5s. on each pen.
- 2.—All pens will be disqualified if the plumage of the birds shall have been trimmed, removed, or otherwise tampered with.
3. Proper persons will be appointed by the Society to attend to and feed the birds sent without a servant in charge.
- 4.—After the show, the Society's men only will be allowed to remove the birds from the pens, and place them in the baskets.
- 5.—In all cases, the birds will only be given to the "Delivery Order," signed by the exhibitor or his servant ; it will therefore be necessary for the exhibitors to furnish their servants, or the carriers who are to apply for the birds, with the delivery order as above named.
- 6.—In no case will the Society be responsible for the safety of either the birds or the packages.

Prizes for Improving the Breeds of Farm Poultry.

CLASS 1.—DORKING FOWLS ; Chickens of 1854.

| | |
|---|--------|
| To the owner of the best cock and two pullets | £5 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 3 0 0 |
| To the owner of the third-best ditto | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the fourth-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 2.—DORKING FOWLS ; more than one year old.

| | |
|--|--------|
| To the owner of the best Cock and two Hens | £5 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 3 0 0 |
| To the owner of the third-best ditto | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the fourth-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 3.—DORKING COCKS ; of any age.

| | |
|--|-------|
| To the owner of the best Dorking Cock of any age | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 4.—SPANISH FOWLS.

| | |
|--|-------|
| To the owner of the best Cock and two Hens | 5 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 3 0 0 |
| To the owner of the third-best ditto | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the fourth-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 5.—SPANISH COCKS ; of any age.

| | |
|--|-------|
| To the owner of the best Spanish Cock of any age | 2 0 0 |
|--|-------|

CLASS 6. — COCHIN CHINA FOWLS ; Chickens of 1854.

| | |
|---|-------|
| To the owner of the best Cock and two Pullets | 5 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 3 0 0 |
| To the owner of the third-best ditto | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the fourth-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 7.—COCHIN CHINA COCKS ; of any age.

| | |
|---|-------|
| To the owner of the best Cochin China Cock of any age | 2 0 0 |
|---|-------|

CLASS 8.—BRAMAH POOTRA FOWLS.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Best Cock and two Pullets or Hens .. | 3 0 0 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|

CLASS 9.—GAME FOWLS.

| | |
|--|-------|
| To the owner of the best Cock and two Hens | 5 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the third-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 10.—GAME COCKS ; of any age.

| | |
|---|-------|
| To the owner of the best Game Cock of any age | 2 0 0 |
|---|-------|

CLASS 11.—HAMBURG FOWLS; Golden Pencilled.

| | |
|--|--------|
| To the owner of the best Cock and two Hens | £2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 12.—HAMBURG FOWLS; Silver Pencilled.

| | |
|--|-------|
| To the owner of the best Cock and two Hens | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 13.—HAMBURG FOWLS; Golden Spangled.

| | |
|--|-------|
| To the owner of the best Cock and two Hens | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 14.—HAMBURG FOWLS; Silver Spangled.

| | |
|--|-------|
| To the owner of the best Cock and two Hens | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 15.—MALAY FOWLS.

| | |
|--|-------|
| To the owner of the best Cock and two Hens | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 16.—POLAND FOWLS.

| | |
|--|-------|
| To the owner of the best Cock and two Hens | 3 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the third-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 17.—TURKEYS.

| | |
|---|-------|
| To the owner of the best Turkey Cock and two Hens | 3 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the third-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 18.—GEESE.

| | |
|---|-------|
| To the owner of the best Gander and two Geese | 3 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the third-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 19.—AYLESBURY DUCKS.

| | |
|--|-------|
| To the owner of the best Drake and two Ducks | 3 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the third-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 20.—ROUEN DUCKS.

| | |
|--|--------|
| To the owner of the best Drake and two Ducks | £3 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the third-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

CLASS 21.—DUCKS of any other variety.

| | |
|--|-------|
| To the owner of the best Drake and two Ducks | 2 0 0 |
| To the owner of the second-best ditto | 1 0 0 |

Extracts from "General Regulations."**CERTIFICATES.**

1.—The necessary printed forms of certificates may be obtained from the Secretary, at No. 12, Hanover-square, London, by persons desirous of exhibiting live stock.

2.—No stock whatever will be admitted for exhibition unless the necessary certificates, filled in, upon the printed forms prescribed complete, and signed by the exhibitor (or his agent) in the manner directed, have been delivered to the secretary, or sent (postage free) directed to him, so as to reach No. 12, Hanover-square, London, on or before the 1st of June. The secretary will acknowledge, by return of post, the due receipt and registration of the certificates.

6.—The age of each animal, calculated up to the 1st of July (instead of, as formerly, up to the day of the Show), must be stated in the certificate.

8.—In every certificate for live stock the exhibitor will be required to sign an engagement, to forfeit and pay to the Society the sum of £20, as and for liquidated damages, if the animal, or any of the animals (as the case may be) which he exhibits are, to his knowledge, suffering under any contagious or infectious disease.

We do not know whether this last regulation can be put in force with regard to poultry, but if this description of stock can be reckoned of sufficient importance, we think it *should*.

ARRIVAL OF LIVE STOCK.

9.—No stock whatever will be admitted into the yard for exhibition, unless the necessary certificate has been sent to the secretary at the proper time.

10.—All stock entered for exhibition may be brought to the show-yard between the hours of eight in the morning and six in the afternoon of Monday, the 17th of July, and must all be in the yard by four p.m. on Tuesday, the 18th of July, and none will be admitted after the latter hour.

11.—The parchment ticket, which will be sent by the director, must be firmly tied on each animal, before it is brought to the gate.

12.—The "Admission-order," which will also be sent by the director for stock properly entered, must be delivered to the gate-keeper of the yard by the person who brings the stock for admission.

DEPARTURE OF STOCK AFTER THE SHOW.

13.—All stock must remain in the show-yard until after six o'clock in the afternoon of Friday, the 21st of July, and as much longer as the director may consider it necessary.

14.—No animal can be removed from its place, or taken out of the show-yard, without leave in writing from the director or the stewards of the cattle-yard.

16.—If any animal shall not have been removed on the evening of Friday, it will not be permitted to leave the yard until six o'clock on Saturday morning.

17.—The "Delivery-order," filled up and signed by the exhibitor or his agent, must be delivered to the gate-keeper: no stock can be removed without it.

GENERAL RULES.

18.—CAUTION.—In order to prevent disappointment, all persons intending to become exhibitors of live stock, cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, farm poultry, or long wool, at the Lincoln Meeting, must *distinctly understand*, that no certificate will, under any circumstances, or on any plea, be accepted, unless delivered or forwarded (properly filled up and completed), so as to reach the office of the Society, No. 12, Hanover-square, London, on or before the 1st of June, 1854.

20. Any person who shall have been shown, to the satisfaction of the Council, to have been excluded from exhibiting for prizes at the exhibition of any society, in consequence of having been convicted of an attempt to obtain a prize by giving a false certificate, shall not be allowed to compete for any of the prizes offered by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, or at any of their meetings.

21.—Any prize will be withheld, when the judges are of opinion that there is not sufficient merit in the stock exhibited for such prize to justify an award.

22.—All servants coming in charge of stock will be subject to the orders of the director and stewards of the cattle-yard.

25.—In order to check the non-exhibition of animals which have been entered for the Show, thus causing the Society to make unnecessary preparations, and incur unnecessary expenses,

and also to prevent the show-yard from being disarranged, a fine of 10s. will be levied on each entry of stock which shall not be exhibited, unless a certificate under the hand of the exhibitor, or his authorised agent, be lodged with the secretary of the Society on or before the day of exhibition, proving to the satisfaction of the Council that such non-exhibition is caused by one or other of the following circumstances—1st, the death of the animal or animals; 2nd, contagious or infectious disease; or, 3rd, unavoidable injury, sufficient to prevent such stock from being exhibited.

Instructions to the Director and Stewards.

1.—The director and stewards are instructed to take care that no member of Council, governor or member of the Society, stranger, or exhibitor, be admitted into the cattle-yard, under any pretence whatever, until the awards of the judges shall have been delivered to the director.

2.—The Council delegates full power to the director and stewards to enforce all the above regulations.

3.—The director and stewards of the yard are requested to report to the secretary the names of any parties who have not exhibited as entered at the Show.

4.—The stewards of the cattle-yard shall report to the Council annually their observations on the exhibition of stock.

PROTESTS.

The stewards will be instructed to endeavour if possible to decide all protests against the awards of the judges at the country meeting, before the conclusion of the meeting; that such protests shall be delivered to the stewards, at the directors' office, in the show-yard, before six o'clock on the Thursday evening of the show-week; and that no protest shall be *subsequently* received, unless satisfactory reasons be assigned for the delay.

. As the Annual Prize Sheets are finally settled by the Council, at the date prescribed by the bye-laws, no alteration in the amount or condition of the prizes offered by the society can be subsequently made. Cheques for the amount of prizes awarded at the country meetings of the Society are drawn after the monthly meeting of the Council held in London in the ensuing month of August, and forwarded by post to the respective parties.

By order of the Council,

JAMES HUDSON, Secretary.

London, March 1st, 1854.

How to get up a Successful Poultry Show, and make it self-supporting.

YOUR "Correspondent living in Kent" wishes to have some suggestions to enable him to obtain the above very desirable result. I will give him a few off-hand (that is if you think them worth inserting), [We do indeed.—Ed.] which I know were acted upon in one instance with success, the committee having a balance at their bankers' of some £12, after paying all expenses. So confident do they now feel of the show proving self-supporting, that they have this year doubled the amount of their "Prize money," and intend to purchase pens.

1st. Choose a committee from men whose position will prove the respectability of the affair; they must not be *fine* gentlemen, afraid to touch a fowl,—and do not have one who would be likely to answer as one did to me, when I asked him to assist in unpacking—"No, thank you, I'd rather not; I've not been accustomed to that sort of thing."

2nd. Secure a good working honorary secretary, if possible, not one who has a latent idea that the position of secretary to a "cock show" is something ridiculous or degrading. And here I would remark, that after a first successful show, a paid secretary would be desirable for many reasons.

3rd. Decide to take all the responsibility and work on yourselves, and to allow the expected profit to stand over for another.

4th. Get an experienced person to give you a prize list suited to the locality and "pluck" of the committee. Above all, decide to give £10 or so in prizes to the cottagers occupying houses under a certain rental (say £8 a year), and within a given distance (say five miles) of the exhibition, and allow them to exhibit their birds *free of all charge*. Very likely the birds may not be worth the prize money, but they will be better another year.

5th. Solicit donations from all wealthy

parties locally interested, and gain permission to use their names as patrons. You can do so with a good grace if you adopt the two last recommendations, and make it understood that you will not "*cut and come again*;" you only want them to *assist in starting* so desirable an affair. If they are at all doubtful, send them No. 3 of the "Poultry Chronicle," and call their attention to the article under the head of "Poultry Mania."

6th. Fix the days of the show as soon as you find you meet with proper encouragement, and advertise them at once in the "Cottage Gardener," "Gardeners' Chronicle," and, though last, &c., the "Poultry Chronicle." The show ought not to continue more than two days, but you can have a *private view* after two o'clock on the judging day, to which your subscribers should be admitted free, and other parties on payment of 5s. or so.

7th. Engage the sympathy of the nearest railway company, and endeavour to have cheap trains put on from any populous town in the neighbourhood on the days of the show; and if in addition, you can get the birds conveyed to and from the show for one fare, your exhibitors will be more numerous and better pleased.

8th. Charge so much (2s. 6d. or 3s.) admission each pen, in preference to making exhibitors subscribe a large sum and exhibit four or six pens. To have a good *first* show your prizes ought to be good and your admission low. Trusting to your donations to make up, and if they are not very liberal, it would be *BETTER* to hire than to purchase pens.

Catalogues for a first show, which would probably not exceed 300 pens, ought not to cost 3d. each, and being sold at 1s. would realize a satisfactory profit. It is very important to have the catalogues ready to sell on the opening of the doors for the private view. The list of awards can be printed on a separate sheet.

So much has been written about feeding exhibition birds and the necessity of their despatch a few hours after the close of

the show, that it is needless for me to attempt any directions. The committee must, however, have an O'Connell kind of feeling, and be prepared to "die on the floor of the house" to accomplish it. They must also sharpen their wits to reply to a few sarcastic observations; a little good-humoured "tit-for-tat" does no harm.

In conclusion, I sign myself as I have been christened by my would-be facetious brother,
THE FOWL BADGER.

Poultry Houses and Poultry Buildings.

In these poultry-loving days, we are constantly asked to give descriptions of houses for the fowls. We will endeavour to do so, and to suit every amateur's means. We will first describe such as can and should be made by those who can afford to make good ones.

Choose a southern aspect, and if possible let it be built at the top of a rising ground.

The walls of the house should be 9 feet high; it should then be lightly ceiled with lath and plaster. In the ceiling should be five openings; one 4 inches from each corner, and one in the centre. The roof should, in the centre, be 3 feet above the ceiling, and bricks should be left out of the walls at the two extremities above the ceiling, to cause a constant current, which will carry away the vitiated air that rises from the house through the openings in the ceiling. The roof should be slanting both ways from the middle, should project a foot beyond the building, and be provided with spouts to carry off the wet. The door should not be in the middle of the building; but if the length of it be 15 feet, then it should be 3 feet from one end. The walls should be lime-whited. The floor should be of gravel, rammed down hard, and should rise in every direction from the door, so as to give a fall to it. The surface should be level, that no dirt may accumulate. In such a house as this, 15 feet long, 10 feet high,

and 8 feet deep, thirty fowls will roost with perfect comfort. There is, of course, room for many more; but as we are writing for those who can afford to follow their fancy, we would always rather advise three such houses, even were they smaller, than one very extensive one. If, then, the house be 15 feet long, and the door be put 3 feet from one end, there will be 9 feet of solid wall, without break of any sort. Here, at distances of 2 feet apart, and not more than 24 inches from the ground, the perches should be put, running across the house, not the length of it. These perches should be poles sawed in half, measuring, when whole, 14 inches in circumference. They should be fastened to their supports with the round side uppermost. On the other side of the house, and away from the perches, the laying-boxes should be made. They should be on the ground, and very simple in their construction, being nothing more than a number of boards, 18 inches wide and 24 high, fastened to the wall at distances of 15 inches. In front of them should be a bead 1 inch high, for cleanliness sake, and to prevent the eggs from rolling out. Each house should have a window 6 feet from the ground; but one that in winter will shut quite close.

The sitting-house should be quite distinct from the roosting or laying houses. It may be made like the others, with this difference, that the door should be close to the end wall, and the part allotted to perches in the other must here be given to sitting-boxes. These are made like the laying-places; but the width of the board should be 2 feet, and its height 30 inches. The bead may be put 18 inches from the wall, as in laying-pens. This house should have two windows, for purposes both of ventilation and light; because, when the hens are sitting the door must be kept shut, and in hot weather the birds require air. We think this is all that is necessary for fowls, in the way of houses, for either laying or sitting.

The immediate space in front of the building should be hard, dry gravel, for a

space of 12 or 14 feet, and beyond that grass.

We would now state why, where the expense is not an object, we prefer several houses to one. First, because the fowls are more comfortable, and do not huddle together as they do when considerable numbers are in one house, however large it may be. Next, it prevents much fighting among the cocks, as they will take to their separate apartments. Hens, also, sit better when they are not too numerous in the same place. We have given the extreme sizes of nests both for laying and sitting; and where they take up too much space, they may safely be reduced 3 inches for sitting or 6 for laying, by placing the partitions nearer together. Another advantage of having several houses is, it will enable amateurs to keep divers sorts in perfect health, and quite distinct, thus doing away with the baneful practice of allowing the hens only to be at liberty, and keeping the cocks constantly immured.

This brings us to another style of house, adapted for those who, although in what the world calls easy circumstances, still, from prudential or other motives, wish in every respect to do as much as they can at a small cost. They wish, on a small space, to keep two or three different sorts, and to have them all in high condition. This, again, is not difficult, and we will give our own experience, which has been most successful. Having much ambition, little space, and less money, we sought to do as much as possible with small means. We built a row of houses 4 feet deep, 15 feet long, 7 feet high in front and 5 feet behind; one brick thick throughout. We divided it into three houses of equal size; the partition being of brick to the height of 4 feet, and boards above, with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch openings left for ventilation. The doors were behind. In the front wall, at measured distances, being the centre of each house, and close under the roof, seven small openings were left to admit air. The roof was of plain tiles laid on straw. The doors were in the corner of each pen, giving

a sheltered portion of the space for perches. The laying-pens were parallel with the door, which opened outwards. There were three openings to the runs, which were divided by wire netting 6 feet high, and hurdled at bottom with common sheep-hurdles, to prevent the cocks from fighting through the wire. The space afforded to each walk was increased by putting the openings one at each extremity of the building, the other in the middle. The space afforded to each breed must of course be subject to the extent at command; but it will be seen that by this arrangement the middle run may be 14 feet wide, and the others at will or convenience. But we shall perhaps do more good by giving the most limited space in which fowls will do well. Our pens are grass, 8 feet wide and 20 long; in each we keep a cock and six hens, and their condition and health are perfect. A lower fence is sufficient to separate Cochon China fowls; but with Spanish, Dorking, Polish, or Hamburgs, the wings must be cut to prevent the possibility of mixture. All this was done at a trifling expense.

We have also used, and still use, a much cheaper house, which answers every purpose where only one sort of fowl is kept, and they are only seven or eight in number. It is made entirely of wood, 6 feet deep, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide; 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet high in the centre, 1 foot lower at the sides, from the slanting of the roof. The door is in the middle in front; on the one side are four laying-boxes, on the other a perch, which is also carried round at the end. This house has no bottom, and is easily moveable. Seven or eight fowls do well in it; and the whole cost was £2. Holes were bored at top for ventilation.

Nothing is more useful as a poultry building than a covered shed for chickens in wet weather, and we mention it because many an old place is pulled down which would be invaluable. Such a shed is not expensive; it is a thatched skeleton roof, closed with paling at one end and one side, those most exposed being of course chosen.

It is essential to consider all these little comforts and appliances. Fowls do not like to sit wet; and where they have no such covered place as this, they get into their roosting-houses, or under ricks or the roofs of outbuildings. At all events, if the old birds are denied it, let the chickens have it in their yard, and let it be well supplied with wood-ashes and gravel. If possible, let your chicken-run be quite distinct from that of your old fowls.

J. B.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.

SIR,—After various peregrinations, dangers, and injuries, arising from the extravagant expectations of some, the cupidity of many, the trickery of not a few, the fickleness of others—notwithstanding white comb, roup, diarrhœa, partial paralysis, and almost all the nameable and nameless ills that cocks are (now-a-days) heirs to, and the ten thousand quackeries and nostrums of *would-appear-wise* charlatans, which as inward and outward applications I have been compelled to submit to,—and in spite of sundry pokes and knocks from umbrellas, parasols, gold and silver knobbed walking-sticks, of young maids, old maids, and matrons, of gentlemen, and simplemen, clergymen, and tradesmen, professionals, and snobs, at sundry shows and sales—not to name tail pulling, ordinary and extraordinary, hackle-trimming and plumage-tinting—here I am, after long loss of voice, able yet to crow! Sometimes in pity for the victimized, sometimes in scorn at the biters now bitten; now, in sympathy with the honest and too confiding purchasers of first-rate (?) stock, and anon in wrath at the *professed* gentlemen whose ungentlemanly conduct has become a byword.

I am, thank goodness, in excellent quarters at present, but overheard my owner say, it was “*all up*” with Cochins now, and that he should sell off like others; so that I am in daily expectation of an advertisement to the effect, that Mr. Stevens or Mr. Bray is instructed to offer for public competition, the world-renowned stock of Sir Know-nothing Nobody, and of course a change for better or for worse.

Ah! sir, you little think how rejoiced we all are, who have any pretensions to Cochinitism about us, that it is “*all up*,” as they call it, with Cochins, because now only real amateurs will keep us, and that for the simple love of poultry, not gain *only*, and hence we have a prospect of a somewhat quiet life, which for years has been denied us. We shall no longer be crowded by hundreds into a space fit only for a dozen, and so be spared the necessity of the filthy and nauseous drugs thrust down our throats by something less than the peck; our young ones will have room for development, and, instead of misformed abortions and wrecks, our character for symmetry will be regained, and a fair, not extravagant price realized for *good* specimens, whether adorned with a pretty tippet, or in plain quakerish garb, because the market will be no longer glutted, but amply supplied.

To tell the plain honest truth, I can hardly recognize any marks of Cochins left, in some of the things now called such; for they have so run after pure canary, buff, &c., that *all* has been sacrificed to colour.

It is quite a novelty to see such as those with whom I used to run in my old master's farm. They had deep breasts, short legs, and were as well covered with meat as a Dorking. But oh, how changed!

You can scarcely credit the joy that is diffused through one section of the Cochin world, and grief through the other, at the change from pounds to shillings in our marketable value. The former deriving

pleasure from deliverance from the crowd and from extra comfort; the other, because worthless, being consigned to the pot, as they sigh, "To what vile uses have we come." Nor is our pleasure lessened when we look on and listen to the altered looks and tone of Cochin fanciers. Now, we overhear Messrs. Easy and Credit-all lamenting their folly in giving such enormous sums for such numbers, without a solitary hope of reimbursement. Then Messrs. Cheatem and Doembrown chuckling with unhallowed delight at their wretchedness and their own successful trickery. Here poor Mr. Selfcomplacent is bewailing his obstinacy in not listening to advice. Ben Burntfingers is purposely avoiding all his old companions, and if, by accident, meeting them, coolly remarking that he has "*cut*" the fancy, when in truth the fancy has cut him. Sir Timothy Topem is like a bear robbed of her whelps, because robbed of the chance of another season of profits, blaming all but the right one, namely, himself. Mr. Winkum still declares that no one bred such birds as he did, though, in truth, he went from John-'o-Groat's to Land's End to buy them, and always strutted about in borrowed plumes, and many others are cursing the day when they first became fanciers, and still worse are cursing us poor Cochins, and why? Have we harmed them? No! Their own folly alone; for had they not been inoculated for the simples, they could never have supposed that prices so purely fabulous could be maintained, if ever realized. Some have lost hundreds, and some, whose cash is easily gotten, and as easily spent, have lost as much, but have been too careless to know it, and if they knew it, are too cunning to tell it to others.

There is, you see, an advantage in every kind of life, not excepting that of a Cochin cock, as it enables me to look on unobserved, and to listen, unsuspected, to the soliloquies and private arrangements of men.

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO-O-O-O.

BIRMINGHAM SHOW.

MR. EDITOR,—If you have occasion to write again about the Birmingham show, perhaps a hint from you (if it agree with your ideas) might alter their rule that a person can only show four pens, that is, one pen in each of four classes, though he may keep a dozen sorts. The subscribers, of course, should pay in the same proportion for all pens above four; but, as it is now, some perhaps may think if they go 100 miles to exhibit and to *sell*, the chance of selling part of four pens would not be worth while going so far for.—Yours truly,
A. B. C.

[The difficulty of accommodating the vast assemblage of birds which the fame of the Birmingham show brings together yearly, has rendered the restriction of which our correspondent complains, imperative, and when we come to consider that the strong competition thus induced, renders a commendation at Birmingham a greater honour and more *enhancing to the value* of a stock than a prize elsewhere, we can scarcely regret the restrictions which make this an *exhibition of choice poultry*, not a *poultry mart*.—ED.]

ANDALUSIAN FOWLS.

SIR,—As you are the advocate of no party, but offer your columns for the investigation of truth and interchange of opinions, I write to ask you and other amateurs, are the so-called Andalusian fowls a distinct variety, or are they not from a cross or sport of nature? I hold to the latter, and will tell you why, prefacing it by saying that I have no personal feeling in the matter, but wish to aim at the fact.

Calling on an acquaintance a little time since, I noticed a fine-looking Andalusian pullet, and on inquiry learnt its history. Walking in a town near him, my friend saw a lot of Minorca chickens, and this one in question, and the owner told him that out of thirteen of his own Minorca eggs, nine or ten had come true, and this

one variety had appeared; he sold it him for 2s., and a very handsome one it is. Again, close to me are several so-called Andalusians, bred by a Minorca cock out of a Maltese hen (very few persons know the latter fowl, which is of a brown colour, and in all respects like the Minorca, but with a larger comb and laying even finer eggs). Now, with these two examples before me, I am led to doubt their being an original breed, but should like to hear your opinion on the subject; and congratulating you on the career of usefulness, and I hope profit, which awaits you, and hoping you will not consider me an intruder,

I am yours faithfully,
T. B.

[The Andalusian fowls were introduced to the notice of amateurs by Mr. Taylor, of Shepherd's Bush, who mentions that some of his original stock were presented to him by a friend in Dublin, and the remainder imported by himself from Spain. He considers them a perfectly distinct variety. Some years back we bred from a black Spanish cock and Malay hen, some blue fowls, which remained true to the colour generation after generation. They varied in comb: the last remnant of the stock, an old lady seven years old, bearing the name of Mother Grey, tolerated for old acquaintance sake, still runs in the poultry-yard.—Ed.]

POINTS OF FOWLS.

SIR,—Your publication is a very excellent one, and calculated to confer the benefit of practical information upon the poor man who keeps poultry for profit, as well as to convey instruction and amusement to the rich man, whose poultry-yard is his diversion.

You have already conveyed many valuable hints to both these classes in the first numbers of your publication. Would you allow me to suggest that in anticipation of the coming poultry shows, a chapter on the various points (I think your contribu-

tor "W. W." says there are nine) required by judges to form a perfect fowl, would be very acceptable to many of your readers. It is true that a fowl may be equally valuable to a cottager, whether it be a long-tailed Cochin or a long-legged Dorking, supposing one to lay well and the other to be plump breasted; but let me remark that even a cottager with laudable ambition would rather have a better bird than a worse, even if it be only a matter of appearance. Whenever it is a question of showing poultry, of course a minute description of the different merits of the various breeds is invaluable.

Thinking such a subject not unworthy of your observation, and one which, if periodically worked out in your paper, might offer most valuable food for the crop of many a sincere, though it may be, incoherent poultry fancier, I have the honour to sign myself, your obedient servant and subscriber,
Φιλορριθα.

[We feel sure that a description of good specimens of different kinds of fowls is a subject which will receive the attention, not only of our contributors, but of the numerous correspondents desirous of comparing notes in our "Letter Box."—Ed.]

BOUGHT EGGS.

SIR,—Will you allow me to say a word or two as to buying eggs of advertisers, and to warn purchasers, from my own experience, of what they may expect to get from the eggs (if, indeed, they ever hatch at all) in return for their 1s. each, or £1. 1s. or £4. 4s. a dozen, as the case may be? Last year I commenced by buying Spanish and Cochin eggs, from which, after expending about £8 in their purchase, I did not obtain a single chicken that would fetch 5s., though I was positively assured in some cases that "if I could only hatch one egg it would amply repay the outlay." I may say perhaps one (and I believe I am under the mark) out of three eggs hatched, but the greatest set of mongrels

that can be conceived were, in nine cases out of ten, the result of such hatching. From the Spanish I had one chicken, a buff colour and heavily feathered, others spotted with white, clearly showing a cross with the Ancona or some other equally objectionable strain. And with the Cochins I fared no better; in many cases not a feather was on the legs of the chickens; in others, in which I had bought eggs warranted to produce white chickens, I had three out of five jet black, but without a feather. In fact, I was so disgusted with the rascality of the whole transaction, that I resolved never again to become the dupe of egg-sellers. Resolutions, however, seem made to be broken, for being a little touched with the Brahma Pootra mania, and not liking to pay the extravagant price that has been given for the birds themselves, I purchased seven eggs. After waiting in anxious expectation the three weeks, I find that five of the eggs are rotten, and that I have two puny chickens (one since dead) from the other two eggs. I have also been induced to buy eleven Cochin eggs from a well-known advertiser; and I hear, from a letter this morning received from the country, that the whole eleven eggs are bad: so that you see, and your readers will see, what they may expect by buying eggs. I have been told within a day or two, that a man who last year was continually advertising, now complains that he can get no answers to his advertisement; but, as he frankly avows that he "sends out the greatest rubbish he can get" if they be only chocolate colour, he can hardly complain of want of patronage from the public!

—Yours, truly,
ZENAS.

BRAHMA POOTRA.

SIR, — I quite agree with your correspondent "Non-Exhibitor" in what he says about you, but not in his views of the Brahma Pootra fowls. He is right, beyond doubt, in saying we want a full de-

scription of them, and gives a good one; but I cannot think your readers will support his sweeping condemnation of our American birds, upon which he casts the bar sinister. I do not find any resemblance in any point to the Malay, in the birds I have received from the United States, or in those which I have bred from them. Having kept Malays, Cochins, and Brahmans, and observed them very narrowly, I believe the latter to be quite distinct from either of the others. With regard to the comb, a pea-comb is not the description we get by a cross with the Malay; and when we find that pea-combed birds throw pea-combed chickens, this is surely an argument in favour of the purity of the breed.

The majority of the Brahmans which I have seen (except some which I happen to know to have been crossed with another variety of fowls), have had *deeper breast-bones* than any fowls I know: this is a property you cannot get either in Malay or Cochin China.

I have never seen any white-legged birds, but have had many hatched with a beautifully pencilled plumage (not "dark, unsightly"), with apparently black legs,—but these have invariably changed to a bright orange.

I think you will agree with me that "Non-Exhibitor's" remarks on the judges are scarcely sufficiently considered, and that he must have been out of the poultry world a long time, not to know that hundreds of good, pure Cochin China fowls have lately been sold at the auctions for very low prices indeed. I will, however, concede to your correspondent that these birds have fallen off in quality; their really good qualities were neglected to reach an ideal standard of feather, which, when attained, was worthless.

I hope your correspondent will take my remarks on his letter in good part, and as I make them only with a wish to compare notes in a manner beneficial to him, to you, to the poultry world, and

To your obedient servant,
Rus.

JERSEY.

MR. EDITOR.—Your correspondent "A Bit of a Wanderer" wants to know about poultry in Jersey. No doubt some of your correspondents will tell him how it is *now*, which is, I dare say, a great deal better than when I saw it. I was staying in Jersey many years ago (I know it was before 1840, but cannot recollect the exact date). At that time there was one poulterer's shop in the town (St. Helier's), and oh! the poultry from *that shop*—they should have had strong teeth who ventured on it. But the *natives* knew better than to go *there*, and depended on the market.

In the market the fowls were displayed alive. With characteristic cautiousness, the owners avoided killing a supply which *might* exceed the demand; so poor little chickens were laid along on the stones with their legs tied, looking uncomfortable enough. The chickens when bought were good, although *small*, and *very cheap*. I am not poultry judge enough to know what family they belonged to, but I recollect well how they lay about on the stones, fluttering their poor little wings, often picked out by their cheapeners with a kick—poor, small, lean birds, but very good to eat, *because* they were of good healthy stock.

At this time *I think* there was but one market at St. Helier's, with a little gusset off one side for a fish-market.

Your well-wisher,
A BIT OF A STAY-AT-HOME.

NOTES ON PAST NUMBERS.

NO. I.

At page 3, "E. H.," in a sensibly written article on poultry shows, decries the use of "HARD corn," as tending to make fowls "crop-bound." My experience is diametrically opposed to his, for I have found that meal causes a great deal of the sand or saw-dust with which the pens are

strewed to be swallowed with it by the birds. I am inclined to think that *bruised* corn given in moderate quantities, three or four times a day, would, in conjunction with a plentiful supply of green food, prove the best diet.

I quite agree with "E. W.," at page 5, in what he says concerning the propriety of improving the weak point of Cochin China fowls. Whenever I have acted as a judge I have always given the prize, where there was any doubt, to the best breasted bird. When it is borne in mind that the imported specimens of these birds have not been selected by poultry fanciers, I think that it is not at all likely that we have seen the best samples of the kind, any more than an English ship would land the best breed of English fowls in China.

What "J. B." states, at pp. 6 and 7, is strongly in favour of the distinctiveness of the Brahma Pootras. I allude to their wandering habits. But if they are a hybrid or mongrel race, may not that fact account for their habits differing from those of the Cochin Chinas? The Pea-comb may possibly be derived from the Malay. One of the most successful amateurs in the West of England recently assured me, that had he chosen to have played the rogue, he could have obtained a prize in the Brahma Pootra class, with birds between a Cochin China and a Dorking, and very fine birds they were. It strikes me that the surest and simplest method of concluding this discussion is, for some English amateur to follow the example of the American, and *import the breed from the banks of the Brahma Pootra*; a thing very easily to be done, unless the Yankee has the monopoly of the market, or has bought up all the stock.

At page 8, "Martha" attributes virtues to Cochin China eggs which are shared equally by other kinds. I suspect that the majority of the eggs imported from Ireland, and consumed by us in November and December, are many of them four months old, and all dependent on their own resources for keeping fresh. I can

confirm her second anecdote from my own experience. Last summer a hen of mine was sitting on a mixed batch of game and Cochin China eggs, when a fox took her off on the third night of incubation. The next morning the eggs, which were quite cold, were placed under another hen, and a good brood of both kinds was hatched out. This fact argues, that the verifying principle of an egg is not quickened until some days after they have been sat upon. Hens seem to know this, and many of them will not sit "close," as it is termed, for three or four days.

Permit me to conclude this notice of your first Number, with two hints to the managers of exhibitions:—1st. To give a prize for eggs; and 2nd, for dead fowls. In both these respects there is ample room for improvement in the Cochin Chinas. Their eggs are generally small, but this is not always the case; and the layers of large eggs will consequently be the more cherished. In point of form they are usually, but not invariably, inferior to the Dorking. Cultivation will eventually bring them up to as high a standard of perfection. Cross-bred birds, as between these two kinds, might be admitted to competition. The breed should be stated, and the feathers should only be removed from the breast, in order that the plumage should identify the variety. Separate prizes should be given to cockerels and pullets.

What "E. C." advises, at page 16, is well adapted for dwellers in towns; but residents in the country may rest assured that the bird that roosts in a laurel or other evergreen all the year round, will present a higher quality of plumage than one that has been coddled up under cover.

ALECTOR.

Chit-Chat.

SALE OF POULTRY.—Our correspondent "One of the Maniacs," knowing that an account of the sales by auction is interesting to our readers, has kindly sent us the following particulars:—"Mr. Stevens'

sale, on Tuesday, the 21st instant, included specimens from the yards of Messrs. Ellis, Fletcher, Nightingale, Fleetwood, Chatteris, and Dutton, and from the Rev. C. Hotham. The attendance of amateurs rather exceeded the usual number. The competition for the majority of the birds was rather languid, many being put up at 5s. (under which Mr. Stevens does not sell any lot), and bought in. I think this rule must sometimes disappoint parties residing far from London, who have incurred trouble and expense in sending their fowls.—[Is there not an understanding between Mr. Stevens and his constituents on this point? —Ed.] One of the many advantages of auctions is a *certain sale at some price*, and even at a low figure, some sellers may be glad to get rid of their surplus fowls; for, in addition to the costs of the auction and returning the birds, many droop and die after the confinement and journey. Of Mr. Fletcher's birds, a favourite cock of his called 'The Pilot' (by Salopian), sold for £6. 6s.; a hen, 'The Empress,' twenty-one months old, and very heavy, £7; buff imported hen, 'Nelly,' £2. 15s. Two or three other fowls also sold well, and the remainder for prices varying from 7s. to 20s. Ten lots of Brahma Pootra fowls, of medium quality, and not in first-rate order, from £4 to £6. 15s. each."

To Correspondents.

A. B. C. wishes for advice on the following subject:—He has some birds which eat their eggs as soon as laid. They have been fed on oats and barleymeal, with sweets and cabbage for green food, chalk and sand being supplied, with raw meat and egg-shells (pounded fine) occasionally. Can you find out a remedy? "The only one known to us has been applied, viz., a boiled egg given hot from the saucepan, which they devoured directly with great apparent relish." We would recommend A. B. C. in the first place to take care that the hens have not the temptation of imperfectly shelled eggs, by reducing their condition if too fat, and supplying them with lime. Then let them be almost constantly watched, about laying time, and deprived of the chance of

indulging in their unnatural taste, and leave plenty of wooden eggs in their way to accustom them (as suggested by E. C.) to the sight of eggs which they cannot eat.—(Note. Very good artificial eggs can be bought in King William-street for 2d. each). The result of the experiment with the hot egg (so often recommended) is just what we should expect.

T. J.—The habits of the Curassow are not very well known as a breeding bird. We believe they lay in their native country about seven eggs. Here when they lay it is generally April or May, and they rarely lay more than five eggs, of these they seldom hatch more than two, as the female as soon as two or three are hatched, leaves the nest with them, and deserts the remaining eggs. They are very wild. At the Zoological Gardens they bred two, and knowing their shy habits, they were placed on a small island; when the keeper who attended to them, took them their food, the young ran into the water and were both drowned. We believe they sit twenty-one days, but we are not sure. The young are just as wild if hatched under a hen turkey. A cock Guinea fowl can be had for seven shillings, or often for less. Mr. Baily, in Mount-street, will get you one. Our advertising columns will give you the names of many parties of undoubted respectability, who can supply you with golden-spangled Polish fowls and their eggs. Mr. Rawson, of the Hurst, Walton-on-Thames, has excellent birds of this breed.

J. F. M. D.—This would be late to hatch chickens for exhibition in June, but next month is soon enough if they are not wanted for competition till the winter.

J. C. W.—The best food for fattening ducks is barley-meal and greaves mixed up together; for your stock-birds we would recommend barley or oatmeal, plenty of green food, and, occasionally, whole corn, mixed with brewers' grains. The simpler your duck-pen the better, if you merely intend it for their shelter at night; and for them to lay in, a pig-stye will answer every purpose, if at hand. If you intend to build one, let it be covered in sufficiently to comfortably shelter all your ducks, and place nests round the end and one side, on the ground.

H. T.—Bumble-foot comes from the ball of the foot, and is quite distinct from the ulcer you mention. I should advise you to poultice the foot constantly till cured; and, if it appears necessary, open it freely with a razor or sharp knife. If that on the back is so situated that it cannot be poulticed, foment it frequently with hot water. Give the fowl immediately a tablespoonful of castor oil. Feed solely on oatmeal mixed with water, and let the fowl have access to grass. I should advise the castor oil to be

repeated every third day till improvement appears.

B. A.—The influenza you speak of, will end in roup if neglected. The symptoms you mention are premonitory. Give all, as fast as they show any symptoms, a tablespoonful of castor oil each. Follow this with Baily's pills. If you have convenience for it, separate the sickly fowls from the others, and keep them dry and warm. You can enter your four-toed fowls in the various classes under any denomination you like.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

The market during the past week has been very inadequately supplied. The poultry is not only deficient in quality, but the quantity is far below the average. All prices have risen, and were it not that the trade is unusually dull, they would be much higher than common. We add those of first-class quality:—

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Fowls | 4s. 6d. to 6s. 0d. each. |
| Chickens | 4s. 0d. to 4s. 6d. „ |
| Goslings | 8s. 0d. to 8s. 6d. „ |
| Ducklings | 6s. 0d. to 6s. 6d. „ |
| Guinea Fowls | 3s. 0d. to 3s. 6d. „ |
| Pigeons | 0s. 9d. to 1s. 0d. „ |
| Tame Rabbits | 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d. „ |
| Wild do. | 0s. 8d. to 0s. 9d. „ |

Inferior poultry has also risen in price in a corresponding proportion.

Advertisements.

PUREST BRED AYLESBURY DUCKS'
EGGS, 1s. 6d. per egg. Dorkings, 1s. per egg. Beautiful Silver Cinnamon Cochins, large and well feathered, 1s. 6d. per egg. Buff Cochins, ditto ditto, 6d. per egg. Guinea Fowls' Eggs, 8s. per dozen. White Cochins, very handsome, 1s. 6d. per egg.

Cambridge grey, very large Turkey, 5s. and 5s. 6d. per egg; Nutmeg, 5s. per egg; Black Norfolk, 2s. 6d. per egg; White, 2s. 6d. per egg. Brahma Pootra, 5s. per egg. A pair of Brahma Chickens, 6 weeks old, £5.

Apply immediately to Mr. G. LEE, Ashbocking, Needham Market, Suffolk.

SPANISH FOWLS.—Eggs from Prize and Imported Birds, at 2s. 6d. each.—Address, inclosing post-office order, payable at Hartford-bridge, to Mr. JOHN CLARKE, Shrub Cottage, Hartley-row.

FANCY POULTRY.—PERIODICAL SALE.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will **SELL** by **AUCTION** at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on **TUESDAY**, 4th April, at 12 o'clock precisely—**CHOICE BUFF COCHINS** from the yards of C. Rawson, Esq., Capt. Snell, Mr. Collinson, and others; also some good Spanish, Dorkings, Polands, Hamburgs, and a very choice lot of Brahma Pootras, from Dr. Gwynne, of Sandbach.—Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent-garden.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS.—A few sittings of EGGS of this breed to be disposed of (according to priority of application) from the prize and selected birds of a gentleman, Brahmans of whose breeding have, during the past year, taken prizes at the following large Poultry Shows.—The Royal Agricultural, Great Metropolitan, Birmingham, Great Yarmouth, Doncaster, Winchester, Norwich, and Manchester.—Apply to W. C. G., Post-office, Sandbach, Cheshire.

SPANISH (pure White-faced), **DORKING**, and **COCHIN CHINA** EGGS.—A Gentleman who gained the Second Prize in Dorking Chickens at Birmingham, and the First prizes in Spanish and Cochin Chickens at Shrewsbury, will sell EGGS from First Class and Prize Birds:—Spanish and Dorking Eggs, £2. 2s. per dozen. Cochins (buff or white), £1. 11s. 6d. per dozen. The Spanish from Capt. Hornby's breed.

Also, Two good white-faced Spanish Cocks to be sold.

Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry.

EGGs FOR HATCHING, ALL FROM PRIZE BIRDS.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| White-crested Black Polands | 15s. per doz. |
| Golden-spangled Hamburg | .. 10s. ,, |
| White Aylesbury Ducks | .. 5s. ,, |

1 Cock and 3 Hens Golden-spangled Hamburg Fowls for Sale, price £2. 5s.—Post-office orders payable to THOMAS P. EDWARDS, Lyndhurst, Hants.

EGGs FOR SITTING.—Having taken Prizes at Yarmouth, Surrey, London, Malvern, Bedford, and Birmingham Shows, I have a few Eggs to dispose of at the following prices:—Golden-spangle, 14s.; Silver-spangle, 10s.; Black Hamburg, 7s.; White Duck Eggs, 4s. per dozen, including box, on remittance of post-office order. Also, a few Silver-pencilled Fowls on Sale.—Address to JOSEPH JORDEN, Waterfall Cottage, Wheeler-street, Birmingham.

FIRST-CLASS BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS

MR. J. C. STEVENS has been instructed to include in the **SALE** at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on **TUESDAY**, 4th April, about 30 lots of **PURE-BRED BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS**, most of them choice samples of the breed, including a few hatched from eggs from the Royal Aviary, and all bred by Dr. Gwynne, of Sandbach, Cheshire. The parents of nearly all the above were the pick of twelve birds from the only genuine strain in America; and chickens from the same parents have, during the past year, taken prizes at the following important Poultry Shows:—The Birmingham, Great Metropolitan, Royal Agricultural, Great Yarmouth, Doncaster, Norwich, Winchester, and Manchester.—Catalogues in due course.

FIRST PRIZE, and **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BUFF COCHINS' EGGS**.—From the above may be had, on receipt of a post-office order, payable to WILLIAM TOMLINSON, Bank-plain, Norwich, at 21s. per doz. if guaranteed, or for 12s. per doz. without guarantee, the eggs equally fresh in both cases.

BUFF COCHINS, WHITE-FACED BLACK Spanish, and Gold-laced Bantam EGGS.—Mr. SAMUEL HARROP, of 13, Cooper-street, Manchester, has made arrangements with Mr. JOHN S. HENRY, of Woodlands, Crumpsall, to sell EGGS from "Lizzie" and "Annie" (late the property of Mr. Ambler, of Halifax) which took the First Prize at Halifax, Keighley, Doncaster, York, Kendall, and last at Manchester. The Black Spanish are bred from Capt. Hornby's prize birds, and the Bantams took the Second Prize at Manchester.

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Eggs from "Lizzie" and "Annie" | £2. 2s. per doz. |
| Ditto Black Spanish | £2. 2s. ,, |
| Ditto Gold-laced Bantams | 15s. ,, |

EGGs.—AN AMATEUR having had many applications for Eggs and the prices of Sitings, will dispose of a few from birds of a superior description. Brahma Pootra Eggs, from birds recently imported from America, £3. 3s. per doz. Buff and White Cochin ditto, from H. Gilbert, Esq.'s stock and prize birds, 15s. per dozen. Silver-pencilled Hamburg ditto, from birds whose produce have taken prizes wherever exhibited, 10s. per dozen. And one or two Sitings of Golden-pencilled Hamburg ditto, 10s. a dozen. Packages, 1s. The Eggs will be sent off according to the dates of orders received.—To be sold, a Brahma Pootra Cockerel, about 10 months old, of Dr. Gwynne's strain, a beautiful bird.—Address MISS WALKER, Clipston, Northampton.

EGGS FOR SALE, from Prize birds, from the Yard of **CHRISTOPHER RAWSON, Esq.**, The Hurst, Walton-on-Thames:—

Buff Cochins; Spanish; Coloured and White Dorkings; Gold and Silver, Spangled, and Pencilled Hamburgs; Gold and Silver Bantams; and Aylesbury Ducks, 12s. per dozen.

White and Black Cochins; Gold, Silver, and Black Polands; 21s. per dozen.

Brahma Pootra Eggs, from imported birds of the best strains, £2. 2s. per dozen.

Post-office orders (including 1s. for packing) to be sent with the order. The Eggs will be sent out in rotation according to the date of order.

EGGS from **FIRST CLASS** and **PRIZE BIRDS**.—**JOHN BAILY** has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—**MR. PUNCHARD**, of Blunt's Hall, near Haverhill, Suffolk, disposes of Eggs from his Buff, and also from his original Partridge-coloured, Birds, price 1s. each, and 1s. for package.—Applications for either variety will be supplied in the order received.

COCHIN CHINA POULTRY, &c.—Eggs from Prize Birds.—In reply to the very urgent applications from numerous amateurs, **MR. JOHN FAIRLIE**, of Cheverley-park, Newmarket, is now prepared to dispose of a limited number of **EGGS**, from his celebrated prize Cochins, Brahma Pootras, Scotch Baskies, Dorkings, &c., according to the dates of the orders received.

DUFF COCHIN CHINA EGGS for SALE, from birds that have taken prizes at the Derby, East Kent, Bristol, Taunton, and Yeovil Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen. Also Partridge Cochin China Eggs from birds that have taken prizes at London Summer Meeting, Surrey Gardens' Show in August, Malvern, Yeovil, Honiton, and Torquay Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen.

Apply to **JOHN R. ROBBARD**, Aldwick-Court, Wrington, near Bristol.

TURKISH BANTAMS.—A few Sittings of **EGGS** to be disposed of at £1. 13s. per dozen, box included. These birds have been recently imported, are of great beauty, perfect in symmetry and plumage, and very small.—Address, **E. D. SWARBRECK**, Thirsk, Yorkshire.

FANCY POULTRY.—The **PTARMIGAN**.—These beautiful and scarce birds have obtained **PRIZES** at the following Shows during the last few months:—The Surrey Zoological Gardens, Baker-street Bazaar, Norwich, Southampton, South-east Hants, Salisbury, Plymouth, &c. They are a pure white, with topknots, vulture hooked, cupped combs, and remarkably well-feathered legs and feet. Eggs can be purchased at £2. 2s. per dozen, from **Dr. Burney's ORIGINAL Birds**, which may be seen at Brockhurst Lodge, near Gosport.

DUFF COCHIN EGGS.—A few may be had during the season, from birds selected with great care from the strains of Sturgeon and Andrews's prize birds, Capt. W. W. Hornby, and Miss Watts. The latter birds were commended at the Birmingham show in 1852, and took the first prize as chickens at Yarmouth. Price 21s. per dozen, package included.

These birds are of fine plumage, heavy, short in the leg, and no other variety kept.

Apply to **MR. HOWARD JAMES**, Bridge-street, Walsall.

FRUIT-TREES, POULTRY, RABBIT, SHEEP, and CAT FENCING.—Worsted **NETTING** to protect the bloom of peach, nectarine, and other trees, flower, or seed beds, from frost, blight, and birds, two yards wide 5d. per yard. New twine netting (tanned if required), one yard wide, 1½d. per yard; two yards wide, 3d. per yard; four yards wide, 6d.; half-inch mesh ditto, two yards wide, 6d. per yard. Tanned netting, two or three yards wide, 1½d. per yard; four or six yards wide, 3d. per yard. Elastic hexagon garden net, or scrim canvas, 4½d. per square yard. Cocoa-nut fibre, or hemp sheep-folding net, of superior quality, four feet high, 4d. to 6d. per yard. Rabbit net, four feet wide, 1½d.; six feet wide, 2½d.; eight feet, 3d. per yard. Each edge corded, ¾d. per yard extra, suitable for poultry fencing. Square mesh crickets net, fix its full width and length made of stout cord, 3d. to 4d. per square yard; this is the best article made for fencing against fowls, cats, &c.—At **W. CULLINGFORD'S**, No. 1, Edmund-terrace, Dalston. Orders by post, with **P. O.** order or town reference, punctually attended to. Fishing-nets of all kinds in stock.

FOR POULTRY-HOUSES.
LIGHT, CHEAP, & DURABLE ROOFING.

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons. Price **ONE PENNY** per **SQUARE FOOT**. Croggon's Patent **NON-CONDUCTING FELT** for covering Steam-boilers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and testimonials sent by post, on application to **CROGGON & CO.**, 2, Dowgate-hill, London, who also supply **SHIP SHEATHING FELT**, and **INODOROUS FELT**, for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

WM. DRAY & CO.'S PATENT WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot. Ordinary Wire Netting, from 2½d. per yard, 2 feet wide.—Address **WM. DRAY & Co.**, Agricultural Implement Manufacturers, Swan-lane, Upper Thames-street, London.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Preserving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage-free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

To be had in any quantity at **GEORGE EATON & Co.'s** Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory, 6 and 7, Crooked-lane, London.

DOLBY'S WEDDING AND HERALDIC STATIONERY.—**CREST DIES ENGRAVED** as gems of art without charge where the order amounts to 21s. **H. DOLBY** having crest dies appertaining to more than 10,000 families, can supply even 100 envelopes with the desired crest. Wedding and Visiting Cards engraved and printed in the perfection of fashion. Pedigrees traced, with illustrative notices, antiquarian and topographical. Arms found, emblazoned, and engraved for book-plates, seals, &c.

HENRY DOLBY, Heraldic Draughtsman and Stationer, 56, Regent-street-quadrant.

TO SALMON AND TROUT FISHERS.

JOHN S. HOLROYD, Manufacturer of **RODS and TACKLE**, 59, Gracechurch-street, London, begs to call the attention of Anglers to his large and superior assortment of Fly Rods, warranted made of the best seasoned materials, and for action and workmanship excelled by none in London.

J. S. H. has also a very compact Fly Rod, having the appearance of a neat umbrella, and interfering in no way with the utility of the Rod. Artificial Bait in great variety. The best Trout Flies on Limerick Hooks at 2s. per dozen.

59, GRACECHURCH-STREET, LONDON.

7, Baker-street, London.

EXHIBITION PRIZE MEDAL.

CAISTOR'S LADIES' SADDLES combine elegance and lightness with strength and durability. They are horizontal from head to cantle; and by the construction of the seat, enable the lady to keep her proper position without inconvenience, irritation, or exertion.

CAISTOR'S PRIZE HUNTING SADDLES are superior to any other for ease to horse and rider. The tree is so constructed as to sit well behind the shoulder, and does not confine or impede the action of that important joint. They are narrow in the grip, flat in the seat, light, and durable.

CAISTOR'S System of Saddle-making is based upon Anatomical principles, he having studied the natural requirements of the horse and its rider.

The **PRIZE SADDLES and HARNESS** may be seen at 7, Baker-street, where a large Stock of Saddlery and Harness may be inspected, as also every requisite for the Stable. A detailed list of Prices free, on application to

A. B. CAISTOR, SADDLER, &c.
7, Baker-street, London.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 13s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.; payable in advance by post-office order to **GEORGE CLEMENTS**, No. 1, York-street, Covent-garden, to whom Orders and Advertisements may be addressed.—Latest hour for Advertisements Twelve o'clock on Monday.

Wholesale Agents, **G. ROUTLEDGE & Co.**,
Farringdon-street.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 6.]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.

Poultry Shows.

Aylesbury Local Show, April 12th. Secretary, Cheplyn Hall, Esq. Entries are closed.

Royal Dublin Society's Spring Show, April 18, and three following days. Assistant Secretary, W. E. Steel, Esq., M.B. Entries are closed.

Hexham Poultry Show, in the Abbey Grounds. Second Annual Exhibition, Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th of May. Secretary, W. Turner, Esq., Hencoates, Hexham. Entries close May 6.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries close May 10th.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries close, June 1st.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close Saturday, November 11th.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

At the present period, when details for poultry shows are daily being arranged for every district, for every county, nay,

almost for every town of importance, there is one vast organization in the kingdom whose co-operation may be reckoned of so incalculable a value, that its being withheld is likely to lead to disappointments, mischances, delays, and accidents, perhaps even ending in failure;—we allude to the assistance which the RAILWAYS may lend to the Committees of Poultry Shows, if they will only condescend to do so. We know that the carriage of hampers to a poultry show is a trifle,—and a troublesome trifle, too,—to a great Company, but when we consider that the improvement in poultry is the result of poultry exhibition, and that an increased supply (in proportion to consumption) of a delicate and valuable article of food, is the result of this improvement; when we reckon, on the other hand, that as, according to Miss Martineau, "the many are right," and that we may, consequently, look to a *large body* for a *liberal policy*, we hope we are not soliciting too much at the hands of railway managers in asking their aid towards the poultry movement.

The assistance which we request is cheapness, despatch, and punctuality in the conveyance of the birds both to and from the shows, facilities for visitors, and last, not least, that these favours may be bestowed freely, unshackled by restrictions and conditions.

We hope we shall not be thought *exigent* if we hint, that it superlatively diminishes the advantage to the travelling community, if a return ticket for a journey of several hours' duration may not stand over until the next morning, and is restricted to the use of a *single train* each way. We cannot, at the same time, quit this subject without offering our thanks, in the name of the poultry world, to those railways which have given to poultry exhibitors, and to the shows at which they have exhibited, the unfettered advantage of carrying the hampers both ways at a single charge, of delivering them promptly, and of granting to visitors return tickets, at a single fare, available for every train.

Poultry Shows,

Their Uses, and the relative Duties of Committees and Exhibitors.

"COMING events cast their shadows before;" but in some instances, the shadow has quite disappeared before the substance is seen—at least it was so with Poultry Shows. Many years ago, the Zoological Society offered premiums for poultry, and a show was continued for three years in succession. The prize list was liberal: pains were taken to make it popular, but it was premature; the public took little interest in it, and spite of a prize of £10, to be given to any pen of unusual merit, the competition was small,—almost confined to dealers—the attendance meagre, and the attempt failed.

The moment was not come. The next exhibitions were in Scotland, and partook more of the character of a private competition at the agricultural meetings between gentlemen and noblemen, who, being members, met annually. The prizes were

mostly confined to Dorkings, and they did much good in producing most excellent specimens.

Then came the first Birmingham show, of which we will say little, seeing it has lately been so well described by "E. C." in these pages; but we must say this much, that the associations since formed on its model, have been successful ones, because its principles are, above all, honourable, and consequently right.

The uses of Poultry Shows are, to extend the knowledge of the birds exhibited, to stimulate the production of good specimens by offering premiums for them, and to arrive at a system of judging which by its correctness shall satisfy all parties concerned, that strict and impartial justice, coupled with accurate knowledge, have been secured. This can only be done by an efficient committee, who always incur immense labour, and frequently a considerable outlay, the repayment of which is doubtful.

The use of exhibitors is to produce good specimens worthy of the prizes offered for them, and to co-operate cordially with those who afford them the opportunity of showing their birds. On the beauty and purity of the competing pens the admission money will depend, and again on that lies the fate or the duration of the undertaking. All these then combine to form an attraction for the public, and the most cordial sympathy and co-operation should exist between them. Does it? We fear in many instances it does not, and at the risk of publishing a dry and perhaps not very pleasing paper, we will in the interest and for the good of the poultry world, point out some of those evils we have observed during a long experience in these matters.

Considerable indulgence should always be extended to a committee, because exhibitors should recollect they have to please both the owners of the birds and the public. Now, what are the charges most frequently brought against them by exhibitors? The prize lists are not liberal enough. The show is kept open too long.

The birds are not properly attended to. They are not sent back punctually. They are put in the worst pens. When a committee sits in conclave on a prize list, every possible pound which can be earned is put down; every expense that can be curtailed is scratched out, to furnish a liberal prize sheet. The possibilities of wet or snowy weather, of cab strikes, or churlish railway companies, are wilfully forgotten, and the tempting bill of fare is sent forth. Let the exhibitor recollect that the receipts may fall off one-half, or subscribers may exist only in imagination; but the prizes must be awarded, and he must be paid the sum to which he is entitled. Is it kept open too long, or does a Sunday intervene? Let the exhibitor recollect that a balance of £20 is a large one for a committee to carry on to a following year—one private day is absolutely necessary, and so is the market-day in a provincial town. The receipts from which the prizes are to come, depend mainly perhaps on these days to which he objects. So many different opinions are held as to the proper food and treatment of birds in confinement, that here it would be impossible to please all—one would have sand at the bottom of the cage, another straw-chaff, another saw-dust—one would keep them supplied with water, another would give it only at stated times; one swears by whole corn, another vows it is worse than poison; one advises stimulants, the other says the birds are already too much excited. All the committee can do is to act to the best of their judgment.

Not returned punctually. If any one would take part at a large show in the six hours following the departure of the public, this reproach would not be made so often. The labour is immense—we are writing of that which we have seen and done. The complaint more often belongs to railways, carriers, cross-country coaches, and above all, the transmission from one railway to another. Provision is not always made at the station for conveying some hundreds of the large baskets now used to convey

fowls, geese, and turkeys. We will give an instance that occurred to ourselves. Having many birds at the last Birmingham show, we had a man in charge. As soon as it closed, he got his baskets, packed the birds, and took them to the station. Some arrived the following evening, and the others twenty hours after the first. Here there could be no fault of the committee. But the greatest delays occur when the birds have to pass through London from one railway to another. Here again, all the delay is independent of the committee, but all the blame is thrown upon them.

Very often when the position of a pen is complained of, it is the fault of the exhibitor, who defers making his entry till the last day or days that will allow him to do so. It is a duty of exhibitors to enter early, if they mean to enter at all. No man is justified in these times, when hours and minutes are so valuable, in taking up the time of another if he can help it, and these delays cause much inconvenience. We would have exhibitors feel their interests to be identical with those of the committee, and would that they should work cordially together, increasing each other's strength and usefulness.

They cannot exist without each other, but while we contend the profit is all on the side of the exhibitor, we can hardly forbear expressing our astonishment, that for a really well-conducted and disinterested show, a committee man can ever be found at all. We mean a show conducted on public grounds alone, without any prospect or even possibility of pecuniary reward. The office involves much labour and risk of money, without other return than the expected gratitude of those who are amused or benefited by the exhibition. We know no office so ungrateful save that of honorary secretary. In both there is the unthankful task of asking for subscriptions, there are the constant meetings for many months previous to the shows, the anxiety attending it, and the labour while it is open; but the secretary has also thousands of letters to

write and answer, books and accounts to prepare and keep, and above all, to wind up after the show has closed. We have never yet seen an honorary secretary the day before the opening, who was not completely worn out, and who did not exclaim that had he known of half the labour attending it, he would not have undertaken it, even were he liberally paid. We believe we are correct in stating that the most successful, and the largest show on record—viz., the Birmingham and Midland Counties—is barely self-supporting.

But the case is widely different with exhibitors. Many of these have realized considerable sums through exhibitions, both in prizes, by sales, and by the value added to their stock. If shows, then, were to be discontinued, committee-men would lose the pleasure they have derived from a pursuit of which they must be fond, or they would not have undertaken it, but they would at the same time be relieved from much labour and anxiety. Exhibitors would lose the opportunities of showing their birds, which would become comparatively valueless.

Holding a neutral position, having only the good of all classes at heart, and writing for the poultry world, we have penned these few remarks in the hope of inducing a thorough feeling of mutual respect among those who are engaged in a common pursuit. The fact that complaints fill our columns, and give rise to correspondence when they come, is no balm to us, and we are not of those who have a secret pleasure in performing what is courteous, but often very unkind terms, is called a painful duty. We wish all parties to stand well together as friends, and would rather have to print one letter of thanks, than a hundred of remonstrances. As the period of poultry shows is gradually coming round, we have thought the time propitious, and with the best feelings for the success of those of 1854, we have endeavoured to smooth some of the rugged paths traversed by all parties in 1853.

H. R.

Cottagers' Prizes.

LITTLE did I suppose that in perusing a leading article in the "Poultry Chronicle" I should find sentiments expressed therein of which those I have so long entertained are the very echo; but "strange things do happen in families, however well regulated;" and although I feel myself absolutely "forested," the reiteration of those views from a different hand may possibly only serve to strengthen the recollection of them among your numerous readers; therefore, though supplanted, to my task.

I envy not the mind so ungenerous, that when chance serves, "will not step a little out of the way,"—aye—and "put his shoulder (lustily) to the wheel" too, if by so doing he can "help through the heavy roads of this life" his fellow-creatures of humble station. If such a mind, perchance, peruses these lines, for *him* they are not written; he will find here no kindred chord—no responsive impulse; his good opinions I shall never gain (nor do I attempt it)—his heartless criticisms I treat only as they deserve.

My feelings have for years been altogether favourable to cottagers' prizes, if properly conducted, and the restriction rigidly enforced, "that cottagers *alone* can compete for these rewards." On several occasions this injunction, I am aware, has been broken with impunity, and that to the but too evident disadvantage of the really poor, deserving cottager. I freely, also, confess myself quite at a loss to imagine how parties can feel themselves justified (as the case has undoubtedly oft-times been) in *lending* their own fowls to their own servant-man (!) simply to secure for their domestic the reward that was only intended for the cottage-labourer, and to be won only by the fowls of persons so situated, and who really had an undivided ownership in the poultry thus exhibited. On the real injury to the intended recipient it would be thoughtless waste of time on

my part to lengthily dilate; I must briefly, however, point out the sad depression of utter hopelessness that must pervade the mind of a really poor man when he finds the "first-prize birds" at many and many a former poultry exhibition have here reputedly changed ownership suddenly—their traits of character (of course) remain the same; that of their real owners (I feel compelled to write it to the world), is, I consider, by such an action, as irrevocably tarnished. Except to the wilfully blind, then, my views must now be tolerably distinct,—if the prizes are reserved for cottagers only, let such only enjoy them; to even "hoodwink themselves" to the contrary mode of procedure is, in a poultry exhibition committee, a very failing; for, if the prizes of which I have been speaking are the gift of some well-wisher of the poor, his intended purposes are defeated, his kindness misapplied; but if their own gift, they break every tie of public faith, by this cruelly unjust distribution of their premiums, and utter falsification of the conditions of their prize list. On the other hand, it is more than difficult to conceive the incalculable advantages that may frequently arise, from a faithful realization of the intentions of those to whom cottagers' prizes are indebted for their institution. To the poor man of truly limited means (and to whom such honestly-acquired gains are no mean advantage one way or other), this is indeed a boon, a benefit, a blessing; therefore, let not the thoughtless and unreflecting destroy the fond hopes of deserving parties, by placing unnecessary stumbling-blocks both in their way, and in that of the commendable intentions of their real benefactors. We have seen, in my third article on "Poultry Mania," that blessings altogether unexpected may arise around the dwellings of those (though originally humble may have been their condition) who fail not to use their own best exertions to improve their lot, neither will I dare to say from how trivial a beginning great results may ensue. It is with these feelings strongly implanted in

my mind, I respond most heartily to the sentiments of last week's "Poultry Chronicle," as to prizes exclusively for cottagers; if such should be generally instituted (and afterwards not abused), their popularity is as secure as their benefits are undeniable. Why then should there be severances of feeling on the subject?

Let all who have the power to encourage their institution do so, without fear or trembling; the assistance thus generally rendered will prove all-powerful: the effort will not be unavailing, or the subject of after-regret. I will conclude with an anecdote that may itself corroborate the truth of my opinions.

Time and locality (as it might be offensive to some parties) I will not mention; suffice it to say my present narrative is a truthful one, and appends pertinently to what I have already written. The clergyman's "better-half" had, with considerate forethought, herself promulgated the fact, "that at the poultry-show a prize of ten shillings would be given to the best pen of Cochins, Hamburgs, or game fowls, that might be exhibited, if the *real* property of any cottager, resident in the parish, without any expense whatever to their respective owners." Though it may appear to your readers a very trifling amount, certain it is, this seed fell (by God's will) on good ground, and brought forth crop accordingly. The emulation of the cottagers was extreme, and more than twenty of such parties forwarded their poultry, from which (by each) so much was hoped for. These fowls were arranged alone, in a very small room, apart from the general exhibition (why or wherefore it matters not, nor do I feel inclined in this place to argue its policy); among them were many most truly meritorious fowls, but as with some other owners (from want of practice) so vexatiously matched, that the judges' labours, from this cause only, were most sadly protracted.

But Time, that does always bring matters to an end, concluded this also, and the result of the decision was, I am most happy

to say, the placing this reward in the hands of a cleanly, industrious, and persevering widow. At this moment my attention was directed to a group of, perchance, thirty cottagers, who were pressing each other on the narrow stair that was the only access to this room. The order was, however, at length given for their gratuitous admission, and all rushed pell-mell into the apartment, with a rapidity that best proved their great anxiety to know who was "the successful one." The widow seemed silently thankful. The next meritorious pen was the property of a young Irishman, of about nineteen or twenty years of age, who, passing rapidly to his own birds, found the "tell-tale rosette" was not there; he then proceeded to the winners, and after a very earnest examination for a few seconds, without one word, retired to the other end of the room. His attitude too plainly told of hopes long cherished thus suddenly crushed, whilst his short, rapid breathings, bore full proof how manfully he struggled under so severe a disappointment.

I sympathised; and advancing towards him, tapped his shoulder (for he professed to be looking through the window), saying: "My good man, yours are most deserving birds, and I earnestly wish they could have been successful; but (taking a small coin from my pocket) here is the same amount; it is yours." Raising his besmeared face—his response still rings in my ears—"Maister! do you think I could take that, that I didn't win; put him up for another yere, and thin I'll thry agin to be afther him." He raised his arm—rapidly it crossed his countenance—on that barragon sleeve a human dew-drop glistened for a moment in the sunshine of our laudatory smiles,—then all was over. No! hold!—allow me to correct myself; its *effects* are still apparent: already the widow has disposed of several fowls at more than remunerative prices, and our Hibernian friend has, by self-imposed and hardly-earned "over-work," secured a faultless male bird. I greet, too, with sincerest pleasure, the announcement that even now he has

already obtained two hatches of chickens that "promise well." In the culture of these many hours are thus spent that might otherwise have been squandered within the soul-debasing influences of a pot-house kitchen.

Readers and cottagers, pray do give one second thought to the reply of the poor, but honest Mike:—

"Maister! do you think I could take that, that I didn't win; put him up for another yere, and thin I'll thry agin to be afther him."

E. C.

American Account of the Brahma Pootras.

A CORRESPONDENT of the United States has frequently urged us to give to British amateurs an account of the Brahma Pootra fowl, as it may be found in "Miner's Domestic Poultry Book"—the last American work upon poultry. The account consists of fourteen pages (many of them very closely printed) with long digressions on the question, by what name we should call these fowls—one much less interesting to the English amateur than that which relates to the fowls themselves as a handsome and useful addition to our poultry yards.

A single pair of the birds appears to have been brought to America by accident, the name of the person into whose hands they fell does not transpire, and the account which he gave was, that "they were brought there by some sailors in the India ships." They were purchased at New York by a mechanic of the name of Chamberlain, and, from him, their progeny soon spread, and were noticed by many first-rate breeders of poultry.

The following description of their appearance, we believe to be from the pen of Dr. Bennett, "one of the most extensive fowl fanciers in the United States, and the originator of the New England Poultry Society." "The Brahma Pootra fowls

may be thus described: the cock is mostly white, with neck hackles pencilled with black. The comb is small and serrated, though frequently they have the perfect pea-comb of the Sumatra pheasant game fowl, which is always a rare indication of fineness of flesh. The rump hackles, white, faintly tinged with yellow, the tail is black, with glossy, green plume feathers. The wings and a portion of the neck hackles, slightly pencilled with black."

"The pullets are white, with black tails, the wings and neck slightly pencilled with black. The wattles are small; but the earlobes are extremely large and pendulous."

"The legs are yellow, and usually very heavily feathered: though I have seen some excellent specimens with smooth legs."

"Their weight, at maturity, is from twenty-two to twenty-five pounds per pair, and they are quite symmetrical in their conformation."

"The Brahma Pootras lay larger eggs than any other Asiatic fowls."

The next quotation is in Mr. Miner's own words.

"I received in the spring of 1852 a pair of Brahma Pootras from Dr. Bennett, and I have had abundant evidence of their character to warrant me in saying that this breed of fowls is magnificent, hardy, handsome, and prolific, and destined to be of great popularity. They possess all the valuable traits of the best Shanghaes, short-legged, compact, great layers, &c., besides being larger and far more attractive to the eye. They lay daily while they do lay, as a general rule, and stop but a few days between broods, when not allowed to sit. Their eggs are very large, larger than those of any other fowl in this country. They are the most quiet, docile fowl known, never pecking at young chickens, and will seldom leave the yard where bred when an opportunity is given them, unless forced to do so. [This last particular we find at variance with our own experience,

which is, that the Brahma Pootras are exceedingly fond of ranging, and *not* very easy to keep in.—Ed.]

"In regard to hardness, I can truly say that nothing in the way of poultry can excel them. The chicks are the most easily raised of any I ever saw. Few or none die of disease, as far as my experience goes, and what I learn from others who have bred them. They are covered with a soft down that protects them, similar to that on young ducks, and the morning dew or wet grass has little or no effect on them. If you have a brood hatch, you can count upon raising every chick, unless killed by accident, vermin, or some other enemy. The feathers of these fowls equal those of geese.

"During the summer season they feed on grass to such an extent, that they consume no more food than our smallest common breeds. This occurs when they have a good range of grass.

"This breed of fowls was wholly unknown in England, till Dr. Bennett sent a pair to Mrs. Hosier Williams, of Eaton Mascott, near Shrewsbury."

Can Poultry be made profitable?

PART I.

THE question is often asked of those conversant with poultry, can it be made a profitable pursuit? As it is put by two classes, it will be necessary to divide the answer to suit all querists.

Do you mean to breed for exhibition? It can be made to pay.

The outlay will be large, but the return will be speedy. If you are not a thoroughly good judge of the breed you are about to buy, you must get the assistance of some one who is, and here under proper guidance the utility of a poultry show becomes manifest. The larger the show the better. Take Birmingham for example, and say you want to buy Dorkings, you have between two and three hundred pens of

the best birds in the world, where, with the assistance of a *connoisseur*, you may read their merits as in a book. You have also the prizes and commendations to guide you. If the prices be too high, being, as they are intended to be, prohibitory, at least you can learn to know the requisite merits and points of the bird you wish to purchase, and possessing such knowledge either from dealer or amateur, you can procure those you require. But you cannot buy them cheap, and the saving of a few pounds may be the loss of many prizes, and entail endless disappointment.

From such birds as have taken prizes at large exhibitions, you may fairly calculate on rearing stock that will be themselves winners. It is hard in the present day to say what price amounts to a prohibition, but it may occur that the sale of one prize pen will pay for the purchase of the parents of your whole stock. But you would doubtless exhibit more than one pen,—all of the same strain, as the prize birds are sure to be sold. Take Mr. Fisher Hobbs's success at the London show as an example. That gentleman exhibited for the second time in his life at the Metropolitan show. He was successful, taking both prizes in one class, and having both pens highly commended in another. He had nine birds, and they were sold for seventy-eight guineas. Such examples might be cited in numbers, but he bought the best to begin with, bred from them, and had them well done from the first. But the amount for which the birds actually at the show are sold is small, compared with the increase in value of the whole stock from which they were selected. It is four-fold at least, and it is soon perceived by the orders that pour in for eggs and chickens of the prize stock. We know that hundreds have been made in a year from such a yard. These are, however, the blue ribands of the poultry pursuit, and belong to the favoured few. Seeing that three prizes have often to be distributed among three hundred pens, we should offer but little solace to competitors, and poorly redeem

our assertion that we would prove poultry profitable, if we had nothing to offer beyond this. Unsuccessful exhibitors are only in that category so far as the prize-taking is concerned. There is always a ready sale at highly remunerative prices for good stock, well matched, and in high condition. Here, the produce of birds bought at moderate sums, may come in for some of the emolument which should be the reward of care and judgment.

Those who were at the Birmingham show last December, will easily recollect that after two hours, there was not a pen of good Dorkings unsold. The catalogue will show that many, altogether undistinguished by the judges, sold for sums varying from thirty to fifty shillings each. Four pens, each containing four fowls, sold for thirty pounds, must be profitable, and this done at four shows in the year, will make the result one hundred and twenty pounds. This is not an imaginary case. To go lower in the scale of prices, admit that they make but one pound, or even fifteen shillings each, still it pays, because the current expenses of the birds will be defrayed by eggs and chickens sold or consumed, and these exhibited birds will be a clear profit. J. B.

Time of Year most suitable for Poultry Exhibitions.

THIS subject has already been a good deal canvassed, but almost always the consideration which has seemed to weigh most heavily on the opinions of the disputants has been the question: what time of the year will the fowls be in best feather for show? This is, I admit, a very important consideration, worthy of every regard; and I think that perhaps the generally received opinion, that soon after moulting (*viz.*, the latter end of November, December, and January), is the time when this desirable feature is best attained.

This by no means proves, however, that

for every purpose this is the season to select for a poultry exhibition; and I rather fancy some few will second my opinions. Taking it as allowed, that to continue lasting, a poultry show must be profitable, or at least, that its expenses and receipts must in a general degree equalize; my ideas are in favour "of longer days and finer weather." There are naturally some peculiarities connected with different localities, which none but the inhabitants themselves can fully appreciate, and the importance of which, poultry exhibition counties will do well to consider, with the attention it so justly deserves, prior to the publication of the first prize list. This is more than usually applicable to most of our fashionable watering places, and want of reflection on this point has been the first "stumbling-block" to many, who might otherwise have been successful. At the time the first show took place at Birmingham, the date was fixed through the connection of fat pigs with the poultry; the latter, of course, it was necessary to slaughter at the close-approaching Christmas. Since that, the addition of the fat stock has caused it still to be fixed at the same period. In the instance of Birmingham, the consequences may not be so important, from its now being perfectly established, and its unusual advantages by railway communication to all parts of the kingdom; but to a society on the eve of its maiden attempt, the state of the weather on the morning of opening to the public, if unpropitious, tells fearfully on the coffers; and if not parties "who do not choose to be beaten," the chances are, the attempt is never repeated, and the project (somewhat rashly) is determined "a complete failure."

It may be supposed, "that though the injury may be great," this statement must be somewhat exaggerated; that if inclined to come, parties will not think anything of the weather, and a few pounds difference in the admission-money will not ruin or make us; such like is the reasoning often made use of by parties unpractised in the essen-

tials necessary to insure a really successful show. They are fallacious. Though willingly admitted, that those parties who attend the private view (on the five shillings or half-crown day, as the case may be, and of whom it is wished to speak with the utmost respect) are not greatly influenced by such matters; the middle and humble classes, whose shillings tell twenty-fold on the finances the following day, are oft times virtually prohibited from attending if bad weather sets in; more especially if out of the way of rails, when a seat in the only conveyance becomes a luxury which money can scarcely purchase. There seems to be one feeling common to all human nature, "that summer storms are transient, winter storms hold on;" independent, therefore, of the advantages of a long summer's day to insure plenty of time on such an occasion, fancy the different ideas suggested to the minds of the aroused ones at early dawn, should tempestuous weather rule the day. If your solitary domestic tells you "It's six o'clock, sir, but it's raining ever so," hope prompts a change, if summer time; but should the opposite statement, "It's been snowing all night, sir," be proclaimed, and beneath the half-raised window-blind you witness the best possible attestation of the fact, it certainly requires not a prophet to foretel the probabilities. There is also a national inclination for "an out" that takes possession of us all (though perhaps in different degrees), when nature appears in all her wonted loveliness; not so, however, when rugged winter pinches all around, and the question begins to assume undue importance, as to "what we are to do with our over-coats, shawls, &c. while in the exhibition." On such occasions they are always troublesome companions if taken with you; if they are left in the care of strangers (amid many others), it is possible they may never prove any further trouble, or be exchanged for such as are by no means their superiors. All these matters, trifling as they appear at first sight, when combined tell wonderfully on the receipts;

and it need not be insisted, the amount of the awards for prizes in future years is greatly influenced by the success of present speculations.

E. C.

A Chapter on Rats.

RATS among the poultry! "Dear me," the reader will exclaim, "*they* surely seem a little out of place *there!*" So also thinks many an amateur when some patriarch among the rats thins out his *finest chickens*, and then defies the *cleverest* of his traps—the most *tempting* of his baits.

When provoked beyond patience by the depredations of these bloodthirsty enemies, I saw the following advice in an American work upon poultry (written by one Micajah Cock), and tried it:—

"Take any water-tight vessel and fill it partly with water: pour on this bran nearly to the top, and, simple as it appears, more than a dozen rats have been caught by it in one night."

I raised a pyramid of bran that *ought* to have tempted anything fond of the commodity, and for a day and a half it stood its ground—or rather its water—nobly; but then it *sank to rise no more*, and there was an end of my bushel of bran, and no rats caught.

A cage-trap and several other traps are capital at catching young rats, but the *old* ones are too sly to be so caught. Fellow-amateurs! to *you* I appeal! What *are* we to do about the rats this year? Are they to cull the choicest of our Cochin Chinas (for I verily believe they prefer the clearest coloured, squarest-built among the chickens, and have little doubt in my own mind that they consider Brahma Pootras very good for the table), or shall we make a stand against them? Now I am credibly informed they *do not* read the "Poultry Chronicle;" let us, therefore, in its pages confer together to compass their destruction.

In England, perhaps we are now almost

as *numerous* as our enemies—but then they *are* so sly—I rather think *they* have the advantage there. But, however, let us compare notes as to how we can best rid ourselves of them and their depredations.

Since I have paid some attention to my own poultry, I *have* managed to compass the destruction of a good number of the enemy. On one occasion, a large rat had been seen in the yard picking up the corn which the poultry had left unconsumed, for several successive mornings at an early hour. When I looked out (having been called for the purpose) there she was—a large brown rat. She was engaged in a way I should have admired and commended in any beast but a rat, evidently carrying corn, grain by grain, to her little ones, for which purpose she made repeated journeys to and fro. I set aside mercy with the reflection—"Perhaps the next meal she might think desirable for her offspring, might be two or three of my chickens or little ducklings"—and she was shot.

Can any of your correspondents tell me if there are several kinds of rats which infest houses? For I have sometimes had my chickens carried off, the greater part of a brood at a time, and they have afterwards been found with the *blood sucked*. Sometimes they are carried away singly, and afterwards found almost gnawed to pieces.

A strong gin is the best trap I have made use of; a cage-trap has also been found very good: and phosphorus paste is a poison which I find does great execution. But I should like to know how other amateurs deal with *their* rats, and how they circumvent the machinations of these very vexatious pests to the poultry-yard.

A. B.

"Shanghae hens will not scratch." Yes, but they will scratch, if not as badly as others, as badly as they know how.—From "*The Farming Mirror*," an American periodical.

The good Step-father.

THE old axiom, that "a friend in need, is a friend indeed," was perhaps never better illustrated than in the following narrative; nor yet an instance recorded, in which the sensitiveness and perseverance of a bird was more strongly tested. The son of a gamekeeper, near Birmingham, kept several pairs of tumbler pigeons, which roamed about at perfect liberty, sometimes to considerable distances.

On the occasion to which I am about to allude, their owner was "game watching," when he heard the loud report of a gun, and looking sharply around, saw his own pigeons flying towards home from a piece of newly-sown "spring wheat;" two, however, being missing. On running to the spot he found a farmer's boy-servant "pocketing" the two lost ones, both being killed dead, and unfortunately a pair, which then had young ones about eight or nine days old. Towards evening when their owner returned festering with wrath, from the supposition that the young too must fall a sacrifice from want, he was agreeably surprised to find an old cock pigeon busily engaged feeding the bereft ones, whilst his mate performed the same kindly office for her own callow offspring, (which, by-the-bye, were about two or three days younger than her spouse's adopted ones). Thus the affair continued till all four of the young were beginning to feather, when as "misfortunes are always twin-born," a large hawk pounced suddenly on the hen pigeon whilst basking in the sun on some out-buildings, and bore it away never to return.

The male bird now seemed very sorely puzzled "for ways and means" to support his additional charge; walking rapidly backwards and forwards from one nest to the other, then flying long rounds from the premises, and returning, cooed most incessantly, in the vain hope of recalling to her duties his absent mate.

At length (as the young ones in both

nests flapped their wings, and called piteously whenever he approached, being oppressed with hunger), he commenced feeding all four, which self-imposed task he persisted in till all were reared. The sequel of my anecdote is by no means satisfactory: the hawk (which had so much increased the toils and troubles of this faithful bird) returned, and made a quarry of our hero; but its owner being alive to the disaster, followed secretly to the woods, where the oppressor fell a victim to his deadly aim, whilst eating its half-devoured prey.

E.

Parting Directions.

"Now mind, Richard, take care of the Queen, and keep Lucretia by herself. The Duke must be shut up. He is worse than nothing now. Let Laura out in the morning, and Miss Dubois in the afternoon. The Muses may all run from two till four. Has Fanny Kemble come off yet? Look well after them till I come down. I shall sell Rienzi and Julius, but fear their day is gone by." These were the learned interrogatories and orders given in the two short minutes at a station on the North Western while the train stopped, and a young man evidently met an old gentleman by appointment. As I was in the same carriage, I thought the journey to London would unravel that which was a mystery to me.

The names referred to Cochin China fowls. The Queen was supposed to steal her nest. Lucretia had a bad habit of eating her eggs. Laura and Miss Dubois were the cracks of the yard. The Muses, nine hopeful pullets. Fanny Kemble was busy sitting on nine eggs. The Tribune and the glorious but ambitious Julius were destined to the famous hammer of Mr. Stevens.

A. R.

Hints to Poultry Show Committees.

IN my last I named the best time and days for an exhibition, and now must say a few words respecting the number of days an exhibition should be kept open.

A great agitation was made about a year ago, by some very influential exhibitors, to induce the Birmingham committee to reduce the number of show-days, but unfortunately without the success the movement deserved. If the leading committee had yielded to the wishes then so strongly and reasonably expressed, doubtless all the other poultry-show committees would have made a similar abridgement: no one can deny that a four days' show, and the necessary exposure of the principal part of the birds to two Sundays' close package, is exceedingly prejudicial to the interest of the exhibitors, and when the great value of the stock exhibited is taken into consideration, it is questionable if the *injury* done to the birds is not greater than the *benefit* gained to the promoters. It is urged on the other side that less than a four days' show will not pay. I question it—I maintain that if the birds were all penned before the Saturday night, and judged on the Monday, the public admitted at a high price on Tuesday morning until four o'clock, and then at a reduced price until nine o'clock, and the exhibition opened throughout Wednesday at a low rate, that the birds might be repacked during the night or following day, and returned to their owners, so that the most distant birds would be quietly at home within one week of their departure thence. If the number of pens exhibited were not large, the judges might perform their work during the Monday morning, so that a private view might take place during the Monday evening; but this must be a matter of great consideration, for on no account ought the judges to be pressed for time, but this is a point I shall more fully dilate upon hereafter.

If a neighbourhood will not support a show of two days, I would not recommend

it as a desirable place for a poultry exhibition. The committee may rely that the proposal of the shorter time will be much more likely to gain the favour of the principal amateurs.

Having fixed the number of days, the committee should next proceed to name a day upon which the entries must be closed. I most strongly recommend that it should be a clear month, if not six weeks, before the show-day. Let me assure the committee that they will have four weeks' hard work before them, and moreover let them on no consideration be beguiled into keeping the entry open one minute after the appointed time, that door once opened is most difficult to close, and endless will be the confusion, annoyance, and vexation to one and all if this regulation is not strictly adhered to. With regard to the other regulations for the show, I append a list of regulations, which has been found to work well, and will then make comments thereon.

REGULATIONS.

1. The judges will be empowered to withhold a prize or prizes in any of the classes in which the specimens are of an inferior quality.
2. All specimens must be the property of the exhibitor, and the discovery of any false statement as to the proprietorship of the specimens, or their ages, or otherwise, will nullify all claims on the promoters of the exhibition.
3. The ages of the chickens must be accurately stated; and it is desirable that the ages of the other specimens should be stated in the certificates, whenever practicable. Chickens of 1854 cannot be shown in the classes for birds above one year old.
4. All specimens must be named with their correct titles; and it is requested that all known synonyms (provincial or otherwise) may be added.
5. Exhibitors must state a price for all specimens on sale, as one of the main objects of the Exhibition is to afford breeders an opportunity of improving their collections at a time when they are best enabled to form a correct opinion of the several varieties. Specimens that are not for sale, must, therefore, be distinctly entered "Not for Sale." Birds must be sold at the prices named, if claimed. Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales, towards defraying the

expenses of the Exhibition. All sales must be made through the Secretary.

6. Specimens may be sent from any part of the United Kingdom.

7. The whole of the specimens must be in the place of exhibition on —. Hampers, baskets, &c., must be addressed (carriage paid) to — Honorary Secretary.

8. Fowls entered in a wrong class, or with clipped, drawn, or trimmed plumage, or fraudulently dressed, will be excluded from taking prizes, and the judges will be requested to notice all irregularities they may discover.

9. High condition, beauty of plumage, and purity of race will be taken into consideration by the judges in preference to mere weight.

10. All eggs laid during the time the birds are being exhibited will be destroyed.

I am of opinion that No. 5 is a better regulation than inviting exhibitors to name a nominal and ridiculous price; the latter practice is highly objectionable, and exceedingly likely to mislead tyros. I would also append to the same regulation the words "that in all cases of sale the hamper or package shall be included in the purchase." I have before expressed an opinion that such a regulation will save a great deal of trouble to all concerned. No. 7 next commands attention; this regulation ought to be prefaced with "Each pen of birds must be packed in a separate hamper, with its direction securely and prominently fixed on the top; hampers or packages with more than one lot in them will not be received; proper direction labels will be supplied by the secretary, and on the reverse side must have the sender's name and direction written for the return of the birds." The best directions are those cards used by the Birmingham committee, and no better can be devised. The payment of carriage must also be insisted on; and the secretary should, on the arrival of the birds, immediately write to those parties who, from circumstances, have been unable to prepay all the carriage, and obtain from them the full amount before the birds are returned. I have known parties calling themselves gentlemen, who have turned a deaf ear to all applications for payment when they

had got their birds home again. No. 8 is a very necessary regulation. No. 10 requires that the word destroyed should not be too soon carried into effect; the adoption of this word has caused the practice of smashing the eggs in the pens, and leaving them there with the kind remark, "There! poor things, there's something for you to eat!" Fowls, like other bipeds, have their vices, and the most deadly is the said habit of eating their own eggs; the habit once adopted can never be broken through, it is incurable, and many an amateur would at this moment pay most liberally for a certain cure of this dreadful vice. I have at this present time a most splendid cock, who learned this trick at a late show, and now seems to consider all eggs as his perquisites; indeed, he has grown so cunning that he watches some bantams to their nest, and after what he considers a due allowance of time will turn the hen out of the nest to obtain the very undesirable *bonne bouche*: nothing will cure it; I have tried mustard, cayenne, and other things inserted in the shells. The eggs ought, therefore, to be carefully removed and then broken afterwards by some authorised person, who ought to be especially appointed for this sole purpose.

The remainder of the regulations shall be considered next week.

W. W.

Chit-Chat.

AT MR. STEVENS'S SALE, on the 28th, Mr. Stainton's birds were well competed for, as were some others also; but many of an inferior quality were to be returned unsold. "I endeavour to prevent parties residing at a distance," Mr. Stevens writes to us, "sending birds of an inferior quality to London; but with all my endeavours, I cannot prevent it. The clause in my catalogue, which relates to putting up each lot at five shillings, I was in hopes would have remedied this, as I do not agree with your correspondent, 'One of the Maniacs,'

that it would be advisable to deviate from this plan. Leadenhall and Newgate market are the most appropriate places for the class of birds which are not worth that sum. I established these periodical sales to facilitate the interchange of breeds of *fancy poultry*, and I want, if possible, to conduct them respectably, and in a manner to conduce towards this end."—Signed, J. C. STEVENS.

GREAT POULTRY SHOW AT ALBANY, U.S.—"We have just returned from Albany," says an American journalist, "where the New York State Poultry Society held its first annual show, and a splendid affair it was. Some seven or eight hundred specimens were on exhibition; from the Mammoth Brahma-Pootra—which, if saddled, would carry a man a mile in 'two forty' easy—down to the little Bantam, no larger than a robin! No show up to this time (the national show comes off in New York next week) that has taken place in this country, can be compared to that at Albany, in regard to the magnificent display of *Asiatic fowls*. Several New England gentlemen admitted to us that they never saw such splendid fowls before, and that the Boston shows were far inferior in Asiatic fowls."—*From the Northern Farmer for March.*

PRICE OF FANCY FOWLS IN AMERICA.—The condition of the poultry market for the sale of improved birds remains about the same as during last season. Shanghaes (ordinary specimens) from 1 to 3 dollars per pair. The best specimens of pure bloods sell at about 5 dollars per pair. Black Spanish fowls hold their reputation as layers, and there their merit ends; prices range from 5 to 10 dollars a pair. They are worth no more, in our opinion, than the black Polish fowls, that sell at 25 cents a piece. Chittagongs not popular. Brahma-Pootras, usually called Branhas, for the sake of brevity. The demand for them is on the increase, and prices range enormously high. The prices in England range very high, and eggs sell at about 5 dollars each [Truly tales *do not* lose by carriage.—ED.], so eager are the British

fowl fanciers to obtain the breed. Here, the price is from 10 to 20 dollars a pair, 6 dollars a dozen for eggs.—*Abridged from the Northern Farmer.*

THE fifth condition in the schedule of our Birmingham show is mentioned with merited approbation among American amateurs.

NORWICH POULTRY SHOW.—We are officially informed, that the Norfolk and Eastern Counties Association, for the improvement of domestic poultry, of which the Earl of Leicester is president, will hold the second annual exhibition in November. Full particulars will very soon be issued by R. Hansel, Esq., the honorary secretary.

WE have authority for stating that Captain Hornby, R.N., has transferred the whole of his stock of Dorking and Spanish fowls to H. Davies, Esq., of Spring Grove, Hounslow. All applications for eggs, &c., must now be made to that gentleman.

WARNING TO AMATEURS.—We find by a letter from our correspondent "E. C." that the parties against whose *clever dealing* our readers were warned in last week's number, are still carrying on their depredations with success. Amateurs must therefore be cautious how they trust their fowls to persons who are not known to them, without first receiving the money.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS.

SIR,—Will you kindly afford me a little space in your useful and excellent work, for a few remarks on the article by your correspondent, "W. W.," in last week's number? Far be it from me to attempt to add or find fault with one single word there used, in reference to the subject on which the article is written, for in my humble opinion, it is most excellent in its intention, and practical in its composition; but I must be excused for taking excep-

tion to one allusion therein. Your correspondent, in speaking of the merits of honorary secretaries, says that good ones "are quite as rare as genuine Brahmas." Does he mean to infer by this, that there are no genuine Brahmas? If so, will he kindly inform your humble servant, and the poultry world at large, in what point should a pure Brahma differ from those which we are now accustomed to consider as the true variety? I am aware that great diversity of opinion exists as to whether they are a *distinct variety* or *not*; my experience, and I might almost venture to add, that of most persons who have them, is in favour of the former conclusion; while, strange to say, nearly all those persons whom I have heard pronounce a contrary opinion, *have them not*, consequently cannot be in so good a position to pronounce a verdict, as those who have sat in judgment on them during one or two seasons. I will, with your permission, venture to point out the distinctive points of difference which have come under my observation; at the same time I will be candid, and confess that I am a great admirer of them, prefer them to the buff Cochins, and believe the time will come when they will be universal favourites. In the first place, taking the chick from the egg, I think it will not be denied that they are more robust, that they certainly feather earlier than buff chickens hatched in the same clutch, and also, that they are of more rapid growth, I can prove to demonstration, by birds now running in my yard. In the adult male birds, no one can fail to be struck with the peculiar carriage and good development of breast, these points, I confess, are more observable in the cocks than the hens, though, on the average, I believe the latter carry more breast than the Cochins. There is one peculiarity which has struck me, and which I have not yet seen noticed by any one when writing on the Brahmas, viz., the great difference between the *crow* of the Brahma, and the Cochin cocks, this has been observable in three Brahmas in

my possession, whose crow is much more shrill and *brisker*, if I may use the term, than the hoarse, sepulchral, prolonged, roar of the gentleman in buff; another thing I would mention, and in this should like to have the opinions of other persons keeping Brahmas, and that is, that the hens are not so prone to sit as Cochins: *with me*, there can be no doubt as to this fact, having had but *one* broody hen out of seven; some which were laying at the London show, are still laying daily; should the experience of others have been the same in this particular, it will be of no small importance. Should you deem these remarks worthy a corner in the "Letter-Box," you will oblige—Your obedient servant,
P. JONES.
Fulham, Mar. 27th.

THE SEBRIGHT BANTAM.

A child's among you takin' notes,
And, faith, he'll prent it.

THE note I take is the proper marking of the Sebright Bantam's tail. Your correspondent has written so ably on the Sebright, and in all points, save one, so correctly, that he can well afford to have a small error of description pointed out, and I trust he will agree with me. He by no means stands alone in opinion, when he says that the tail feathers of the Sebright Bantam should only be *tipped* with black. I most strongly contend that the tail feathers should not form an exception; but that they should be uniform with all the rest of the feathers,—with those of the wing and other parts. It would be dissonant, incongruous, and subversive of regularity, to make the tail differ from the wholly pervading or uniform style of marking. A Sebright is, emphatically, a laced fowl; not laced in part, but throughout, and no exception must be tolerated.

In nature's chain, whatever link you strike,
Tenth of ten thousandth, breaks the chain alike.

True it is, that it is a difficult matter

to get the tail laced clearly and distinctly. It is the very touchstone—the *experimentum crucis* of perfection, and is never seen but in first-rate specimens; while all second-rate, or indifferently laced bantams, never have the tail feathers laced, but only tipped with black, or with splashed and smudgy feathers. Show me a Bantam with its tail feathers clean, and laced, and, my life upon it, the bird is perfect in lacing in all other parts. This is strong evidence, surely, that the lacing of the tail feathers is a concomitant of perfection, and *vice versa*.

Again, is it really so, that Sebright Bantams have such a ubiquitous love for other chickens. It may, in general, be the case; but two of my hens were, last year, the veriest kill-and-eat-him little wretches that ever destroyed the harmony of an aviary or poultry-yard! One of them destroyed, in one morning, four Sonnerat chickens that had accidentally got into her domicile; whilst the other was the terror of the grass-plot, by darting off like a hawk at my young Polish chickens. Yet these two Bantam hens were the tamest and most docile of pets, when they had not a young family. I consider that it was the excessive affection for their *own* young, that wrought such evil,—

The love they had for *offspring* was their fault.

They are, however, such great, little favourites of mine, that I would fain make all the excuse I can for this wayward Shandy propensity of theirs, and contend, that

E'en this failing leans to Virtue's side.

TRISTRAM SHANDY.

Hull, March 24th.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "POULTRY CHRONICLE."

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent "One of the Maniacs," states that he fears we may not have another London poultry show, and that he thinks an association of

amateurs should be formed after the model of Birmingham.

Some time since, I, with a gentleman well known in the poultry world, endeavoured to form such a society, and the response was beyond our expectations, when the thing was suddenly put an end to.

I am quite sure that if about a dozen amateurs were again to meet, a society could be formed without pecuniary risk, and many persons might be induced to come forward to assist in forming such an association.—I am, yours truly, P. G.

[We fear, after such a signal failure as our correspondent recounts, that it would not be found possible to resuscitate the association he mentions, and we are credibly informed there *will be* a London show under very favourable auspices.—Ed.]

SITTING AND SETTING.

SIR,—After the "*setting down*" you gave me in No. 2 of your valuable and useful publication, I have no doubt but that you will be somewhat surprised at my again "*sitting*" down to address you on the subject of hens *setting* or *sitting*.

However, notwithstanding that your opinion is fortified by such authorities as Johnson, Bacon, Addison, and the prophecies of Jeremiah, and although I find that the great Walker decides against me, still, I very respectfully submit that they are in error for once, and I plead that poultry has a language of its own; and not one of the authorities quoted, ever did (as far as I can ascertain) keep chickens, or in any other way interest himself with poultry, and unfortunately, in their day there was no "Poultry Chronicle."

By way of a second plea I plead *custom*, which is decidedly in my favour, for nearly every one to whom I have spoken on the subject agrees with me; and I doubt not but that you will find the same result upon inquiry of your friends.

Again. I was taught at school (and a

very good one too) that *we sit and hens set*; and supposing your view of the question to be the correct one, I should like to know what you conclude the "Irish Emigrant" was doing when he sang—

I'm *sitting* by the stile, Mary.

I have delayed opening this subject thus long in the hope that some one who might be of my opinion, and desirous of rushing into print, would take up the question; but as no one has done so, I trust you will excuse the liberty I take, as I do so from strictly conscientious motives, and with a view of *setting* the question at rest, for you must please also bear in mind what a revolution in orthography has taken place of late years, and especially since the days of your great authorities.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. J. W.

[As our correspondent objects to *ancient authorities*, we could bring such a host of modern amateurs, advertisers, and *other authors* upon poultry, in favour of "sitting," that it would prove so overwhelming, that in mercy we forbear and await the opinion of other correspondents.—Ed.]

JERSEY.

MR. EDITOR,—“A Bit of a Wanderer” wants some one to give an account to your readers of the progress and state of the poultry fancy here. I shall try to satisfy his curiosity, but would rather he came and saw for himself: the beauties of our lovely little island would more than compensate for the inconveniences of a sea-passage.

Till within two years since, the attention of farmers and amateurs here had been little paid to poultry of pure breeds (except the game), although, I may say, the different varieties before then known in England had been introduced in the island, but no care had been taken to keep them pure. At that time your poultry mania began to tell on us, and several amateurs here did their best to procure good stock birds of the most

prized varieties. Last year the mania increased and better birds were imported, and we hope soon, from our being able to rear chickens (owing to the mildness of our climate) out of doors as early as February, and from our attention to breeding only from birds that are useful, to be in a position to compete with our mother country.

I believe you might find in Jersey representatives of every kind of choice fowl with the exception of the Ptarmigan, the qualities of which we have yet to learn.

The poultry, in general, kept by our farmers for supplying us with fresh eggs is French, brought to Jersey by our neighbours from Normandy and Brittany, and sold to them in the season at prices so low as to defy competition on our part. Fowls imported from France dead or alive, of good quality, are at present sold in St. Helier's market from 1s. to 1s. 6d. each, and good French eggs are worth 6d. per dozen. Jersey eggs are at 8d. per dozen. In ordinary years, chickens fit to kill are bought in France at from 5s. to 6s. the dozen, and are brought to Jersey either to be killed or to renew our farmers' stocks.

C. D. P.

MY COCHIN CHINAS.

SIR,—As there is a strong interest amongst those who keep poultry, and those who intend so doing, regarding the relative advantages of the various varieties, I send you an account of my experience as regards “Shanghaes,” commonly called “Cochins.”

Perhaps those of your readers who keep other breeds will favour us with their experience, so that by comparison we may be enabled to form an opinion as to the kind most suitable for our purposes.

On 11th November last I received a present of a cockerel and four pullets from a relative in the Isle of Wight. They were hatched the previous April. I must mention I had previously built a house for

them 9 feet long by 4 feet broad, with a run of 20 feet by 10 feet. In the following account, to distinguish the different fowls, I will call them by their colours, viz., *partridge, buff, cinnamon, and red.*

The *partridge* began laying on 11th December and laid thirty-six eggs. On January 26, she sat on nine eggs, all of which she hatched, but killed one by treading on it, the rest are fine strong birds.

The *buff* hen commenced laying on December 20th, and laid forty-five eggs. On the 18th February she sat on nine eggs, all of which she hatched in due time, but unfortunately killed three the first night by treading on them, the remaining six are doing well.

The *cinnamon* began laying on 21st December and laid thirty-nine eggs, and then showed a desire to sit. She remained broody a fortnight before I sat her. I then put her, on 22nd February, on nine ducks' eggs: one egg she broke in the nest, and six out of the remaining eight were duly hatched, and are fine lively birds.

The fourth hen, which I shall call *cinnamon* [red?] began laying January 1st, and is still laying, having already given me forty-five eggs, and at present shows no desire to sit.

From the above I need scarcely say the Cochins are excellent layers, sitters, and mothers. Having kept poultry for many years I trust you will not consider me presumptuous in giving a short account of my method of feeding, rearing, &c. I do not give my poultry any grain. I feed them entirely on pollard, or coarse meal, for which I now give 2s. per bushel, having risen 4d. lately, mixed stiff with pot liquor and the scraps from the kitchen. I take care to supply them with bullock's liver, baked and cut up when there is not enough meat from the house, a good supply of green food daily, ashes to roll in, and lime to peck at, and plenty of clean water.

The birds are quite satisfied and in fine condition.

Now a few words on sitting, &c. When the hen shows unequivocal signs of sitting,

I place her on an inclosed nest (avoiding putting too many eggs under her at this early season), regularly every morning, as I feed the other fowls, I gently lift her off the nest and let her feed with them, drink, and have a roll in the ashes; then I carefully put her on the nest again. On hatching do not remove the chicks for twenty-four hours. Then feed them on oatmeal mixed stiff and crumbly, and groats scalded, with a little finely chopped *dressed* meat, a little green food daily, also a little crushed hempseed daily, when a fortnight old it will not need crushing; a good supply of clean water is indispensable. Above all things avoid damp and cold wind with chicks, let the coop be cleaned daily and the mother well fed. In the night, during February and March I put the coops under cover of a shed facing the south, and keep them there during the day also, unless the day proves fine.

Such is the inclination of this variety of fowl to lay, that the partridge hen, after her brood were a fortnight old, commenced laying in her coop, and has done so regularly since.

I forgot to mention, should my poultry show any symptoms of diarrhoea, then is the only occasion on which I give them grain, consisting of best wheat and barley, for a day or two. One great advantage of the Cochins is their extreme tameness and tractability, a hurdle of 3 or 4 feet will confine them, a small yard is ample room for them, and they thrive in confined places, where most other sorts would pine. Give an ordinary amount of care, and I am sure, for general purposes, no fowl will surpass, if approach them.

Gus.

A GOOD DIGESTION—(A BIT OF A CHOKER).

In September last, returning home from shooting with a friend and gamekeeper, I found one of my young visitors (a youth), who had been fishing in my ponds, in much trouble, he having caught one of my tame pheasants with rod and line. The latter

with the rod had been left near the door outside the house with a worm on the hook. One of the pheasants (a fine young cock) had been tempted with the bait, swallowed the same, and became hooked! "What was to be done," my game-keeper advised its being killed, as it "*never could live.*" However, I thought there was a chance of saving life, with my penknife I cut the horsehair as low down the throat as possible, and set the bird at liberty; it ran away into some shrubs.

The following day it was *non est*, the succeeding one it appeared for about half an hour, looking most miserable and wretched, feathers ruffled, wings drooping, &c. &c. On the next it came out with the others and ate a little corn, looking somewhat better; afterwards from day to day it improved; he is now alive, in excellent health, and much attached to his wives, of which he has three or four.

SHOT.

BRAHMA POOTRA.

SIR,—I did not for a moment suppose that my plain unvarnished description of the genuine Brahma Pootra fowl would be welcome to all your readers, especially the "fancy," but by those who have an uninterested desire to see poultry exhibitions prosper, and genuine breeds supplanting the spurious, my remarks will, I doubt not, be heartily welcomed. Your correspondent, "Rus," for one, does not quite relish my description, though he admits it to be a good one; still he certainly does not attempt to refute anything I have advanced, and thinks my remarks on the judges not sufficiently considered. What would he say, sir, if I told him that a friend of mine, the Rev. —, applied to one of our eminent judges for Brahma Pootras, and was informed that they were easily got, being nothing more or less than a cross with the Cochins and Dorking or Malay. As to "Rus's" remarks about my having been out of the poultry world

a long time, and the price of Cochins, he must be confounding another of your correspondents with myself; for though I certainly do not happen to be one of those unfortunates who are just recovering from the "Cochin fever," I am nevertheless no chicken; and remain, Sir, yours very truly,
A NON-EXHIBITOR.

[It is to be regretted, that one in authority should give an opinion too hastily; but we cannot help feeling that poultry judges, like others, must be at some difficulty to judge the points of birds so *very recently* introduced.—ED.]

YOUNG CHINESE PHEASANTS.

I FIND the "Poultry Chronicle" far more interesting than I anticipated. I little thought I should read in its pages anything respecting my old favourites, gold and silver pheasants. I am quite pleased you have introduced them to public notice this week; and it is self-evident, "E. C." has a very *practical* knowledge of the subject. As I bred them many years with some success, may I venture in accordance with my former promise to send a hint or two, that I hope may prove useful to *young beginners*? It is usual, I am aware, to hatch a chicken or two with each brood of pheasants to make them familiar; I did so at first, but soon found it "a custom better honoured in the breach than the observance." The cry of the pheasants is so unlike the chickens, and their habits so very dissimilar, that the poor hen seems bewildered; and unless she is indeed a pattern nurse, clings naturally to her own offspring to the neglect of the *foster brood*. A gentle, perhaps what some would call a helpless hen, is really an essential: one that scratches well for *chickens* does mischief here; the little pheasants are so active, so quick in supplying their own wants, that if she will quietly brood them that is all they require. I once lost the whole of a very promising hatch ere they were eight days old, from

the restless habits of the hen: she scratched so vehemently that in one day she literally buried two of the pheasants; and it frequently happened, that at a rapid stroke of her foot, she would send a poor little bird a couple of yards off: this rough treatment, so different to the gentle scratching of the pheasant mother, soon killed them all.

As the male bird is so long before he dons his gay attire, it is considered difficult to distinguish the sex in golden pheasant *chickens*. The gait, pugnacity, and frequently a somewhat brighter tone of colour (though the markings of the feathers are alike in both sexes) seem to point out the male birds; but this is obviously guess work, and so I found it, till by close observation I discovered what afterwards proved an infallible rule. The eye of the hen birds is self-coloured, the cocks have a *very* NARROW light circlet round the iris; this may be distinguished when first hatched, and I found it very useful to prevent early quarrels, and give the male birds *extra* care, as they are most difficult to rear. When the golden pheasant cock assumes his resplendent adult plumage, the *eye changes* to that lovely colour and brilliancy which is so attractive in these birds. As I do not wish to trespass too far on your valuable space, or your readers' patience, I will conclude, by wishing your little periodical the success it seems so justly to merit.

MARTHA.

NOTES ON PAST NUMBERS.

NO. II.

"R. J. S." wishes to know the points of a Dorking, Cochin China, and Spanish fowl. I will give him my ideas upon each. First, Dorking. No kind is more difficult to breed true to colour, but a good Dorking, like "a good horse, can't be of a bad colour." Size should be attended to, but coarseness must be avoided. The figure should be square, the tail full, the

legs short and strong, but fine, and the extra claw quite distinct. Second, as regards Cochin Chinas. I would recommend the beginner not to pay too much devotion to colour at the outset, but to attend chiefly to form. Above all things, cultivate the full square breast. A Cochin China ought to be low on the legs, which ought to be full-feathered down to the nail of the outer toe. The legs should be stout, set well apart, with a Dutch-like fullness over the hips. In colour they should be of an orange-yellow. The tail of the cock is destitute of sickle feathers, that of the hen just slants a little up above the fluff of the back. Beneath the tail and down to the legs the fluff should be very dense. The beak should be yellow and short, the eye full, the ear-lobes red, the wings compact, and their end stowed away under the fluff of the body. Vulture-hocks are a matter of taste. Third, Spanish. To have recourse once more to the stable for a simile, I would say, that as "a good-actioned horse can't be a bad one," so a white-faced Spanish must be a good bird. In other words, whatever you do, take care that there is no red in the face, and almost any other defect may be overlooked.

The combs of the cocks of all three kinds must be single, lofty, and well toothed, and the wattles, especially of the Spanish, are pendulous. In the hens the comb of the Cochin China is small, of the Spanish very large and drooping; whilst the Dorking is between the two. The wattles of the Spanish are much longer than the others.

Rose combs are allowed in all Dorkings, and white Dorkings must have them, but in the coloured birds I prefer the single comb.

It is curious to see how doctors differ. "H. R.," at page 41, condemns Indian corn and rice. He considers the former makes fat but not flesh, and that the latter is worthless. If I mistake not, Captain Hornby is quoted in the "Poultry Book" as stating that Indian corn produces diar-

rhoes, which would create anything but fat, and we are told in the "Poultry Pentalogue" that rice parboiled in milk and sweetened with sugar is good for fattening. To be sure, milk and sugar are nutritious in themselves, and the author mentions other *addenda*. I quite agree with "H. R." about the folly of feeding up fowls with flesh, but do not consider it "unnatural food," or that "a fowl is not provided with digestive organs for meat."

"E. C.'s" gossip about geese is interesting, and I think similar stories might be contributed by some of your readers. I half think that I may be able to furnish you with a pendant one day.

As regards the ages of birds at an exhibition (see page 43) I never attend to the written statements in acting as a judge, but form my own opinion. I am glad to find that the inducement to lie and cheat is in the fair way of being removed by prizes being given to chicks or adults irrespective of their exact ages.

"Edward's" account of the twin producing eggs is curious; so much so that I think it should be verified by the full particulars of name and place being given. Not that I am doubting his word, but because I consider that such statements should be circulated on tangible authority.

[Our correspondent signing himself "Edward" is well known to us, and we have little doubt he will give his name and authority for the statement above alluded to.—E.D.]

"H. B.'s" account of "the original imported birds," now known as Ptar-migans (see page 55), gives a far more accurate description of them than the print in the "Poultry Book," which is a decided failure, and perhaps the only one in that able but prolix work. I know not how long "H. B." has had his stock, but I have been informed that a Col. E——, of Plymouth, has had them for twelve years past, and that his birds came from Turkey.

ALECTOR.

Brahma Pootra River.

In a conversation on fowls the other night with a travelled amateur, we noticed the various names and spellings of the Brahma Pootra River, which has, whether right or wrong, given its name to the fowls now in vogue. He informed us it was rightly called, and that the Brahma Pootra, being translated, signified *the young Brahma*.

WHY do hens scratch about the roots of trees and shrubs? Every gardener is exasperated by the obstinate pertinacity with which fowls uncover the roots of his roses, raspberries, cherry-trees, and if there is anything else which he especially wishes to protect and secure. The truth is that hens know where to look for their food; and at the roots of shrubs are the precise places where worms are to be found, either because they feed on the sap of the plant, or wish to be ready to climb in due season, or because a better protection than elsewhere is there afforded them.

Hens are great lovers of lettuce. They do not ask for vinegar, or sugar, or oil to eat with it, but will mount into the hot bed and take it by word of mouth just as they find it, more to their own satisfaction than that of the gardener, whose choice salad heads they spoil. Lettuce might profitably be sown for fowls when confined, and would conduce not simply to "their amusement," but to their comfort and health. Fowls need the food proper to the season. In summer they want grass and green succulent food, with but little grain; in winter they want grain, straw, or hay, and meats.—From "*The Farming Mirror*," an American periodical.

THE GANDER AND THE GAME-COCK.—A singular event was witnessed the other day between a gander and a game-cock, near to Compton-bridge, Ashburn. The cock had shown considerable animosity towards his comrade. Observing the

gander sailing down the water, apparently at his ease, the cock sprang on a large stone in the water, and patiently awaited the arrival of his plump adversary. The fight commenced; the cock kept his position for some time, and dealt some severe and painful blows on the gander. At last the gander, half mad with the sharp "pecks" he had received, took the cock by the neck, and gave him several immersions in the water, and the fight was closed by the gander actually drowning the cock! —*Derbyshire Advertiser.*

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

We have seldom seen the poultry market of London so scantily supplied as during the past week, consequently, although the demand is far below the average at this season, yet prices are on the advance, and good poultry is dearer than it has been for some years. First quality makes as under:—

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fowls | 5s. 0d. to 6s. 0d. each. |
| Chickens | 4s. 3d. to 4s. 9d. " |
| Geese | 8s. 0d. to 8s. 6d. " |
| Ducklings | 6s. 6d. to 7s. 0d. " |
| Pigeons | 0s. 9d. to 0s. 10d. " |
| Guinea Fowls, 3s. & 3s. 6d. | to 4s. 0d. " |
| Rabbits | 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. " |

A few plovers' eggs only have been sent, and they have made good prices—from 1s. to 1s. 6d. each.

To Correspondents.

To Mr. T. S.—It is quite certain, that neither the Golden, nor yet the Silver Pheasants, will do well, when *fully* grown, in an open farm-yard; for though they may while chickens endure the restraint with easy complacency, they will certainly not fail to "steal away" to the nearest and thickest plantation, or covert, as they get nearly full grown, for the temptation to wander would be close at hand; I would, therefore, not advise the attempt. The eggs are about two shillings each, but they rarely lay till the latter end of April.—E. C.

A Subscriber from the first.—We very much regret that our correspondent should have found a difficulty in getting our early numbers on the date of publication, but have since made arrangements which we hope will prevent such mischances for the future. In addition to the Office,

No. 1, York-street, the work is placed in the hands of Messrs. G. Routledge & Co., No. 2, Farringdon-street, London, which we feel confident will prove a convenience to booksellers and news-venders whose business may more especially call them into the city.

Louisa.—We fear there is no means of persuading a hen to sit until she has laid out her batch of eggs, when a few nest-eggs left in her way may prove an inducement.

Gus.—We shall be delighted to hear occasionally from our correspondent, as he kindly promises.

Will *An Amateur, Queenstown, Cork*, whose letter about "Bought Eggs" we inserted at p. 76, favour us with his full address, as a letter addressed to him has been returned.

Honestas.—We are very sorry to receive our correspondent's corroboration of "Zenas's" account of bought eggs.

W. W.—The Editor's only consolation in being obliged to divide this capital article is, that the entertaining and useful course will continue a week the longer for so doing.

To *An Amateur.*—It is so very difficult to judge of a fowl from description, and seeing a small number of the feathers, that we cannot pronounce whether your purchased birds are genuine Cochins or not. The single, serrated comb, dense fluffiness, and feathered legs, are quite right, and a bronze tail is considered a beauty; but the feathers of it "curved after the fashion of a game cock," should by no means resemble those in the tail of the said game cock in length. With regard to colour, there seems to be too much mixture of black in the feather for the present fashion; but fowls may be of an unfashionable colour, yet perfectly true to the breed.

Alector.—We should be delighted to have a companion to E. C.'s "gossip about geese."

A Well-Wisher, need not fear that we shall decrease the matter in the "Chronicle" in favour of an increased number of advertisements, for if such an accident overtake us, we shall find means to meet the difficulty, but *not at the expense of our readers.*

To *W. S.*—We are promised the paper on "Gypsum for fowls" next week.

G. H.—The spangled Hamburgs are good sitters and mothers, and do not in this particular resemble those of pencilled variety. The Brahma-Pootras are good sitters, and lay well during the winter months.

To *Correspondents.*—We shall feel greatly obliged if our correspondents will always enclose us their name,—in strict confidence, of course.

Advertisements.

THE HORTICULTURAL JOURNAL, and FARM and GARDEN ADVERTISER. (Garden Department by Mr. GLENNY.) No. 1 on SATURDAY, April 15th, Price 2d.; Stamped, 3d.—Communications and Advertisements to F. DILLON, at the Publishing Office, 14, York-street, Covent Garden.

FIRST PRIZE, and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BUFF COCHINS' EGGS.—From the above may be had, on receipt of a post-office order, payable to WILLIAM TOMLINSON, Bank-plain, Norwich, at 21s. per doz. if guaranteed, or for 12s. per doz. without guarantee, the eggs equally fresh in both cases.

COCHIN CHINA POULTRY, &c.—Eggs from Prize Birds.—In reply to the very urgent applications from numerous amateurs, Mr. JOHN FAIRLIE, of Cheverley-park, Newmarket, is now prepared to dispose of a limited number of EGGS, from his celebrated prize Cochins, Brahma Pootras, Scotch Bakes, Dorkings, &c., according to the dates of the orders received.

EGGS FOR SALE.

M. E., who has, at a great expense, procured all the best sorts of the undermentioned birds, and has every accommodation requisite for ensuring the purity of the different breeds, is willing to part with a few Sittings of Eggs at the following prices:—

White-faced Spanish £2. 2s. 0d. per dozen.

Buff Cochins. . . £1. 1s. 0d. „

Golden Hamburgs 10s. 6d. „

Also, two fine coloured Dorking Cocks, just twelve months old, Two Guineas each.

The Spanish and Dorking birds are direct from Captain Hornby's best and Prize Birds.

Post-office orders, including 1s. for packing the eggs (and 2s. for the basket if the Dorkings are ordered), to be sent with the orders. Eggs will be sent out in rotation, according to the dates of the orders. By early application, a few pairs of Chickens may be secured of each sort.—Direct, M. E., care of Mr. E. CAREY, Moat Lodge, Soham, Cambridgeshire.

BUFF COCHIN EGGS for SALE.—A few Sittings from pure Buff Birds, purchased from the Sales of Messrs. Fletcher, Gilbert, Hutchinson, and Mrs. Stow, at 10s. the sitting; packing, 1s. extra.—Apply to Mr. H. CORNWELL, 1, Northampton-place, Old Kent-road, London.

BUFF COCHIN CHINA EGGS for SALE, from birds that have taken prizes at the Derby, East Kent, Bristol, Taunton, and Yeovil Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen. Also Partridge Cochins China Eggs from birds that have taken prizes at London Summer Meeting, Surrey Gardens' Show in August, Malvern, Yeovil, Honiton, and Torquay Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen.

Apply to JOHN R. ROBBARD, Aldwick-Court, Wrington, near Bristol.

BLACK POLANDS with WHITE CRESTS.—EGGS for Sale, at 14s. per dozen, fresh laid, from Birds which obtained several Prizes last year.—Apply to C. E. H., Duffield Bank House, near Derby.

EGGS for SITTING.—AN AMATEUR will dispose of a few Sittings of Eggs from Speckled Dorkings, the produce of prize birds at Cheltenham and Metropolitan Shows; Brown-breasted Game, prize birds at Birmingham, each at 7s. 6d. the sitting of thirteen; pure bred Aylesbury Ducks' Eggs, at 5s. the sitting.—Apply to W. DINGLEY, Sand-fields, Charlton, Pershore, Worcestershire.

PTARMIGANS for SALE.—Two Fine Pair of these beautiful FOWLS, bred from the Original Birds. Age, 10 months. Both Pallets are prize and commended birds. Price per pair, £8.—Apply to F. BERNAL, Esq., Fareham, Hants.

EGGS from the celebrated West of England Prize POLISH and HAMBURG FOWLS (different varieties) of James P. Hine, Esq., may be obtained at 10s. 6d. per dozen (according to priority of application), by applying to Mr. E. HAYBALL, Donyatt, near Ilminster, Somerset.

SILVER-SPANGLED and GOLDEN-PENCILED HAMBURG EGGS.—From

Silver-spangled { HENS.—Pen 1422, Birmingham, First Prize, 1853.
Cock.—Pen 1496, Birmingham, H.C., 1853.

Golden-pencilled { HENS.—Pen 1235, Birmingham, Second Prize, 1853.
Cock.—Pen 4, Class 28, London Summer Show, First Prize, 1853.

Six Shillings per dozen, package included.—Apply to the gardener, CHARLES BEAGLES, Bristlington, near Bristol.

BLACK SHANGHAE COCK.—Wanted, a Pure-bred, Jet-black Cock, of two years old or more, with no white or red feathers on him,—either for purchase, or hire for two months.—Apply, by letter, to the Editor of the **POULTRY CHRONICLE**, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

FANCY POULTRY.—PERIODICAL SALE.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will SELL by AUCTION at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on TUESDAY, 18th April, at 12 o'clock precisely—a Choice Selection of **WHITE COCHINS**, from the yard of G. H. Preston, Esq., of Great Yarmouth. Fine Buff Birds from T. Shackell, Esq., of Hayes. Some first-class White, Golden, and Silver Polands, from W. G. Vivian, Esq., of Singleton. A few Brahmas, and other fancy varieties.—Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent-garden.

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CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons. Price ONE PENNY per SQUARE FOOT. Croggon's Patent NON-CONDUCTING FELT for covering Steam-boilers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and testimonials sent by post, on application to **CROGGON & CO.**, 2, Dowgate-hill, London, who also supply **SHIP SHEATHING FELT**, and **INODOROUS FELT**, for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

DOLBY'S WEDDING AND HERALDIC STATIONERY.—CREST DIES ENGRAVED as gems of art without charge where the order amounts to 21s. H. DOLBY having crest dies appertaining to more than 10,000 families, can supply even 100 envelopes with the desired crest. Wedding and Visiting Cards engraved and printed in the perfection of fashion. Pedigrees traced, with illustrative notices, antiquarian and topographical. Arms found, emblazoned, and engraved for book-plates, seals, &c.

HENRY DOLBY, Heraldic Draughtsman and Stationer, 56, Regent-street-quadrant.

WM. DRAY & CO.'S PATENT WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot. Ordinary Wire Netting, from 2½d. per yard, 2 feet wide.—Address **Wm. Dray & Co.**, Agricultural Implement Manufacturers, Swan-lane, Upper Thames-street, London.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Preserving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage-free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

To be had in any quantity at **GEORGE EATON & Co.'s Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory**, 6 and 7, Crooked-lane, London.

TO SALMON AND TROUT FISHERS.

JOHNSON S. HOLROYD, Manufacturer of **J**RODS and **T**ACKLE, 59, Gracechurch-street, London, begs to call the attention of Anglers to his large and superior assortment of Fly Rods, warranted made of the best seasoned materials, and for action and workmanship excelled by none in London.

J. S. H. has also a very compact Fly Rod, having the appearance of a neat umbrella, and interfering in no way with the utility of the Rod. Artificial Bait in great variety. The best Trout Flies on Limerick Hooks at 2s. per dozen.

59, GRACECHURCH-STREET, LONDON.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 15s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.; payable in advance by post-office order to **GEORGE CLEMENTS**, No. 1, York-street, Covent-garden, to whom Orders and Advertisements may be addressed.—Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday.

Wholesale Agents, G. ROUTLEDGE & Co., Farringdon-street.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 7.]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.

Poultry Shows.

Aylesbury Local Show, April 12th. Secretary, Cleplyn Hall, Esq. Entries are closed.

Royal Dublin Society's Spring Show, April 18, and three following days. Assistant Secretary, W. E. Steel, Esq., M.B. Entries are closed.

Hexham Poultry Show, in the Abbey Grounds. Second Annual Exhibition, Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th of May. Secretary, W. Turner, Esq., Hencotes, Hexham. Entries close May 6.

Devon and Exeter Botanical and Horticultural Society, at Exeter, in conjunction with the Society's Spring Horticultural Exhibition, May 18th and 19th. Hon. Secretary, T. W. Gray, Esq., 22, Cathedral-yard, Exeter. Entries close May 2nd.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries close May 10th.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries close June 1st.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thurs-

day, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close Saturday, November 11th.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

WE suppose it is part of the Anglo-Saxon character to make business of everything, and, when undertaken, to do it heartily. This may be the reason why the Poultry movement is confined to this country and America. That which a few years since was unknown is now becoming a great pursuit, and affording a delightful and innocent change to those who require it after a day of toil. It has also called forth a spirit of emulation, and, true to our first remark, it has endeavoured to turn it to account. The same mania assumes the same feature in each country; exhibitions, sales, pedigrees, and friendly paper war. Both British and States men quote from each other's papers, and the judgments of certain breeds are carefully canvassed on either side of the Atlantic. Almost every ship coming from America brings a consignment of Brahma Pootras, and when it returns takes out Dorkings, Swans, Pigeons, and Rabbits. Such may be trifles, but they form one link in the chain that binds the two countries together. Let us take an example: one of our

largest dealers received an order from the United States for some Dorking fowls; they were sent, and on receipt, the purchaser wrote in raptures with his acquisition; his mother had emigrated sixty years before from Sussex, and he said in his letter acknowledging the receipt of them, "They did my mother good; she said they took her home again, for they were precisely such as her parents kept in the old country."

If a letter can

Waft a sigh from Indus to the Pole,
cannot our feathered friends also appeal to long-cherished remembrances, and while they may perhaps cause one feeling or pang of sorrow, yet contribute their mite towards rivetting the alliance in feeling between two countries of the same language, parentage, and origin.

But it is not only a pursuit, it is become a trade. Let the "George Robins" of the poultry world (Mr. Stevens) speak, and he will tell you of the many thousands of pounds' worth of fowls that have fallen to his hammer. Railway companies will tell of excursion-trains and large receipts, and hundreds will speak of the happy and friendly competitions at shows, of the kind and good-natured mixing of all grades of society in the common pursuit, and of the humanizing effect of this our weekly subject.

Disappointed Exhibitors.

It has been well said, "None of us ever thank parties who tread upon our corns;" and I am perfectly aware the persons now addressed are of a peculiarly sensitive character, nor can it be expected to be

otherwise than general in human nature, to feel a little sore when our own desires are frustrated by the opinions of other people. So it is with many poultry fanciers of this present day, who, relying on the excellency of their own specimens, and supposing them to be in reality and truth what they anxiously wish for—viz., "the very best in the world"—rashly defy the competition of our well-established exhibitions, and thus prove themselves to be acting under the misapprehension so perpetually rehearsed, in reference to the opinion held by newly-married ladies of their first little one. But, jesting apart, it is in no way surprising that individuals who thus, without council or advice, rush headlong into public, should meet with frequent discomfiture, vexation, and disappointment; while sometimes they are prone to express their own individual opinions somewhat more "harshly than wisely." One of the strongest traits of character in exhibitors generally is, the manifest conviction that seems to reign pre-eminent in their minds, that success is indisputably *certain*. But a little experience in such matters will prove to most the fallacy of such an opinion, and also assure them that a great amount of care, judgment, and discretion, is necessary to command success where the competition is so extraordinarily severe.

To such parties then, in a spirit of the utmost friendship and kindness, are the following remarks addressed, and that too in the hope that they may not be considered misplaced, as emanating from an individual who has been one of the most successful exhibitors at the different poultry shows, now so universal; and let me also add, whose only desire is to give a few stray hints to amateurs whose experience is comparatively limited, or to those who are now about to enter the lists of rivalry for the *first* time.

There is not a failing more prominent with beginners than the supposition that *one* very excellent specimen in a pen of "show fowls" will ensure success for the

whole, and loud and deep are the grumblings and dissatisfactions sometimes expressed in reference to the judges, "who could pass over the best fowl in the whole class without a commendation," or even a simple recognition of its super-excellence, whilst the most invidious comparisons are freely indulged in by the luckless owner, as to "that wretch of a cock in the first-prize pen," in comparison with his own especial favourite. It seems really never to have entered into the mind of an individual thus situated, that the prizes are awarded to a pen of three or four birds (as the case may be), not to a single specimen; and that though if restricted to only one bird, the superiority of their pet would be obvious at a single glance, and most willingly acknowledged. The presence of one or two most indifferent fowls among its fellows (placed there apparently "to make up the lot"), throws his chances of success altogether in the shade.

I am convinced in my own earlier efforts, I myself have frequently injured my prospects of winning (as many brother-amateurs of the present day are now doing), by the introduction of a very far superior bird to the remainder; and though at first sight, this may appear paradoxical, reflection will tell us all that judges can only form their awards by a careful comparison, and that therefore, the presence of an infinitely better bird tells directly against the success of its fellows, and thus we find, and very properly too, a pen of well-matched, even birds, walk in to head the list, and leave the former one apparently neglected or unseen, in the decisions of the day. Hence it is obvious, that the real inducement to exhibit a *very* superior fowl with those of indifferent character, is very slight indeed, should they belong to well-practised hands; not so, however, if the other birds are of tolerably good description, for *then* the addition of a specimen whose excellence is undoubted, will certainly, in many instances, "carry the day," and not unfrequently do judges acknowledge, that the exhibition of such

a fowl in a pen gave a bias to their decisions.

This proves, as before said, the necessity of careful reflection on the part of competitors themselves as to what birds they exhibit, and it will be at once admitted, that the loss or attainment of a first prize is not quite so superficial a matter as some unreflective individuals are apt at first thought to imagine, and tells for or against the owner, as a pecuniary consideration (somewhat forcibly) in the sale of his future stock, and not less does it affect the value of the poultry at present exhibited. It will be seen that similarity of character and also of plumage, are essentials to success; and be sure to let new aspirants make certain their poultry are rightly entered as to their respective classes. Oft-times have I seen fowls, either from being placed in the wrong baskets by their owners, or in the wrong pens by the committees, subjected to the severe penalty of "disqualification," simply because the old fowls and the chickens of the *same* variety, had by some inexplicable mystery changed their relative places, to the utter denial of a single chance to *either* of the lots—the fowls being returned by the judges as being "wrongly entered." I myself fancy that this terrible mistake may have frequently arisen from the proneness of their owners to "leave everything to the last few minutes," a failing that ever yet has, and as certainly will ever continue, to entail trouble, annoyance, and disgust on those who obstinately insist on carrying it into practice. I would myself advise all exhibitors never to have two pens of fowls packing at the same time. The observance of this rule will obviate many vexatious afterthoughts, and greatly expedite the present business of despatching their poultry to the exhibition. Many an inexperienced amateur has blighted all his hopes by the well-intentioned folly of over-feeding his fowls just prior to sending away. For this purpose never use hard corn, as it is certain the noise and uproar of a conveyance prevents proper digestion

going forward ; and if the attendants at the show (when the fowls get there) are not efficient ones, after-neglect only increases the evil. Therefore, let soft food only be used, and that somewhat sparingly, on the day of their departure, or "crop-bound" fowls are the inevitable consequence. Close baskets are by far the most suitable for the transmission of poultry ; in such they rest better, and are not so greatly alarmed at passers-by, while if they happen to be detained at a railway station, they are not so much subjected to the baneful influences of currents of air, which always injure them if they are compelled to remain exposed in open wicker-work. Round baskets are preferred, simply because any one fowl cannot thrust its head into a corner and be trampled to death by the others, as all keep moving about freely if pressed upon ; though in square baskets many a very valuable (perhaps highly-fed) bird has lost its life, and its thoughtless owner thus been subjected to considerable pecuniary loss.

Never place fowls only recently acquainted in the same pen, for depend upon it, though the best friends at setting out, they will certainly, when ruffled in temper, become pugnacious and sanguinary. Carefully, therefore, avoid it under every circumstance, and a little forethought and care, you will eventually acknowledge, are by no means thrown away. It may also prevent your finding one of your birds dead or dying when you gain admission to the show-room yourself.

I have thus endeavoured practically to smooth the way for those amateurs who now are commencing their labours, and also to prevent to them a repetition of those annoyances to which so many others (like myself) have been necessarily subjected, by pointing out some of the principal dangers they may possibly incur, and the easiest mode of avoiding them. There is, however, still another portion of this class of exhibitors to whom I wish also to address a few courteous words of advice, viz., parties who, regardless of ex-

pense, buy many of the first prize pens, in the confident assurance they *must* always be similarly successful at other exhibitions. This proves too frequently fallacious. The competition at some future show may be infinitely more severe ; or if the birds originally came from the hands of a practised amateur, a very serious change of "condition" may speedily ensue under a less careful management, to the very great disappointment of their present owners, and the generation of an ill-founded impression on their minds, "These fowls have not *now* been fairly dealt with." Therefore, though somewhat tedious, my efforts may not be altogether thrown away, and perchance also tend to somewhat soften down circumstances which, to disappointed exhibitors, may appear incongruous at the first impression, and prevent those little asperities of temper that sometimes, in spite of better feelings, haunt the unsuccessful.

E. C.

Column for Beginners.

CHAPTER III.

CLEANLINESS AND FEEDING.

WHEN the fowls are established in their new quarters, with a comfortable house for roosting and laying, a shed under which to retire when they choose, and a supply at hand of all things most needful to keep them in health and comfort, good feeding, and a little daily attention (chiefly devoted to maintaining cleanliness), will be all that they require. The principal work to do for them will be to have their places kept clean ; for if fowls are fed on the best food in the land, they will never thrive without a due regard to cleanliness. The accumulation of dirt in the hen-house should be removed every day, and the run swept not less frequently than twice a week. Cabbage-stumps and stale vegetables, from which the fowls have picked what they like, must be carefully removed ; and if a portion of the ground can be forked

over, it will prove a very beneficial amusement to fowls which are confined to a small yard. If the floor be of concrete, a sprinkle of slaked lime, after it is cleaned, makes the house very nice; but care must be taken to sweep it off so clear that no dust will rise when the fowls flutter their wings, as that would be injurious to them.

The nests should be attended to whenever they happen to get dirty, and supplied with a good thick bed of clean, well-rubbed straw. A thorough regard to cleanliness will make a good return in the health and comfort, and consequent productiveness, of the fowls,—without it, they will never thrive.

I know two ladies (and one has been a very successful exhibitor) who clean their hen-houses themselves, and those houses were clean, as were also their brushes and cleaning paraphernalia, ranged in nice order near at hand.

Occasional lime-washing of the house is very good, in fact highly necessary. For those who may wish for something a little smarter than common whitewash, I will copy the following recipe for making a cheap paint, from an American monthly periodical:—"Take a barrel, and put in it a bushel of quick lime; slack the latter by pouring over it boiling water—covering the lime four inches deep, and stirring it till slacked; dissolve two pounds of sulphate of zinc (white vitriol) in water, which must be added to the whitewash. This will harden the lime when applied to the wood, leaving a firm, white crystalized surface, not easily removed by the weather or friction. To make the wash a cream colour, add four pounds of yellow ochre; for a fawn, four pounds of umber and one pound of lampblack; stone colour, one pound of umber and two pounds of lampblack."

With regard to feeding the poultry, regularity is, above all things, important. Let it be the work of one person in the house to feed the fowls, for, as "the child that many parents share has seldom known a parent's care," the fowls, which

it is no person's especial business to feed, will sometimes go without their dinner; and to make them happy and comfortable, they should not only always have their dinner, but should always have it given to them regularly.

Fowls which have no extensive range want to be fed as soon as they are let out in the morning, and the more work that is given to them to earn their breakfast, by having it thrown wide, the better: care must, however, be taken that the food is not thrown in dirty places, for in feeding, as in everything else, fowls are lovers of cleanliness.

So much has been said by different writers about the kind of food, that it is no use to repeat. Most families that keep no other animals will get together scraps enough to give four or six fowls one meal a day; if in addition they have one meal of meal and one of corn, they will do very well as far as food goes.

Fallacies of the Fancy.

NO. I.

COURTEOUS reader,—It is not my intention to beguile you into the idea that I am about to expose to public view the economy of certain poultry establishments, with the view of attempting to rectify errors, which in my opinion may exist. Such a flight would take me into a walk that I know but little of, and I think I should deservedly have my wings clipped, in order to prevent my committing the like trespass in future.

Few persons pass through life, none I should rather say possessed of a thinking mind, who do not frequently observe certain dispositions in their fellow men, aye, and in themselves too, which it would be desirable to alter; and even in poultry matters, as well as other, sublunary occupations, a vast amount of hallucination and weakness will be perceived. If my assertion be doubted, I would appeal to any impartial visitor at some of our recent poultry exhibitions, whether he have not observed at

one or the other of those usually pleasant gatherings, some poor unfortunate wight, almost distraught, on learning that his particular pen of birds has been unsuccessful. Witness his gesticulations; listen to his touching appeal to the by-standers, as to the untoward fate of his pets; remark with what hurried strides he rushes to the committee-room; hear his invectives loud and deep poured forth on the heads of the poor judges; and then, I think, he will bear me out in my statement, and add, moreover, that the term of "Poultry mania" is in this case, to a certain extent, applicable. But, as the majority of unsuccessful exhibitors bear their unlooked-for lot with comparative complacency, I would not be supposed to place them in the category just mentioned.

In the following picture, a too sanguine disposition may, I apprehend, find in its lineaments some traces which bear a slight resemblance to itself, and to such an one, young as an amateur, though perhaps the head may be denuded of some of nature's covering, I would in all friendship submit the following:—

Last spring, you had a strong desire to commence the rearing of Cochin Chinas. Not knowing to whom to apply at the moment for a sitting of eggs, you consulted the newspapers. Your attention was rivetted by an advertisement dressed out in all the flowers of eloquence, and you applied for thirteen eggs, for which you paid the sum of five guineas. You purchased a broody hen to place them under, as the old poultry-wife of the establishment denied you the loan of one of her staid old Dorkings, declaring that she would not encourage a parcel of nasty, ugly, long-legged things, without tails. In your watchful anxiety to secure to the hen the necessary amount of food and water, you took her off the nest every morning, and in so doing, managed to break three or four eggs. Out of the thirteen, six only were hatched out, and three of those were cockerels, two of which were very dark-coloured birds. But still you had a brood

of Cochin Chinas, and as the pullets were tolerably light in colour, you congratulated yourself on your success, and thanked your stars, that, if you could but rear them, you should have the proper number for exhibition. You were very early every morning, in all weathers, to feed them, and routed the old hen at night with your hand or a stick, to see that all your chicks were safe, previous to taking your rest. Each Saturday throughout the summer brought down its usual quota of friends from town. They must, of course, be taken to see your adopted children. Of course, they praised them. It would have been exceedingly rude had they not done so. They were the best and purest that they had ever seen. In all probability, very few, if any of them, knew a Cochin China fowl from a Malay. Time wore on, and your stud increased in size. You began to think whether you should not soon have a chance of handing your name down to posterity as a successful exhibitor of Cochins. At length an opportunity occurred for your entering the lists at a celebrated exhibition to be held near town. An entry paper was no sooner applied for, than you received it. Duly and honestly filled up (I wish every one did the same), it was returned in proper time with the pen money. Your decimals had been laid aside since you were at school, but you soon got them up again, and applied yourself to the study of the cereals to ascertain which contained the greatest amount of nutriment for your pets. When would the day arrive for forwarding the birds? A friend, who had obtained a prize at a provincial exhibition with fowls of the same description as yours, called on you, and appeared silent, as well he might, being afraid to throw a damper on your highly-wrought imagination. Your pride was hurt. You pitted your birds against his for a champagne lunch. The offer was accepted, and an appointment made to meet at the place of exhibition. The eventful day at last dawned. A slight misgiving came across your mind; but it was at once smothered. You arrived at

the railway station at least one hour before the train was due. In due course of time, many of your acquaintances arrived also, who very injudiciously flattered you with the certainty of success. You stepped into the railway carriage, and after a short interval, the tickets were demanded. Homer's description of Achilles, "swift as to his feet," vibrates on your brain. You determine to emulate the Greek. You scarcely allow the train to come to a stand-still, before you are out of the carriage, and rushing to the cab-stand. In your passage thither, you unwittingly tread on the foot of an old gentleman. A loud shriek proclaims that he is suffering from gout; but you, like many others, have no sympathy for gouty persons. Spurred on with the certainty of a prize, you invade the sanctity of a gentleman's brougham, and give your orders to the driver. He turns round on the box, and gazes at you through the front glasses with the most profound astonishment. You shower a volley of abuse on him. He descends, and comes to the door, where you discover the owner, protesting most vociferously, and threatening to call the police. You discover your mistake, and with many apologies, are but too glad to effect an escape from your *snug* retreat. The driver, previous to mounting the box, intimates, *sotto voce*, that your *keeper ought to be discharged for allowing you to be at large*. Stung with rage, you look out for a cab, but what first meets your eyes? The old gentleman whose foot you had such small respect for, leaning against a pillar, surrounded by his married daughter and three grandchildren, whom he had come to meet. A look of wrath mingled with despair at not being able to visit you with summary punishment, meets your glance. Your better feelings predominate for a second, and you are on the point of making towards him. A porter, who has been watching you, informs you that a cab is in readiness. Your sympathy vanishes, and after requesting to be driven fast, you soon find yourself at the exhibition. The fare is paid, and you rush in,

calling out loudly for a catalogue. You turn to your class, and find no account of any prizes. You inquire of the vendor, and he enlightens you by stating, that you must mean a prize-list, which he puts into your hand, modestly demanding an extra sixpence. Again do your eyes run over the all-absorbing class. You see that your friend's name is printed, but cannot understand why yours is not. Another appeal is made to the party who furnished you with the list, and you give him your name. After a few moments of bewilderment, produced by your apparent certainty, the thought strikes him that your birds could not have been of sufficient merit, and he smilingly conveys his ideas to you. Oh! what a moment was that, when the bare possibility of failure first struck you, and what must have been your feelings when the real fact stood out in incontrovertible truth! But though beaten, you are not disgusted, nor yet discouraged. You proceed onwards to the exhibition, and first of all visit the pen where your darlings are domiciled. Your nature is kind, and you wish that you had them at home again, out of that close place. They would still have *your* care and attention, though the visitors pass by scarcely bestowing a glance upon them. Your friend is now by your side, and signifies that he took breakfast very early. The hint is well received, and after one or two perambulations, wherein the different points of excellence are brought to your notice, you adjourn to the discussion of the champagne lunch, determined to profit from the suggestions imparted, and never again to be too sanguine. AMICUS.

WATER for geese to swim in is by no means necessary, nor perhaps even useful: or how is it that we see such fine flocks of fine geese all over Long Island (in America), where there is scarcely such a thing as a pond or a run of water?—*Cobbett's Cottage Economy.*

Hints to Committees of Poultry Shows.

THE REGULATIONS—(continued).

11.—The entries must be made with the secretary, on or before the _____, on a form which will be supplied by him, with a Schedule of Prizes and Regulations, on receipt of a stamped directed envelope. The entrance-fees must be paid when the entry is made, or the pens cannot be entered for competition.

12.—Subscribers of not less than _____ will be entitled to _____ tickets of admission, one filled up with his own name, and the other with any other name he may require; such tickets to be available at the private view and days of exhibition, but not to be transferable. And every such subscriber will be entitled to exhibit four pens, and as many additional pens as he may think fit, on payment of 2s. 6d. for each extra pen.

13.—Cottagers will be allowed to exhibit single pens, at 2s. 6d. each pen.

14.—The doors of the exhibition will be opened to subscribers of not less than _____, &c. &c. &c.

15.—All birds will be returned the morning after the show.

16.—Exhibitors are particularly requested to examine the Prize List and Regulations of the Show, in order to avoid error in making entries.

17.—The committee wish to assure exhibitors that every care and attention will be paid to the stock when in their possession, but that they cannot be answerable for any losses that may occur from accident or mistake.

18.—Dogs, sticks, and umbrellas will not be allowed in the exhibition-room.

19.—Poultry not in the Prize List can be exhibited as extra stock, and the judges will be instructed to award prizes to such as they may consider deserving.

(Signed) _____,

Hon. Sec.

No. 11 and No. 16 might be placed together, bearing as they do on the same subject; and the Birmingham committee have this year made a valuable addition to the regulation: "That no alteration can be made in the prices, as stated on the certificates and set forth in the catalogues; that the specimens must be sold in pens, and not divided; and that the persons who have the management of the sales cannot take charge of fowls which are disposed of privately." Also, "No alterations can be made in the certificates after they have

been received by the secretary." Many inconsiderate persons are in the habit of making changes, just before the show, in birds and prices, and find fault because they cannot be attended to. To oblige them would be an impossibility: probably at the time they write the catalogue is in type, and they, forsooth, would even bother the printer's devil before they would be satisfied, to say nothing of secretary, clerks, and printers, before the truth reached the dignified person alluded to.

No. 12 tells its own tale. Ten shillings is enough for a subscriber to pay for two tickets, provided he is not an exhibitor; but I do not think a person contributing poultry should have more than one: the Birmingham Show can justly command a higher rate, both for entrance and view. I think the limit of two pens in one class good; and certainly four entries for one subscription is liberal enough, especially if the additional pens are offered at 2s. 6d.; and to this rule should be attached, "Persons entering poultry, and failing to send the same, will be required to pay a fine of three shillings for each pen so left vacant." This is only justice to the committee, his brother-competitors, and the public, all of whom are frequently mortified by the foolish conduct of exhibitors. No one ought to make an entry without firmly intending to exhibit; but too many people send four entries merely because they have paid for that number in their subscription, and overlooking the fact that a subscription will not cover the cost of pens.

No. 13, applying to cottagers, will vary according to the district; in the manufacturing counties, cottagers would rather pay than not: they have a strong feeling of independence, and lightly esteem all things gratis (even good advice).

No. 14, of course, must be filled up according to circumstances; certainly subscribers ought to have the first view, and those who choose to pay high might also be admitted, for at least two hours, before the general public, and the remainder of the first day ought also to be devoted to

the higher class, at a rate, say 2s. 6d. ; the whole of the second day ought to be at a more moderate price, say 1s., so as to admit all classes of her Majesty's subjects on easy terms ; ladies and others, who may be afraid of the crowd, can insure a quiet inspection on the cheap day, by being there as soon as the doors open ; but I shall never again believe what ladies say against a mob, after witnessing how many high-born, gentle, and feeble old ladies endured the squeeze at Birmingham, aye, and appeared positively to enjoy it, if I might judge from their looks.

No. 15 must not only appear on paper, but must be fully carried out by the committee. [!!!—Ed.]

No. 17 is necessary for the protection of the committee ; and—

No. 18 is equally necessary for the protection of the poultry under the protection of the committee.

No. 19 is also requisite. Who can say what wonders may not be produced this season from foreign lands ? Some of our friends may have a chance of ransacking the poultry-houses of St. Petersburg or Sebastopol ; or, perchance, some luckless fellow may contribute from Siberia ; nor yet should we despair of further wonders from the interior of China, with the new dynasty.

I have now reviewed the regulations as printed. I would, in conclusion on this subject, urge ALL poultry committees to add one more rule :—"That the sale-office will not be opened before twelve o'clock of the first day of the show, and that no pens can be claimed before that hour." Having already occupied too much space, I must state the reasons for the last regulation in my next.

W. W.

A MAN came into a printing-office to beg a paper, "because" said he, "we like to read the newspapers very much, but our neighbours don't take one."—*American paper.*

Colombiary.

NO. I.

WHERE poultry are kept I see no reason why pigeons should be excluded, of which there are a great variety, so as to satisfy any whim of the fancier ; and, as many of them may be unknown to the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," I will endeavour to give a short description of all those known to me. I will commence with the Rock Pigeon, and divide the varieties into three classes,—the High Fancy, Fancy, and Toys.

1. The Rock Pigeon.

The Rock Pigeon, or wild Blue Rock, is a bird of which almost every one has heard, nevertheless it is very scarce ; but at first starting it will be best to make it plain to my readers what pigeon I mean, because two others are also commonly called Rocks. The Stock Dove, that builds in the stocks or boles of trees, is frequently mistaken for the Blue Rock, which it somewhat resembles, but from which it is quite distinct. There are three varieties of doves to be found in our woods, namely, the Ring Dove, or Quest, the Stock Dove, and the Turtle Dove, but these are quite distinct in habits and manners from the pigeon.

Again, the common Chequered ("Dappled") Dove House Pigeon, that generally peoples our dove-cotes is frequently called a Rock, and should such be taken from the rocks, they are naturally supposed to be the true Rock Pigeon, for, in many parts of the country there are immense feral or escaped flocks ; these, although in every sense of the word *wild*, are not the real Blue Rocks. Having thus far said what it is not, it now remains for me to say what the Rock is : it is a rather small blue pigeon, and very shy ; it builds its nest on cliffs, in the clefts of rocks, and caverns, and is generally supposed by naturalists to be the stock whence our tame pigeons are derived. Their general plumage is blue, two black bars cross the wings, the tail is also barred

with black near the end, the rump is white and the neck glossy—the beak is long, dove-shaped, and of a dark horn colour; the front of the head is rather full, the eye round, prominent, and of a bright gravelly red colour, the neck is slender, and the feet red; they are very shy, and shun the haunts of man. I have never seen any of them domesticated, but believe they might be, if taken young. The Rev. E. S. Dixon gives an instance of their being settled in one old dove-cote, and further stated he had occasionally procured young ones, but that they always flew away when old enough; they nestle in the most inaccessible rocks and cliffs, and I believe rarely produce but three pairs of young in a season; they find their food abroad in the fields, in search of which they are said to take long journeys; they feed on almost any sort of grain or seed; they devour an immense quantity of the seeds of weeds, and they eat also some sorts of herbage.

A cross between the Blue Rock and the common Blue Dragon pigeon makes an excellent pigeon for flying matches or performing long journeys; but from the scarcity and wildness of the former, few persons have the opportunity of trying it.

B. P. BRENT.

Gypsum for Fowls.

THE following remarks regarding gypsum may be useful to your correspondent "W. S."

It is not probable that gypsum is "beneficial to fowls" as a source of lime and sulphur; but when it is employed for the purpose of "keeping a poultry-house sweet" it may be considered "beneficial to fowls," principally, if not exclusively, on account of its peculiar property of *fixing*—to use the popular term—the volatile ammoniacal vapours which form the disagreeable and deleterious odours emanating from excrementitious matters, and thus preserving the atmosphere of the poultry-house in that state of purity which is so

essentially requisite for supporting the healthy respiration of the inmates.

Gypsum, when first strewed about a poultry-house, is, chemically speaking, a natural compound of sulphuric acid, lime, and water—hydrated sulphate of lime—but in such situation it does not permanently remain so constituted, for in proportion as the air of the house becomes contaminated with ammoniacal vapours, these decompose the hydrated sulphate of lime, by combining with its sulphuric acid and producing sulphate of ammonia, which is a fixed, inodorous, crystalline, and soluble compound; whilst the lime, thus freed from its original combination, enters into a new one with the carbonic acid, which is present, and produces insoluble carbonate of lime, or chalk. In thus deodorizing and purifying the air, the gypsum ultimately becomes wholly decomposed, and the effete residue, consisting of a mixture of sulphate of ammonia and carbonate of lime, would probably be repulsive to the fowls on account of the taste of the ammoniacal salt, and they would not touch the residue for the sake of the carbonate, if they had access to any other source of it not so tainted; as for example, mortar rubbish, which contains carbonate of lime and river sand. But the effete residue is valuable as a manure, for it is a most powerful fertilizer on account of the ammoniacal salt, which it contains, not being volatile at any degree of natural temperature, and yet soluble in the water of showers; it thus becomes a source of nitrogen to plants. Chalk—carbonate of lime—and bone-earth—phosphate of lime—when strewed about a poultry-house, are not decomposed by ammoniacal vapours, but retain their composition, and are therefore ready at once to enter with food into the animal system for secretion and elaboration into shell and bone. Phosphate of lime is naturally present in all kinds of "bone-making food," which is so highly necessary for growing fowls of large varieties, but there is no difficulty in supplying it artificially, for it is not expensive; a bone burnt in the fire to a

white ash, and then powdered, affords a ready and economical source of phosphate of lime, which might be strewed about along with the carbonate of lime.

Tom.

Schedule of the Ripon Show.

THE YORKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (President, Earl de Grey) will hold the Seventeenth Annual Meeting at Ripon, early in August. It includes cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, poultry, implements, Reports on various specified subjects, flax, and wool.

POULTRY.

| | |
|---|--------|
| 47. Best Spanish Cock and two Hens | £1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 48. Best three Spanish Chickens | 1 0 0 |
| 49. Best Dorking Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 50. Best three Dorking Chickens | 1 0 0 |
| 51. Best Cochin China Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 52. Best three Cochin China Chickens | 1 0 0 |
| 53. Best Malay Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 54. Best three Malay Chickens | 1 0 0 |
| 55. Best Game Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 56. Best three Game Chickens | 1 0 0 |
| 57. Best Golden Pheasant Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 58. Best three Golden Pheasant Chickens | 1 0 0 |
| 59. Best Silver Pheasant Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 60. Best three Silver Pheasant Chickens | 1 0 0 |
| 61. Best Chittprat or Corsican Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 62. Best Poland, any variety, with or without ruffs, Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 63. Best Cock and two Hens of any breed or cross | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 64. Best three Chickens of any breed or cross | 1 0 0 |
| 65. Best Cock and three Hens, black, white, or any other variety of Bantams | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |

| | |
|---|--------|
| 66. Best Cock of any breed or cross | £1 0 0 |
| 67. Best pair of Hens of any breed or cross | 1 0 0 |
| 68. Best Gander and Goose | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 69. Best Drake and two Ducks | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |
| 70. Best Turkey Cock and Hen | 1 0 0 |
| Second | 0 10 0 |

Where no age is specified, the Poultry may be shown of any age, and chickens are eligible to compete. Where the chickens are mentioned, they must be a cock and two pullets, where they are old enough to distinguish.

All chickens must be hatched after the 1st of January, 1854.

High condition, beauty of plumage, and purity of race, will be preferred above mere weight, which latter quality is principally to be considered as a merit in those breeds that are remarkable for their size, such as Spanish, Dorking, Malay, and Cochin China.

No animal which has gained a first Prize in any Class (unless shown as Extra Stock) at a previous meeting of this Society, will be allowed to compete in the same class at any future meeting. No animal can be entered in more than one class.

The Judges shall not award any Prize unless the animals exhibited are deemed worthy.

Any person who has given a false certificate shall forfeit every unpaid Prize, and shall be disqualified from exhibiting at the Society's Show in any future year.

The Prizes for the Reports we cannot help giving, although they do not all appertain to our own subject.

REPORTS.

For the best form of Agricultural Balance Sheet £10

The Balance Sheet must be accompanied by a Report, containing a summary of the principles on which a Farmer's Balance Sheet ought to be constructed, in order to show clearly the annual profit or loss, with exemplified details of the different items calculated to illustrate the subject.

For a Report on the best mode of Shoeing Horses for hunting, road, and farm work. To be accompanied by at least two models illustrating the application and result of defective, as well as of correct shoeing .. £5

The following Prize is offered by W. Beckett, Esq., M.P.

For a Report on the best method of Fattening Poultry £5

All Reports must be delivered to the Secretary on or before the 1st of June, 1854.

Competitors in Reports shall not communicate their names, but shall transmit with each Report a sealed note, containing the name and address of the writer, and inscribed on the back with some distinguishing motto or device, which shall also be inscribed on the Report. Prizes will not be awarded to Reports that have been previously published. The Society will not be bound to restore unsuccessful MSS., therefore copies must be kept by the Authors.

GENERAL REGULATIONS (relating to Poultry).

Persons desirous of becoming Members of the Society can become so on application to the Secretary.

Subscriptions, £1 per annum, enabling them to show Stock, &c., and view all the exhibitions free of charge.

No Stock can be admitted for exhibition, either for Prizes or as Extra Stock, unless a certificate of entry, in proper form, has been received by the Secretary on or before Wednesday, July 19th. Blank Certificates of entry will be sent by post, on application to the Secretary, to each person intending to exhibit.

One Shilling will be charged for each entry of Poultry.

All Stock intended for exhibition will be admitted from 3 o'clock till 8 P.M. on Tuesday, August 1st, and from 7 to 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning, and all not at the gates by that time will be excluded.

The Show will be closed at half-past 3 o'clock on Thursday. The owners will have to purchase food, but the Committee will arrange that reasonable prices shall be charged.

All Poultry are required to be at the Show by 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning, and to remain there until half-past 3 o'clock on the Thursday. It is particularly requested that the entries may be correctly and properly made, or they will be disqualified. *Poultry Certificates* must be asked for to fill up, as no other can be received. Parties who enter Poultry will be expected to feed and attend them, and one ticket to each exhibitor will be given free. One person only will be allowed to enter the Show-Yard with each animal or entry of Stock. Persons who enter and do not exhibit will be expected to pay 2s. 6d. for every entry of Poultry, whether members of the Society or not.

The Railway Companies of the district, it is expected, will give free transit for Stock to and from the Show, and carry Implements at half fares.—By order of the Council,

MATTHEW MARMADUKE MILBURN,
Sowerby, Thirsk. Secretary.

Can Poultry be made a Profitable Pursuit?

PART II.

Do you mean to breed for the market? It can be made to pay, subject to the conditions I will detail.

There are three markets to breed for,—Home, Local, and London.

The Home market is that where a higgler makes it his business to call once a fortnight, or oftener, as need may be, to take all young fowls as soon as they are fit for market. This is the least troublesome, and often one of the most profitable methods of selling poultry, as it is attended with no expense.

The local market is where fowls are taken to some neighbouring town, and to make this profitable, much care should be taken always to have good poultry. Never be induced to sell old or bad fowls with your young and good ones, if you intend to send regularly. Many a dear shilling is earned in this way. There exists in every town a class of valuable customers who frequent the market to make purchases. They have often plenty of money, and plenty of leisure. It affords them amusement, and they become, or fancy they become, judges of what they are buying. These give the best prices; but if once their judgment is at fault, and instead of buying two tender, juicy fowls they get two old ones, nothing will ever induce them to purchase of the same person again. On the other hand, if they find they can always depend on the quality of what they buy, they will never leave.

For such a market as this, youth is of more importance than fatness. If your fowls are fresh, clean, and young, you will always have a good sale.

The London market, like the fated gulf of old, absorbs everything. The buyers in it are the givers of the best prices, but they must have the worth of their money. In all market transactions, it is well to bear in mind, both in buying

and selling, that money is only exchanged against its real value in some other commodity. As with ten shillings you can only buy ten shillings' worth, so a fowl worth only three will never sell for six. The prices quoted at Leadenhall Market for the best poultry will often startle by their amount, but it must not be forgotten these large sums are only given for the best, and so difficult is it, that the buyers of the choicest quality, and consequently, the dearest article, always stipulate with the salesman that they shall not be confined to the number they are cheapening, but shall be permitted to choose from other adjoining lots in order to secure the value of their money. It is very seldom a practised sender can supply twelve fowls of equal quality, and the higglers, whose trade it is to buy large numbers, and sort them to the best advantage, which long experience enables them to do, are often in difficulty to choose perfect lots. We are thus particular, perhaps a little tedious, in our remarks, because if any of our readers are disposed to believe the assertion with which we set out, and to try sending to the London market, we would, if possible, spare them disappointment by detailing everything connected with the subject.

The most profitable time for selling poultry in London is from the middle of March till the end of June. At this time of the year it can only be termed artificial, seeing that in a state of nature it would not be produced. Its consequent scarcity justifies and explains the large prices it realizes. But ordinary senders will not reach the highest quotations; it will be a work of time to do that, and both intimate knowledge and much experience will be necessary. It can, however, be acquired by pains-taking.

Having then young poultry, and it should not exceed from fourteen to eighteen weeks old, it will be necessary to send it fresh, clean, and well killed. As was stated in a letter to the Irish senders (see "Poultry Chronicle," p. 14), it must also be fasted. Avoid all attempt to dress or

prepare it according to the fashion of the country whence it is sent; and having simply picked it clean, send it to any respectable salesman in Leadenhall Market, and in the months we have named it will make a large price, frequently from fifty to sixty shillings the dozen; and this demand, with little variation, lasts for the period we have mentioned. When alteration takes place, it is towards the close of the time; small chickens get more plentiful and less valuable, but large fowls get dearer. During this period, London is, we think, by far the best market in England; but in the autumn it is not sure that the country does not offer equal advantages with the metropolis. J. B.

Chit-Chat.

A FANCY FAIR will be held at Bath, on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June, for "Soldiers' Wives and Children," in the same field as the POULTRY EXHIBITION of the Bath and West of England Agricultural Society. The committee of ladies engaged in promoting this charitable object announce that they will be pleased to receive donations of work at 26, Gay-street, Bath. By permission of the Hon. Arthur Upton, the band of the Coldstream Guards will be in attendance.

THE SALE at MR. STEVENS'S, on Tuesday, April 4th, was a little disarranged by the non-arrival of a number of birds that were expected from the stock of Mr. Rawson. The Brahma pullets, from Dr. Gwynne, of Sandbach, sold much better than the cockerels. The prices of the pullets ranged from £6. 6s. to £2. 10s., while among the cockerels, one only (as far as we were able to notice) reached a guinea; one, a very indifferent little bird, certainly, 5s.—the lowest sum, we fancy, for which a Brahma has yet been sold. A very small number of the Cochins reached sums varying from one to two pounds; some chickens, clear in colour, but small, were

very cheap. One white Dorking hen was sold for £1.

A WEST COUNTRY correspondent writes, "I think, Mr. Editor, some of your numerous readers may be pleased to hear that the South Devon, Bristol and Exeter, and Great Western Railways, will convey poultry to the Bath show free. Before concluding, I would wish to call attention to the desirability (if I may so term it) of poultry committees informing exhibitors, whose birds have obtained prizes, of their success at the earliest opportunity, as I can speak for myself with respect to the above remark, having last autumn been a successful exhibitor at some of our local shows; but in most instances, I was not informed of my success for many weeks—in one case for three months after the show—which has proved very annoying."

Poultry Fanciers.

THERE are comparatively few individuals who would accredit the attractive and ornamental appearance of a proper disposition of a few heads of fancy poultry around the country residence of a retired tradesman; and I feel assured the turmoil of town business over for the day, those whose trade occupations harass and confuse the mind the most intensely, will find a solace and recreation in observing the habits and attending to the wants of such birds, if well selected and the subjects of proper solicitude. I will endeavour to recall two or three instances that will forcibly illustrate my subject.

It has been frequently asserted that game, let them be reared how they may, can never be depended on, and that the first time they become alarmed they will fly away altogether.

There are exceptions to this rule. I have myself seen pheasants that would not only fly on to the window-seat and tap the glass with their bills to obtain admission to the room during meals, but were so changed in character, that if a cat or dog

gained access to the premises, they would literally dash at him and drive him away.

I think the most interesting instance of the kind, however, related to some tame partridges, that had the run of a large walled garden; some eight or ten were reared, and to make safety still more secure, were pinioned. They came freely, though when I saw them they had moulted to adult feather. They ate from their owner's hand, were as tame as possible, and roosted every night *of their own free-will* in a corner of the brewhouse, an arrangement that protected them from marauding cats, which were frequently seen scenting their footsteps at night. At spring the males became very pugnacious, and they were all parted with except one pair; these laid, hatched, and also reared their young ones. They were very similar in their habits to bantams, but differed in that both the male and female brooded their little ones. Frequently when thus occupied, they would allow parties to walk close by them without any apparent annoyance, or even altering their position; and I have seen the covey of little ones all busily engaged picking out the insects from the box-edgings, and permitting persons to pass without notice, unless, may be, they at once followed to ascertain the chances of obtaining provender.

Their end, like that of most pets, was a very unsatisfactory one. The maid-servant, whose duty it was to see them always safely housed, stated that "she had done so;" but the words were scarcely uttered, when a large grey cat was seen bearing away one of the old ones over the adjacent buildings. This proved to be the hen-bird. One of the children, who witnessed the whole affair, states, the brewhouse door being closed, all were standing in a group awaiting their accustomed admission, when suddenly the cat sprung down from the roof and seized the old one, which, in spite of his noisy outcries, she succeeded in carrying off.

From that hour the remainder would never be enticed, either by hunger or

driving, to come near the scene of their former disaster; and though for a few evenings they were really hunted down and *carried* to their old roosting-quarters, the trouble of so doing seemed nightly to increase, for they became so alarmed that they hid themselves as best they could. A short time afterwards, "*all* had fallen a prey to the cats;" still, however, proving how really domestic they may be reared with attention.

Game birds, however, I think by no means so interesting as some of the more beautiful and choice kinds of poultry; which, if indisposed from any cause, can be more readily handled, and proper remedies can be administered. Still, as many parties feel greater pleasure in domesticated game, I will very briefly mention a case in which some eight or nine common English pheasants walked listlessly about the street, and passed carelessly to and fro along an entry into the court in which they had been reared. They were in very creditable plumage, frequently (during the season) laid, but though kept thus for many years, never once attempted to sit.

These pheasants would literally congregate around the huckster's cart, when he was unloading in the street, taking a very speedy possession of any green-food that happened to drop. While thus engaged, a terrier that was passing seized hold of one of the cocks, shook, worried, and killed, it. Next day, however, these birds came again but little daunted by their misadventure, and remained the pets of all the surrounding neighbours, until at the death of the person who raised them, one of his executors sold them to a party at a distance, and though *triple* the amount thus paid was immediately raised by a general subscription, they were, amid loud and deep murmurs, taken away. At their new home they became as wild as before-time they were domestic, proving their singular dislike to strange places.

I have known many keep the red-legged (or as they are commonly called) the

French partridges, running loose in a yard. They will, thus treated, lay very freely and become quite domestic, but are sadly prone to fight among themselves. This disposition once saved the writer a valuable bird, for, having accidentally escaped from an aviary whilst cleaning, it at once began *of its own accord* to fight a common cock at least six times its own weight, and was when so doing adroitly secured and sent to its old quarters.

One of the greatest drawbacks in rearing game about premises in a truly domestic state is the intrusion of strange dogs; if perfectly entire and walled in, they may certainly be kept with a good deal of satisfaction, though they will render but little profit or advantage. E. C.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

SIR,—I am much obliged to you for giving space to my inquiries respecting Andalusian fowls, and I am in hopes more light may be thrown on the subject by the observations and experience of others.

This only will I say, that I feel confident I could breed, in the manner I described, a pen of birds, which, if they did not take a prize, would at least deceive the keenest judge. And now will you let me record a few crotchets and whims of my own? First, as regards poultry shows, whose "season" will soon again commence! Others have so ably treated on the necessity of sending the birds back immediately after the close, that I will but give examples of the system to be followed, and of that to be avoided. I am 190 miles distant from Birmingham, and yet, the show closing on Friday, I received my birds, to my great delight, on Sunday morning. Now mark the contrast. I am only 85 miles from Baker-street, where the show also closed on a Friday; yet from here

I did not receive my birds till Tuesday morning, after an absence of ten clear days! And this leads me to another point. I would suggest to the various committees, that all the pens of white fowls should have *sawdust* and not *red sand*. I can assure you, that from the last show my white fowls arrived in so filthy a condition (and they were the same while at the show), that as a stranger I would not have given as many shillings as I valued them at pounds. This would not cause, I think, either much trouble or expense, and it being quite impossible to keep the pens thoroughly dry and free from dirt, no extra ingredients for the latter should be provided, as exhibitors have a right to call for attention to the appearance of their birds, particularly after the anxious care, the soap and water, and even the dryings before the drawing room fire, which have been often bestowed on the "pets!" Last year three cocks of mine came home denuded of their long tail feathers, and I have heard it whispered (it is fortunate I write anonymously!) that fair ladies are accessories after the fact! But seriously, I have been told that rascally attendants will often pull them out to sell to shops for ladies' bonnets. "Can such things be?" Anyhow, it should be seen to.

A. B. sends some pets to a show 50 miles off, and cannot attend himself. He must wait a week, perhaps, before you will tell him if he has been successful. Would it be asking too much, that when prize and commended birds are being sent off, the cards from their pens should be slipped into their basket? [Attached to their baskets would be better; the fowls would destroy them if they were put in.—Ed.] It would, at least, give great satisfaction to many an anxious "maniac." One word more, and I have done,—Dear friends who correspond about fowls, will you write your addresses plainly? I may be a blunderer, I will not say you nay; but I have been obliged to cut off the address and paste it on an envelope, from sheer inability to decipher it! How to apolo-

gize for my prolixity, Mr. Editor, I know not; but, throwing myself on your generosity, I am yours most truly,

F. B.

SOFT FOOD AND COCHINS.

MR. EDITOR,—I beg to record my vote by the side of "E. H.'s," in favour of feeding fowls at shows on soft food in preference to hard corn. "Alector," (page 103) says that he has always found soft food causes a great deal of the sand or sawdust, with which the pens are strewed, to be swallowed by the birds. Now I think your readers will agree with me, that sawdust is the worst thing you can put in a pen; if dry, it causes the birds to sneeze, and if damp, it generally has a resinous smell, neither pleasant nor wholesome. We all know that when at liberty, fowls constantly pick up little pieces of gravel and stones to assist, what Mr. Wingfield aptly calls the "Mill-like motion of the gizzard," and it is fair to suppose that the fragments of gravel or sand (*not sawdust*), swallowed by the birds with their food at the shows, would have the same beneficial effect. I do not think, as far as my experience goes, that bruised corn is so good for fowls as meal; as often, in bruising, some of the flour of the corn is lost. I cordially agree with "Alector" when he says, "Let the birds have plenty of green food daily."

When giving prizes to Cochin fowls, I think it should be born in mind, that the premiums are intended for the birds that approach nearest to the standard of perfection for Cochins as received in England, and not for those that possess qualities which are not characteristics of the breed, and I do not think any one will call a full breast a point of a good Cochin, although, for utility's sake, it may be desirable. If the Cochin is to be made a table bird, it must be done by a cross, and to get birds possessing the required qualities for the

spit (as we have them in the Dorkings), let prizes also be awarded the birds with the fullest breasts, but not as the best Cochins on that account. CYMON.

PURCHASED EGGS.

YOUR correspondent "Zenas," in your last publication, seems to give a very sweeping condemnation to the necessitous practice of purchasing eggs, and I feel the public ought not to be deceived in a matter of so much importance to the general distribution of first-rate poultry. I have myself purchased and exchanged eggs, many of which have not hatched, and in one case, the whole sitting failed; but I am confident these failures did not result from any wish to impose. It is a well-known fact that very early eggs, set even at home with the greatest care and attention, cannot always be relied on, and casualties are more likely to arise when transmitted by railway or other conveyance. Every amateur can vouch for this, who bred to any extent at the commencement of 1853, which, to a great degree, may be attributed to the inclemency of that season; but my experience of the present year has been much more favourable.

It is my invariable rule to replace eggs (without extra charge) supplied to amateur purchasers, and which have proved at the period of hatching to have been addled, and I am happy to say that this plan is most likely to prevent any deception on the part of vendors, such as your correspondent "Zenas" complains of.

I have no reason to regret having adopted this course, for on referring to my book of this season, showing upwards of one thousand eggs despatched, I have not had, as yet, to replace a *tenth of that number*.

As honesty of purpose requires no anonymous signature, I beg to subscribe myself your obedient servant,

JOHN FAIRLIE.

Cheveley Park, Newmarket,
3rd April, 1854.

BOUGHT EGGS.

SIR,—Your correspondent, "Zenas," is not, I fear, the only person who has been victimized in the purchase of eggs, and unless a greater amount of discretion is observed, similar complaints will frequently be made. As regards the impurity of the brood hatched, I imagine an account of it may be taken in this way. Some person is very anxious to raise poultry, and forgetful of his want of space, he crams three or four descriptions of fowls into a back yard, or garden, where there is not sufficient room for one; he divides them as well as he can, and that is in a very imperfect way. Hence arise feathered-legged Spanish, and rose-combed Cochins, &c. Unless in cases where the purchaser is satisfied that the advertiser is possessed of ample and secure accommodation for the different sorts, the eggs of which he offers to the public, I should be disposed to confine my transactions to those who possess only one description of fowl, as, in the majority of instances, those persons are real amateurs, and *what they do, they do well*. With reference to those parties who treat the public to "the greatest rubbish they can find," I have only to express my pity that the "fancy" should fall into such hands, and my unqualified disgust at their proceedings.—Yours, most respectfully, H. W.

ON PURCHASED EGGS.

MR. EDITOR,—Having read the letter of "Zenas" on the subject of "Bought eggs," and being struck with the remarkable coincidence between his experience and mine in that line, until lately; if you can afford me a corner for my remarks, they may convey a hint useful to future purchasers of eggs.

Last year, I purchased one sitting of white, and three of were-to-have-been buff Cochin eggs, at a cost of about £7, carriage included; the produce of which was—not

one white chick, or any chick whatever, from the white eggs, and one buff and three partridge-feathered from the buff ones. The buff chick turned out a decent bird, worth about £1—it was so small, though beautifully plumaged and shaped. This was paying dearly “for a whistle,” thought I, not to mention the disappointment. However, I said to myself, “No more bought eggs for me. I will not be taken in twice.” I did not conclude with “Zenas,” that “rascality” was a term applicable to egg-sellers; but that travelled eggs, trusted to the tender mercies of railway porters, were likely to be unproductive, and on them I fathered the cause of my disappointments; but a little more experience induces me to believe “Zenas” is nearer the truth than I was. This year, I, like him, became infected with the Brahma mania, and being disappointed in a pair of birds I purchased at a long price, my former resolutions vanished into thin air, and I became an egg-buyer once more. I bought a dozen of a person I know to be a gentleman, and a dozen and a half of a stranger—a vaunting advertiser. Both batches reached me on the same day. I had three hens ready to sit then, and they were set the same day, each hen having ten eggs a-piece, and an equal number of eggs from each batch, viz., four from one, and six from the other. Now mark the issue. Each egg of the gentleman contained a chick, and I had eight living; the hen set her foot upon one, and killed it, so that I have only seven left. From the stranger’s jegg I had four chicks, one apparently a good one, the other three have not a feather on their legs; fourteen of his eggs were decidedly rotten, two of them exploded like pistols before the process of incubation of the sound ones was completed. I may add, the twelve eggs travelled across the country double the distance the eighteen travelled in a direct line. The lesson I learn from this is, never to buy eggs from persons I know no more of than what appears in advertisements; to be especially on my guard against those whose

names are unknown, and who have to make use of the names of others to recommend their trash to public notice; for I am quite satisfied there is rascality practised by many egg-sellers.—I remain, sir, yours, &c. FAIRPLAY.

P. S.—I may mention that, about six weeks ago, I went, in consequence of an advertisement, sixty miles to endeavour to purchase two or three fowls. Arrived at my destination, I was shown into a yard where there were buff and white Cochins, black Spanish, and Hamburgs, cocks and hens and pullets, all running together in wild confusion, and yet the owner was advertising both fowls and eggs for sale weekly. I have reason, however, for thinking the owner did not know he was imposing on the public, for on my saying, “Well, these hens and pullets are ruined, for this season at least;” the answer was, “Oh! no, sir; the hens are not put to yet.” Of course, I did not make a purchase there. In all such cases, wherein the “*Auri sacra fames*” supersedes all respect for character and honesty, a purchaser must be imposed upon; therefore “*Caveat emptor.*”

THOSE BRAHMAS!!

SIR,—I am a quiet bird, and of easy temper, but really, reading the letters in your journal from the lovers of “Brahmas” as they are called, will make even a Cochin angry,—“Comparisons are odious.” Now, these gentlemen, and particularly one Mr. Jones, not satisfied with singing the praises of their favourites, are always contrasting them with my brethren and finding fault with us.

My master (who, I can tell you, has quite as good an opinion of me as I have of myself) has placed my wives and myself in a pen between two sets of Brahmas; on one side is a fellow with a pea comb, on the other, a gentleman with a single comb like my own. The latter I immediately made friends with, as I knew from his

general appearance (although he has the misfortune not to have my golden plumage) that he was a brother, and what Mr. Jones would call his "hoarse, sepulchral, prolonged roar," is *idem sonans* with my own. But I look upon the pea-combed individual as an undoubted imposter, a sort of horse marine. I can see a touch of the Malay pirate in him; he never looks straightforward at one, but turns his head over his shoulder just as I have seen those rascals do at the exhibitions.

My pea-combed neighbour has just the kind of voice Mr. Jones talks of; it is certainly shrill and brisk, but I say, if he admires such noise, he has no ear for music.

My chief object in writing is, to say I claim the straight-combed so-called Brahma Pootras as brethren in the same way as I do the black and the white Cochins, and any glory they may get are only family honours, and I am entitled to share in them. But the pea-combed fellows I consider only mongrels, and those who are trying to persuade the public otherwise, are coming the thimble-rig in a new way.—Yours,

BUFF COCHIN.

[As you do not appear to be a bird of sufficient merit to have received a name, you must really (in strict confidence) enclose us your master's card, and we shall consider that quite a guarantee for the excellent character which you give yourself. If you are an imported bird, pray tell us whether you have been in the habit of seeing Brahmas in China; for such information from *one who has been in the country* would be satisfactory to many an anxious British amateur. If you are of the same family as the Brahmas, pray tell us, Mr. B. C., why you differ so much from them in one point,—their chickens, as far as our experience goes, follow the parents in colour, while those from you and your wives *will* vary, however carefully bred. One word about the pea-comb and we have done. It is such a distinctive point, that if it does not belong to the Brahmas, where did they get it? It is

not Malay-like, and in this, as in colour, we find the chickens follow the parent to a certainty. Pea-combed parents produce pea-combed chicks, and with one pea-combed parent only, the pea-combed chicks will be more in number than those with single comb. Pray watch your neighbours' chickens, for these interloping strangers ought to be well watched; tell us if we are not right, and oblige a firm friend to the Cochins,—THE ED.]

NOTES ON PAST NUMBERS,—*continued.*

THE "variation in chickens' food," at p. 62, is good. Here is another. Beat up a raw egg well, and very gradually mix with it as much meal of any kind as it will absorb; I consider buckwheat meal the best, which may be occasionally changed for some other. When thoroughly incorporated, place the mixture in a soup-plate over a boiling saucepan for a few minutes, so as to *set* the materials, as a mason would say, and the result will be a coarse *omelet*, which the chicks will think very fine if given to them well chopped up. An addition of various kinds of garden-stuff shredded up small will cause a further change of diet. The *omelet*, before being cooked, should be somewhere about the consistency of paste. It has sometimes occurred to me, that the same materials mixed in different proportions might be given in a raw state, with the help of a druggist's pill-making machine of the smallest calibre. Pellets so composed, and of the size of an ant's egg, might be no inefficient substitute for that essential to a young pheasant's prosperity.

"W. W.," p. 67, says "that a genuine honorary secretary of a poultry show is as rare as a Brahma Pootra." Not quite, say I, for I have known at least one specimen of the former *genus*, but have not yet seen or even heard of a single bird imported into this country from the banks of the aforesaid stream, the very existence of which I begin to question. I do not profess

to be learned in Indian geography, but whilst I cannot recall to mind any river named Brahma Pootra, I do think that I have met with one known as Burrapooter. Is one the Yankee corruption of the other?

Again, I would ask in what part of British India is a named river to be found flowing through a country sufficiently cold to produce birds that shall be hardy enough to treat our winters with indifference. Had the origin of this breed been deduced from the Himalaya mountains or Mahabuleswar hills, their claims to hardiness could be as readily understood by me as if they sprang from regions bordering on the Hudson or St. Lawrence.

Once more, and I have done with my doubts upon the subject. At p. 114, we find that the Americans themselves (as in the case of the Aztec children, last year) are either unwilling or unable to give a clear account of the introduction of these birds into that country. "A single pair was brought by accident to America by some sailors in the Indian ships," who, of course, did not go very far up the country. These anonymous sailors sold them to a person whose name "does not transpire" (how like the Aztec dodge), from whom they came into the possession of a "New York mechanic named Chamberlain," who started them into notoriety, if not existence.

Now I do not mean to question the merits of these birds, but their origin and their claims to be considered a distinct variety. That a new breed may be created by care, and perseverance, and time, Sir J. Sebright has proved; but he never attempted to deceive the public by the assertion that his bantams came from the Sandwich islands or Timbuctoo. For my part, I am quite convinced that I could create a new variety myself, and could I hope to make them acceptable to the poultry fancy without the aid of fiction, I would lose no time in carrying out the scheme. As it is, I have a distinct recollection of having read (not long before the announcement of the Brahma

Pootra discovery) of some American prize fowls, which were at the time stated to be bred somewhat as follows, viz., eight-sixteenths Cochin China, six ditto Dorking, and two ditto Malay. I thought then that it was an odd way of doing things, and I have since wondered whether these very prize birds might not be ancestors of the Brahma Pootras. As I have observed in a previous number, the question is easily solved. After having discovered the whereabouts of this river, which I suspect to be a second "fabulosus Hydaspes" (and if accessible to American sailors, it must be doubly so to English), let one solitary pair be procured and brought home,—

When they arrive on England's shores,
May I be there to see.

ALLECTOR.

P.S.—I have never heard of any other imported birds, beyond the pair originally introduced into America. How has the want of fresh blood been supplied, and how must we account for the numerous variations in the plumage, &c., of the specimens we possess? The first pair that I ever saw were strongly marked with a red brown, like a Malay, and yet they were reared from imported birds by one of our leading amateurs.

HENS EATING THEIR EGGS.

SIR.—In answer to your correspondent, "A. B. C.," as cure for hens eating eggs, the most successful is placing eggs in the nest, three or four, made of glass, either opal or alabaster colour, the latter preferred, being a good imitation. They peck until they consider it useless trying them. Price I gave, 4s. per dozen.—Yours, truly,
D. E. F.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE scarcity of good poultry continues, and the price consequently augments. Friday's market was almost unparalleled, as it is hardly a figure of speech to say there was nothing for sale.

Such of our readers as now have really young and good poultry for sale, cannot do better than send it up. They will not realize the prices given below; but they cannot fail to have returns that will give them the highest satisfaction. It should be sent to Leadenhall market.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fowls | 5s. 6d. to 7s. 0d. each. |
| Chickens | 4s. 3d. to 5s. 0d. " |
| Geese | 8s. 0d. to 8s. 6d. " |
| Ducklings | 7s. 0d. to 7s. 6d. " |
| Pigeons | 0s. 10d. to 1s. 0d. " |
| Rabbits | 1s. 6d. " |
| Guinea Fowls | 3s. 6d. to 4s. 0d. " |
| Plovers' eggs in the bulk, | 3s. 6d. to 4s. " |

To Correspondents.

To *E. E., Leeds*.—We are much obliged by our correspondent's kindness in sending an early impression of the Schedule of the Ripon meeting, and also for the other information contained in his note.

To *Alector*.—Our correspondent, "Edward," writes, "I cheerfully accede to 'Alector's' wish, and allow my name to be given at once. I am always most punctiliously careful as to the exactitude of any anecdotal matter I forward to the 'Poultry Chronicle.'"

G. S., Queenstown, Ireland.—We shall be much obliged if G. S. will send us a more exact address, for as his letter has been returned, we fear he does not receive his numbers.

Henricus.—As the colour of Dorkings is not specified in the schedule of the Royal Agricultural Society's meeting, no doubt either white or coloured may be shown in the class, care being taken, for that as for other shows, to let the birds in a pen match well. The classes are "Dorking fowls," without specifying colour (see extracts from the schedule, "Poultry Chronicle," p. 93). Especial weight is given to *usefulness* by this society. Our correspondent wishes to know if any of our friends "can inform him if there is any way by which white fowls can be cleaned without damage to the feathers, or danger to the fowls." We know that some amateurs wash their fowls, but we think a good run in grass much better. No doubt some of our correspondents will favour us with their experience and opinion. We are much obliged to "Henricus," both for his good wishes and flattering opinion.

F. B. will be much obliged to any person who can mention a cure for gapes. He writes, "it is very much about here, and I should like to be forearmed, in case my chickens are attacked."

To *F. B.*—We are much obliged to F. B. for his communication, which, however, was no secret to us previously.

W. W. on Brahmas, and *A. J. H.* on the black Spanish fowl, next week.

A. J. H. inquires "the best plan of cooping a hen and chicks in a meadow to which the farm-yard fowls have free access, so that the chicks may have a run, and be fed separately from the other fowls. Should the hen range freely in the enclosure for the chickens, or be cooped in the usual way?" If the chickens' enclosure is small, the hen may be at liberty; but if she has too much license, she will tire out the chicks by continually wandering about. Some of the best breeders in the country coop the hen in a box-coop, with open bars in front, which must never remain on the same spot long enough for the earth to get foul. Where the chickens run in a meadow with the old fowls, a large coop, to which the chicks may resort and feed when they like, has been found useful. The bars should be so far apart as to admit the chickens; but keep out the old fowls, and the coop should be *very large*, so that the old fowls (who will be jealous of the chickens' privileges) cannot reach and peck them while they feed. Perhaps it is as good a plan as any to coop the hen for part of the day, and give her her liberty for the remainder.

To *A. B.*—"C. D.," wishes to know if "A. B." has treated his rats with coal tar. "Give them a dose of hot tar down the hole every time they make a fresh one; keep it up—give the rascals no peace of their lives for the tar, and in time they will get sick of the continued warfare."

To *A Buff Cochin*.—If "A Buff Cochin" has had an opportunity of watching his two next-door neighbours for an entire season, will he kindly inform "An anxious Brooder" whether Brahma cocks are as kind to the chickens as the Cochin China cocks are? and whether it would be safe to let the broods of young Brahmas run with the parent birds.

To *Game Cock*.—We are exceedingly obliged for the letter, and the information contained in it. Early information relating to the poultry shows is at all times *very valuable*.

Amicus Galli's request for information as to "the most approved plan for making a turkey coop" came to hand only just in time to allow of our placing it before our readers. It will be answered next week.

D. B.—We shall be *much pleased* to hear from our correspondent again, and regret exceedingly that we cannot find room for his letter this week.

Advertisements.

THE HORTICULTURAL JOURNAL, and FARM and GARDEN ADVERTISER. (Garden Department by Mr. GLENNY.) A Weekly Chronicle of Rural Affairs, Art, Science, Literature, and Amusement. No. 1 on Saturday, April 15th, Price 2d.; Stamped, 3d.—Communications and Advertisements to F. DILLON, at the Publishing Office, 14, York-street, Covent-Garden.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, near Haverhill, Suffolk, disposes of Eggs from his Buff, and also from his original Partridge-coloured, Birds, price 1s. each, and 1s. for package.—Applications for either variety will be supplied in the order received.

PRIZE WHITE COCHINS, BUFF COCHINS, and EGGS for Sale.—A handsome "Peters" Cock, yellow and heavy-feathered legs. A "Winchester" Prize Hen, yellow and well-feathered legs, £5. 5s. the pair; or with a fine ditto "Allen" Hen, £6. 6s.—a good match to exhibit. A short-legged, well-feathered, clear, Buff Cock, deep breast, a son of Mr. Andrews's "Nankin," £2. 2s. A clear-necked Buff Cock, well feathered, son of a First Prize Andrews's Cock, £1. A few first-class Hens. Eggs from the above.—Whites, 1s. 6d. each; Buffs (clear-necked), 1s. each; Aylesbury Ducks' Eggs, 5s. a dozen.—Apply, prepaid, to Mr. R. GRIGGS, Marchwood, near Southampton.

EGGS FROM SILVER HAMBURG FOWLS
—PRIZE BIRDS.

THOMAS McCANN can supply EGGS from the best of his Silver-pencilled and Silver-spangled Hamburg Fowls, which have taken prizes at Birmingham, Metropolitan, and several other Shows. Price, 10s. 6d. per dozen, including packing. Eggs forwarded on receipt of post-office orders in the order in which they are applied for.—**THOMAS McCANN**, Graham House, Malvern.

WHITE COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—A Cockerel and Six Pullets, in full lay, for Sale at a very moderate price, or exchanged for Golden-pencilled Hamburg, or Blue Andalusian, Pullets, or Sebright Bantams. A Ptarmigan Cockerel for Sale.—Address T. P., Middleton Stoney, near Bicester.

EGGS.—AN AMATEUR having had many applications for Eggs and the prices of Sitings, will dispose of a few from birds of a superior description. Brahma Pootra Eggs, from birds recently imported from America, £3. 3s. per doz. Buff and White Cochin ditto, from H. Gilbert, Esq.'s stock and prize birds, 15s. per dozen. Silver-pencilled Hamburg ditto, from birds whose produce have taken prizes wherever exhibited, 10s. per dozen. And one or two Sitings of Golden-pencilled Hamburg ditto, 10s. a dozen. Packages, 1s. The Eggs will be sent off according to the dates of orders received.—To be sold, a Brahma Pootra Cockerel, about 10 months old, of Dr. Gwynne's strain,—a beautiful bird.—Address MISS WALKER, Clipston, Northampton.

PTARMIGANS for SALE.—Two Fine Pairs of these beautiful Fowls, bred from the Original Birds. Age, 10 months. Both Pullets are prize and commended birds. Price per pair, £8.—Apply to F. BERNAL, Esq., Fareham, Hants.

SPANISH and DORKING FOWLS.—Capt. Hornby having transferred his whole Stock of celebrated Poultry to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, of Spring Grove, Hounslow, a portion (for want of space) is for immediate Sale.

IMPORTED BRAHMA POOTRAS.—A limited number, which have been selected with care from the best in America, for Sale.—Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.—N.B. A few EGGS to spare, from first-class birds.

COCHIN CHINA and DORKING EGGS for Sale, now and during the season.—The Cochin, clear and heavily feathered, or good buff; Surgeon Hens and Cocks, from the stock of Mr. John Harrison, Snelston-hall, Ashburn, Derbyshire;—hens about 9lbs., cocks between 12 lbs. and 13 lbs. The Dorkings are of the dark grey and dark mottled breed;—hens 8lbs., cocks up to 9lbs. Dorking, 10s. the hatch; Cochin, £1. All prize and commended birds.—Address **WILLIAM COPPLE**, Eccleston, near Prescott, Lancashire.

GOLDEN-PENCILLED HAMBURG FOWLS.—The owner of Pen 1256, the First Prize at the last Birmingham Show, has a few Sitings of Eggs to dispose of from those birds. Also, a few Pullets and Cockerels.—Apply Mr. THOS. SHEPPARD, Saint Mary, Bedford.

FANCY POULTRY.—PERIODICAL SALE.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will **SELL** by **AUCTION** at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on **TUESDAY**, 18th April, at 12 o'clock precisely—a Choice Selection of **WHITE COCHINS**, from the yard of G. H. Preston, Esq., of Great Yarmouth. Fine Buff Birds from T. Shackell, Esq., of Hayes. Some first-class White, Golden, and Silver Polands, from W. G. Vivian, Esq., of Singleton. A few Brahmas, and other fancy varieties.—Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent-garden.

COCHIN CHINA POULTRY, &c.—Eggs from Prize Birds.—In reply to the very urgent applications from numerous amateurs, Mr. JOHN FAIRLIE, of Cheverley-park, Newmarket, is now prepared to dispose of a limited number of EGGS, from his celebrated prize Cochins, Brahma Pootras, Scotch Bokies, Dorkings, &c., according to the dates of the orders received.

DUFF COCHIN CHINA EGGS for SALE, from birds that have taken prizes at the Derby, East Kent, Bristol, Taunton, and Yeovil Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen. Also Partridge Cochins China Eggs from birds that have taken prizes at London Summer Meeting, Surrey Gardens' Show in August, Malvern, Yeovil, Honiton, and Torquay Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen.

Apply to **JOHN R. RODBARD**, Aldwick-Court, Wrington, near Bristol.

EGGS for **SITTING**.—**AN AMATEUR** will dispose of a few Sittings of Eggs from Speckled Dorkings, the produce of prize birds at Cheltenham and Metropolitan Shows; Brown-breasted Game, prize birds at Birmingham, each at 7s. 6d. the sitting of thirteen; pure bred Aylesbury Ducks' Eggs, at 5s. the sitting.—Apply to **W. DINGLEY**, Sand-fields, Charlton, Pembore, Worcestershire.

PRIZE FOWLS.—**EGGS** from White Silk Cochins, which have taken four first-class Prizes, including one at the Great Metropolitan Show, 12s. the dozen. A few first-class Buff Cochins, 7s. 6d. to 12s. each, chickens of birds which took three Prizes; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. White-faced Spanish (chickens of prize birds), 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. each; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. Brahma Pootra Eggs, from birds which took a First Prize, £2. 2s. per dozen. One pair of Brahmas (First Prize Birds) for Sale, price £15. 15s.—Apply to **Mr. JAMES BARBER**, Great Yarmouth.

EGGS from **CAPT. HORNBY**'s celebrated Spanish and Dorking Prize Fowls may be had on application to **Mr. H. D. DAVIES**, Spring Grove, Hounslow, to whom Capt. Hornby has transferred his whole stock.

Spanish £4. 4s. per dozen.
Dorking £3. 3s. „

Remittances to be made by post-office order, and to include 2s. for packing.

EGGS from **FIRST CLASS** and **PRIZE BIRDS**.—**JOHN BAILY** has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochins of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

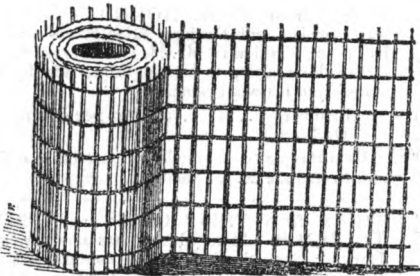
Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

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SILVER-PENCILLED COCK (Hamburg). The Advertiser is desirous of exchanging his Silver-pencilled Cock, that took the First Prize at the late Winter Surrey Zoological Show, for another equally good. He is about twenty-one months old, has a nice rose comb, well piked behind, white ear-lobe, quite clear hackle and breast, no chesnut on the wings; his sickle-feathers are all edged with silver, and his legs coloured. He is in perfect health, and the only reason for parting with him is his being related to all the Advertiser's pullets.—Apply to **B. P. BRENT**, Bessell's-green, Sevenoaks, where the fowl may be seen; or a few feathers from the bird's sisters will be forwarded to show their marking, if required.

EGGS from **PRIZE POULTRY**.—Eggs may be had during the season from pure Black Cochins, that obtained Second Prize at Great Metropolitan, 1s. each. From White ditto, bred from birds that took First Prize at Birmingham, 1s. each. White Dorkings, that took First Prize at Surrey Gardens, 1s. each. Brahma Pootras, imported Hens, and a Cock from the Royal Aviary, 2s. 6d. each. All Eggs warranted. For Sale, a White China Cock and Three Pullets, a Black China Cock, all well feathered.—Apply, where the birds may be seen on any day, to **F. PAINTER**, 40, Poole-street, New North-road, Hoxton.



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PATENT WIRE FENCING,**
strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c.,
and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits,
Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot.

Ordinary Wire Netting, from 2½d. per
yard, 2 feet wide.

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Agricultural Implement Manufacturers,
Swan-lane, Upper Thames-street,
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POULTRY, PIGEONS, and RABBITS.—
A few very good Buff Cochins, Silver-pen-
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Polands with White Crests, and Rouen Ducks.
Some excellent Carriers, Almond Tumblers,
Owls, Turbits, Jacobins, Runts, Nuns, Helmets,
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Also, a few Prize Rabbits.—Apply, by letter, to
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generally, to equalise the temperature.

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TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Pre-
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Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards
wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100
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from frost, blight, and birds, two yards wide 5d.
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one yard wide, 1½d. per yard; two yards wide,
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per yard; four or six yards wide, 3d. per yard.
Elastic hexagon garden net, or scrim canvas,
4½d. per square yard. Cocoa-nut fibre, or hemp
sheep-folding net, of superior quality, four feet
high, 4d. to 6d. per yard. Rabbit net, four feet
wide, 1½d.; six feet wide, 2½d.; eight feet, 3d.
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stout cord, 3d. to 4d. per square yard; this is
the best article made for fencing against fowls,
cats, &c.—At **W. CULLINGFORD'S,** No. 1, Ed-
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Twelve o'clock on Monday.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 8.]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

Poultry Shows.

Royal Dublin Society's Spring Show, April 18, and three following days. Assistant Secretary, W. E. Steel, Esq., M.B. Entries are closed.

Hexham Poultry Show, in the Abbey Grounds. Second Annual Exhibition, Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th of May. Secretary, W. Turner, Esq., Hencotes, Hexham. Entries close May 6.

Devon and Exeter Botanical and Horticultural Society, at Exeter, in conjunction with the Society's Spring Horticultural Exhibition, May 18th and 19th. Hon. Secretary, T. W. Gray, Esq., 22, Cathedral-yard, Exeter. Entries close May 2nd.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries close May 10th.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries close June 1st.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th

of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close Saturday, November 11th.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

A FORTNIGHT back we spoke of the valuable—we might almost say the invaluable—assistance which the railway authorities are able to give to poultry exhibitions, not only by favour respecting the charges for conveying the hampers to and from the place of meeting, but also in their *prompt* transmission and delivery. It is a benefit the value of which it would be difficult to compute, as it not only offers convenience to exhibitors, but positively increases their number.

A favour towards a numerous class is seldom asked in vain at the hand of a large and liberal body; and so it is with the railways and the poultry shows, one instance of which will have been noticed by our readers in the column of "Chit-Chat" last week.

But as we hope for assistance from the railways, especially that which relates to *dispatch* and punctuality, those among us who, from being exhibitors, claim this aid, must bear in mind that we also have a part to perform. Complaints of railway officials are rife; but may not delay, mistakes, and mischances, be sometimes attri-

butable to a direction devoid of clearness and precision? The advantage often kindly offered by railway companies, of carrying the birds for a diminished charge, or of conveying them both ways for a single fare, must bring to railway officials an accession of occupation which should be met by the recipients of the benefit, by scrupulously avoiding to throw impediments in the way of that prompt despatch which forms so important an item in the transmission of live stock.

The form and *portability* of the baskets in which the fowls are packed, is also a subject which should receive full consideration.

Brahma Pootras.

It is really very amusing to see with what avidity the breeders of Brahmas seize upon every opportunity of thrusting their favourites before the public notice, and with what eagerness Mr. Jones attacks my simile about first-rate working honorary secretaries being "as scarce as a genuine Brahma Pootra," and with something like a crow of defiance, proclaims himself "*defensor fidei*" of all the Brahmas, for he coolly accuses me of aspersing the fair fame of all the Brahma tribe, whereas I put the case in the singular, drawing the comparison because they are a very scarce variety of poultry, and not at all intending to impugn the purity of the whole race. I begin, however, to suspect that "something" must be wrong, for it is said that those who have a slight stain on their legitimacy are frequently most vehement in upholding the merits of a long line of ancestors, and boasting of their connection thereto; at any rate, it is hardly permissible to ask about the family origin of these incomparable Brahmas; for their friends (constantly boasting of them) are like the

Irishman at Donnybrook, dragging his coat trailing behind him, inviting his friends to do him the honour of treading on it, to give him an excuse for whacking somebody with his shillalagh, ever ready to pounce upon any one who dares to risk an inquiry on their high caste, which we all know is of vital importance in the East.

Mr. Jones takes it for granted that I, like others, am crying "sour grapes," and proceeds to give a very brilliant description of his pet Brahmas. Now I confess that I do not keep them, but have had many opportunities of inspecting them very closely in the best stocks, and must say that before I introduce them as a distinct variety of poultry into my yard, I must know, from competent judges, what are the real points of a genuine Brahma; are they to have single combs, or pea combs, or semi-double, or are they to be allowed to wear what they like best? I have always heard that like breeds like, and this, at present, Brahmas do not, so far as concerns their combs. A pair of mature Brahmas, belonging to one of the principal breeders, was exhibited at Birmingham with fine single combs; a pen of their progeny, part with pea and part with single combs, was alongside them; adjoining these was another pen bred from the same birds, and I understand considered inferior by the breeder, but with pea combs, and this pen carried off the prize. The breeder is an undoubted good judge; but, whilst judges differ, how shall the public decide? for if the chickens with pea combs are correct, then the stock they came from was faulty; if the old stock with single combs is correct, then the judges are wrong.

A great attempt is now being made to puff off Brahmas; but it won't do, unless the poultry world can be convinced that the birds with pea combs will cast chickens similarly adorned; or, *vice versa*, if single combs are correct, they must adhere to them, and as yet, I believe this has not been clearly ascertained.

The very developments that Mr. Jones

boasts of are most strongly shown in a cross of the Shanghae with the Dorking or the Malay,—the full breast, the hardier chicks, and the crow, are all demonstrative of this, and I must admit that the full breast of the Brahma does predestinate it more fit for the roast than the Shanghae. I am quite ready to admit that the poultry now known as Brahma Pootras are a variety of the Shanghaes, and have the single comb, and ought to be called the grey Shanghaes ; but that they have also had a dash of some other blood in them, no one, I think, will deny, is demonstrated by the variable comb. W. W.

The Working Man's Home.

REDEEMING the promise made in our first number, that we should often refer to poultry, viewed as a valuable help to the cottager, we now proceed to point out the method by which, in our opinion, it may be made available for that purpose.

Few will say that the position of the agricultural labourer is a good one. He really lives from hand to mouth, and spite of all he can do in the way of honest labour, it is seldom his fate to save five pounds, and owe nothing in the world. Fresh meat is a thing unknown to him, and we have known children of such parents, ten years old, who have never tasted it.

These children grow up badly, too often because the mother has to work in the fields to eke out their scanty existence. The daughters take to the same work, or that of hop-picking in the season, and come back demoralized and dissatisfied. When the man returns at night, he finds no comfort ; his wife is, like himself, tired ; care stares him in the face, and he resorts to the ale-house, for, at least, a temporary relief from his troubles. As we believe he is more sinned against than sinning, we do not accuse him of excess ; but in the fascination of the company, and the consequent enjoyment, he often spends more than he can afford. This adds to the poverty at

home. Even where education is provided gratuitously, he cannot afford to send his children to school, because the boys must earn a trifle, be it only sixpence per week to frighten birds, and the elder girls must mind the younger ones. The over-wrought mother becomes fractious, and the home is uncomfortable for all ; they are glad to escape from it, while it should rather be their constant refuge.

We have nothing to do with wages, and we believe many employers pay as much as they can afford ; but we know that the labouring man in debt in his neighbourhood is from that time in the power of the shopkeeper, and obliged to deal with him on his own terms. This lessens the value of his wages to him. He cannot extricate himself, because he earns no more than his weekly consumption. Here, then, is a pitiful case ; an honest, industrious man, with an uncomfortable home, and a family growing up badly. The cure would seem to be, that his home should be more comfortable, that his wife should be able to superintend it, and that his children should be able to avail themselves of the instruction offered to them. To do this, more money must be earned, and the man already earns full wages, which are inadequate to carry out the improvement.

Cannot poultry do something for him ? We can already see the doubtful shakes of the head. We can hear the ejaculations of, " a few chickens will be of no use." But let us consider it. Poultry is not now what it was ten years ago. Like Briareus, it extends its hundred arms, and we would fain hope some of them will prove to have helping-hands for our needy brethren. There are shows almost everywhere, and wherever there are shows there are breeders anxious to secure success. Classes for cottagers are also springing up, and we anticipate much good from them. When these fail, there will always be a market for good poultry.

Before we enter on the consideration of the ways in which these may be made most profitable to the cottager, let us try to

see what sum will be a boon to him. At present his wages may be thirteen shillings per week, but we believe an average may be taken of ten. If a man have this sum, he cannot, after providing for a family, save anything out of it, and a debt of thirty shillings is a mill-stone round his neck. He cannot earn more; but if his wife can make, say only three pounds per year by her poultry, it adds rather more than one-ninth to his income. This is, to him, an immense increase. It will keep him out of debt, and it will help him in sickness or when out of work. Above all, it will keep his wife at home, his children will be better seen to, his home will be more comfortable, and he will look to it as his rest when his daily toil is over. Let us look more closely at the machinery by which this change is to be effected.

How often is the complaint heard from amateurs, that they are confined for room, that they are obliged to shut up their birds to keep them distinct; that they could do much better if they had more space. It is doubtless true. Here, then, we say, employ the cottager's wife and pay her well, you will find it profitable to do so. If you wish to exhibit at early shows in July or August, or even September, and to enter as a competitor in the chicken classes, you must hatch your chickens early, say in February. No one will do this so well as a cottager's wife, because she will allow them privileges that others, placed in easier circumstances, would refuse.

The setting hen will form an important member of the family, and her chickens will not only be tolerated, but they will be cared for. They will be allowed access to the fire in cold weather, they will share every meal with the children, and above all, they will be duly fed at day-break. The mode of remuneration would be either a fixed sum, independent of success in rearing or other events; or so much per head for every chicken that attains a certain age. Of course, no one will do this with fowls that are almost valueless when reared, but with those from which they

have good expectations. Let the remuneration be liberal, supply food, and make a stipulation that every egg-shell and every dead chicken shall be produced. We have been in the habit of paying three or four pence per week for every chicken. The cottager was bound to feed, but both from inclination and for our interest, we sent food when unable to go in person and have the pleasure of feeding them. When the fowls were very valuable, we willingly paid more. The best birds we ever had were reared in this way, and we have the satisfaction of knowing we helped, and do help, many poor families by it.

Next, there are exhibitions, and at many of them cottagers' classes. There are three societies now in process of formation in Ireland for the benefit of the peasantry, through the instrumentality of poultry. Let us not be behind. In almost every district there are now good fowls kept. Give to deserving and respectable cottagers settings of eggs at the same time. Then publish a prize-list of three or four money prizes for the best pen exhibited, the produce of the eggs; it will be attended with little expense, and may be added to a flower-show, an archery meeting, or any other occasion that calls society together. The good will not stop at the distribution of prizes, but most of the birds will be sold at prices that will rejoice their owners' hearts. Many a man will be relieved from a load of debt, many a household will be made happy by the produce of a setting of eggs. Such a show can be held in a tent or yard, and a small entrance fee will defray all expenses, or a moderate subscription among those who have the means will enable it to be free to every one. This would open cottagers' eyes to the benefit they may derive from the poultry movement, it would give hope, and it comes in a legitimate way, because it does not take the man from his work. On two occasions we have seen the working of what we advocate. We shall never forget the joy of an honest old labourer, who took a prize of thirty shillings for some bantams,

hatched from eggs given him by one of his master's daughters, and in addition sold them for three pounds. "Why, sir," he said to the purchaser, "this makes a man of me." Three volumes would not say more than that short sentence.

But when exhibitions and cottagers' prizes fail, there will always be a market for early young poultry, and at good prices. The labourer's wife can rear it, she will only want a little assistance from some of her wealthier neighbours. The gift of a few eggs, the loan of a few shillings, will do it. Let the kindly disposed, and there are many in every neighbourhood, help her first to get her fowls, next to sell them, and they will reap a rich reward in seeing the good they have done. How much better it is to prevent than to relieve poverty. We would not give a highly-coloured picture, we do not say that if cottagers keep poultry any Utopia will be realized, but we do say it may do much good. If only two families are benefited, is not that a result? Is not every man, in his circle, a missionary and example for good or evil? The success of one will be like the circles caused by throwing a stone in a pond, they extend and extend, till the whole surface is covered; and so will the example of the successful cottager be, till all are anxious to follow it. We know the favourite argument of some, that if cottagers are encouraged to keep poultry, they will pilfer food for it. This is a narrow, selfish, and unworthy argument. It needs only one answer; poverty never made a man honest, but easier circumstances (by removing temptation) have. We ask the co-operation of all friends of the poor in trying the plan we recommend. We freely offer the use of our columns for their inquiries, their recommendations, and later we hope to be the chroniclers of their success. We are, we confess, very sanguine. We have seen it useful on a small scale, and we know it has carried comfort where there was little before. Good men, and rich excellent landlords, are giving the poor better houses, and larger gardens. The clergy are

making noble efforts to educate their children; all are neutralized so long as the father remains in abject poverty. A system that would interfere with his labour would be at best but a negative benefit, he would lose one way what he would gain in another. But if the wife by poultry can gain more in a year than she and her children can by field labour, she will stay at home to the benefit and happiness of her family, and they will be able to avail themselves of the education offered to them. Let us not, then, be deterred by doubting men, but let us try.

SYLVANUS.

Prizes at Poultry Exhibitions.

Ought Dealers to be allowed to compete for them?

I AM fully aware that there are many parties who, in reply to the above query, would fain say:—"At a poultry exhibition, let all and any persons compete (who like to incur the expense of entering their fowls, whether dealers or otherwise); and then let the best birds have the prizes, for it is they, and they only, that are duly entitled to such honours."

To the conclusion of their remarks I give my fullest and most perfectly unqualified consent and approval: but to the former proposition I for one do most strongly object, as it not infrequently leads to results that, at the onset, were by no means anticipated.

I will state here, that no one more than myself would desire to see the "dealers in fancy poultry" reap all the possible advantages they could reasonably and justifiably wish at our exhibitions; but as these were instituted on purpose to improve the various breeds of fancy fowls, it was certainly the intent of the originators of such shows to hold out premiums for the breeders (and not the salesmen) of different varieties; however much the matter may have been unduly wrested from its pristine position by amateurs, who have rather made the

exhibition-room a place for stock disposal, than of emulative and honourable competition for the premiums offered by the committee—hence only it is that so many worse than indifferent pens of poultry add wondrously to the numbers, but very little to the interest of either the general public, the judges, or even the exhibitors themselves; from this cause, tediousness usurps the place of interest, and the committees are oftentimes somewhat dubiously complimented, rather on the great quantity of specimens than the general excellence of their poultry-show.

I am desirous that the first intention should be kept constantly in view, viz. "to give the prizes to *amateurs only*;" for should the opposite plan be adopted, it opens a wide range, first to some few of our principal dealers, who, were they desirous of attempting it, could foil the hopes of the whole amateur fraternity by literally "sweeping the deck" (or nearly so), and to some of the unprincipled portion it gives a great latitude for duplicity and wilful misrepresentation.

Now, I believe, among the "fancy poultry dealers" there are many who are as upright and honourable a set of tradesmen as could be wished for or desired; and on the other hand, I think there are few (if any) who may peruse these pages, who will have the temerity to avow the contrary to what I have yet to advance, viz., "that there are some few in this class, of whom, and likewise their mode of conducting their business, the less said is decidedly the better," as the exposure could not add credit to the assailed, or give the slightest pleasure to the writer.

It may again be mooted, "That it would be well to give dealers prizes exclusively for dealers." This, wherever yet attempted, has proved quite a failure, and almost universally the ultimate results have been as unexpected as they were unsatisfactory.

The prizes so offered have been chiefly competed for by those whose stocks and whose means were alike limited, and in most instances, too, with fowls "borrowed

expressly for the occasion." I myself know several committees, who, from the bickerings and backbitings openly resorted to on these occasions, "have determined never again, under any circumstances, to entertain the idea of dealers' prizes," considering the attempt equally adverse to the interests of the poultry exhibition, and their own personal desire for peaceful quietude, and the total absence of contention among their visitors.

Among the least extensive class of dealers are to be found men, who, without any native taste whatever for the employment in which they have engaged themselves, carry on a kind of "catch-livelihood" on the inexperienced and unwary, trusting to noisy abuse as a shield for any developed breach of faith, and to sheer impudence alone to carry them through a line of conduct which many (I trust of their fellows) by natural impulse would repudiate.

When parties so inclined come into collision, the probable (nay the inevitable) consequences I need not detail, and future experience would only add confirmation to that already "far too dearly paid for," in the past. These are the reasons assigned for the non-continuance of such prizes, by many who have given the matter a fair and unprejudiced trial, and possibly the few suggestions just made may prove somewhat useful to poultry committees, who are now "brooding" over the formation of the prize list to their first show, and who may be equally desirous to do all they can to escape annoyances to themselves, and also to enjoy the good opinions of their visitors.

It is well known, the outbreak of any feud during the time the public are present is sadly adverse to the prosperity of future shows, and also to the finances of the time being, while among the persons I have just described are many whose fixed purpose it is to cavil, if anything different to their pre-supposed views takes place, and to noisily support their own particular ideas, however unsubstantial and grossly preposterous.

If therefore admitted, it is well to restrict dealers to sales only, an inducement that will he found quite sufficient to bring forward full as many "dealers' pens," as poultry committees will find it convenient to accommodate, from the fact so universally admitted, that all poultry sell for the highest prices at the time when customers are a little elated with the excitement of the exhibition room.

What I have now written is by no means intended offensively to any one; but simply and solely, to guard the inexperienced committee from one of the numerous pit-falls that beset their first attempt, and I feel assured, that, to be permanently successful, the managers of poultry shows should by every means strive to render them "sunny spots" in the retrospect of the year, on which the mind looks back with pleasure—such as enlist the better feelings of our human nature, and then they need not entertain the slightest misgivings, as to the probable results of future endeavours.

E. C.

My Favourites.

HIDE your diminished heads, poor Cochins! No longer walk at your ease in leisurely self-possession, but waddle away and hide in obscurity; for you have formidable rivals now, and any one may see that,

As eager runs the market crowd,
When "Catch the thief!" resounds aloud,
so will the taste of the fancy go after the Brahmas. Those large, showy, beautiful fowls, which every one seems willing to take upon credit, are certainly capital specimens of the feathered race. If, as the spirited author of the "Pentalogue" hints, they are only the result of American invention, they have invented a very nice fowl. The Aztec children, which are mentioned as one of the trio of American inventions, I never saw (because I have a prejudice in favour of fine, well-grown specimens of the human race); wooden

nutmegs I never use (because I prefer the old-fashioned kind); but as to Brahma Pootras, if the Americans made them, I can only hope they will go to work again and make us something else.

But, to return to my favourites, "we praise the bridge which carries us safe over," and by the same rule I must praise the Cochins, because, after trying several sorts, I find them the best which I have had the opportunity of trying for the same length of time. As far as my own experience goes, I think them as good for the table as other fowls, and better layers, while for comfortable, domestic habits they are unapproachable.

As sitters and mothers, the docility and good temper of the hens render them invaluable. You may place two hens under one coop which is large enough for their comfort, and they will rear their broods in peace and amity. You may give a Cochins mother chickens older or younger than her own, and she will lift her wings to nestle them and her own little ones, *impartially*, among her downy feathers. You may beguile a hen which has shown an anxiety to sit (without being indulged with a donation of eggs), into fostering and rearing another hen's brood, and she is at the same time of such a happy temper, that if deprived of the chickens she will soon get reconciled, and lay in a fortnight. If the mother of chicks is allowed to run with her companions, she will commence laying in three weeks,—an invaluable productiveness when eggs are in demand; but if, on the other hand, it is thought more useful for her to address her energies to attending to her chickens, she will, if kept apart from the cock and other fowls, brood them for a much longer period.

It is an easy matter to catch or to coop a Cochins hen, while those of most kinds will dodge the pursuer for an hour. But I might enumerate their virtues in this capacity only of sitters and mothers, for a long time, and a volume could be filled with their other merits. Those who

have them will corroborate all I say about their docility, tameness, and tractability.

It has been advanced against them, that they are not good for the table. Tristram Shandy seems to think we can only gain for them a good breast by crossing them with some other kind. Now I believe it to be quite possible to keep the breed pure, and yet to improve it by giving much meat upon the breast.

When Cochin Chinas were newer among us, and their points more frequently discussed, one of the chief requirements, by some who might be reckoned excellent judges of these fowls, was depth of keel; now if the breast of a fowl is deep, the carver will acknowledge it must have *wide* slices upon it. Thus it is not the *size* of the slices from the breast of a Cochin fowl of which we have cause to complain, but it is having so few of them.

The task of the careful breeder, who is anxious to make these fowls more useful,—instead of more beautiful *only*—is, therefore, to give breadth and roundness where we already have depth enough to make them rival small Turkeys upon the table. This I argue might be done easily by choosing (and mating) full-breasted birds for a breeding stock, taking care at the same time to have birds which are delicate in the flesh; for, in this particular, different families of Cochins vary considerably.

As many good Cochins *are* good in fulness of breast, this seems most decidedly a point to be attended to by those persons who wish to make an improvement in useful fowls. E. W.

CAUTION TO JERSEY CHICKENS AND THEIR OWNERS.—A fox was on Tuesday last seen deliberately walking across the grounds of Mr. Charles De Ste. Croix, at the Coie, near St. Heliers, from whence a fowl had disappeared a few days previously. Another, or the same fox had before been seen at the back of Dourou Terrace.

Hints to Poultry Show Committees.

I TERMINATED my last budget of hints with a regulation which I urged all committees to add to their list, and as it is a novel one, it demands some extra observations.

The rule which I would add is, that "the sale office will not be opened until 12 o'clock on the first day of the show; and that no pens can be claimed until that hour."

I deem it the duty, and am sure it is the wish, of all poultry show committees to deal "fair and above board" with all, and in all, connected with their shows; and I am sure all will be equally anxious to act honourably, and not only remove the "probability," but even the "possibility" of their taking an undue advantage of their position and intimate acquaintance with the birds in the show. The common plan of opening the sale office at the same time as the entrance door enables those intimately acquainted with the contents of the show to at once forestal the market and claim all or any of the winning birds.

I know that there was very considerable grumbling at * * * * * last time. It was openly stated that certain parties went direct from the check-taker to the claiming office, and made a grand sweep. I do know this, that I was amongst the first six that went through the public entrance, and ran directly to a particular class of birds; I saw nobody in the same alley—was satisfied with a pen of birds, and went to claim them. My claim was made amongst the first six people that got in (the first two, by the bye, were in long enough to buy up all the birds in the place), and yet the pen had been previously claimed. I have stated plain facts; but even if I had drawn up such a statement as a supposititious case for argument's sake, it would be strong evidence against the present plan.

If the gentlemen of the committee of a poultry show are desirous of having the

pick of the birds, and consider themselves entitled to it, let them boldly state it in their regulations, "That the Committee intend to have the privilege of pre-claiming any pens of birds before the public are admitted." If they will do it openly, they may rely that there will be less grumbling than there is now, at the mere suspicion of it.

The Birmingham Committee appear to have felt the necessity of some declaration on this head, for they have a new regulation this year.

"No member of the society or of the council, or other person, will be admitted to Bingley Hall before the opening of the exhibition on Tuesday, December 12th, with the exception of those who are actually engaged in the arrangements within the building, and who have received admission cards signed by the chairman of the General Purposes Committee. Special cards of admission will also be forwarded to the judges, to be used on Monday, December 11th."

It will be urged that if the sale office were not opened until the visitors had had a fair chance of inspecting the stock, the crush at the first opening of the office would be terrific: I answer, it could not be worse than it was at Birmingham last year; and the satisfaction of having removed a suspicion, though perchance an unjust one, and therefore the more gratifying, and necessary to be removed, ought to counterbalance any other objection.

I am aware that I have included in the code of regulations some particulars that have hitherto been included in "The Instructions to Exhibitors," which are generally forwarded by the secretary with the direction cards to the exhibitors; but as these directions have generally arrived with the cards just when it was time for the birds to start for the show (indeed, I have known them to arrive after the birds had left home), I have deemed it more useful to embody them in the regulations.

I have occupied a very large space with the regulations, but I do not think any of

your readers will think me too prosy on them. The future well-doing of the show depends a good deal on the regulations being clear and concise, and especially, not unnecessary, and I have, therefore, dwelt upon them longer than may have been deemed necessary by those who have already had the management of a show; but we must remember that I am writing for those who have not yet entered upon that very active duty. W. W.

The Rouen Duck.

It is indisputably certain that the most *hardy* variety of duck is the Rouen; and from this cause it is that they are frequently kept with a degree of profit and success very rarely attained where other kinds are preferred.

The late winter having been one of unusual severity, has afforded any careful observer an opportunity of putting to the test the respective *hardihood* displayed by ALL the different kinds of domestic poultry; and I thought the *differences* thus shown would, perchance, in some instances be a very USEFUL "tell-tale for *future* beginners," therefore failed not on every possible occasion that came under my notice to jot down my experiences, for the united benefit of your subscribers and myself. My favourable opinion of the Rouen duck was greatly *strengthened* by such careful observations, and convinced me that of *all* kinds these are the most useful; and at the same time there are very few parties who will not freely admit that for beauty of plumage few (*if any*) excel them. They commence laying *sooner* in the spring than any other ducks, are infinitely more hardy than the Aylesbury (even where kept on the same farm), and indeed bear well trials from keen and inclement weather that would quickly destroy all hopes of *immediate* benefit from the more delicate breeds. This is by no means so unimportant an advantage as some persons at the first sight imagine; for although the unusual seve-

rity of the past winter prevented many persons in this neighbourhood having any eggs whatever from their ducks, and all the Aylesburys round about discontinued laying during the more intense portion of the late season, this variety both laid well, and also brought out their ducklings in due course, apparently *regardless of, and uninjured by*, the sore trials to which they were exposed. On this day (March 20th, 1854) I am not aware of any other variety in *this* surrounding district that can vie with some Rouens, as to the *early* maturity of their ducklings, for of three ducks two have now broods *nearly* equal in size to themselves, and are again laying; the third being sitting, and will hatch in a few days (the latter duck was herself produced *late* last season). It is obvious *these* ducklings have not had the best time for growth and improvement, still they appear very hearty and well-doing; and even had their owner been compelled to dispose of them for killing purposes *only*, the difference in their value thus early in the season (and consequently scarce in the market), and a few months to come, when ducklings will be general, is fully apparent to any one. I find, however, they are all disposed of to a dealer in fancy-poultry, who has contracted for all that may be bred this season, which bears testimony to their *growing* favour in *public* estimation, and also that the returns to the breeder will be most liberal, in comparison to their production for the dinner-table. The Rouen ducks lay very freely if the eggs are removed, and the eggs are readily incubated by common hens; but for "*brood stock*," ducks only should be used for rearing them, or in after-time the *drakes* will be one of the "*most troublesome pests*" in the whole farmstead. It will be well for beginners to pay the fullest attention to my last remark, as it will prevent much vexation and disappointment, and perhaps an equally unfavourable ebullition of temper in *themselves*; therefore, except for killing, let the ducks themselves hatch their own offspring—a duty they will accomplish with careful-

ness, perseverance, and success. The flavour of the flesh of the Rouen duck is really most excellent, being surpassed by none others (in my own individual opinion it is unequalled); besides which, the incredible weights attained by some birds in this variety our public exhibitions will *best attest*. At one of the Birmingham shows, a drake and three ducks of this kind were tested (by the judges) with scales, against *all other kinds then present*, and exceeded the most weighty of their rivals by nearly four pounds; their own weight (though then simply taken from the pond, without any *extra* feeding), was 26½ lbs. These *same* birds were again exhibited the following year (but in *this* instance *purposely fattened*), when they attained the immense weight of 34 lbs. the four! On *both* these occasions they were the first-prize birds.

As *utility in ducks* is quite the most important point, I need only thus refer to their great size, as the best proof of their advantages,—but will add one other trait of character in *this* variety that will place them in a very unusually favourable position,—*the ducks closely approximate in size to the drakes*, and not unfrequently are the *most weighty* of the two; whilst in most *other* kinds, the disparity of size is very glaringly obvious, and tells much against the value for consumption. In respect of plumage, the Rouens are (in *perfectly* well-bred specimens) exactly the colour of the common wild ducks, the drakes being precisely similar to the mallard; and therefore their appearance in a pond is extremely prepossessing. One of the most general objections to ducks is their sad propensity to "*stray away and get lost*," more especially if in the neighbourhood of large rivers or other *running* streams; and it is, therefore, by no means unusual for parties, when this has occurred frequently, to give up all desire for this really profitable kind of stock, in a spirit of utter hopelessness and despair. To these persons the Rouens will really prove themselves a treasure, for they are the most determined "*stayers at home*" possible:

they never ramble at all except near home, but appear dull and lethargic, which accounts for the little difficulty and expense in feeding; they eat no more than others, and obtain their very superior size and weight in *an equally short period of time*. They very rarely take wing, as they can only do so with great difficulty; and therefore, I admit, are a very easy prey either to vermin or any unprincipled stroller. Their cry, however, is extraordinarily dull, loud, and monotonous (easily distinguishable to an experienced ear from any others), and when pursued or disturbed, well calculated to arouse attention in their owners.

I have been describing the true Rouen (not the puny, half-sized birds, scarcely, if any, larger than the common ducks we see daily, and that are Rouens only in name), and will now add another item or two to their characteristics. I know no duck that shows the abdominal pouch so conspicuously as the real Rouen, so much so, that very frequently I have seen those kept on a loose gravelly soil with all the feathers of the apron worn down to actual stumps. The eyes are especially *small*, and most deeply seated in the head, and the old ducks will pouch much in the throat (a remarkable looseness in the skin), which makes them look even larger than they really are. There should not be any white whatever in the *duck's* plumage (though I have known, but cannot account for it, such ducks, *when aged*, moult the flight feathers perfectly white, retaining, nevertheless, all the *remainder* of their plumage the original colour). The drakes have a collar of white feathers round the neck, as in the common *wild drake*, and the whole of their plumage resembles that bird in *every* particular. When it is considered how great a pecuniary benefit may be attained, by the keeping of a few ducks, to the general farmer, it will be readily admitted that to the humble cottager the boon will be still more highly valuable, as ducks speedily arrive at a condition for market, and when there offered generally

command the quickest and the most *universal* sale of any poultry whatever; it may be also added, they are reared more readily, and will eat food of almost any kind. It should always, however, be kept in remembrance, that the quality of the flesh is highly dependant on the nature of their food; therefore a proper care on this point is essentially necessary. I feel certain, that if a common degree of care, attention, and regularity of feeding are adopted with ducks, they will remunerate the owner as well as *any* poultry he may bring before the public; and I have thus briefly endeavoured to show that the Rouens will (if a properly selected broodstock) fulfil *EVERY* hope and anticipation of their owners. E. C.

GAPES.—I know of no remedy so effectual as that suggested by Mr. Tegetmeier, viz., the obliging chickens to inhale the fumes of turpentine, which may be accomplished by heating the turpentine and placing it with the chicken in a covered vessel of some kind. The turpentine may be kept from contact with the chicken by placing an inverted flower-pot over the cup or vessel that may contain it, or a feather dipped in turpentine, and very carefully introduced into and *twisted round* in the windpipe—not the gullet—is equally effectual, and I think less troublesome; one or two applications are generally sufficient.—*Zenas*.

I HAVE somewhere read of a machine in the United States of North America, into one end of which deal planks and pigs are put, which come out at the other in the form of pork sausages and scrubbing-brushes. A hen should be looked upon as an egg-producing machine, and in feeding her this point should be especially considered.—Not only are bones, flesh, and feathers to be supported, but eggs are to be created; and this last will not be done if she be either over or under fed.—*Poultry Pentologue*.

Aylesbury Local Show.

"A ladle for my silver dish
Is all I want, is all I wish."

In all ages there seems to have been a liking for pieces of plate, and they have generally been chosen as the reward of good deeds, from breeding a prize pig or sheep, up to saving the crew of a foundering troop-ship.

The good, hard-working, and ill-paid clergyman receives an inkstand; the secretary of a benefit society is presented with a snuff-box; the winner of a boat-race has a cup, the saver of a ship's crew a piece of plate, with a long and well-deserved eulogy written upon it, and the chairman of a successful railway a magnificent service.

As it is our duty to be wherever poultry should be represented, we were, on Wednesday last, at Aylesbury, where the Baroness Meyer de Rothschild liberally gave a handsome silver tea-pot to be competed for by farmers within the limits of the baron's hunt. Each competitor was to show four pens of poultry, and fearing, from the celebrity of the place, too many ducks might be exhibited, the committee wisely ordered that one pen alone of them should be in each collection.

We believe it is the first time a prize so valuable has been offered for poultry. The number of competitors was limited by the necessary qualification of farming not less than fifty acres of land, and that within a certain limit. Fourteen entered the lists, being the best amateurs of the country. The prize fell to the lot of Mr. Edward Terry, of Aylesbury, whose birds were far superior to any others. Indeed, so good are they, that success attends them wherever they go. The prize lists of Gloucester, London, and Hitchin will show this, and may comfort the defeated by the reflection that, at least, it was no inglorious or insignificant competition. The birds of Mr. Richard Fowler were deservedly commended, as was also an extra pen of Dorkings, shown by Mr. Terry.

The great interest is now evidently centred in Dorkings. They attracted most, and the best were certainly two hens in Mr. Terry's prize pen, the cock in his commended pen, and one hen in Mr. Fowler's. All the Dorkings were good, but those we have mentioned were far above the average, and would take some beating at any show in England. This was in connection with an agricultural society newly formed. It was the "*coup d'essai*," and most successful. It will do much for the Vale of Aylesbury Association, which purposes to have an exhibition in August. From the birds shown, it is evident the amateurs of the neighbourhood have much to learn in selecting and matching their fowls. The common error of putting in cross-breeds was common, and some birds were only fit to be called cosmopolitans, for they certainly bore proof of belonging to every breed we ever heard of. These unhappy creatures consume as much as useful ones, and are worth nothing after all. The Aylesbury ducks were not so numerous as we expected to see them. The Baroness de Rothschild is entitled to the thanks of the district, but the good done by that lady will never be so appreciated as it will be when the poultry show takes place, and the birds are exhibited in distinct classes. Hundreds, who from circumstances could not compete last week, yet learned a lesson that will help them to a place on the prize sheet at some future time. The judge was Mr. Edward Hewitt, of Birmingham.

Although our business is strictly with poultry, we do not think we ought to be either deaf or dumb to other things at these shows, seeing how closely poultry and agriculture are connected. It was truly a meeting of friends, and when after dinner the prizes were awarded, it was more than pleasing to see the cordiality with which the unsuccessful hailed every more fortunate competitor as he received his really handsome and valuable cup.

It spoke much, both for employers and employed, that services of thirty years were common among labourers, and the

successful cow-man had fifty-three years with his master. The prizes for farm servants were also liberal, being £5 each. The exertions of the Hon. R. Grimston and Mr. Hall entitle them to the warmest thanks of all who were present. The former gentleman, as chairman of the dinner, was perfect. His kindness to every one, his feeling and appropriate addresses to the labourers when receiving their prizes, the happy manner in which he seized anything that could minister to the cheerfulness or comfort of the company over which he presided, at once explained the secret of his well-deserved and universal popularity.

Schedule of the Devon and Exeter Poultry Show.

In our list of promised poultry shows we have already mentioned that which is to be held at Exeter, on Northernhay, in conjunction with the Devon and Exeter Botanical and Horticultural Society. The Schedule, with its novel arrangement, is so good in economizing space, that (except in using a small type) it can scarcely be further advantageously condensed.

PRIZE LIST. POULTRY.

SPANISH.

Class. First. Second. Third.
1. Cock and two Hens .. 30s. 15s. 7s. 6d.

DORKING—Coloured.

2. Cock and two Hens .. 30s. 15s. 7s. 6d.

DORKING—White.

3. Cock and two Hens .. 30s. 15s. 7s. 6d.

DORKING—Chicken of 1854.

4. The best pen of six .. 15s.

5. The best pen of four.. 7s. 6d.

COCHIN CHINA—Cinnamon or Buffs.

6. Cock and two Hens .. 30s. 15s. 7s. 6d.

COCHIN CHINA—Brown or Partridge-coloured.

7. Cock and two Hens .. 30s. 15s. 7s. 6d.

COCHIN CHINA—White.

8. Cock and two Hens .. 30s. 15s. 7s. 6d.
First. Second. Third.

COCHIN CHINA—Chicken of 1854.

9. The best pen of six .. 15s.
10. The best pen of four.. 7s. 6d.

GAME—Blackbreasted, and other Reds.

11. Cock and two Hens .. 30s. 15s.

GAME—Duckwings, Greys, and Blues.

12. Cock and two Hens .. 30s. 15s.

GAME—Piles and Whites.

13. Cock and two Hens .. 30s. 15s.

N. B.—Certificates of Merit will also be awarded to single specimens of Spanish, Dorking, Cochin China, or Game Fowls, to be shown in the Exhibitors' own Pens.

MALAYS.

14. Cock and two Hens .. 20s. 10s. 5s. 0d.

HAMBURG—Golden-pencilled.

15. Cock and two Hens .. 15s. 10s. 5s. 0d.

HAMBURG—Golden-spangled.

16. Cock and two Hens .. 15s. 10s. 5s. 0d.

HAMBURG—Silver-pencilled.

17. Cock and two Hens .. 15s. 10s. 5s. 0d.

HAMBURG—Silver-spangled.

18. Cock and two Hens .. 15s. 10s. 5s. 0d.

POLAND—Black with white crests.

19. Cock and two Hens .. 15s. 10s. 5s. 0d.

POLAND—Golden.

20. Cock and two Hens .. 15s. 10s. 5s. 0d.

POLAND—Silver.

21. Cock and two Hens .. 15s. 10s. 5s. 0d.

BARN DOOR, or any other variety.

22. Cock and two Hens .. 15s. 10s. 5s. 0d.

BANTAMS—Gold-laced.

23. Cock and two Hens .. 10s. 5s.

BANTAMS—Silver-laced.

24. Cock and two Hens .. 10s. 5s.

BANTAMS—Any other variety.

25. Cock and two Hens .. 10s. 5s.

TURKEYS.

24. Cock and one Hen .. 30s. 15s. 7s. 6d.

GEESE.

First. Second. Third.

25. Gander and two Geese 30s. 15s. 7s. 6d.

DUCKS—*Aylesbury.*

26. Drake and two Ducks 15s. 10s. 5s. 0d.

Rouen.

27. Drake and two Ducks 15s. 10s. 5s. 0d.

PIGEONS.

28. Pair of Carriers .. 5s.

29. Pair of Almond or Ermine Tumblers .. 5s.

30. Pair of Fantails .. 5s.

31. Pair of Jacobins .. 5s.

REGULATIONS.

1. All Exhibitors, not being members of the Society, will be required to pay 2s. 6d. for each entry, in the classes giving first prizes of 15s. and upwards; 1s. 6d. in the classes giving first prizes of 7s. 6d. or 10s.; and 1s. for the Pigeons, to aid in defraying the expenses of pens, food, &c. The amount to be paid to the Hon. Secretary at the time of entry.

2. All entries are requested to be made to the Hon. Secretary on or before Tuesday, the 2nd day of May, on certificates, which will be furnished by him on application. From the 2nd to the 15th of May, the entrance-fee will be doubled, and no entry can be made after the 15th.

3. Members of the Society will be allowed to compete for prizes without payment of any entrance-fee, if their entry be made by the 2nd of May; after that day until the 15th of May they will be required to pay a single entrance-fee.

4. Exhibitors will, in all cases, be required to affix a price at which they will sell their specimens, but it is desired that the words "not to be sold" may be used, instead of a prohibitory price, where the owners do not wish to effect a sale.

5. Should any pen be claimed, a sale must take place through the Honorary Secretary, when five per cent. will be deducted towards the expenses of the exhibition. No offer will be accepted until one hour after the admission of the public, and should there be more than one application for the same pen at the same time, the highest offer will be taken.

6. All the specimens competing for prizes must be *bond fide* the property of the exhibitor.

7. The discovery of any false statement as to proprietorship or possession of fowl, or age, will be followed by the forfeiture of the prize, and the exclusion of the exhibitor making such false statement from all future exhibitions.

8. High condition, beauty of plumage, and purity of race, will be preferred above mere weight, which latter quality is to be considered as a merit in those breeds only that are remarkable for their size, as the Spanish, Dorking, Malay, and Cochinchina.

9. It is requested that the ages of the specimens, unless unknown, may be stated on the certificates.

10. The exhibition will not be limited to any particular district; and facilities will be afforded to professed dealers for the sale of specimens, subject to the deduction named in Rule 5.

11. Persons exhibiting as dealers to affix prices, and pay an entrance-fee of 3s. for each pen not exceeding six specimens, such specimens to be entered and paid for, in accordance with Rule 2.

12. The judges will be empowered to withhold a prize, or prizes, in any of the classes in which the specimens are of an inferior quality.

13. Exhibitors are particularly requested to examine the prize list and regulations, as any imperfect entry, with regard to classes or otherwise, will exclude the exhibitor from competing for the prizes.

14. All the specimens intended for exhibition must be at the place of exhibition on Wednesday, the 17th of May, or they will not be admitted. Baskets, hampers, &c., to be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, and the carriage in every case to be previously paid by the exhibitor.

15. All letters addressed to the Honorary Secretary, requiring a reply, to contain a fully directed stamped envelope.

16. All prizes and the amount of sales will be paid at any hour during the second day, on application to the Honorary Secretary.

17. The greatest possible attention will be paid to insure the health and comfort of the birds, by the engagement of experienced feeders, and the provision of food.

18. Exhibitors, not members of the Society, will be furnished with tickets of admission to the exhibition proportioned to the amount of their entrance-fees paid.

19. The exhibition will be subject to such further regulations, or bye-laws, as the Committee may find it expedient to adopt, of which due notice will be given.

THOMAS WILLIAM GRAY,
Hon. Sec.

22, Cathedral-yard, Exeter.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

REPLY TO "TRISTRAM SHANDY," OF HULL.

WITH your permission, I must reply to the statement of "Tristram Shandy" in the "Poultry Chronicle" for April the 5th, in which he very confidently asserts, that a completely laced tail in the Sebright Bantam "is the very touchstone of perfection, and is never seen but in first-rate specimens;" adding, "my life upon it (with such a tail), the bird is perfection in lacing in all other parts;" and in conclusion, writes, "this is strong evidence, surely."

It would indeed be strong evidence if it were borne out by facts; and although I myself feel rather more inclined to enjoy the comforts, and also struggle with the difficulties, of this world still a little longer, than stake my life on the colour or markings of a Bantam's tail-feather, I candidly confess I do not feel convinced with simple assertion when directly opposed to some twenty-five years of most rigidly observant investigation and experience. I have oft-times seen Sebrights partially, and sometimes even wholly, "spangled" in the body, that were perfection in the "lacings" of the tail, and others as perfectly clear in the ground colour of the tail, and as truly "laced" (as the most fastidious amateur could possibly desire) in those feathers, that were almost altogether without any lacings on the breast, and some few that degenerated to a half-spangled, half-laced feather on the shoulders.

I perfectly agree with your correspondent, "Tristram Shandy," "that it is a difficult matter to get the tail laced clearly and distinctly." It certainly is difficult: it is of rare occurrence, and although I am now in possession of very many of the principal first-prize Sebrights, that have of late years figured in our poultry exhibitions (even when defended by a price that appeared prohibitory, such as three or four guineas each bird), I cannot,

in the very few whose tails are so laced, select so thoroughly well-marked fowls all over as I can among those whose tail-feathers are only "tipped." These birds are now the best living testimonies in proof of my assertions, and it is well known, that degeneracy to "spangled" feathers is the very dread of all Sebright breeders.

Your correspondent seems to have quite erroneously judged my remarks, as to the care taken by Sebright Bantams of different varieties of chickens. These statements were made naturally and altogether exclusively of the individual chickens hatched by the Bantam hen herself, for she would indeed be a "model nurse," that would permit the approaches of chicks that were complete strangers; it is not what I ever hoped for, or intended to convey to your readers in my former communication. True it is, any hen will act rashly by "stranger chickens," more especially if they should be farther advanced to maturity than her own brood; for the attempt under such circumstances to join various hatches, would certainly entail a repetition of the troubles so graphically pointed out by "Tristram Shandy." E. H.

EGGS.

MR. EDITOR,—My condemnation was certainly *sweeping*; but Mr. Fairlie's high character is too well known by those who know anything of him to render his exculpation of himself necessary; in fact, the rule adopted by him speaks for itself, and renders any further remark of mine quite unnecessary. I would also remark that I have found other egg-sellers equally honourable in their transactions. I think it right to say this much, because I do not wish to have it supposed that all egg-sellers are alike "rascals;" the honourable exceptions are sufficient to prove that such an opinion would be unjust in the highest degree. At the same time, I must repeat my conviction that egg-sellers as a body do not—to use the mildest language—act in that honourable manner which ought to

characterize the dealings of gentlemen ; and that I am not alone in this opinion, the letters contained in your last number fully prove.

I do not yield in honesty of purpose to Mr. Fairlie, and had my charge been against an individual, I should have considered it an act of meanness to withhold my name ; as it was, I considered it quite unnecessary to give it ; for, being a very insignificant person, and quite unknown in the poultry world, I thought an anonymous signature would answer all the purposes for which my letter was written ; but as a guarantee of my good faith, I enclose you my card, which you are at perfect liberty to forward to any one requesting it.—Yours, faithfully,
ZENAS.

BLACK SPANISH.

A SUGGESTION was thrown out in a recent number of the "Poultry Chronicle," that each variety of fowl should be described accurately, and its qualities set forth in a series of papers by different amateurs. The plan, if properly carried out, would supply a mass of useful information on a subject, which, in spite of all that has been written on it hitherto, is still obscure to most persons.

The following remarks on the Black Spanish have the merit, if not of being original, at least of embodying the results of the observations of the best-known breeders of the day. The cock bird should be sturdy, and as short on the leg as possible ; his back from tail to neck short, the tail large and full. He should weigh not less than 6 lbs. : his comb should be single, perfectly upright, evenly serrated, of a rich bright coral tint, without any mark or excrescence on it whatever. The head is rather large ; the spurs long and sharp, and the bearing and carriage proud and high. The face should commence *from where the comb joins* on to the head, and must extend downwards *over and around the eye* till it meet the white ear lobe. The hue must be of the purest milk-white,

without black or red markings of any sort.

The colour required for the legs is still a moot point even among confessed judges—some contend for white, others for bluish legs. Almost all London fanciers urge the former, and it must be conceded that, where obtained, it counts a point in favour of a pen of birds at a show. But on no account must a pen with divers coloured legs be exhibited ; it would almost certainly be disqualified, and all blue legs are far better than a mixture of blue and white. The point is a minor one, being secondary to the rules as to size, comb, and face ; but in a nearly contested struggle, all may hinge on it, and woe be to the exhibitor whose bird's legs are not of one colour.

The majority of the remarks as to the cock, apply to the hen : the same regulations as to face and legs hold in both. The comb of the hen differs from that of the cock only in its lapping over the eye. An upright-combed hen is as unsightly as a falling-combed cock. At all times of the year—even when the hen does not lay, and the comb consequently but small—it may be ascertained whether it will be upright or not ; for if it be upright when rudimentary, the purchaser may rely that when larger, in the egg season, it will also be so.

The tail of the hen should be square, and set on upright ; the weight must not be under 5 lbs. It must be specially observed, that the slightest approach to coarseness in either cock or hen must be discountenanced, even if at the expense of size ; for in no class of fowls is quality more requisite and more appreciated than in Spanish.

A. J. H.

POLLARD FOR FOWLS.

SIR,—Will "Gus" state the weight of a bushel of pollard, and where it is to be purchased at 2s. per bushel, as I am paying 1s. 6d. per score. I throw a little lard or kitchen grease into it before I scald the pollard, and mix it so as to be crumbly. My opinion is, that there is no better feed

for them in the morning, the pollard containing oily gluten, starch, albumen, and a sweet kind of mucilage, and it is remarkable that the gluten, if not similar, has a very near alliance to animal substances; gluten is found in the sap of the housegreen, cabbage, and most of the cruciform plants. If the pollard was (a little) torrefied it would then be more nutritious. British gum being formed, it would make it easier of digestion, and more nutritious.

Sir, yours, &c. J. L.

Macclesfield, April 8, 1854.

THE RATS' DEPARTURE.

MR. EDITOR,—In our little room sat my master. I lay curled at his feet. The "Poultry Chronicle" is brought, cut, and my master, as is his wont, reads aloud.

"A Chapter on Rats." What's that? In an instant I was up, and peering anxiously into his face, a conversation that took place some two years back was brought vividly before me, and, with your permission, I will briefly tell it.

You must know, sir, I am on the best terms with the denizens of my master's poultry yard, and being, as I once heard say, an excellent ratter, on all occasions I was allowed admission to the yards and roosts, and frequently called with a well-known whistle to enjoy my favourite hunt of an enemy to the feathered community.

A friend of my master's came to inspect his stock; I accompanied the two. After the notice of the birds and their points, my master complained of his losses by the rats—eggs purloined, sitting hens disturbed, chicks and ducklings missing (the choicest of the lots fall a prey to the depredator generally) in spite of ferrets and traps.

I may here mention his favourite trap, called "the horseshoe rat-trap." "Well," said his friend, "I have heard that a gentleman, similarly situated, got rid of all his rats." "Indeed! but how?" was the question. "Ah!" thought I, "woe is me! my sport will be destroyed, these ex-

citing hunts will be at an end." "Why," said his friend, "he noticed that some gas-tar, which had been accidentally upset into one of the favourite runs, caused that haunt to be at once vacated.

"He caught an old fellow, well besmeared him with the perfumed liquid, and sent him on a mission to his brethren, who took his advice and made their exit."

To cut my story short—my master procured a quantity of this cheap commodity, poured some into every rat-hole, till the enemy made for other quarters, and but very rarely am I now roused from my lethargy to engage in the old sport.

My time now hanging heavily on my paws, I have been bold enough to appear for the first time in print. Hoping to receive your indulgence, with kind bow-wows,

I remain, Sir, yours,

NETTLE.

BRAHMA POOTRAS.

SIR,—So much has been said respecting the Brahma Pootra fowls, and such a variety of opinions given as to whether they are a distinct breed or not, that I will venture to say a little respecting them. That they are a distinct breed there is not the least doubt, for long before they were imported into this country, a brother of mine, who has been much in India, informed me of them, and pointed out most particularly the advantages they possessed over the Cochin Chinas. I have now several of these birds in my possession, both of the dark and light variety. Some months since, my brother visited me, and on being shown the birds, at once pronounced them to be the same as those he had seen in India; and he further states that there are two distinct varieties as to colour and shape,—the one being dark and straight in form, with few feathers on the legs,—the other, with white body, black tail and wing feathers, the neck delicately pencilled, bright yellow legs, generally heavily feathered; the neck, tail, and back

forming a half circle. The comb in each variety should be straight and single.

In the third number of the "Poultry Chronicle," a "Non-Exhibitor" states, that, in his opinion, the birds imported from America are spurious, being cross-bred. That many birds have been brought therefrom of inferior quality I admit, and very likely a "Non-Exhibitor" may have seen some such; but it is quite erroneous to suppose that, because the Brahma Pootra is not a native of the United States, no good birds can be had therefrom. As well may we say there are no pure Cochins or Black Spanish in England, for they are not natives of this country. I have seen nearly all the birds which have been imported from America, and many of those from India, and I must say that many of the finest specimens at present in this country are from the States, independent of those sent to her Majesty. There is little doubt but that as the Brahma Pootras become more generally known, they will stand A 1. Their appearance is most pleasing, their flesh white and delicate. They are superior to most birds in size, and their eggs are second to none for size and flavour; and, as stated by Mr. P. Jones in your sixth number, the hens are not so prone to sit as the Cochins.

There is an evident desire on the part of Cochins breeders to put a stop to the rapid advance to favour made by the Brahma Pootras; but it is useless, for they have everything to recommend them. Only give them a fair field and no favour, and they will soon place in the shade their buff opponents.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. B.

TREATMENT OF GAPES.

SIR,—In one of the numbers of your useful publication, I see that a correspondent calls the gapes "an incurable disease." As I have yearly reared a large number of chickens, I think it right to state that I have found spirits of turpentine, if not a specific, at least an almost certain remedy

for this complaint. I have administered it in two ways, and both successfully. First, with chickens of larger growth, by dipping a feather in the spirit and passing it down and turning it round in the throat of the patient, by which means the little worm causing the complaint is sometimes extracted, but nearly always destroyed; and secondly, with young birds, dropping a few very small crumbs of bread saturated with the spirit into their pens, which, if hungry, they will pick up quickly. I know a gentleman, a very large breeder of fowls, who always gives his chickens, at six weeks old, wheat steeped in turpentine. This is given to them *once* in the morning when fasting, and as a prevention against, instead of waiting for, the arrival of gapes. I may trouble you again on this and other subjects relating to poultry, should you think further communication likely to prove interesting to your readers.—I am yours, obediently,
D. B.

Brislington, April 7th, 1854.

RATS.

SIR,—In No. 6 of your useful "Poultry Chronicle," A. B. wishes to be informed how to catch the rats infesting his premises. Now I think prevention is always better than cure. For a number of years I have been an amateur of poultry, and have, at the present time, thirteen distinct varieties, and as many separate places for them, to keep each variety by itself. My houses were overrun by the common rat, I had a great number of fine chickens destroyed by them, and endeavoured by every means I could think of to catch or poison my enemies, yet their numbers did not decrease. Now, for the prevention of more coming, as well as to drive away the legions I already had, I bought two guinea-pigs, put them into a box about a yard and a quarter long, half a yard broad, and one quarter of a yard deep, with wire at the end and one side. I

keep the box and pigs a week or two in one department of poultry, and then remove them to another, and I suppose, from their peculiar squeak, the rats have entirely vanished; I have neither seen nor heard one for several years,—in fact, not since I have tried this cheap and interesting substitute.—Yours,

SALVIA.

[If any other amateur should try this plan, we should be pleased to hear if it again proves as successful.—Ed.]

NOTES ON PAST NUMBERS,—*continued.*

I CAN give an instance of the way in which the good nature of amateurs may be imposed upon, in addition to the warning adduced by E. C., pp. 66 and 67. A lady of my acquaintance received last autumn a letter from a person who represented himself as having settled in Ireland, and very desirous of ameliorating the condition of the peasantry in his neighbourhood by improving their poultry, &c. He inclosed some tailor-like "snips," denoting the size of Irish eggs in general, and those of county Cork in particular, and concluded with asking her to give him some eggs, and to interest others in his beneficent undertaking. Owing to circumstances into which it would be tedious to enter, the application was made in vain, the more especially as the season was too far advanced for hatching. The reason of the subject now recurring to my mind is the fact that I have recently met an Irishman residing in the neighbourhood of the applicant, and from him I learned quite enough to satisfy me that his conduct was very little more distinterested than that of the individuals mentioned by E. C. Let amateurs be cautious of unknown poultry regenerators.

Permit me to impress upon the Committee of Poultry Shows the necessity of securing the preservation of the eggs from the hands of thieves. The following case has recently come to my knowledge. In

the autumn of 1853, a fellow stole an egg from a pen of the finest cockerel and pullets of the buff Cochín China breed that I ever saw. The egg, though laid by a mere pullet, produced a cockerel that, though hatched so late in the season, and badly brought up, sold for a pound in the subsequent spring, and it will probably be the father of a "fine young family" this year.

The story of the bantams at p. 71, by E., like that of the double-yoked eggs, deserves to be authenticated more fully in its particulars. The statement would come home to my mind with more of the force of a quotable fact if the writer had said that the circumstances occurred on Mr. A.'s estate at B.

I can confirm the probability of his story by my own experience, and so might any one who has recently (within the last ten or fifteen years) visited the island of Ascension, where fowl quite wild may be shot like partridges. In the Australian colonies, too, I have known them, when not looked after, take to a half wild life in the bush, and even to building in somewhat lofty trees. For my part, I am quite convinced that fowls (and especially the game breed) might be turned out into covers where pheasants will not stay, and the same opinion has been made public by one of our numerous authors on poultry.

M. S., pp. 71 and 72, might like to hear what were the contents of the crop of three wood-pigeons that I once shot. The fall of one of the birds burst open the crop, so that it is not unlikely but that some of its load was spilled, but I nevertheless secured forty-four and a half acorns of the evergreen oak. On another occasion I took twenty-nine and a half common acorns from the crops of two pheasants.

As regards Jersey poultry, when I was there in the autumn of 1851, the only thing that I saw worth noticing as a curiosity was a solitary hen of the variety known as the "Jumper." It was the only specimen I ever saw, was very short indeed in the legs, and progressed, like the sparrow, by

hopping. Jersey poultry, and indeed everything that does not, appertain to cows, is sadly neglected. T.'s egg experiment, p. 80, is not quite in accordance with the objects of the "Poultry Chronicle." Since you have admitted it, I will give another. Take an egg between the middle finger and thumb, with the forefinger on either end of it, and the egg may be bowled, or jerked underhand, over a piece of turf, with as much safety as if it were a cricket ball.

ALECTOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "POULTRY CHRONICLE."

SIR,—I beg to be allowed to second Mr. Fairlie's protest against the unfair conclusions urged by "Zenas" in his, doubtless, well-intentioned, warning to your readers on the subject of "bought eggs." His condemnation of the practice of purchasing eggs, however strongly supported by his own experience, is, I am convinced, and as I believe hundreds of amateurs could attest, much too sweeping and unqualified. And the fact of his own miserable failures ought not, I submit, to be taken as by any means an exemplification of the general experience on this point. For myself, I can say with truth that, as a purchaser of eggs in past years, where I have procured them either from amateurs known to me, or from others whose name and position were a good guarantee for common honesty, I have found the hatching very little different from that of eggs from my own yard, and the quality of the produce in such cases has been as good as could be reasonably expected by one whose anticipations did not carry him the absurd length of supposing that because the eggs were from superior birds all the offspring must necessarily be so. One instance of success, among others, occurs to me as being *apropos*, to the editor of the very useful and timely little publication, from whom I recollect procuring a dozen eggs, which, having travelled upwards of one hundred and fifty miles, produced eleven strong chicks. I

have not always been so fortunate, however, and must acknowledge to have been favoured on one or two occasions, from doubtful sources, with some of those curious specimens, which, being incautiously meddled with by the expectant purchaser, at the date of the chickens being due, are apt to frighten one of weak nerves out of all propriety, by suddenly bursting with a loud explosion, and emitting thereupon an odour scarcely less potent I imagine, in its effects on the senses, than the celebrated "Boulets asphyxiants" of the Russians, of which we have lately heard such dreadful tales.

As a seller of eggs, I can, with equal truth, affirm that those I have disposed of have, generally speaking, been as successful, or very nearly so, as those set at home; much, however, depends on the time of year the eggs are sent, and more still on the nature of each particular season. Last season was acknowledged to be an unprecedentedly bad one for all the operations of sitting and hatching, particularly in the earlier months, and then complaints of bad luck were everywhere rife with both sellers and buyers. This season, on the contrary, appears to be one of the most propitious we have had for many a year, as well for the fertility of the eggs, the steadiness with which the hens sit, and the comparative ease and certainty with which a large proportion of the eggs hatch out. Such at least has been the case so far with my own Bramahs, the only breed of which I have had any experience this year; and from the fact of no complaints having as yet reached me, I think I may venture to say that it has not been much otherwise with the eggs I have disposed of. In the only three instances in which I have been informed of the result, one was a small sitting of eight, sent much too early to escape many risks of failure incident to very early hatching; from these the produce was four live chicks, two dead, and two eggs addled: the next was from a lady in Ireland, who, a fortnight after the hatching, wrote to say that she had then a

live chick from every egg I had sent her. The third report was from an amateur, to whom I had sent twenty-six eggs, and who informed me that from them he had twenty-three live chicks, one crushed by the hen in the nest, and one dead in the egg, the twenty-sixth egg being addled. In this case, besides nearly one hundred miles of railway conveyance, the hamper had to travel some twenty by omnibus, the most trying to the productiveness of eggs of perhaps any mode of conveyance.

So far am I then from agreeing with "Zenas," that I conscientiously believe that, by adopting a few necessary precautions, travelled eggs will, in a favourable season like the present, yield an almost equal number of chickens with eggs from the same source hatched at home. The precautions I would insist on are briefly these—a first-rate run for the birds producing the eggs, with cocks in the proportion of about one to four hens; the eggs, when sent, not to be more than a week old, and packed in some elastic medium, such as in a hamper with hay; the eggs to be placed at once under the hen on their arrival, and the situation of the nest to be always either on a stone, brick, or, best of all, an earthen floor.

W. C. G.

WEST KENT SHOW.

MR. EDITOR,—I feel already as if you and I were old friends. I am at home with you, and therefore write again. I know you will excuse that I mention my brother so often (but we are orphans, and I am very fond of him). He says I have the *cacoëthes scribendi*; but, with all his knowledge, he is wrong—it is not the writing I care about, but I do love to see myself in print: and then I like to read the letters addressed to me, and I often think to myself, "What sort of a person do they imagine me to be?" You can print or reject my effusions, and I promise you I shall not be offended; but so long as you print, I shall write. I told you in my last I had exhibited, and had been com-

mended. I was at the West Kent Show, at Farningham. Can you tell me if there will be another? I never enjoyed myself more than I did on that occasion. Such a show of flowers, of no ordinary merit, a great display of choice poultry, and the artillery-band, all in the open air. I wish, Mr. Editor, you would inform me if there will be another, and whether the Prize List is out?—Yours,

MARIA.

[The Show is appointed for June.—ED.]

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.

SIR,—Last November I purchased a buff cockerel and pullet of the above breed. The pullet commenced laying on the 4th of January, and laid forty-six eggs in forty-nine days; she then became broody, and I allowed her to *sit* (not *set*, as C. J. W. calls it); she hatched seven chickens, which are now three weeks old. On the 3rd instant she commenced laying again. Little can be said of her good qualities as a mother, for she will often leave them for some time, and if they utter their cry, she seems quite unconcerned about them. In fact, the cockerel is much more attentive than the hen.

As layers and sitters, they deserve commendation; but, as I have before stated, I do not give them credit for being good mothers.

GALLUS.

MRS. MARY WEDLAKE is constantly propounding the following question to the public, "Do you bruise your horses' oats?" and before any one has time to answer it, she invariably subjoins the reply, "If not, you lose one-third." Taking the hint, I have for a long time adapted the practice of giving to my fowls meal in preference to entire grain, of which they have but a small quantity daily by way of variety in their feeding, as I consider change of diet most desirable.—*Poultry Pentologue*.

THE following advertisement is taken from the Melbourne "Argus," for Tuesday, January 24th, 1854:—"COCHIN CHINA EGGS.—A setting of the above valuable eggs for sale. Apply to F. Goodman, 193, Spring-street, Melbourne."

WHITE cabbages chopped up are very good in winter for all sorts of poultry.—*Cobbett's Cottage Economy.*

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

Spite of the falling off in the demand for poultry, owing to the Easter holidays, the unusual scarcity causes the prices to keep up, with one exception, that of Ducklings. The supply of good poultry is smaller than has been seen for many years.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|----------|---------------|
| Fowls . . . | 6s. 0d. | 6s. 6d. | 7s. 0d. each. |
| Chickens . . | 4s. 0d. | 4s. 6d. | 5s. 0d. " |
| Goslings . . | 7s. 6d. | 8s. 0d. | " " |
| Ducklings . . | 5s. 0d. | 5s. 6d. | " " |
| Guinea Fowls | 3s. 0d. | 4s. 0d. | " " |
| Leverets . . | 4s. 6d. | 5s. 6d. | " " |
| Pigeons . . | 0s. 9d. | 0s. 10d. | " " |

Plovers' eggs, in bulk, 2s. 6d. per doz.

To Correspondents.

Amicus Galli.—Do you mean a fattening coop, or a coop for the hen while she has poult? at this time of year, we suppose for the latter. When closed it should have a triangular form—equal back and front; the sides should be of board, impervious to wet or wind; the back should be solid, the front of bars, and the two should be joined by hinges at top, so that in the day and in fine weather it can be raised, giving the hen and her brood full liberty. The bottom of the triangular pen should be thirty inches, with a frontage of the same.

C. B.—First-rate fancy pigeons, that is, toys, are often to be selected in Leadenhall Market. Mr. Mason, of Fulham, is a good man to apply to.

B. P. B.—With pleasure we fall into your view about the arrangement of the pigeons in the "Columbiary," and will give next in succession after the "Dove-house Pigeon," the "Carriers and Antwerps."

W. C. G.—We regret that the occurrence of the Easter holiday will delay the insertion of this capital and useful letter until next week.

C. P., of Boston.—Next week, with thanks.

M. B. H. wishes any amateur to say, whether eating ivy leaves can hurt chickens; also, what would be a good weight for Brahma chicks three months old.

To D. B.—It will give us great pleasure to hear from D. B. again.

To Savita.—We are much obliged by the interest which our correspondent so kindly takes in the "Poultry Chronicle," and shall be much pleased to receive from him "a few notes now and then."

Zeitung.—We beg to offer our correspondent many thanks for his suggestion, to which we have given attention, and shall continue to do so. In Manchester, the "Poultry Chronicle" is kept by Messrs. Thos. Dinham & Co.

Advertisements.

COCHIN CHINA POULTRY, &c.—Eggs from Prize Birds.—In reply to the very urgent applications from numerous amateurs, Mr. JOHN FAIRLIE, of Cheverley-park, Newmarket, is now prepared to dispose of a limited number of EGGS, from his celebrated prize Cochins, Brahma Pootras, Scotch Baskies, Dorkings, &c., according to the dates of the orders received.

BUFF COCHIN CHINA EGGS FOR SALE, from birds that have taken prizes at the Derby, East Kent, Bristol, Taunton, and Yeovil Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen. Also Partridge Cochin China Eggs from birds that have taken prizes at London Summer Meeting, Surrey Gardens' Show in August, Malvern, Yeovil, Honiton, and Torquay Poultry Shows, at £1. 1s. per dozen.

Apply to JOHN R. RODBARD, Aldwick-Court, Wrington, near Bristol.

EGGS FROM FIRST CLASS AND PRIZE BIRDS.—JOHN BAILY has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

CLEAR BUFF COCHIN FOWLS' EGGS.—from sets of birds bred by Mr. Fairlie and Mr. Andrews are now offered at reduced prices in consequence of the advertiser having concluded sitting his hens this season. The Eggs are very productive, and the chicks come like canaries, and heavily feathered.—Apply to Mr. C. Pocklington, Boston, Lincolnshire.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS, from the choicest birds of an Amateur, Brahas of whose breeding have competed successfully at the first shows in the kingdom, viz., the Royal Agricultural, Great Metropolitan, Birmingham, Great Yarmouth, Doncaster, Norwich, Winchester, and Manchester, price £3. 3s. per dozen. Warranted from the best prize and selected birds only. Apply to W. C. G., Post-office, Sandbach, Cheshire.

TURKISH BANTAMS.—A few Sittings of EGGS to be disposed of at £1. 13s. per dozen, box included. These birds have been recently imported, are of great beauty, perfect in symmetry and plumage, and very small.—Address, E. D. SWARBRECK, Thirsk, Yorkshire.

EGGS FOR HATCHING.

BRAHMA POOTRA, SPANISH, COCHIN CHINA FOWLS' and AYLESBURY DUCKS' EGGS, from birds of the most superior description, the property of a well-known amateur (owner of the three magnificent Brahas with which he challenged the world).

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Brahma Eggs, "from birds of the purest blood" | Per doz. £2 2 0 |
| Spanish ditto, from birds perfectly white-faced. "The hens bred by Mrs. L. Stow, &c., the cock by Captain Hornby" | 0 12 0 |
| Aylesbury Ducks' ditto, "the drake from Ridgway's prize birds, the ducks from Edwards's prize birds" | 0 6 0 |
| Cochin China, "from feathered-legged buff hens and a very fine vulture-hocked Andrews's cock" | 0 6 0 |

Address D. C., Mr. Hinton's, 8, Winsley-street, Oxford-street.—The most satisfactory references can be given as to quality of all the birds; they are a few miles from London, and could be seen by an appointment being made.

BANTAM FOWLS.—For Sale, a Choice Lot, consisting of Two Cocks and Nine Hens. All young birds, and in good condition.—May be seen at Mr. ALLEN's, Stationer, &c., 30, Ebury-street, Picnic.

SILVER - PENCILLED HAMBURGS.—EGGS from first-rate prize birds to be disposed of at 9s. per dozen.—Address W. H. JOHNSON, Townleys, near Bolton-le-Moors.

PHEASANTS' EGGS.—Gentlemen can be supplied with any quantity of the above. Also, Silver-spangled Hamburg, White Bantams, and Dorking Fowls' Eggs, from prize birds, at Mr. M. LENO, Junior's, Pheasantry, Hemel-Hempstead, Herts.

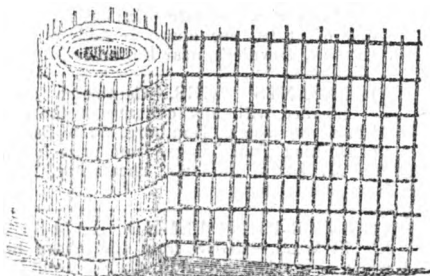
SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG FOWLS.—EGGS from the above birds, which have taken several First and Second Prizes during the last season, can be obtained for 10s. a dozen, package included, on application to Mr. F. H. ABERDEIN, Honiton, Devon. A good Silver-pencilled Hamburg Cock for Sale.

COLOURED DORKINGS for Sale.—A very fine dark, single-combed Cock, which took the Second Prize as a Chicken at the Metropolitan Show in Baker-street, January, 1853, price £2. 2s. Another beautiful bird, 11 months old, and brother to the birds that took the Third Prize at Birmingham in December last, price £1. 10s.—Apply to the Rev. HERBERT S. HAWKINS, Henny Rectory, near Sudbury, Suffolk.

PRIZE FOWLS.—EGGS from White Silk Cochins, which have taken four first-class Prizes, including one at the Great Metropolitan Show, 12s. the dozen. A few first-class Buff Cochins, 7s. 6d. to 12s. each, chickens of birds which took three Prizes; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. White-faced Spanish (chickens of prize birds), 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. each; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. Brahma Pootra Eggs, from birds which took a First Prize, £2. 2s. per dozen. One pair of Brahas (First Prize Birds) for Sale, price £15. 15s.—Apply to Mr. JAMES BARBER, Great Yarmouth.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, near Haverhill, Suffolk, disposes of Eggs from his Buff, and also from his, original Partridge-coloured, Birds, price 1s. each and 1s. for package.—Applications for either, variety will be supplied in the order received.

CHEAP PORTABLE POULTRY-HOUSES, 8 ft. by 4 ft., 30s.; 10 ft. by 4 ft., 40s.; 12 ft. by 4 ft., 50s. Warranted all complete and 6 ft. high; can be taken to pieces in five minutes by any person. Also, an imported Brahma Cock and Pullet, for 2 guineas.—Apply to T. HORNBERY, 28, Wimbourne-street, New North-road, Hoxton.



WILLIAM DRAY AND CO.'S PATENT WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot.

Ordinary Wire Netting, from 2½d. per yard, 2 feet wide.

Address **WILLIAM DRAY and Co.**, Agricultural Implement Manufacturers, Swan-lane, Upper Thames-street, London.

**FOR POULTRY-HOUSES.
LIGHT, CHEAP, & DURABLE ROOFING.**

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons. Price ONE PENNY per SQUARE FOOT. Croggon's Patent NON-CONDUCTING FELT for covering Steam-boilers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and testimonials sent by post, on application to **CROGGON & CO.**, 2, Dowgate-hill, London, who also supply **SHIP SHEATHING FELT**, and **INODOROUS FELT**, for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Preserving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage-free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

To be had in any quantity at **GEORGE EATON & Co.'s** Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory, 6 and 7, Crooked-lane, London.

WIRE FENCING, 6½d. per Square Yard, in various widths from 6 feet to 15 inches, mesh less than 2 inches. An effectual fence against Hares, Rabbits, Sheep, Deer, &c., and for the enclosure of Poultry, Pheasants, &c.; 4-inch mesh, 4d. per square yard.—**R. RICHARDSON**, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, London.

PITTVILLE SPA, CHELTENHAM.

THE THIRD Grand Annual Summer EXHIBITION OF POULTRY will take place at the above magnificent Establishment, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 14th and 15th, 1854.—For particulars enclose a fully directed stamped envelope to **JESSOP, BROTHERS**, Secretaries, The Aviaries, Cheltenham.

SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY-HOUSE, £4, consisting of house 4 feet square and 6 feet high, and roofed run for fowls 9 feet by 4 feet. Drawings of several sent free. The above are portable, and can be taken down or put up by any ordinary labourer. Wire work from 6 to 15 inches wide, 6½d. per square yard, to enclose poultry, &c.—**R. RICHARDSON**, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, near King's-cross. N.B. Maker of garden summer-houses, and iron and wood houses for emigrants; drawings of 21 Emigrants' houses, and 28 Summer-houses, sent free.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 13s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.; payable in advance by post-office order to **GEORGE CLEMENTS**, No. 1, York-street, Covent-garden, to whom Orders and Advertisements may be addressed.—Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday.

Wholesale Agents, **G. ROUTLEDGE & Co.**, Farringdon-street.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 9.]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

Poultry Shows.

Hexham Poultry Show, in the Abbey Grounds. Second Annual Exhibition, Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th of May. Secretary, W. Turner, Esq., Hencotes, Hexham. Entries close May 6.

Devon and Exeter Botanical and Horticultural Society, at Exeter, in conjunction with the Society's Spring Horticultural Exhibition, May 18th and 19th. Hon. Secretary, T. W. Gray, Esq., 22, Cathedral-yard, Exeter. Entries close May 2nd.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Grav, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries close May 10th.

Cheltenham Third Annual Summer Exhibition, at the Pittville Spa, June 14th and 15th. Secretaries, the Messrs. Jessop, Brothers, The Aviaries, Cheltenham. Entries close June 3rd.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries close June 1st.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover)

Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 212, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th. The Schedule will be given next week.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close Saturday, November 11th.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

All the world acknowledges it is hard to become suddenly rich. Millions know that it is almost impossible to compass that desirable end at all; all can preach a good sermon on the vanity of the expectation, and on the necessity of being content with progressive increase, and yet few practise what they preach. Let the Gold Regions speak: how many hundreds getting a good living in England rushed to Australia, engaged themselves on landing at salaries far beyond their wildest dreams of two years before, and then left their real gold mine for the chance of the diggings. One in two hundred succeeded, the remaining one hundred and ninety-nine returned bankrupt in health and pocket. This does not deter others, and they still rush in search of nuggets, hoping to do in one day that which they are sure to do by patience if they remain in employment.

This is not a bad illustration of the present state of the Poultry question : as every one runs after gold, so every one keeps poultry ; but all try for the nuggets in the shape of first prizes, and sales of birds at £20 each, while they neglect the solid every-day return of the market. It was imagined that when everybody kept poultry it would be more plentiful, but the reverse is the truth. Good poultry was never scarcer than it is at present,—never were the prices more remunerative. Fowls will make from five to seven shillings each at the present time ; and as it is impossible for all to get prizes, it is unquestionable that many a brood saved for competition, and destined to defeat, will, after much expense, anxiety, and disappointment, make a worse return than if it now fulfilled its destiny by appearing on table. The market will always ensure a good return. As the greatest probability of success is to the hardy and often needy man in the Gold Regions, as he will submit to and overcome difficulties which to a more delicate person would be insuperable,—and as to such a man a sum which a rich man would despise is of considerable importance,—so rearing poultry for the early market will be best accomplished by such a man here. He may, to a certain extent, realize the fable of the goose (hen) laying the golden egg. He will not by this be precluded from saving any chickens that are likely to be prize-takers, but by the sale of the others he will be continually taking money, and will be able to afford to risk something at an exhibition ; failing this, he may perhaps realize another fable—that of the frog and the bull. But even

those who can afford to indulge their fancies would do well to treat poultry as they do their cattle, viz., as an article of food ; they should now doom to the fate common to all poultry, all four-clawed Dorkings, all faulty birds in colour or otherwise. This gives the *élite* more space, and does not make the hobby less pleasing, because partly or wholly self-supporting.

Objections to "Cross-breeds" in Poultry,

As a Class for Competition.

It is not my intention to deny, for on the other hand I feel most willing to acknowledge, the many great advantages that may be derived (as far as utility only is concerned) from judicious crosses, among our domestic fowls ; but I am nevertheless firmly convinced, no *real* data of excellence can ever offer themselves for the consideration of judges on the special occasions of our public poultry exhibitions, where such fowls compete, simply because the hardihood, and also the egg-producing qualities of the poultry in the several rival pens, are personally really unknown (or most assuredly ought to be unknown) prior to the record of their awards to gentlemen thus occupied ; therefore, the only real point on which they can with confidence decide, is the preference they may each individually give to actual size alone ; nor is there any class of fowls that causes the owners so universally to complain of the decisions of the gentlemen who have gratuitously undertaken this really arduous and thankless office, nor yet one on which it is more difficult for the parties thus assailed to justify the results arrived at in the determination of the prizes.

These, then, are my reasons for positive objection to the gift of a set of prizes for cross-breeds only, for certainly there never yet have been, and I really fear the probabilities

are, there never will be, awards given in this class, that will satisfy the different competitors; at the same time, I am willing to acknowledge, that frequently these dissentients have perchance well-founded and just cause to complain, of what appears to them "manifest injustice." No doubt some parties will urge, "the difficulties would be at once removed, if the owners were permitted to append a list of the capabilities of their respective favourites, for the prior investigation of the judges;" but allow me, in confutation of this opinion, to direct attention to the generally-acknowledged misrepresentations practised (or at least attempted) on judges as to the *age* of chickens, in those classes respectively devoted to them.

I must qualify what I have just advanced, by the fullest assurance that I am well aware of many most honourable exceptions to such mis-doings, and it is therefore doubly incumbent on all who feel honest desires for the prosperity of poultry exhibitions generally, to expose these disreputable practices in the guilty, and protect, so far as opportunity serves, the more scrupulous and deserving exhibitor from such mal-practices.

Admitting, then, that the false statements would in either case be equally general (and I myself cannot see the slightest hope for a better state of things in the one case than in the other), such attestations as these certificates would afford are really worse than useless, and a single experiment (where the entries are numerous) would produce the fullest proof of the correctness of my advanced opinions, and consequent destruction of this truly specious theory; though I am aware persons so situated are not always convinced, even by the evidence of their own senses, of the absolute fallacy of long-cherished prejudices.

Where evils, therefore, cannot be successfully combated, it is certainly best to avoid them altogether; and I am sure that where all are so emulous and so strongly covetous of superiority, numbers of competitors will ever be found, who will hazard "wilfully-

false statements" to attain the much-desired end. On the other hand, the practised eye of an experienced judge, that would instantaneously detect the slightest failing in a bird exhibited in the classes for purely-bred fowls, is here cast headlong amid the billows of diverse opinions, without a solitary beacon to point the way by which he may eventually arrive at a self-satisfactory and really justifiable decision.

I anxiously desire your many readers not to confound what I have just advanced with a supposed dislike to an "extra class," in which prizes are awarded "to any other distinct variety to which no premiums have before been offered;" on the contrary, this arrangement meets my most entire, my most unqualified approbation, for it is in this last-named class we may ever expect every new variety on its *first* introduction; and so far from a desire on my part to throw obstacles in the way of the exhibitors of such fowls, I am most desirous to hold out every possible inducement and encouragement to their easy introduction for public approval. I consider, however, that nothing can be more disadvantageous (or absolutely unfair) to these exhibitors who have honestly contended in the allotted classes, than to permit on the other hand a person possessed of very second-rate fowls, to walk away with prizes in the extra class without subjecting himself to the danger of defeat by the competition he had purposely and designedly avoided in those classes devoted expressly and alone to the purely-bred fowls he has thus surreptitiously exhibited.

I think my opinions are already tolerably apparent; but as I frequently perceive in the prize lists such notices as these: "For the best barn-door fowls," "For the best cross-bred fowls," and the like (when committees have only for the first time brought their labours before the public), it may possibly prevent others falling into the same objectionable error, to very curtly recapitulate what I consider justifiable reasons, for the adverse opinions I entertain on this question.

In all varieties submitted to judges of poultry for their decisions, there should ever be some ready rule by which their opinions when given may be confidently supported as to the good qualities, or the imperfections of the specimens before them; for otherwise, depend upon it, that neither your exhibitors nor the committees themselves will ever be satisfactorily convinced of the propriety of the awards, as most probably one party or the other of you have a pre-knowledge of traits of character, for or against these different rivals, quite unknown to the judges themselves; and the latter gentlemen may indeed congratulate themselves exceedingly on their truly wonderful escape, if for some few hours after the public admission of the unsuccessful ones, these decisions in "the cross-bred class" have not led to a series of fault-finding, couched in language rather expressive of disappointed ambition and unbridled anger, than of a real desire for information, or of gentlemanly remonstrance. On the other hand, depend upon it, a class for "any other distinct variety" has the most apparent and never-to-be-forgotten advantages, *here all newly imported fowls must necessarily appear* (what other opening have they?), and the amateur or committee-man who would not use his utmost endeavour to facilitate the easiest admission to varieties thus hitherto unknown, is adopting a course of action quite opposed to the ultimate interests, both of the present exhibition, and also of the poultry-world generally; and will most likely, at some future period, admit to the fullest extent, that such objections were thoughtless and ill-advised, whilst afterwards they were sincerely regretted.

It is quite certain that the "any other distinct variety class" holds out prospective advantages of the highest possible character; to my own knowledge, many captains of merchant vessels have declared their willingness to support this movement, by keeping a "sharp look out" for any new kinds of poultry whatever; and to this quarter I "look out" with a confi-

dence, that I feel assured will not meet with disappointment. The novelty of such birds is highly appreciated by the public (as late instances fully testify), and therefore the benefit in a pecuniary point of view, in inducing an increased attendance, is manifestly apparent, whilst it is a somewhat "interesting question" to exhibition committees, who naturally always keep a fixed eye on the road to "ways and means."

It therefore should always be held compulsory, that all purely-bred fowls are to be exhibited in the classes allotted to them, and those only, and well understood that if placed in an extra class (to escape the competition in their own), they will be at once "disqualified." Adopt this plan, and we shall then find the trash sometimes receiving prizes in the extra class (simply from the non-presence of more deserving birds, and not their own excellencies), giving up the precedence to poultry of the same class, whose laurels have been very hardly fought for, and only with great difficulty obtained.

Let not committees suppose I desire to limit their intended prize lists (I have no such intention), I merely wish the really meritorious specimens to reap the advantages, and such as their owners dread not to place in the midst of competition, with the conviction, that honours thus gained are alone creditable and enduring.

One of the best tests perhaps, that could be advanced in the confirmation of my opinions, is the fact, that very frequently have I known pens of poultry, whose owners have loudly exulted in their successes, as "extra class prize birds," who, when their highly-extolled favourites were submitted to the critical ordeal of their own proper competition, felt not a little chop-fallen, to find all their pre-conceived notions rudely prostrated, and that the judges, in the calm administration of rigid fairness, have passed them over as undeserving alike of either comment or reward.

E. C.

Column for Beginners.

CHAPTER IV.

SITTING THE HENS AND REARING THE CHICKS.

THE most uninitiated will be at no loss to understand a hen's meaning, when she wishes to convey the idea that she chooses to sit and to present to her owners,—I beg her pardon, her employers—(for my lady *now* considers herself a person of *great* consequence, and reckons it the duty of cock, hens, and all the other bipeds who have anything to do with her precincts, to submit themselves to her vagaries) a repetition of her own (or some other fowl's—so there are chickens, she does not care) beauties and merits. Hens used formerly, on these occasions, to set their feathers and run about the yard, as near a representation of a feather screen as could be managed without positive compression; but in these Cochinchina days, things are done more quietly. The Cochinchina hen betakes herself to the nest, and only screams angrily at any intruder she may suspect of a design to deprive her of the imaginary eggs which she has made up her mind to hatch; representative, no doubt, in her chicken brain, of the splendid and expensive sitting of embryo Brahma-Pootras, which her employers will consider no more than her due.

She keeps her station in the nest, day and night; and it is well to try her steadiness for a little time, and even to try it with a few eggs of small value, if those which you mean to give her eventually are of an expensive kind.

In choosing the place in which to sit the hen, remember that a certain degree of damp is beneficial for the hatching. Choose, therefore, a locality which is *warm and damp*, not cold and damp, for I reckon cold a greater enemy to incubation and to the hatching (in which damp is, I think, *most* important) than even dryness. Unless, therefore, the weather is *very hot* (in which case a cool place will perhaps do no harm), choose, if you can possibly

manage it, a warm damp place. If quite away from the other fowls it will be much better; if in their house, take care that the sitter has food and water without delay, as soon as she leaves her nest (which she will do only once every day), and take care also that she is not annoyed by the other fowls. She must not remain off long enough for the eggs to get at all chilled; very few hens will attempt to do so, if food and water are placed ready. On the day of hatching the hen will not care to leave her nest. Make a memorandum the day she is set:—she will hatch in three weeks. When a portion of the chickens are hatched, if the hen appears inclined to be negligent of the remaining eggs, it is best to remove the chickens and keep them warm with flannel in a basket; but if she still sits quite close on chicks and eggs, without killing the *one* or neglecting the *other*, let her keep her chickens. Do not let her remain too long without eating: when it is beyond the four-and-twenty hours since she has been off to feed, place a small cup of corn in the corner of her nest, and when she has done with that, a small cup of water in its place.

When the chickens begin to pop out their heads from under the mother, give her, in the corner of the nest, a cup of crushed corn, wetted oatmeal, or (if you can make sure to get them fresh) broken groats, and she will be the best judge when her chickens had better begin to eat: if she should consider that *they* do not yet require these creature-comforts, she will not herself object to a slight repast on such unusually delicate provender. She will also be glad to have a little water placed within her reach.

When the hatching is over, it may happen that the nest is dirty and offensive, in which case remove mother and chicks to a clean, *warmed* nest, and if some one can keep the chickens warm while it is preparing, a roll in the dust will be a great relief to the poor tired sitter.

The second or third day, according to the strength of the chickens, the hen may

be placed under a coop. Let the mother and her young family be kept in a warm dry place, and fed very often, as directed by H. R. in his instructions, "How prize fowls are made" (p. 24).

Provided care and attention supply the place of more extended advantages, perhaps there is no reason why a few, even of prize birds, should not be reared in a small backyard or garden.

At this time the beginner's most dangerous temptation will assail him, and renew its attacks again and again in the form of every egg laid by a handsome fowl and every broody hen that crosses the path of his poultry career. Every egg will seem to whisper from within its rounded, polished shell; every broody hen will cluck forth a fresh syren's song; and every little thriving chick that hatches, will, with contented twitter, tempt the beginner to breed a larger number of chickens than he has room to rear with success. But, dear beginners, you who will ere long, perhaps, swell the ranks of our successful amateurs, do not forget in hatching chickens to reckon the room they will require at three or four months old. Earlier than that, you can neither exhibit, sell, nor eat them; so, if you have but one small yard or garden, be persuaded not to attempt more than two broods each season.

Hints to Committees of Poultry Shows.

THE Committee having settled the foregoing knotty points, must proceed to have the regulations printed, and their intended show duly advertised. I consider it a good plan to subdivide the committee into working committees, or, if the matter is not of great importance, to delegate one committee man, or the secretary, to do it; for "what is everybody's business is nobody's," says a proverb; but if the matter is of some importance, remember another proverb, "two heads are better than one," and therefore appoint a sub-committee of

two, or at most three, and grant them sufficient powers to carry out the duty allotted to them officially.

Thus the printing committee will have to superintend the prize schedules, the advertisements, placards, pen numbers, class cards (copied from the premium list); 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize cards; extra prize, highly commended, and commended cards; direction cards for the exhibitors. I may here mention that cards with the Nos. of the pens in each alley on them are very useful to anybody,—viz. at the commencement of 1st alley, No. 1 to 50; 2nd alley, 50 to 100, being quite as useful to strangers as the name attached to a street corner, and useful to the men arranging the birds; also they must provide subscribers' tickets, and those also for general visitors, of different colours for the different prizes.

Another sub-committee should have the preparations of the pens allotted to them; the general committee will of course have secured a room or space sufficiently large for the show; if there is any doubt about the room being sufficient, get more. The committee must secure sufficient space to allow ALL the pens to be on one level; on no account ought any pens to be two-stories high. A more unfair or unjust way of exhibiting poultry was never devised than that so generally adopted, of piling them one on the top of another. In the first place, the birds below have not a chance of competing fairly with those above, upon whose plumage no such board throws a discreditable shade; next, it is not fair to the exhibitor of the birds below, that he should pay the same rent for the cellar below as charged for the more comfortable and well ventilated apartment above. If poultry show committees will have two heights of pens, let them in fairness have two charges, say 2s. Gd. for the upper and 1s. for the dungeons below, and they will soon learn, from the demand, which a discerning public prefers; and lastly, it is not fair to the birds that they should be so "cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd," nay obscured; little do they see but the

constant flow of legs and petticoats pass their prison, without the admiring glance, although perchance now and then they may be startled by the sight of some odd and extra inquisitive individual squatting down on his hams and endeavouring to peer through the impenetrable darkness of their temporary abode. If the space will only hold a certain number of pens, say 500, far better will it be to limit the entries to that number, than to have the constant complaints of the owners of the ill-treated birds that they have not had a fair chance; or worse, that they have died from the combined effects of neglected merits, darkness, dirt and water from above, and suffocation. I have said, I think, enough to show that a radical reformation is required in this branch of our poultry shows, and will now describe what I consider the arrangement of the pens ought to be.

The most economical plan is to place them back to back, the bottom of the pens ought to be three feet from the ground, and the pens should be three feet deep, and for the larger birds three feet wide, *i.e.* for Dorkings, Spanish, and Shanghaes, also for ducks, although, if space can be allowed, four feet is small enough for the last. Game, Hamburg, and other smaller birds, will do very well with twenty-seven inches or thirty inches, and Bantams with two feet. I may here remark, that I would make all the pens the same height, say three feet, and three feet deep, excepting the Bantams. The committee must bear in mind that the doors of the pens must not be permanently secured until the judges have given their awards, for they will certainly handle a great number of the birds, and therefore the doors ought to be securely but not permanently fastened. I am of opinion that the fronts used in the new poultry bay at Birmingham will be the best, indeed I am almost sure that they would be the cheapest, and as some of your readers may not have seen them, I will describe them in the next number.

W. W.

Colombiary.

No. II.—THE DOVE-HOUSE PIGEON.

THIS pigeon is also known by the name of the common Dove-Cot Pigeon, and is the commonest and most extensively diffused of all the tribe; they are to be met with in immense flocks peopling most of our dove-cots, vast numbers are also to be found in every country of Europe; I have read they are plentiful in India, and have been informed they are also to be seen on the rocks about Sydney, Australia; most probably the descendants of escaped birds taken there by emigrants.

In many parts of England large numbers of these pigeons may be found in a wild state inhabiting rocks, ruins, or located in steeples or towers of our churches and other public buildings: which flocks are continually replenished by numbers of our tame pigeons that lose their homes; and this will also account for the variations in colour that frequently occur, even in what might otherwise be considered wild pigeons; indeed it would be very difficult to say if these pigeons are indigenous wild birds, or only escaped or ferol.

Their colour is what is termed chequered or dappled, that is, they are of a slaty black colour, chequered or dappled with blue on the wing coverts, and frequently there is a brownish mark on the secondary wing feathers; the rump is whitish, the tail is rather short, tipped with black, the external feathers having a white margin, and the under parts of the body lighter, the neck feathers glossed with purple and green; the beak is long, slender, and dark horn colour, the eye gravelly red, the feet red, but in the young blackish.

They are rather stouter and plumper made than the wild Blue Rock Pigeon, and much more familiar; they are excellent breeders, raising many pairs of young in a season, and though wild and fond of liberty, may be rendered very tame and docile.

They are capable of finding their own

living in the fields, where they do untold good by devouring the seeds of many weeds that they find on the ground, they also eat many sorts of vegetables and green food that they find abroad; but the good they may contribute is little known, and they are looked on by most farmers as depre-dators. Doubtless they may occasionally do some harm; it must, however, be remembered that the pigeon's bill is not made for digging, nor his feet for scratching. Thus he can, at most, only pick up the grain and seeds that are improperly covered, or lie scattered on the surface, and which could not be gathered up. Some persons suppose that they feed entirely on corn, and think, if a pigeon one day eats a certain quantity of grain, that he is to do so every day, and thus they reckon up a large supposed consumption; but seed-time and harvest do not last all the year, and even supposing they do some trifling amount of damage,—that is to say, suppose they eat some corn that might have fed the rooks, pheasants, or other birds (for very little of this corn would grow), is not the damage compensated by the good they perform in eating the seeds of weeds, and, at least, the dung from a dove-cot should not be forgotten on their side. I have been told they do much damage in a pea-field, but I am at a loss to discover what, seeing they do not shell the peas, and though they may fill their crops, it is from those that fall out by the splitting and curling up of some pods before the majority are ripe enough to harvest; thus the only harm they do appears to be robbing the pigs and poultry that might be turned into the gratten.

The Dove-House Pigeon, and indeed all the mongrels or small runts, are very prolific. All pigeons are monogamous; each cock selects his mate, and generally remains constant to her for their joint lives, unless age or sickness cool their affection. The pigeons, when paired, seek out a nest place, where they coo to each other; the cock then proceeds to fetch the materials for the nest, which the hen arranges to her

fancy; fine twigs are mostly preferred, but they will also use straw, or even hay, if the others are not handy. About a fortnight after pairing, the hen usually lays her first egg, about four o'clock in the afternoon, over which they usually keep guard; then missing a day, she lays her second egg about noon, and then commences the proper incubation.

The cock relieves his mate about ten o'clock in the morning, and sits till four, p.m., when the hen resumes her place, and remains on till the next morning; sixteen days after the second egg is laid they hatch. The young are ugly little things, covered only by a few tufts of yellow down; the old ones feed them with soft meat, a pap prepared by the old birds from the food they eat. The old ones, taking the young bird's beak in their mouths, inject the soft food into its mouth, which the young then swallows; as the young advance, the food is less prepared, until it is given almost in the same state as the old ones find it. In about five weeks the young are ready to leave the nest; but ere this, the old usually have made another nest, and frequently sit again, and sometimes the second pair are hatched before the first could feed alone.

(To be continued.)

B. P. B.

Dr. Bennett's Plymouth Rock Fowl.

AT page 152 of the "Poultry Chronicle," "Alector" mentions an American variety of fowls, produced by a curious mixture of different sorts, which he thinks may possibly have been the parents of the Bramah-Pootras. As many of our readers may not have the opportunity of referring to the passage in Dr. Bennett's "Poultry Book," to which, we think he alludes, an extract may be found interesting.

"I have given this name," writes Dr. Bennett, "to a very extra breed of fowls, which I produced by crossing a Cochinchina cockerel with a hen, that

was herself a cross between the fawn-coloured Dorking, the Great Malay, and the Wild Indian. * * * * * The Plymouth Rock Fowl, then, is, in reality, one-half Cochin-China, one-fourth fawn-coloured Dorking, one-eighth Great Malay, one-eighth Wild Indian." Dr. Bennett mentions them as a good cross only, and thus describes them.

"Their plumage is rich and variegated; the cocks usually red or speckled, and the pullets darkish brown. They are very fine fleshed and early fit for the table. Their legs are very large and usually blue or green, but occasionally yellow or white, generally having five toes upon each foot. Some have the legs feathered, but this is not usual. They have large single combs and wattles, large cheeks, rather short tails, and small wings. They are domestic, and not so destructive to gardens as smaller fowls." Mr. Burnham (in the "Massachusetts Ploughman") has also described them in much the same manner, and mentions them more than once as *dark-coloured birds*. However "amiable and estimable" they may be "in every relation of life," they seem to show just the extent of mongrelism which might be expected, and do not in a single point (either in these descriptions or in the picture which is given of them) resemble the Brahma-Pootra fowls.

Notes on Past Numbers.

Continued.

THE article on the Curassow, page 86, reminds me that some five or six years ago I saw in the poultry-yard of Luscombe House, Dawlish, a bird which I was informed came from South America, and I think Mexico. It was a female, and its mate had died during the winter, which had then just passed. It looked in a neglected state, and was listlessly wandering about a cold, wet, paved court. It was *quite tame*, but did not appear to be in good health. As well as I can remember, the

bird was rather smaller than a hen turkey, and, if the form of the tail counts for much in ornithology, I should say was nearly allied to that species. Of its plumage I have a still more imperfect recollection, but I think it was something pheasant-like and iridescent. If any of your Dawlish readers were to institute inquiries, they might be able to learn particulars that might be useful.

The paper of E. H., p. 89, is very correct as far as my own experience goes, and that is in every point but one, viz., the cross between the Malay Cock and Dorking Hen. This I have never tried, but knowing the benefits derivable from the Cochin China and Dorking cross, I can readily credit what he says. There is an apparent slip of the pen at line 30, column 2, page 92, where I would suggest the word "culinary" for "general," and the more so, as E. H. himself, a few lines further on, deprecates the cross-bred birds being kept for stock.

"Brahma Pootra may signify the *young Brahma*," page 129, just as Tahma Pootra may signify young Thames, but it does not follow that either stream should have an existence.

"Cymon," at page 148, objects to the use of sawdust for pens at an exhibition as being the "worst thing." Circumstances alter cases, and bad as I think it to be, yet in some places it is the best, and perhaps the only thing. All the poultry shows with which I have been concerned have been held on the sea-coast, where none but salt water sand was procurable. That, as well as chopped straw and sawdust, has been tried, and the preference given to the last, when it did not proceed from oak or fir timber. I still retain my objection to soft food at exhibitions, for, notwithstanding that gravel in small proportions is conducive to the digestion of all birds, yet I have known cases of fowls being crop-bound by reason of the undue proportion of both sand and sawdust respectively. Salt in reason is good for a man, but in large quantities it will cause both sickness and death. Now a pint of corn between

three birds, and given at six meals instead of two or three, will, in conjunction with a good supply of green meat, be sufficient for their support; and I will undertake to say that if this plan is carried out in proportion to the size of the birds, we shall not hear of their being crop-bound. It is the gorging that does the mischief.

As regards the breasts of Cochin China fowls, "Cymon" and myself must agree to differ. I would, however, remind him that it is quite "within the resources of poultry science" to improve upon, and even to alter nature. A few years ago Spanish fowls were not allowed to have black legs, now they must have no other. Poldans had formerly no right to muffs, now it is a fashionable appendage. The admission of rose combs to coloured Dorkings is recent, and vulture hocks to Cochin Chinas may be still almost deemed a novelty.

I am quite of your victimised correspondent's opinion about "purchased eggs." I have no reason myself to complain of their not hatching, though I have had some from a distance of 250 miles, but I never hatched a show bird from any but my own eggs. If any of your readers have ever been more successful in this respect, I wish they would come forward and state the fact on the principle of *audi alteram partem*.

As I don't agree with Mr. John Fairlie that "honesty of purpose requires no anonymous signature" (in all probability we view the matter from different points), I still subscribe myself

ALECTOR.

P.S. If you would head each number with an index of "Contents," it would materially assist your readers to refer to any past communications.

[We have known chickens from bought eggs take a prize.—We would willingly give a table of contents to each number, but the printers object to it strongly, on the truthful plea of the inconvenient delay which it occasions at the last moment. We, however, give a copious index on the wrapper to each monthly part. Our cor-

respondent will find the river Berampootea, Burrampootea, or Brahmampootea, inserted in most atlases, and mentioned in most gazetteers.—Ed.]

Schedule of the Cheltenham Poultry Show.

THE third Cheltenham Annual Summer Exhibition of Poultry will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, June 14th and 15th, at the Pittville Spa, under the patronage of the Lord Lieutenant of the county of Gloucester, and many others of the aristocracy, clergy, and gentry of the neighbourhood.

LIST OF PRIZES.

COCHIN CHINA.—(CINNAMON OR BUFF.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|
| Class 1.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | £5 0 0 |
| 2nd Prize .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 10 0 |
| 3rd Prize .. .. . | .. .. . | 0 10 0 |

COCHIN CHINA CHICKEN.—(CINNAMON, BUFF, OR PARTRIDGE.)

Cockerel and Three Pullets; hatched since 1st January, 1854.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|
| Class 2.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | 3 0 0 |
| 2nd Prize .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 0 0 |
| 3rd Prize .. .. . | .. .. . | 0 10 0 |

COCHIN CHINA.—(PARTRIDGE OR DARK.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|
| Class 3.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | 5 0 0 |
| 2nd Prize .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 10 0 |
| 3rd Prize .. .. . | .. .. . | 0 10 0 |

COCHIN CHINA.—(WHITE.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|
| Class 4.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | 5 0 0 |
| 2nd Prize .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 10 0 |
| 3rd Prize .. .. . | .. .. . | 0 10 0 |

COCHIN CHINA CHICKEN.—(WHITE.)

Cockerel and Three Pullets; hatched since 1st January, 1854.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|
| Class 5.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | 3 0 0 |
| 2nd Prize .. .. . | .. .. . | 1 0 0 |
| 3rd Prize .. .. . | .. .. . | 0 10 0 |

COCHIN CHINA.—(BLACK.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|----|----|---|
| Class 6.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | £5 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |

COCHIN CHINA CHICKEN.—(BLACK.)Cockerel and Three Pullets; hatched since
1st January, 1854.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---|----|---|
| Class 7.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |

DORKING.—Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---|----|---|
| Class 8.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |

SPANISH.—Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---|----|---|
| Class 9.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |

BRAHMA POOTRA.—Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---|----|---|
| Class 10.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |

GAME.—Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---|----|---|
| Class 11.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |

MALAY.—Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---|----|---|
| Class 12.—1st Prize | Silver Cup or | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |

POLANDS.—(BLACK WITH WHITE CREST.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|
| Class 13.—1st Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 5 | 0 |

POLANDS.—(GOLD-SPANGLED.)

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|
| Class 14.—1st Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 5 | 0 |

POLANDS.—(SILVER-SPANGLED.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|
| Class 15.—1st Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 5 | 0 |

HAMBURGS.—(GOLD-SPANGLED.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|----|----|---|
| Class 16.—1st Prize | .. .. . | £1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 5 | 0 |

HAMBURGS.—(SILVER-SPANGLED.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|
| Class 17.—1st Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 5 | 0 |

HAMBURGS.—(GOLD-PENCILLED.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|
| Class 18.—1st Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 5 | 0 |

HAMBURGS.—(SILVER-PENCILLED.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|
| Class 19.—1st Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 3rd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 5 | 0 |

BANTAMS.—(BLACK.)—Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|
| Class 20.—1st Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |

BANTAMS.—(WHITE.)—Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|
| Class 21.—1st Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |

BANTAMS.—(GOLD-LACED.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|
| Class 22.—1st Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |

BANTAMS.—(SILVER-LACED.)

Cock and Two Hens.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|
| Class 23.—1st Prize | .. .. . | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | .. .. . | 0 | 10 | 0 |

THOROUGH-BRED.

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Class 24.—Cock and Two Hens, deserving specimens of any variety not named in the Schedule. | | | | |
| Three Prizes of £1 each.. | 3 | 0 | 0 | |

CHICKENS.

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Class 25.—Cockerel and Three Pullets, hatched since 1st January, 1854, any distinct breed for useful purposes (Cochin China excepted). | | | | |
| Three Prizes of £1 each.. | 3 | 0 | 0 | |

TURKEYS.—Cock and Hen.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|
| Class 26.—1st Prize | £2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |

GUINEA FOWL.—Cock and Hen.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 27.—1st Prize | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 0 | 5 | 0 |

PIGEONS.—(CARRIERS.)—Pairs.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 28.—1st Prize | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 0 | 5 | 0 |

RUNTS.—Pairs.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 29.—1st Prize | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 0 | 5 | 0 |

POUTERS or CROPPERS.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 30.—1st Prize | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 0 | 5 | 0 |

BLACK FANTAILS.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 31.—1st Prize | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 0 | 5 | 0 |

WHITE FANTAILS.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 32.—1st Prize | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 0 | 5 | 0 |

JACOBS.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 33.—1st Prize | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 0 | 5 | 0 |

ALMOND TUMBLERS.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 34.—1st Prize | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 0 | 5 | 0 |

ANY OTHER VARIETIES.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 35.—Three Prizes of 10s. each | 1 | 10 | 0 |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|---|

GEESE.—Gander and Goose.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 36.—1st Prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 0 | 10 | 0 |

DUCKS.—(WHITE AYLESBURY.)**Drake and Duck.**

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 37.—1st Prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 0 | 10 | 0 |

ROUEN.—Drake and Duck.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 38.—1st Prize | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Prize | 0 | 10 | 0 |

ANY OTHER VARIETY.—Drake and Duck.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|---|
| Class 39.—Three Prizes of 10s. each | 1 | 10 | 0 |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|---|

. The Judges will "Highly Commend," or "Commend," all deserving Pens in each Class, which will appear in the printed list of Prizes.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. The Exhibition to take place on the 14th and 15th of June, 1854, at the Pittville Spa, Cheltenham.

2.—All entries must be made on the forms supplied by the Secretaries, on or before the 3rd of June, 1854.

3.—Entrance-fees from Class 1 to 12 inclusive, 5s. per pen, 13 to 39 inclusive, 2s. 6d. per pen.

4.—Exhibitors must in all cases state a price at which they will sell their specimens, which must be sold in pens (including the basket in which they are sent), and not divided, and should the same be sold, £10 per cent. will be deducted from the proceeds towards the expenses of the Exhibition; all sales must be registered in the Secretaries' books.

5.—Birds will be received only on Tuesday, the 13th of June, and it is particularly requested that the birds may be so forwarded as to arrive early on that day; proper direction labels will be supplied by the Secretaries; carriage in all cases must be prepaid.

6.—The Judges will be empowered to withhold a prize or prizes in any of the Classes in which the specimens are deemed unworthy.

7.—The office for the sale of birds will be opened on the first day of the Exhibition at three o'clock, and on the second day at twelve o'clock.

8.—A subscriber of 10s. shall be entitled to four admission tickets for the first day (two children under twelve years of age will be admitted with one ticket); the subscription list to remain open until the 12th of June, after which, the admission tickets for the first day shall be 5s. each; the Secretaries, on receipt of a post-office order with a stamped directed envelope, will forward admission tickets.

9.—On the first day (Wednesday, June the 14th), the Gardens will be opened at Two o'clock, admission to non-subscribers, or where tickets have not been secured as above, 5s. each. On the second day (Thursday, June the 15th), the Gardens will be opened at Ten o'clock. Admission 1s. each until the final close of the show at Seven o'clock in the evening.

10.—All eggs will be broken, and the Secretaries will take every possible care of the birds entrusted to their charge, but they will not hold themselves responsible for any unavoidable accident or misfortune. Re-packing will commence immediately on the close of the Exhibition, by the Secretaries and their assistants, and forwarded without delay; no person will be allowed to remove any pen without the consent of the Secretaries.

All birds to be forwarded according to the address given by the Exhibitors, unless sold and entered in the Secretaries' books.

11.—All letters or communications requiring an answer must contain a stamped directed envelope. A schedule of prizes may be had by enclosing two postage stamps to

JESSOP, BROTHERS,
The Aviaries, Cheltenham. Secretaries.

The Great Western, the South Wales, and the Midland Railway Companies, have agreed to carry birds for this Exhibition both ways for one fare.

There will be a grand musical promenade each day, commencing at Two o'clock.

The liberality of the prize list, including as it does six silver cups of the value of £5 each, and the same number £3 each, will, no doubt, draw numerous exhibitors and spectators to this exceedingly popular locality in the midst of the "leafy month of June." The railways, as mentioned above, offer welcome and liberal aid by carrying the birds both ways for one fare; and we would wish to draw the particular attention of our readers to some items contained in the regulations. Business will be facilitated, and mistakes avoided, by the baskets being included in the sale of the birds. The office for the sale of birds will be opened on the first day of exhibition, at 3 P.M., one hour later than the opening of the show, an arrangement which will be pleasing to many purchasers.

To Poultry Exhibitors.

THE golden age for poultry judges will be when every exhibitor is himself able to act in that capacity; but in this, as in other pursuits, there is no royal road to knowledge. All the fundamental rules must be observed, and the tiresome and uninteresting preliminaries must be mastered by the student before he is able to judge even for himself with any degree of correctness. We would advise all those who breed with the intention of exhibiting largely, to fit up, in some convenient place, a pen similar to those used at exhibitions. Put the birds intended for competition in it, and look not for their beauties and good qualities, but for their defects and their de-

ficiencies. Remove any bird that does not match, or that falls short in the merit required, and substitute another for it, till, after careful criticism, you can find no fault. Mark the birds, turn them out, and in a few days judge them again. You will be astonished at the numerous changes you will make, and still more so at the knowledge you will acquire. "But," says the tyro, "I know not the rules." We reply, there is no occasion to know them; and it would be almost impossible to write them. With very few, if any, exceptions, the best birds win the prizes. Take Captain Hornby, for instance, in Spanish and Dorkings. That gentleman did not begin by asking for rules, but he was careful to get the best birds money would buy, and the consequence has been, a career of success so uninterrupted as to cause astonishment to every one. The same may be said of Mrs. Stowe, Messrs. Andrews, Punchard, Sturgeon, Fairlie, Steggall, Gilbert, and others, in Cochinchinas; Messrs. Mensy, Thurnall, Bullock, &c., in game; the Hon. Mrs. Astley, Miss Walker, Mrs. H. Fookes, Mr. Fellowes, the Messrs. Lowe, the Rev. R. Pulleine, and Mr. Adkins, in pencilled and spangled Hamburgs; Messrs. Symonds, Rawson, and others, in Polands; Messrs. Hewitt, Sparey, and Adkins, in bantams; Mr. Fairlie and Lord Hill, in turkeys. We do not for a moment pretend there are not many other names equally deserving mention, and which would as well illustrate our position; but the above will suffice, as we are not here chronicling the deeds of those we mention, but seeking to show that, provided judges are competent, which they mostly are, the awards go to the best pens, and thus birds of one particular strain traverse the length and breadth of the country, only to gather fresh laurels.

This we think proves that, without resorting to published books of points, the best birds always get the prizes, because they travel the round of the shows, meet with diversity of judges, and yet the same success. Much of this is due to the quality

of the birds themselves, and also to the judgment exercised by the exhibitors in matching their pens. This will be acquired by adopting the plan we suggested at the outset.

We would conclude by saying to exhibitors—the rules are written in the prize-pens; the lesson should be learned there, and put in practice in the yard at home.

A MINUTE OBSERVER.

The Newcastle Poultry Show.

THE third show of the Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham Poultry Society was held in the Corn Exchange, at Newcastle. On the 19th and 20th inst., and though the committee only got possession of the building at one o'clock on the 18th, the pens were all ready for the reception of the poultry at six o'clock the next morning; the arrangement of the pens was excellent, a proper height from the ground with a thorough light, which enabled the birds to be seen to great advantage. In Cochins, the class of old birds, cinnamon and buff, were well represented, Messrs. H. Marshall, of Durham, and C. F. Perkins, of Picktree, being the successful candidates. The partridge, and also the white classes, were very indifferent; no prize was awarded to the former, and only a second to the latter.

Of Spanish there was a fair show, but nothing first-rate. The Dorking hens were in general very good, but the cocks inferior; the game class small, but good. It was whispered that a few quiet mains are still fought by the pitmen, near Newcastle, at this season, which would account in some measure for the deficiency. The whole class of Hamburgs were but poorly represented. The Polish few, but very good. The Bantams, too, larger, but the Sebrights well laced. Aylesbury and Rouen ducks good. Mr. W. Trotter took the first prize for turkeys, with a splendid pair of American. There was amongst the extra pens a pair of Egyptian fowls,

which, as they seem a perfectly distinct breed, are worth describing. Colour white, comb split and laid back upon the head, legs yellow, ten toes, size rather larger than an ordinary Bantam. A new feature in this exhibition was the show of Peacocks; nine were exhibited in a large pen, each with a ticket round his neck, and nine more beautiful birds have seldom, if ever, before been seen together. A pied bird, which took the second prize, was particularly handsome as a fancy bird, his breast being alternate bars of purple and white feathers, the tail and crest also very evenly raised.

There was a large show of hen and duck eggs; a peculiarly large egg was exhibited and thus described. "One of several laid by a hen of Mrs. Fawcus, Dunstan, near Alnwick, dimensions $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $7\frac{1}{2}$ —weight 6 oz."

It is very gratifying to state, that no less than twelve prizes were carried off by cottagers of a rental not exceeding £8 per annum—a proof that, at least in Northumberland, the poultry mania is taking a right direction, by teaching the labourer that a good and profitable bird may be kept on the same food as the miserable specimens we too often see about a cottage door.

The greatest credit is due to the committee for the excellent arrangements.

The Rev. R. Pulleine, of Kirkby Wiske, and Mr. Thomas Reid, of Newcastle, were the judges.

K. W.

The following is the list of prizes:—

COCHIN CHINA. (Cinnamon and Buff.)

Class 1.—Best cock and two hens, No. 3, Mr. H. Marshall, Durham; second best, No. 1, C. F. Perkins, Esq., Picktree House, Chester-le-street. No. 5, Mr. Richard Dewes, Park-row, Knaresborough—highly commended.

Class 2.—Best cock and one hen, No. 15, C. F. Perkins, Esq.; second best, No. 16, C. F. Perkins, Esq. No. 18, H. Marshall, Esq., Durham—highly commended.

COCHIN CHINA. (Partridge or Brown.)

Class 3.—Best cock and one hen, No. 23, Mr. Wm. Trotter, Bywell; second best, No. 24, H. Marshall, Esq., Durham.

Class 4.—Best cock and one hen; no award.

COCHIN CHINA. (White.)

Class 5.—Best cock and two hens; no award; second best, No. 29, Mr. Jos. Swan, Newcastle.

Class 6.—Best cock and one hen; no award.

COCHIN CHINA. (Hatched 1853.)

Class 7.—Best cockerel and two pullets, No. 41, H. Marshall, Esq., Durham; second best, No. 58, Mr. W. Trotter, Bywell. No. 46, Frederick Powell, Esq., Knaresborough, York—highly commended.

SPANISH.

Class 8.—Best cock and two hens, No. 62, Mr. William Lightfoot, Shieldfield, Newcastle; second best, No. 63, F. Powell, Esq., Knaresborough, York.

Class 9.—Second best cock and one hen, No. 70, Mr. William Trotter, Bywell.

Class 10.—Best cockerel and two pullets, No. 80, Mr. William Lightfoot, Shieldfield; second best, No. 74, Mrs. W. T. Bell, Hill-house, Bishopwearmouth. No. 83, Mrs. Downess, Alnmouth, Alnwick—highly commended.

DORKINGS. (Coloured.)

Class 11.—Best cock and two hens, No. 87, Mr. John Graham, West Jesmond.

Class 12.—Best cock and one hen, No. 96, N. G. Lambert, Esq., Killingworth.

Class 13.—Best cockerel and two pullets, No. 99, Mr. C. Swarbrick, Thirsk; second best, No. 97, Mr. J. James, Samiston, Kelso.

DORKINGS. (White.)

Class 14.—Best cock and two hens, No. 102, Mr. L. W. Atkinson, Newbiggen, Hexham; second best, No. 103, ditto.

MALAY.

Class 15.—Best cock and two hens; no award.

GAME FOWL.

Class 16.—Best cock and two hens, No. 107, Mr. G. Hudson, Bigg Market, Newcastle; second best, No. 108, Mr. J. Charlton, Simpson-street, Newcastle.

Class 17.—Best cock and one hen, No. 112, ditto; second best, No. 115, Mr. J. H. Smith, Skelton-grange, York.

GOLDEN-PENCILLED HAMBURGS.

Class 18.—Best cock and two hens; no award.

Class 19.—Best cock and one hen, No. 119, Mr. Wm. Trotter, Bywell; second best, No. 118, Mr. R. Blackburn, Slaley.

SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURGS.

Class 20.—Best cock and two hens, No. 126, Mr. W. Surtees, Newlands, Stocksfield; second best, No. 121, Mr. C. F. Perkins, Pickett-house, Chester-le-street.

Class 21.—Best cock and one hen, No. 132, Mr. H. Surtees, cottager, Lodge, Riding-mill;

second best, No. 131, Capt. W. H. Snell, St. Swithin's-lane, London.

GOLDEN-SPANGLED HAMBURGS.

Class 22.—Best cock and two hens, No. 138, Mr. James Millon, Wallsend; second best, No. 142, Mr. Wm. Trotter, Bywell. No. 141, Mr. W. Wakinshaw, Poplar-cottage, near Newcastle—highly commended.

Class 23.—Best cock and hen; no award.

SILVER-SPANGLED HAMBURGS.

Class 24.—Best cock and two hens, No. 146, Mr. W. Trotter, Bywell; second best, No. 144, N. Plues, Esq., Darlington.

Class 25.—Best cock and one hen, No. 148, Mr. D. Hume, Marton, Middlesborough-on-Tees; second best, No. 147, Mr. Robert Ferguson, cooper, Alnwick.

POLISH (black, with white crest).

Class 26.—Best cock and two hens; no award.

Class 27.—Best cock and one hen, No. 150, Mr. R. Collingwood, Southwick, Sunderland.

GOLDEN POLISH.

Class 28.—Best cock and two hens, No. 152, Mr. W. Trotter, Bywell.

Class 29.—Best cock and one hen, No. 154, Mr. W. Trotter, Bywell; second best, No. 153, Mr. W. Lambert, Slaley.

SILVER POLISH.

Class 30.—Best cock and two hens, No. 155, Mr. W. Trotter, Bywell.

Class 31.—Best cock and one hen, no award.

ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED NAMED.

Class 32.—Best cock and two hens, No. 1c9, Mr. T. Sanderson, Seaton Sluice, Andalusians; second best, do. No. 156, Mrs. W. T. Bell, Hill-house, black Cochins; No. 159, Mr. T. Sanderson (cottager), Seaton Sluice, Andalusians; and No. 162, Mr. Henry Surtees (cottager), Lodge, Riding-mill, Sussex breed—prize to each equal.

BANTAMS—One Cock and Two Hens.

Class 33.—Best gold-laced, No. 168, Mr. J. Gray, Garesfield; second best, No. 164, Cap. W. H. Snell, London.

Class 34.—Best silver-laced, no award.

Class 35.—Best white-laced, No. 169, Miss Riddell, Cheeseburn Grange.

Class 36.—Best black-laced, No. 173, Mr. H. Walker, Brandling-place, Newcastle; second best, No. 170, Mr. R. Burrell, Twizell-house.

Class 37.—Best of any other breed, no award.

ANY OF THE ABOVE BREEDS.

Class 38.—Best cock and four hens, No. 176, Mr. W. Trotter, Bywell; second best, No. 175, do.

GEESE.

Class 39.—Best gander, No. 175, Mr. G. J. Bell, Dinnington; second best, No. 177, Hon. Mrs. T. Liddell, Ravensworth-castle.

DUCKS. (Aylesbury.)

Class 40.—Best drake and two ducks, No. 187, Mr. W. Trotter, Bywell; second best, No. 182, Mr. J. James, Samiston, Kelso.

DUCKS. (Rouen.)

Class 41.—Best drake and two ducks, No. 193, Rev. F. R. Simpson, North Sunderland; second best, No. 192, ditto.

ANY OTHER VARIETY.

Class 42.—Best drake and two ducks, No. 200, Mrs. Hawdon, Morpeth; second best, No. 196, Mrs. Smith, Houghton Castle.

DUCKS. (Muscovy.)

Class 43.—Best drake and one duck, No. 202, G. W. Stable, Esq., Heaton Dean, Newcastle; second best, No. 201, Mrs. S. Rutherford, Elswick-lane, Newcastle.

TURKEYS.

Class 44.—Best cock and one hen, No. 205, Mr. W. Trotter, Bywell; second best, No. 203, Mrs. Forrester, Follonsby. No. 204, Mrs. Gibson, Derwent-villa—highly commended.

Class 45.—Best cock, No. 206, Miss M. J. Peacock, Dinnington.

EXTRA STOCK.

Prizes were awarded to the following in this class:—No. 210, Mr. James Richardson, York, 9 Cochín China pullets; No. 213, H. Marshall, Esq., Durham, silver cinnamon; No. 221, Mrs. Robson, Fawdon, white Spanish; No. 224, Mr. D. Hume (cottager), Marton, near Middlesbro' on Tees, "silk fowl," 10 months; No. 237, Mr. G. W. Stable, Heaton Dean, Newcastle, Shield drakes; No. 239, Mr. J. Etrick Wilkinson, Dunston, Swans.

Class 48.—To THE COTTAGER (rent not more than £8), who exhibits the best lot, in any of the above classes, No. 87, Mr. J. Graham, West-Jesmond; second best, No. 179, Mr. G. J. Bell, Dinnington; third best, No. 126, Mr. Wm. Surtees, Newlands, Stocksfield.

PEA FOWL.

Class 49.—Best pescod, No. 246, Mr. Jos. Tweddle, Pennyhill; second best, No. 242, Mr. E. B. Thompson, Reavely, Alnwick. This class highly commended.

PIGEONS.

Class 50.—Best pair of carriers, No. 251, Mr. Matthew Thompson, Arcada, Newcastle.

Class 51.—Best pair of almond tumblers, No. 253, Mr. Geo. Fawdon, Gateshead.

Class 52.—Best pair of nuns; no award.

Class 53.—Best pair of turbits, No. 255, Mr. Benj. Palfreyman, Ballast Hills.

Class 55.—Best pair of fantails, No. 256, Mr. George Fawdon, Gateshead.

Class 56.—Best pair of trumpeters, No. 258, ditto.

Class 57.—Best pair of pouters or croppers, No. 260, ditto.

Class 58.—Best pair of silver dragons, No. 262, Mr. B. Palfreyman.

Class 61.—Best pair of Antwerps, No. 264, Mr. Geo. Fawdon.

EGGS.

Class 64.—Best twelve hens eggs, No. 227, Mr. J. S. Challoner, Newcastle, Spanish.

Class 65.—Best twelve ducks' eggs, No. 280, Rev. F. R. Simpson, North Sunderland.

Chit-Chat.

A NEW PERIODICAL on gardening and horticulture, named the "Horticultural Journal, and Farm and Garden Advertiser," is just added to this useful, interesting, and entertaining class of works, under the auspices of the well-known Mr. Glenny, who now thus brings his twenty-one years' experience in writing for the horticultural world to bear upon the subject to which he has so long devoted attention. It is a little, well-arranged work, in the form of a newspaper, and is published weekly, price twopence.

IN AN AMERICAN MONTHLY JOURNAL we notice the following,—“At the state poultry show, the following sales were noticed, which indicate that the ‘hen fever’ rages as violent as ever:—

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Three white Shanghaes | 60 dollars. |
| Four Chittagong chickens | 20 ” |
| A trio of wild geese | 15 ” |
| Three Sebricht Bantams | 50 ” |
| Coop of eight ducks (Aylesbury and crested) | 20 ” |
| Three Brahmas | 30 ” |
| <i>Fifty dollars were refused for one cock.</i> | |
| Three black Poland with white topknots | 3 ” |

These prices are not large compared with many which have been given in England.”

AMERICAN NATIONAL POULTRY SOCIETY.—A number of gentlemen interested in the poultry business met at the

Astor House, New York, on the 5th of January, and organized a national society for the improvement of domestic poultry.

The "Tribune" says, "Several hundred dollars were subscribed, which will be offered in premiums for the best specimens of fowls that can be produced from any part of the United States." Before now the show has taken place; this is doing business with truly American promptitude.

MR. STEVENS'S SALE.—There was a lot of six buff and silver cinnamon, early hatched Cochin chickens, from the stock of Mr. Jones, of Fulham, which could scarcely fail to be a bargain, if they were good and healthy, for they were sold for £1. We were not present, but we were told the Brahmans were very far from meritorious. The prices which they fetched were—Cockerel, £2. 2s. Pullets, £3.—£2. 10s.—£2. 2s. A Buff Cochin Pullet of Mr. Collinson's sold for £1. 10s. From the stock of W. G. Vivian, Esq., of Singleton, there were, a pure black Cochin Cockerel, £1; two Golden Poland Pullets, £1 each; they had taken a first prize in Baker Street. There were also a Golden Poland hen and two cocks about the same price.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

BRAHMA POOTRAS AND THE BUFF COCHIN.

SIR,—Will you be good enough to let me have a crow in answer to the flutter of a "Buff Cochin," in your last number but one. In his communication he made use of my name three times, and although he says I have no ear for music, yet I think that was harping too much on one string, and a performance which might not produce much harmony.

I suppose it is a natural consequence of my vanity in rushing into print, to lay myself open to such attacks; but in fairness, after handling my name so freely,

the least he could have done would have been to let us know of what strain he is; he cannot be a Gilbert or a Fox, a Sparham or a Collinson, neither can he be a descendant of the renowned Phoenix; if so, he would have been too proud of his descent not to have proclaimed it to the world; nor can I believe him to be an imported bird, for in that case we should surely have perceived some originality in him; but there is nothing of the kind, naught but assertions and contradictions, very easy to make, but with no argument to substantiate them.

He says I, among others, am continually finding fault with Cochins—in this I think he will find himself a little wrong, for I have only once had the honour of appearing as a correspondent in your columns; and although last season one or two letters of mine appeared in the "Cottage Gardener," on the Brahma question, they were in answer to another correspondent, and in that case he made the comparisons, I only defended the Brahmans: and in my letter of the 27th ult. to you, I merely mentioned four or five points or characteristics, in the Brahmans, which had struck me as differing from the Buff Cochins, and in some of these matters asked the opinion of my brother-amateurs; but there certainly is nothing in the epistle of a "Buff Cochin" to induce me to alter the opinions there expressed.

With reference to the neighbours of the said gentleman in buff, permit me to say, from the first appearance of Brahmans in this kingdom, I have always preferred the single combs; and although I have purchased at different times eighteen or twenty birds, I have always avoided the slightest appearance of a pea comb; but I know persons in whose judgment I have the greatest confidence, and whose opinions I respect most highly (and so would the Buff Cochin if he had the honour of their acquaintance), who go entirely for the pea comb, and assert that it is the correct thing. Now I venture to submit that at

present this is merely matter of fancy, and should be sorry if I so far forgot the respect due to my brother-amateurs and myself, as to tell them they were thimble-rigging the public, merely because their notions are different to mine. He says also, that the pea-combed bird has the sort of crow which I described, but that the single-combed one has a voice which is *idem sonans* with his own. Now as I have never been the possessor of a pea-combed bird, my remarks only applied to those single-combed ones which I had, and in which this peculiarity was certainly observable.

I beg emphatically to deny any disposition on my part to run down the Cochins; on the contrary, I hold that, next to Braumas, they are the best birds for any one to keep in an economical point of view; and so much has been, and can be, said by abler pens than mine in their favour, that it would ill become me to attempt to add anything thereto.

This, Mr. Editor, is the view I take of the case, "that any person holding opinions on any subject which interests a portion of the public, and having as he conceives good reasons for holding those opinions, has an undoubted right to make them public when the opportunity offers."

In conclusion, I would refer the "Buff Cochin" to the concluding passage of the letter of J. Fairlie, Esq., which is so excellent, as to need no comment from me.

I fear, Mr. Editor, I have taken more than my fair share of your time—it remains with you, whether I take the space necessary for the insertion of this lengthy, and I fear tedious, epistle.—I have the honour to be yours truly,
P. JONES.

Fulham, April 14, 1854.

ON REARING CHICKENS.

BELIEVING it to be the bounden duty of every poultry amateur to add his mite of information, I avail myself of the opportunity afforded by your columns to contribute mine.

Having a late vinery, I rear my young chickens therein, but in consequence of its having a brick floor, I last year lost many birds through cramp, &c. I have seen various remedies for the evil complained of, such as covering the floor six inches thick with sand, &c.; but believe the following to be the best method for any floor, whether it be of brick, boards, or earth, viz. malt-comb, which can be obtained of any malster. Two bushels will last a long time, as it does not require a thick coat; and if the comb is too stale for cattle to eat (for which purpose it is generally used), it may be procured very cheap, and will answer the purpose equally well. The healthy appearance of the birds will soon be noticed; they delight to roll in the combings, and as it lies close, the floor is with difficulty bared. It is also the most effectual dusting material for the floor boards of coops. Its sharpness of material appears to produce, by friction, upon their legs and feet an agreeable warmth, so essential to success, particularly in early broods.

For general food, I boil an onion chopped small in water, and pour the whole boiling hot upon oatmeal, and mix it to such a consistency, that it will crumble readily; this, with hard-boiled eggs and shreds of roast mutton, cannot fail to keep them in good health. After a hen has been sitting about ten days, I shine the eggs, by holding them upright near a chink in the fowl-house, opposite the full glare of the sun. If the chick is formed, about two-thirds of the egg will be opaque and fixed, while about one-third, at the broad end, will show the light through. The advantage gained is, that if the eggs are rotten or are unimpregnated, they can then be removed and a fresh lot given to the hen; and if only part are good, by removing the bad she can take better care of the others. This practice is almost universal in this neighbourhood, but never having seen it in print, I thought it might be a wrinkle for some of the "Chronicle" readers.

I agree with "Gus" at p.126, that it is best

to enclose the nest of the sitting hen, and recommend wire wickets for that purpose, and have also adopted the hint of hollowing out a cavity in the earth to prevent the eggs rolling from under the hen; but I cannot agree with Gus's recommendation not to remove the chicks as they are hatched, as I have found that if the hen is not disturbed, the shells either get over the chicks or the eggs, and so smother the birds. I therefore always remove them and the shells until the lot are off, and then restore them to her in the nest for the first day, after which they are removed to the coop.

C. POCKLINGTON, Boston.

CHICKS, APPARENTLY LIFELESS.

MR. EDITOR,—I think I have seen in the pages of your useful and snug little "Chronicle," hints to beginners not to dismiss too hastily cold and deserted eggs. But it may not be amiss to remind them that newly-hatched chicks are capable of being still more marvellously revived. They may have been exposed to cold or wet for hours—they may appear perfectly stiff and lifeless—but they are often not dead for all that. Forcing open the beak I used to consider a sure test, thinking that if it closed again (however slowly) the chick had still life within it, and the reverse if it remained open. I have lately, however, revived many of these latter, and they are, indeed, almost equal to Lewenhoeck's famous animalcules. Hold them in the smoke of the gudewife's chimney, wrap them up warm, and see if "*Nil desperandum*" is not the motto in treating these little patients. Older chicks will sometimes revive, but these (unlike those hatched only twenty-four hours or so) are always weakened by it. To what, Mr. Editor, are we to attribute this dearth of early poultry in Leadenhall? May not the "Asiatics" be gaining too great a preponderance? Useful as they are in affording winter eggs, they are utterly unfit to supply the market with well-

feathered *early ripe* chickens.—I am, Mr. Editor, yours most truly,
H. H.

[We fancy the dearth of poultry for useful purposes *only*, to arise, not so much from excess of the Asiatic breeds as from so many persons devoting themselves to the fancy, rather than to the utilitarian principle. There are *numbers* of late whose efforts to raise *fancy stock* have resulted in even greater disappointment to their *own* air-drawn hopes than to the hopes of the *large number* of purchasers who would have become willing buyers, at *high prices*, of good fowls for the table.—E.D.]

A POISONOUS WASH WILL NOT DO FOR A POULTRY-HOUSE.

MR. EDITOR,—In your column for beginners, chap. 3, an American recipe is given for *lime wash* of different colours: the addition of ochre, umber, and lamp-black, are not objectionable, but the sulphate of zinc is decidedly so.

Zinc, whether in the form of an acetate, carbonate, oxide, or sulphate, is poisonous: the birds may peck off and swallow small particles; and I think all will admit it is best to keep things likely to be injurious to them out of their way.

Common whitewash needs no improvement for poultry-houses, unless it be the addition of a little size or glue to make it stick on firmer; but as some may like a coloured wall better than a white one, I should recommend them to use sulphate of iron (green vitriol) in the manner directed for sulphate of zinc (page 137). Any shade (according to the quantity used) may be produced, from a delicate cream to a reddish brown.

Carbonate, oxide, or rust of iron, are tonics, and if taken by poultry would not be injurious to them. Yours respectfully,
J. C. B.

SPANISH FOWLS.

MR. EDITOR,—As your columns are open to all, and give us the opportunity of

stating our grievances or displaying our knowledge, as the case may be, I come before you to object to some of the statements of "A. J. H." about Spanish fowls. They should not be short-legged, nor is weight of sufficient importance to be named as a standard. I do not mean to say large birds are not desirable if they possess all other points; but if all hens under 5lbs. are to be rejected, many of our best-faced birds will be excluded from any future exhibitions. I am an old Spanish fancier, and have been in the habit of meeting the best judges in England. I have sometimes acted myself, and never met a colleague who would not immediately disqualify a Spanish fowl with white legs. It is imperative they should be *blue*. Black or white are alike inadmissible, and as soon would a black leg be tolerated in a Dorking, as a white in a Spanish.

XERES.

ON THE SALE OF POULTRY AT EXHIBITIONS.

SIR,—I quite agree with your contributor "W. W." in your last number, in his "Hints to Poultry Show Committees," in the following:—"The rule which I would add is that the sale-office will not be opened until twelve o'clock on the first day of the show, and that no pens can be claimed till that hour." Now I can bear testimony to the truth of his statement at Birmingham last year, for I myself, though I went straight from the check-taker to the claiming office, and was certainly in the hall *third* or *fourth*, was unable to reach the door of the office (never having attempted to look at a pen) in time to secure the birds I wished. In fact, the first two who got in were, as your correspondent states, long enough there to buy up all the birds in the place. Any one who was in the crush at the claiming-office will, I am sure, bear witness that it could not be worse whatever hour they opened it.

If it was delayed till twelve, there is this to be said, that those who were strongest

and best able to bear the fatigue of taking up a position from the time the door opened would have the best chance. It seems a pity all this cannot be prevented; why not have them sold by auction the third and fourth days? All people then having seen them, the pens might be sold by *their numbers* up in the gallery, and avoid all struggling and disappointment.

One hint I should like to give myself, which is this, "That when a pen is sold, notice be always given to the exhibitor immediately the exhibition closes;" or, as in my own case, at different times, the birds do not arrive when expected, which is the cause of considerable anxiety and worry. Your obedient,

F. THURSBY.

Abington, near Northampton.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

IN giving our periodical return of the poultry market, we deem it necessary, seeing the extraordinary prices we have to quote, to state, that they are given only for the best quality; inferior sorts are, however, dear in proportion.

Some changes have taken place during the past week. While there has been a positive absence some days of good fowls and chickens, ducklings and goslings have been cheaper.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|----|----------|-------|
| Fowls | 6s. 0d. | to | 7s. 6d. | each. |
| Chickens | 4s. 6d. | to | 5s. 0d. | " |
| Goslings | 7s. 6d. | to | 8s. 0d. | " |
| Ducklings | 4s. 6d. | to | 5s. 6d. | " |
| Pigeons | 0s. 8d. | to | 0s. 10d. | " |
| Rabbits | 1s. 6d. | to | 1s. 9d. | " |
| Guinea Fowls | 4s. 0d. | to | 4s. 6d. | " |

Plovers' eggs, in bulk, 2s. per doz.

To Correspondents.

Cheltenham Poultry Show.—The Editor is extremely obliged to the Messrs. Jessop for the proof of the Schedule.

Hy. A. recommends the following cure for the gapes to F. B.: 1 dr. of turpentine mixed with barley-meal enough to make twenty pills of the usual size. Give two daily until the chick is better.

A Correspondent in Jersey, in reply to "Zenas" and others who have been unfortunate in their

trial of bought eggs, makes honourable mention of six Brahma-Pootra eggs which he received from a well-known English amateur, and which after travelling 150 miles by land, and the same distance by sea, produced five chickens.

Lector writes in reply to *Alector's* difficulty about the Brahma-Pootra river, "The fabulous river, the very existence of which he doubts, is a mighty stream named in plain English, without "Yankee corruption," the Brahma-putra or Brahma-Pootra, having its course beyond the tropics and in the immediate vicinity of the Himalaya Mountains! He will now readily understand the claims to hardness of the fowls said to have been originally brought from its banks."

To *Bessie*.—Do not on any account dip your hen in cold water to prevent her sitting, if she is of value, for your own sake, and if she is of none, for hers. Coop her on the grass, if convenient remove her to a new run, give her cooling food, and she will soon get over the freak.

Bessie would like to know how "Gus" can buy meal for two shillings per bushel, and mentions that the Burrampooter (or Brahma-Pootra), far from being a new invention, is mentioned in a book bearing date 1836.

G. B. advises the purchasers of eggs who have lately had reason to complain of disappointment, 1st, to view the stock from which the eggs come, to get a friend to do so, or else to find out the respectability of the parties; and if this should fail, to make no purchase. 2nd, to have a full understanding as to the sort to be supplied, &c.; and lastly, to send a post-office order *with* the order for the eggs.

G. B. mentions, in answer to *D. E. F.*, who recommends glass eggs (costing four shillings per dozen) for nest eggs, that he is trying some of wood at two shillings per dozen.

T. L.—Guinea fowls will lay within a fortnight. Many are laying now. They sit a month. We do not know of any pea fowls' eggs for sale, but some of our readers seeing this may be able to supply you. We will forward any communication on the subject.

R. T.—It is unquestionable that the dry weather has a bad effect on poultry, both laying and sitting. We have been obliged this year to do that which we have long exploded, viz. to wet the eggs under the hen for three days before hatching, and even then many chickens die in the shell.

M. H.—In Cochins classes, where there is no mention of colour, grouse and partridge birds are as admissible as any others. All must be judged on their merits, irrespective of colour.

C. D. P., *W. P.*, *C. H. B.*, *J. S. B.*, *B. W.*, *R. B. R.*, and other interesting contributions, are unavoidably delayed until next week.

Advertisements.

PHEASANTS' EGGS.—Gentlemen can be supplied with any quantity of the above. Also, Silver-spangled Hamburg, White Bantams, and Dorking Fowls' Eggs, from prize birds, at Mr. M. LENO, Junior's, Pheasantry, Hemel-Hempstead, Herts.

TO POULTRY FANCIERS.

EGGS.—BUFF, COCHIN, and SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURGS.—A few sittings from these Birds may now be had: Cochins, 13s. per dozen; Hamburgs, 7s. per dozen, including packing.—The Cochins are out of the birds that obtained the first prize at the Newcastle Show, 1853, Class 1. The Hamburgs took the first prize at Newcastle, April 20, 1854, Class 21, Number 132.—Eggs sent on receipt of Post-office order addressed to SEPTIMUS YOUNG, Esq., North Shields.

EGGS for SITTING.—Black Polands, White-crested, first-prize birds at Birmingham and Cheltenham, 1852. The advertiser has bought the whole of Mr. Edward Hewitt's stock of this variety, and will sell a few sets of Eggs at 12s. per dozen.—Address, HENRY BUTLER, Stone Chair, near Halifax.

EGGS for SITTING.—Having taken prizes at Yarmouth, London, Malvern, Bedford, and Birmingham Shows, I have a few Eggs to dispose of at the following prices:—Golden Spangle, 14s.; Silver Spangle, 10s.; Silver Pencilled, 4s.; Black Hamburg, 7s.; White Duck Eggs, 4s. per dozen, including box, on remittance of Post-office order; also a few Silver-pencilled Fowls on Sale.—Address to JOSEPH JORDEN, Waterfall Cottage, Wheeler-street, Birmingham.

BLACK-BREADED GAME FOWLS' EGGS for SALE, from Birds that took first Prizes at Bristol and Honiton; and Grey Game from Birds that have taken Prizes at Derby, Bristol, and Torquay, at £1. 1s. per dozen; also Dorking Eggs, from Birds that have taken Prizes at London Summer Meeting, Summer Zoological Show, Malvern, Derby, Bristol, Taunton, Honiton, and Torquay, at £2. 2s. per dozen.—Apply to J. R. ROBBURD, Aldwick-court, Wrington, near Bristol.

CHEVELEY PARK, NEWMARKET.—JOHN FAIRLIE, Esq., can supply EGGS for the remainder of the season at 21s. per dozen from the following prize birds:—Buff, Partridge, White and Black Cochins, Brahma Pootras, Dorkings, and Scotch Dumpies.

EGGs FOR SITTING, of PURE BUFF COCHIN CHINA, very heavy Feather-legged PRIZE BIRDS, two of which took the First Prize at York and Leeds, and three which took First Prizes at Worcester. All very fine, none others are kept, 12s. the hatch of 13.

The Cock also is a Prize Bird, and all are pure Sturgeon's breed.

Apply to THOMAS MYRING, Day-street, Walsall.

Parties can inspect the Birds, by calling as above, before purchasing.—Also may be had Hatches of Silver-pencilled Hamburgs, at 5s. the Hatch.

LEMON and BUFF COCHIN CHINA EGGS, 12s. per dozen, box and packing, 1s.; warranted fresh, and from good coloured birds. Post-office orders payable at the Post-office, Nelson-street, Greenwich, to Mr. W. H. CLARKE, 11, Lambton-terrace East, Greenwich, Kent, where the Birds can be seen.

EGGS FOR HATCHING FROM FIRST-PRIZE DORKINGS.

FOR SALE, during the season, EGGS from FIRST-PRIZE DORKINGS (four of which were claimed at Hitchin for fifty guineas) at Birmingham in 1852; Reigate, Hitchin, Southwell, Leeds, in 1853; and the Great Metropolitan in 1854. The above Birds have been purchased, regardless of expense, from the yards of Capt. Hornby, R.N., Rev. J. Boys, Hon. and Rev. S. W. Lawley, Mrs. Townley Parker, &c.

The Eggs guaranteed fresh and perfect when packed, which will be done with the utmost care, and sent according to priority of application.

Apply, enclosing a stamped directed envelope, to Mr. HENRY SMITH, the Grove, Cropwell Butler, near Bingham, Nottinghamshire.

C. BAINBRIDGE has for SALE some excellent SPANISH and DORKING FOWLS, the produce of Birds that have taken First Prizes, Hamburgs, Shanghaes of every colour, and a pen of superior White-crested Black Polands.

C. B. begs to inform Poultry Amateurs that he can furnish Eggs from First-prize Spanish and Dorking Fowls, and from selected Birds in any of the other varieties.

C. B. points with pride and pleasure to the success which has attended his efforts in this branch of his trade during the past, and he ventures to hope that, as eggs purchased at his establishment have very rarely failed to produce chickens; this will be considered a guarantee of what may be expected in the future.

Market-hall, Birmingham, April, 1854.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS, from the largest Stock of imported Birds in England, of great weight and beauty, six hens weighing upwards of 60lbs. and the celebrated Yankee Phoenix, the New York Prize Bird, weighing 13½ lbs., and others of equal merit; also Pure Lemon and Buff Cochin Eggs, White-faced Spanish, of the purest breed, and Black Cochin, all from Birds which have repeatedly taken Prizes. All Eggs are warranted, or will be replaced at one-third the original cost. A few Spanish Pullers for Sale, sisters to those sent to her Majesty's Poultry-yard, Windsor.—Apply at T. H. Fox's City of London Wire Works, 44, Skinner-street, London. Illustrated Catalogues forwarded post free.

EGGS FROM SILVER HAMBURG FOWLS—PRIZE BIRDS.

THOMAS McCANN can supply EGGS from the best of his Silver-pencilled and Silver-spangled Hamburg Fowls, which have taken prizes at Birmingham, Metropolitan, and several other Shows. Price, 10s. 6d. per dozen, including packing. Eggs forwarded on receipt of post-office orders in the order in which they are applied for.—THOMAS McCANN, Graham House, Malvern.

EGGs from CAPT. HORNBY's celebrated Spanish and Dorking Prize Fowls may be had on application to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, Spring Grove, Hounslow, to whom Capt. Hornby has transferred his whole stock.

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Spanish | £4. 4s. per dozen. |
| Dorking | £3. 3s. „ |

Remittances to be made by post-office order, and to include 2s. for packing.

EGGs FOR SALE, from Prize birds, from the Yard of CHRISTOPHER RAWSON, Esq., The Hurst, Walton-on-Thames:—

Buff Cochins; Spanish; Coloured and White Dorkings; Gold and Silver, Spangled, and Pencilled Hamburgs; Gold and Silver Bantams; and Aylesbury Ducks, 12s. per dozen.

White and Black Cochins; Gold, Silver, and Black Polands; 21s. per dozen.

Brahma Pootra Eggs, from imported birds of the best strains, £2. 2s. per dozen.

Post-office orders (including 1s. for packing) to be sent with the order. The Eggs will be sent out in rotation according to the date of order.

SPANISH and DORKING FOWLS.—Capt. N. Hornby having transferred his whole Stock of celebrated Poultry to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, of Spring Grove, Hounslow, a portion (for want of space) is for immediate Sale.

EGGS from **FIRST CLASS** and **PRIZE** **BIRDS**.—**JOHN BAILY** has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

EGGS FOR HATCHING.

BRAHMA POOTRA, SPANISH, COCHIN CHINA FOWLS' and AYLESBURY DUCKS' EGGS, from birds of the most superior description, the property of a well-known amateur (owner of the three magnificent Brahmas with which he challenged the world).

Brahma Eggs, "from birds of the purest blood" £2 2 0

Spanish ditto, from birds perfectly white-faced. "The hens bred by Mrs. L. Stow, &c., the cock by Captain Hornby" 0 12 0

Aylesbury Ducks' ditto, "the drake from Ridgway's prize birds, the ducks from Edwards's prize birds" 0 6 0

Cochin China, "from feather-legged buff hens and a very fine vulture-hocked Andrews's cock" 0 6 0

Address P. G., Mr. Hinton's, 8, Winsley-street, Oxford-street.—The most satisfactory references can be given as to quality of all the birds; they are a few miles from London, and could be seen by an appointment being made.

COLOURED DORKINGS for Sale.—A very fine dark, single-combed Cock, which took the Second Prize as a Chicken at the Metropolitan Show in Baker-street, January, 1853, price £2. 2s. Another beautiful bird, 11 months old, and broth'r to the birds that took the Third Prize at Birmingham in December last, price £1. 10s.—Apply to the Rev. HERBERT S. HAWKINS, Henny Rectory, near Sudbury, Suffolk.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—**MR. PUNCHARD**, of Blunt's Hall, near Haverhill, Suffolk, disposes of Eggs from his Buff, and also from his original Partridge-coloured, Birds, price 1s. each, and 1s. for package.—Applications for either, variety will be supplied in the order received.

BRAHMA POOTRA, DORKING, SPANISH, COCHIN CHINA,

And other choice Fancy Poultry.

PERIODICAL SALE.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will **SELL** by **AUCTION** at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on **TUESDAY**, 2nd May, at 12 o'clock precisely—**50 BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS**, of the choicest quality, imported and bred by Mr. Bailey; first class Dorkings, White and Buff Cochins, from Dr. Allen and others; some well-bred Spanish, Aylesbury Ducks, &c. &c.—Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent-garden.

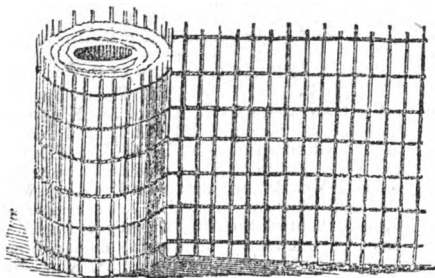
PRIZE FOWLS.—**EGGS** from White Silk Cochins, which have taken four first-class Prizes, including one at the Great Metropolitan Show, 12s. the dozen. A few first-class Buff Cochins, 7s. 6d. to 12s. each, chickens of birds which took three Prizes; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. White-faced Spanish (chickens of prize birds), 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. each; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. Brahma Pootra Eggs, from birds which took a First Prize. £2. 2s. per dozen. One pair of Brahmas (First Prize Birds) for Sale, price £15. 15s.—Apply to Mr. JAMES BARBER, Great Yarmouth.

CLEAR BUFF COCHIN FOWLS' EGGS, from sets of birds bred by Mr. Fairlie and Mr. Andrews are now offered at reduced prices in consequence of the advertiser having concluded sitting his hens this season. The Eggs are very productive, and the chicks come like canaries, and heavily feathered.—Apply to Mr. C. Pocklington, Boston, Lincolnshire.

SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG FOWLS.—**EGGS** from the above birds, which have taken several First and Second Prizes during the last season, can be obtained for 10s. a dozen, package included, on application to Mr. F. H. ABERDEIN, Honiton, Devon. A good Silver-pencilled Hamburg Cock for Sale.

CORSICAN FOWLS.—A **COCK** and **SIX PULLETS**, just imported, of this new variety, for sale.—Apply to T. P., Middleton, near Bicester.

JAMES DIXON, Bradford, Yorkshire, will **SELL EGGS** during the season from his Golden and Silver Spangled and Silver Pencilled Hamburg Fowls; also Spanish, from good White-faced Birds, 10s. the sitting.—Aylesbury, Ronen, and East India **DUCKS' 6d.** each. Most of the above have taken several prizes.



WILLIAM DRAY AND CO.'S
PATENT WIRE FENCING,
 strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c.,
 and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits,
 Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot.

Ordinary Wire Netting, from 2½d. per
 yard, 2 feet wide.

Address **WILLIAM DRAY and Co.,**
 Agricultural Implement Manufacturers,
 Swan-lane, Upper Thames-street,
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FOR POULTRY-HOUSES.
LIGHT, CHEAP, & DURABLE ROOFING.

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE
ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious
 to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by
 a long and extensive experience in all climates.
 Saves half the timber required for slates. Can
 be laid on with great facility by farm servants or
 unpractised persons. Price **ONE PENNY** per
SQUARE FOOT. Croggon's Patent **NON-CON-**
DUCTING FELT for covering Steam-boilers
 and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

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hill, London, who also supply **SHIP SHEATH-**
ING FELT, and **INODOROUS FELT,** for
 Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs
 generally, to equalise the temperature.

SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY-HOUSE, £4,
 consisting of house 4 feet square and 6 feet
 high, and roofed run for fowls 9 feet by 4 feet.
 Drawings of several sent free. The above are
 portable, and can be taken down or put up by
 any ordinary labourer. Wire work from 6 to 15
 inches wide, 6½d. per square yard, to enclose
 poultry, &c.—**R. RICHARDSON, 21, Tonbridge-**
place, New-road, near King's-cross. N.B.
 Maker of garden summer-houses, and iron and
 wood houses for emigrants; drawings of 21 Emi-
 grants' houses, and 28 Summer-houses, sent free.

WIRE POULTRY and GAME NETTING,
 the most admired and useful Galvanized
 Poultry Hurdles, Hen Houses for every one,
 Chicken Coops, and every description of Wire
 Work for Poultry, Game, &c.; also Trainers,
 Arches, Trellis-work, Flower-stands, and all
 kinds of Ornamental and Plain Wire-work for
 Conservatories, Pleasure-grounds, &c., at **T. H.**
Fox's City of London Wire Fence and Hurdle
Manufactory, 44, Skinner-street, London. Illus-
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FRUIT-TREES, POULTRY, RABBIT,
SHEEP, and CAT FENCING.—Worsted
NETTING to protect the bloom of peach,
 nectarine, and other trees, flower, or seed beds,
 from frost, blight, and birds, two yards wide, 5d.
 per yard. New twine netting (tanned if required),
 one yard wide, 1½d. per yard; two yards wide,
 3d. per yard; four yards wide, 6d.; half-inch
 mesh ditto, two yards wide, 6d. per yard.
 Tanned netting, two or three yards wide, 1½d.
 per yard; four or six yards wide, 3d. per yard.
 Elastic hexagon garden net, or scrim canvas,
 4½d. per square yard. Cocoa-nut fibre, or hemp
 sheep-folding net, of superior quality, four feet
 high, 4d. to 6d. per yard. Rabbit net, four feet
 wide, 1½d.; six feet wide, 2½d.; eight feet, 3d.
 per yard. Each edge corded, ½d. per yard extra,
 suitable for poultry fencing. Square mesh crick-
 eting net, fix its full width and length, made of
 stout cord, 3d. to 4d. per square yard; this is
 the best article made for fencing against fowls,
 cats, &c.—At **W. CULLINGFORD'S, No. 1, Ed-**
mund-terrace, Ball's Pond-road, Islington. Or-
 ders by post, with post-office order or town
 reference, punctually attended to. Fishing-nets
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YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edi-
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CLEMENTS, No. 1, York-street, Covent-garden,
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 Twelve o'clock on Monday.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 10.]

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.

Poultry Shows.

Hexham Poultry Show, in the Abbey Grounds. Second Annual Exhibition, Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th of May. Secretary, W. Turner, Esq., Hencotes, Hexham. Entries close May 6.

Devon and Exeter Botanical and Horticultural Society, at Exeter, in conjunction with the Society's Spring Horticultural Exhibition, May 18th and 19th. Hon. Secretary, T. W. Gray, Esq., 22, Cathedral-yard, Exeter. Entries closed May 2nd.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries close May 10th.

Cheltenham Third Annual Summer Exhibition, at the Pittville Spa, June 14th and 15th. Secretaries, the Messrs. Jessop, Brothers, The Aviaries, Cheltenham. Entries close June 3rd.

Devon and Cornwall Poultry Society, June 27th and 28th. Secretary, Mr. W. Hunt, Public Library, Plymouth. Entries close June 12th.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries close June 1st.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombraun, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 4th.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

THE number of letters which we have received, respecting the success and the non-success of purchased eggs, is a guarantee that it is a subject of sufficient interest to the poultry world, to call for a few special observations. It has been said, "we may know the force of a blow by the rebound," and the letter of our correspondent, "Zenas," has indeed brought many rejoinders.

In some letters which we have published, and in some others, which, from excess of matter on one subject, we have been obliged to withhold, honourable mention is made of numerous instances in which the produce of purchased eggs turned out as good, and even better, than that realised by the buyers from *home-produced eggs, set at home.*

A correspondent in the North, "B. W.," mentions the purchase of four sittings of eggs this season (a dozen each), from persons more or less known, from which he had respectively 7, 11, 11, and 8 chickens; the last were on one occasion neglected by the hen for five hours. The shortest distance which these eggs travelled was sixty miles, the greatest two hundred and fifty.

We could, from personal knowledge, give examples of chickens from bought eggs, which have been given a place by their owners among their own selected stock, and have *won them prizes*.

That bought eggs have often produced results very different from those suggested by the hopes of the purchasers, is a fact well known to amateurs, but it does not necessarily follow that *unfair dealing* has always, or even generally, been the cause of these disappointments. It is advanced against them that they often produce inferior stock. The kind of feeling to which the poet refers, when he says,

Wherever yet was found the mother,
Would change her booby for another?

influences the amateur in a great degree; where shall we find one who does not admire his own stock and prefer it to every other? What he thinks them himself, he naturally represents them to others:—unbiassed by his favour towards them, *they* are disappointed;—but *he* has practised no intentional deception.

Again, as "W. C. G." so justly remarks, "From superior birds, *all* the offspring are not necessarily the same;" as at home amateurs are obliged to be satisfied with a fair proportion only of very good speci-

mens, they cannot reasonably expect more from eggs which they buy.

An impurity in the breed of the chickens which are hatched proclaims gross and unwarrantable negligence, but not of *necessity an intention to cheat*; as it is a fault from which the owner must suffer, even more ruinously than the unlucky purchaser of the eggs.

The amateur should, beyond all things, be cautious that he does not bestow blame on the egg-seller, which is justly due to his own hens, or *their attendants*.

In the case of eggs which do not hatch at all, and in all cases in which there appears real cause to suspect fraud, amateurs should unite in an effort, and in a *determination* to ascertain the real cause of the failure. Many circumstances *may* make eggs hatch badly; but if the result is produced *intentionally by the seller*, amateurs owe it, as a duty to themselves and to their fellows, to make certain of the fact, and in such a cause it would be unwise to grudge the sacrifice of a small number of the purchased eggs.

If an egg is stale, the appearance of the shell will denote the fact, and it may be known with more precision, by carefully removing a small portion of the shell at the large end, where a large air-cavity will betray staleness.

If the shell has been pricked, the needle-hole may be seen, with or without a microscope.

We have been told, by an experienced amateur, that any shaking, short of fracturing the delicate membrane which encloses the yolk, will not prevent hatching. To find if the yolk is broken, it only needs to break the egg with care.

If the fertility of the egg has been destroyed by dipping in hot water, one may be broken, and the curdled appearance of the white which hangs about the shell will tell the tale. If there are other means of practising the same kind of deception, no doubt they may be discovered by the careful inquirer; and in all cases the lantern recommended by "Henricus" might be very useful.

In addition to the excellent advice about purchasing eggs, given by "W. C. G.," "Henricus," and others, we can only repeat, where there is reason to suspect deception, endeavour to FIND IT OUT: exposure would not be too severe a punishment for the perpetrator, and neither "Zenas," nor any other amateur, could use language strong enough for his deserts.

A Story about a Chicken.

HAVING been personally requested by several acquaintances to furnish the "Poultry Chronicle" with another or two of my recollections appertaining to benefits that have been enjoyed by parties (of really restricted and very humble circumstances) through the keeping of poultry, I willingly concede to their desires, and trust my present anecdote (although it does not detail benefits equally extended with my former narrative) may prove also somewhat interesting to the majority of your readers.

My third article on "Poultry Mania" will convince the most unreflecting, that when parties exert their own energies to benefit their position, failure of success rarely ensues; the present narration, too, will, I think, powerfully confirm this assertion, and show that results are frequently obtained by such efforts far beyond our most sanguine preconceptions.

Some years since, there existed in an adjoining county a small (very small) cottage, tenanted by a man whose grossly intemperate habits had long made him the bye-word of all his neighbours, whose excesses were the almost daily sport of his wanton associates at the village ale-house, the subject of scorn and condemnation to both his equals and superiors. Such an individual seemed to all human probability one of the very last subjects for reformation, or even improvement; and it is only for the sufficient understanding of my narrative, I at this period introduce him to your readers.

I must next make mention of his wife. She had been a servant of the old school, and (as to her husband) formed one of the most striking and pleasing contrasts it is possible to conceive, was sedate in her manners, and was frugal to the utmost as to the small portions of his gains that were irregularly placed at her disposal. At this time, four or five small children were the result of their marriage, and they were not unfrequently sadly ill-used by their abandoned parent during the continuance of his raving and drunken freaks, for the wife (poor soul! instead of a protector for her family) found in him a very tyrant and oppressor.

During the time she was thus situated, the almost superhuman exertions of the wife were the object of universal admiration; always endeavouring to maintain perfect cleanliness in herself and family, and it is strange (though not the less true) to *conceal* from the wide world her personal sufferings caused by the cruel heartlessness of his conduct "when in liquor." To the frequent solicitation of pitying friends, again and again did she refuse to abandon to his fate her unfeeling persecutor, for the conviction reigned exclusively in her mind, "he might yet be saved" from the ruin that seemed (to all others) inevitably certain.

The blessing she desired was at length ordained her by Him, who alike directs the destinies of nations and of individuals, and

that too by an agency the most simple and improbable that can well be supposed.

One of the children was in the habit of going weekly to a neighbouring farm for a can of buttermilk, compassionately given them by the mistress of the house; and, from hearing the chirp of a chicken close by, it (childlike) pryingly looked through the wickerwork of a basket placed upon a dresser. While thus engaged, the good lady suddenly returned with the accustomed gift, and seeing the child's interest thus excited, opened the lid that she might see it, and (to shorten my narrative, as it was the *only* chicken the hen hatched) at length gave it to her, on the stipulation that "she should be kind to it and try to rear it." The little one (though then not three years old) went safely home with its newly-acquired treasure, causing no slight fear in the mind of its honest mother, lest it might prove purloined. She, therefore (taking it in her hand), instantly returned to know whether the child's statement was a true one, and though it was so, in the first instance declined it, as she feared to raise the ire of her husband, and that he would in the first moment of abandonment kill it outright, even if she attempted to rear it. The tears and anxious supplications of the child softened the mind of the parent; it was again brought back, and from hence arose the sequel of my history.

The chicken, to prevent injury, was now placed out of view—the thoughtless one (as too frequently the case) being this night inebriated, and the children having hours long since been gone to rest. On entering his cottage, he suddenly staggered to his chair, with the inquiry, "if his supper was ready?"—and at this moment the chirp of the lone chicken attracted his half-moody attention.

Having told her tale (against the inclinations of his wife), he violently insisted on at once seeing it, and when her positive convictions were expectant of its instant destruction, to her astonishment he burst into a flood of tears, declaring with a fearful oath, "it should never be hurt," and

putting it at once most tenderly back into its nestling-place. This trivial act was the occult—though far removed—beginning of a widely different course of conduct. But I must curtail. The chick was reared (for, singularly, the husband never broke his first-named resolution), and it proved to be a pullet of only dunghill notoriety—worthless in itself, but the channel of all their future benefits.

It was when she was broody, a friend offered to give them a setting of Cochins (I do not know how many), but from these, eight chickens were reared. The husband, though still unreclaimed, never offering any molestation to them, but complaining "they spoiled the little garden" he himself seemed to feel no inclination whatever to cultivate.

In the times of which I am now speaking, Cochins were very much sought for, and the writer of this article procured the introduction of an amateur, who at once offered "a five-pound note for the lot." This (after consultation with the party who presented the eggs) was accepted, and with the proceeds of this sum, numberless little comforts were spread around the cottage, the not least useful being a store-pig, for which a sty was now purposely erected.

From the hour of the disposal of these Cochins, a complete change pervaded the whole conduct of the husband, wrought, no doubt, in a great degree by the feeling that their circumstances were so suddenly improved, and that a greater amount of self-exertion on his part would still better them. The plot of land was afterwards carefully cultivated, the ale-house abandoned, his wife and children no longer ill-used; and though several years have since elapsed, he still speaks with the strongest feeling of their original pet chicken. Their cottage, once the starveling abode of utter poverty, at this time abounds with very many internal comforts; while its exterior forms a snow-white trellis for the woodbine and the jessamine. The children are better clad, and the father's dreadful oaths

never break the peace of its now happy and contented inmates.

I must, in conclusion, for an instant dwell on the manifold and unforeseen benefits that may be derived from little acts of kindness and attention to the really deserving poor.

Such gifts do not necessarily entail the abandonment of any comfort, or even pleasure, to the donors, but sometimes lead to a most unexpected and wondrous result as to the recipients—indeed, to the one, may appear altogether worthless, but to the other party (when the hitherto dormant energies of the mind are thus once fairly aroused) prove a blessing, the advantages of which can scarcely be appreciated by those in more affluent circumstances.

I need say no more than request your readers to remember (as they have now seen) how eventful an history may possibly rest on even the gift of a newly-hatched and solitary chicken.

E. C.

The still vexed Brahmas.

THE multitude of counsellors has not yet brought wisdom, nor have they succeeded in agreeing among themselves as to the chief points or the origin of these birds. As I do not think the subject exhausted, I return to it.

First, their origin. Mr. Burnham says they are Shanghaes. Dr. Bennett contends they come from India. Why should they not? During the mania, many thousands of birds were imported from China. How was it that among them there were no Brahmas, and why then should it be so strongly asserted they are only Shanghaes? It would seem that the hold of these latter birds on their admirers is so strong, that rather than admit a new actor on the scene, they will vow he is the same in a new costume. Shanghaes will ever be memorable in the history of poultry, as the birds that were the general favourites when a love for the feathered tribe sprang up.

They will also bear the palm of having made larger prices, and maintained them longer than any other will probably do. Let their lovers and admirers be content with this, and with the good qualities which, by universal consent, are awarded to them. It is useless for them to ask more, as the public has already decided the value of them, and they have passed from ridiculous to rational prices. They have also suffered the fate of all favourites and fashions; they have had their day, as "stars." Let, then, the Brahmas have their turn, and reign, if they deserve it; they will never attain the height of their predecessors, nor will any other; but do not seek to take from them "their local habitation and their name."

If they are Shanghaes, will the advocates of this opinion tell me if they ever bred their Buffs, Cinnamons, and Grouse with pea-combs. I refer to this, first, because it is a disputed point among writers. One says the pea-comb is decidedly preferable; the others say it should be single, upright, and well serrated. The pea-comb is a novelty with us; it is unlike any other. It is not in any part like the single one of the Shanghae, the double one of the Hamburg, or the flattened one of the Malay. It rises little from the head, it is very thick at the base. It has the appearance of three combs pressed into one; the middle and highest part has blunt serrations, the sides, only half as high, have the same, looking like two small combs joined to a larger one. Now, in all our varied crosses we have never seen anything like this. If we put a Malay hen to a Cochin cock, as was done in the early days, we had no pea-comb. The effect was, the Malay comb became thinner and longer, and in some instances fell over the face like that of a Spanish hen. In all my experience among thousands of Cochins or Shanghaes, I never saw one with a double comb. I have seen crosses, with much of Shanghae in them, with double combs, but of course they ceased to be types of the breed.

I assert, then, the pea-combed Brahma cannot be a Shanghae. If it be a cross, then I repeat what one of your correspondents wrote a few weeks since. If brother Jonathan made these, I wish he would make some more.

I would fain meet objections on their own grounds—one of them says all these birds sprang from one pair. There has then been no introduction of fresh blood, and marvellous birds they are to go on with so little appearance of degeneracy; and it speaks much for the purity of the breed, for were they made up of a cross, they would certainly throw back. Alec-tor's friend would hardly succeed in his cross between the Malay and Dorking, because it is known how the fifth claw appears in every cross; witness the early days of Cochins. The legs would often be robbed of their feathers. I have bred above a hundred Brahmans, and never had one without feathered legs, nor did I ever have one without orange legs; no green as in white Cochins, or white as in Buffs.

"Non-exhibitor" is woefully mistaken when he says the American birds are crossed with the Malay. No mixture is so easy to detect as this; there is a character in Malay fowls which belongs to no other, and the slightest cross of it is immediately visible to a practised eye. The feather, carriage, tail and head of Malays are different from any others, and so different, that the veriest tyro will recognise them when grafted on any other stock.

I do not want to make a long article, and will therefore conclude. If they were Cochins, they would not have pea-combs, nor deep breasts. If they were crossed with Malays, they would have drooping tails, small bodies, hard plumage, and cruel faces. If they were crossed with Dorkings, they would have ample tails, five claws, and clean legs.

These are the accusations, and the birds in question have no points to bear them out.

What are they then? They are Brahma Pootras, large, heavy birds, symmetrical,

prolific, and hardy; living where Cochins would starve, growing in frost and snow when hatched in the winter months, and without seeking to christen a mania, they are standing on their own merits, with the conviction they will deserve well of the public.

B. P.

Colombiary.

NO. III.—THE DOVE-HOUSE PIGEON—
continued.

THE prolificacy of pigeons has often been commented on, and as all the early hatched young birds would breed the same year, they would necessarily multiply very fast; but then pigeons have a great many enemies.

Much, too, has been said of the quantity of food they consume; but this subject I consider is greatly overrated. I will content myself by giving one instance of an experiment I tried. When at school, I was permitted to keep one pair of pigeons; these were common ones, I kept them in a rabbit-hutch, the breeding-place divided by a shelf to make two nests, and they reared a pair of young ones every five or six weeks. While I had them they were fed on tares which I purchased retail; they always had food and water by them, and cost me, one week with the other, three halfpence per week; they were very fat, and the young grew well. I cannot say if pigeons at liberty would be equally moderate in their demands, but I fancy exercise sharpens their appetites. Dove-cots are common in many parts of the country; they are built of various sizes, shapes, and materials; brick or stone are the best materials, not being so liable to harbour vermin and insects as wood; it must be inaccessible to cats, rats, &c., and kept clean; and as I have shown pigeons occupy two nests at the time with young and eggs, the pigeons should never exceed the number of nests, or much quarrelling and consequent loss ensue; far better to

have double the number of nests than pigeons.

Every winter the pigeons should be all caught by closing the dove-house at night, and the requisite number of pairs let out, being careful to allow a few hens rather than cocks in excess, for an odd cock is always a nuisance; better to have half-a-dozen odd hens than one odd cock, and cocks are generally in excess, because the hens are weaker and more liable to get killed; and though a hen may find no mate in the dove-cot it is very probable she may pick up and bring home some disconsolate bachelor. The cocks and hens may be distinguished, pretty certainly, by a practised eye; the cocks have a bolder look, and are fuller about the cheeks; the hens look more feminine, and narrower across the base of the beak, and more depressed before the eye. Young birds, too, are preferable to the old, old cocks often being very quarrelsome; but this frequently arises from want of hens.

Almost all the common pigeons are prolific; it is generally in the high-bred and high-fed fancy pigeons, where, perhaps, for many generations no fresh blood has been introduced, that they fail to rear their young; their colour has no effect on their breeding capabilities; those that are not related, and whose parents were not related, will be the hardest and most prolific. From one to four years old is considered their most productive age; hens wear out sooner than cocks. I had a cock that bred well at twelve years old, and a neighbour had one which bred well when twenty years old.

Although naturalists assign the origin of our tame pigeons to the Blue Rock Pigeon or Rock Dove, I think the chequered Dove-house Pigeon the more probable ancestor. Not only is this pigeon more extensively diffused, but it is very constant to its home; they have been known to return to their former abode, the distance of eighty miles. They are not so shy as the Rock, and are very easily tamed, and if properly treated will readily take up their abode where

desired; and what makes me incline still more to the Dove-house Pigeons as the origin of our tame or fancy pigeons is, that if the varieties are neglected and permitted to intermingle, the type of the Dove-house Pigeon will be more and more apparent among them. Still I have my doubts if all the fancy pigeons had one common origin; it may be possible, but it does not appear probable.

B. P. B.

Hints to Poultry Show Committees.

THE front of the pen is to be formed of a top and bottom rail, $1\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; and these rails should be drilled with holes, through the top rail and half through the bottom rail, in which to socket the perpendicular wires which are to form the front of the pen. The wires may be 2 inches apart, and they must be sufficiently strong to resist any attempts on the part of birds to push through them,—birds will try to do so—wire 3-16 I think would be sufficiently strong, but I will not give a decided opinion on strength. The Birmingham pens have narrow doors to them; but if the wires are allowed to slip up through the top bar, as I suggest, the removal of two or three will serve all purposes of a door equally well, and at the same time not permit the escape of the rest of the birds out of the pen, which will sometimes occur if the wire fronts are used, as it is difficult to open only sufficient to permit the passage of one bird; and the more active Hamburgs and Game will not unfrequently make a rush for sweet liberty over the head of the door opener.

Doors at the back and bottom of the pen, which ought to be only 2 feet deep, are altogether inadmissible.

Turkeys will require pens 5 feet long, and geese 4 feet. The whole of the pens ought to be covered with wire-work; the 2 or 3-inch meshed galvanized looks the neatest. Wire fronts for each separate pen will be required, and hooks or pins for securely fastening the same; for nothing

is so annoying as the escape of a bird from its pen, and the consequent chase, at a time when every likely "time" is valuable. And this reminds me that the wire-work for the Bantams must be of a smaller mesh than I have above stated; it must not be more than 1½-inch mesh, or the birds will make an unwelcome exit.

This sub-committee will also have to provide water-pots for each pen. The pens ought also to be constructed with a narrow open space at the bottom of the wire-work, for the purpose of removing eggs, and cleaning out the pens with a scraper.

The art of erecting the pens, of course, will vary according to the neighbourhood, but in all cases the committee should get the work done by contract; and I consider that 2s. per pen would be sufficient for the wood-work, of course the wood remaining the property of the contractor. The wire-work, also, should be done by contract, but the proper price of both may easily be obtained by inviting competition. The cost will be greatly enhanced if the workmen are pushed for time, and therefore the formation of the pens should have the earliest attention of the committee.

I consider six feet quite sufficient width for the alleys; four feet will do, but if friendly parties meet in them, they *will* have a chat, and unless sufficient room is allowed, their meeting will blockade the passage. This committee must also provide a few loose divisions to separate quarrelsome birds; for exhibitors will most inconsiderately send four birds, who for the first time meet in the pen,—or worse, between whom there has been an ancient feud; nothing can be worse judgment than this, for nothing can be more trying to the temper of birds than being closely cooped up for so many days; and it is too bad to arouse that feeling of contention, which a stranger's presence always excites amongst poultry. Nay, indeed, I have known birds sent, that the exhibitor knew would not agree; for but very lately, the feeder of a great exhibitor delivered a pen

of birds to me with the observation,—“Please, Sir, you must separate that hen with the red tape on her leg from the rest, or the cock will kill her;” and I suppose if he had done so, I should have been considered an accomplice and accessory to the murder. I don't think it was fair to send birds with such uncompanionable qualities, any more than it would be to lock up three quiet women with an insane man with strong combative developments. But the committee must be prepared for the emergency, and also with some loose perches, useful for the same purpose, for if two hens will not agree on the floor, they sometimes will agree to a truce, by consenting to sit quietly on a perch if placed for them.

This committee ought also to secure lights for the evening exhibition, and no better plan can be adopted than the Birmingham one, of a long gas pipe suspended, with alternate jets right and left, over the pens.

This committee should also arrange the entrance barriers, and for the purpose of checking the money-takers, no better “tell-tale” can be adopted than that used at race-courses and other places.

They must also provide a sale office, also offices for the secretary and committee, all of which, as well as refreshment-rooms, ought to be in the exhibition-room.

I may here remark, that if the pens are 3 feet from the ground, there will be ample space under them for stowing away the hampers and baskets belonging to each pen under it, and covering the same with canvas, so as not to leave the baskets with the owners' names on them exposed to the judges' eyes, for they, like other men, are but mortal.

W. W.

THE ailments of fowls are numerous, but they would seldom be seen if proper care were taken. It is useless to talk of remedies where you have complete power to prevent the evil.—*Cobbett's Cottage Economy.*

Schedule of the Amateur Dublin Society.

FROM the schedule of this society we find the exhibition will be held on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of December, under the patronage of her Excellency the Countess of St. Germans, and other ladies of rank. It is satisfactory to amateurs to see a poultry show under the patronage of ladies; for what they begin they generally finish well.

The regulations are generally similar to those usually adopted for poultry shows. Among them we will repeat those only which differ in different shows.

Chickens of 1854 cannot be shown in classes for fowls.

All the specimens must be *bonâ fide* the property of the exhibitor, and have been so for at least one month.

The discovery of any false statement as to age or proprietorship, or any attempt to deceive the judges, by trimming or artificial alteration of the plumage, or of any other part of a bird, will be followed by the forfeiture of any premium that may have been awarded to such specimens, and by the exclusion of the exhibitor from all future exhibitions of the Society, and a notification that the birds have been mutilated will also be attached to the pen.

All specimens sent in for exhibition shall be for sale.

No offer to purchase will be received until one hour after the opening of the Exhibition, and the first applicant after that time will be the purchaser.

Subscribers of not less than 10s. per annum will be entitled to compete for prizes; they will also be entitled to enter four lots for exhibition, and to receive two tickets of admission to the Show, viz., one ticket to the private view, and one for either of the following days. Subscribers of 20s. will be entitled to enter eight lots, and to have four tickets of admission (one to the private view, and three for the following days), and so on in proportion. To cover expenses for pens, food, &c., an entrance-fee of 1s. will be charged on each lot for which notice of exhibition has been sent in (except in the case of Pigeons, for which 6d. for each lot, of a pair, will be charged for the first four lots, and 1s. for every subsequent lot), and 5 per cent. will be deducted (from the price named in the certificate of entry) on all sales. In the event of a greater number of

pens being required than those above specified, a charge of 2s. 6d. for every additional pen will be made.

The competition for prizes will be strictly confined to Amateurs, but facilities will be afforded to dealers for the exhibition and sale of choice specimens, on notice being addressed to the Honorary Secretaries three weeks previous to the Show, and on payment of 2s. 6d. for each pen requested; and in case there be not room for the entire number required, the money will be returned for such pens as cannot be provided.

All subscriptions, pen money, or other charges that may be due from persons intending to exhibit, must be paid to the Treasurer, or one of the Honorary Secretaries, before or at the time of serving notice; and unless these regulations be strictly complied with, such entries will neither be placed in the catalogue, nor will the specimens be admitted into the Exhibition. To ensure the tickets of admission being correctly forwarded to non-exhibitors, it is desirable that all subscriptions may be paid at least ten days prior to the Show.

Cottagers may compete without subscribing, provided the notice be accompanied by a certificate of *bonâ fide* ownership from a magistrate, or one of the parochial clergy.

No birds having the slightest symptom of disease will be admitted; and should any symptoms of disease appear during the Exhibition in any of the specimens, they must be immediately removed by the owner. The Committee will pay every attention to the welfare of the specimens exhibited, but will not in any case be held accountable for any accidents or casualties that may occur.

A clerk will attend to register sales, to whom all payments for birds purchased are to be made; and in order to avoid confusion in making up the accounts, it is particularly requested that owners will not in any case receive payment.

Admission to non-subscribers on Tuesday, the private view, 2s. 6d.; and on Wednesday and Thursday, 1s. each day.

The whole of the poultry must be at the place appointed for holding the Show, on Monday, the 4th of December, 1854, before 4 o'clock, P.M., as no poultry will be admitted on the morning of the Show, on any pretence whatever.

The Annual Dinner of the Society will take place on Tuesday, the 5th of December, 1854; and a General Meeting of the subscribers will be held at the Society's rooms, 212, Great Brunswick-street, on the second Wednesday in the month of January following the Show, to receive the report, elect officers, and transact such business as may be considered necessary for the benefit of the Society.

The Prize List and Form of Entry can be had on application to the Honorary Secretaries, or will be forwarded on receipt of a directed stamped envelope.

By order, J. R. DOMBRAIN,
W. B. SELWOOD,
Hon. Secretaries.

PRIZE LIST.

FOWLS WITH COMBS.

Class 1.—SPANISH.

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old £1 1 0
Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 2.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 3.—DORKING (White).—*Rose-combed.*

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 1 1 0
Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 4.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 5.—DORKING (Coloured).—*Single-combed.*

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 1 1 0
Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 6.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 7.—DORKING (Coloured).—*Rose-combed.*

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 1 1 0
Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 8.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 9.—SHANGHAE, or COCHIN CHINA
(White).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 1 1 0
Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 10.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 11.—SHANGHAE, or COCHIN CHINA
(Grey).—*"Brahma Poetra."*

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 1 1 0
Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 12.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 13.—SHANGHAE, or COCHIN CHINA
(Lemon, Buff, or Cinnamon).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 1 1 0
Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 14.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 15.—SHANGHAE, or COCHIN CHINA
(Black, Grouse, or Partridge).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old £1 1 0
Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 16.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 17.—MALAY.

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 0 15 0
Second Prize 0 7 6

Class 18.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 19.—DUTCH-PENCILLED FOWL
(Bolton Greys).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 1 0 0
Second Prize 0 10 0

Class 20.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 21.—DUTCH-PENCILLED FOWL
(Bolton Bays).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 1 0 0
Second Prize 0 10 0

Class 22.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 23.—GAME FOWL.

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 1 1 0
Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 24.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 25.—PERSIAN, or TAIL-LESS.

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 0 10 0
Second Prize 0 5 0

Class 26.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 27.—FRIZZLED.

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 0 10 0
Second Prize 0 5 0

Class 28.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 29.—PHEASANT FOWL (Golden).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 1 1 0
Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 30.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 31.—PHEASANT FOWL (Silver).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
a year old 1 1 0
Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 32.—CHICKENS OF 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 33.—SEBRIGHT BANTAMS (Gold-laced).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old £0 10 0
 Second Prize 0 5 0

Class 34.—Chickens of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 35.—SEBRIGHT BANTAMS (Silver-laced).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old 0 10 0
 Second Prize 0 5 0

Class 36.—BANTAMS (Clean-legged, assorted colours).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old 0 10 0
 Second Prize 0 5 0

Class 37.—Chickens of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 38.—BANTAMS (Feathered, assorted colours).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old 0 10 0
 Second Prize 0 5 0

Class 39.—Chickens of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 40.—IRISH CUCKOO (Single-combed).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old 1 1 0
 Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 41.—Chickens of 1854.—The same Prizes.

FOWLS WITH CRESTS.

Class 42.—WHITE-CRESTED BLACK FOWL.

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old 1 1 0
 Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 43.—Chickens of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 44.—BLACK-CRESTED WHITE FOWL.

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old 1 1 0
 Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 45.—Chickens of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 46.—WHITE-CRESTED RED FOWL (Hamburg).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old 1 1 0
 Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 47.—Chickens of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 48.—SPANGLED FOWL (Golden).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old 1 1 0
 Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 49.—Chickens of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 50.—SPANGLED FOWL (Silver).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old £1 1 0
 Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 51.—Chickens of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 52.—CRESTED WHITE FOWL.

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old 0 15 0
 Second Prize 0 7 6

Class 53.—Chickens of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 54.—TURKEYS (American).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old 1 1 0
 Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 55.—Poult of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 56.—TURKEYS (Norfolk).

For the best Cock and two Hens, above
 a year old 1 1 0
 Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 57.—Poult of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 58.—GEESE (Improved Breed).

For the best Gander and Goose, above
 a year old 1 1 0
 Second Prize 0 10 6

Class 59.—Goslings of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 60.—DUCKS (White Aylesbury).

For the best Drake and two Ducks, above
 a year old 0 15 0
 Second Prize 0 7 6

Class 61.—Ducklings of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 62.—DUCKS (Rouen).

For the best Drake and two Ducks, above
 a year old 0 15 0
 Second Prize 0 7 6

Class 63.—Ducklings of 1854.—The same Prizes.

Class 64.—PIGEONS.

For the best pair of Fantails, Carriers, Pouters or Croppers, Tumblers (Almond, Bald-pated, or Mottled), Runts, Turbits, Nuns, and Trumpeters, a Prize of 5s. each.

Class 65.—RABBITS.

For the best pair of Lob-eared Rabbits 0 10 0

A peculiar arrangement of the nomenclature renders the schedule rather puzzling; for instance, what we call gold and

silver-pencilled Hamburgs, are here named "Dutch-pencilled fowls." Several classes further we find "Pheasant fowls," golden and silver-spangled Hamburgs, we presume; and what we have always considered the Poland family, are here called, "Fowls with crests," in six varieties.

Pheasants.

SOME weeks since, we published instructions for making pheasantries. As there is a season for everything, as the birds are now laying, and as it is desired by all who preserve game to raise as much as possible, at the least expense, we will now give some hints which may be found valuable. We will start with two admitted facts, viz., that while hen pheasants, in a state of nature, lay from thirteen to fifteen eggs, the average number in the eyes reared is seven. Yet the eggs are mostly hatched, save, perhaps, one or two. The hen is not able to rear them all.

Instead of losing half the eggs that are laid, they may be saved by adopting the following plan:—Let five or six eggs be taken out of every nest that is found on the estate, and put them under hens; well managed, two-thirds of the eggs will be hatched, and one-half of them reared, being just so many saved or gained out of the number laid.

A moderate-sized hen will cover thirteen, a large one fifteen eggs. She should set in a box without a bottom, so that the nest shall be on the ground, and the box should have a lid that the hen may be shut in. A quiet dry place should be chosen, and the boxes may be raised against the wall. They should be about eighteen inches high, and sufficiently perforated all round to admit of ample ventilation, because it is hot weather when they are sitting. They may be let off every morning and evening to feed, after which each hen will return to her nest, and the lid may be again closed. It is not absolutely necessary to have boxes, and where there are but few hens sitting,

they may be allowed to do as if they had only common eggs under them; but where there are many, it is a wise precaution. It almost prevents the possibility of failure, and it must be borne in mind, pheasants lay only for a given time, and if by bad sitting a hen spoils a nest of eggs, the loss is irreparable, no more are to be had, and the season is past. After the hens have sat five or six days, if the eggs are taken out, and held against the sun, or a very strong light, the good eggs may be chosen, as the first formation of the pouch is distinctly visible. The eggs, where this is not seen, should be thrown away; the complement of every hen should then be made up of good eggs, and the sufferers by the spoliation have fresh ones put under them. Thus, twelve hens sit each on fifteen eggs—on examination, forty-five are found to be barren, there will be enough good ones to make full nests for twelve, and three must be provided anew; these again will only perhaps supply two after examination, and the last will have again to be supplied afresh. This only entails sitting ten days longer, which is of no possible importance. It is often asked how long an egg may be kept before it is set. There is no solution like a natural one. A hen pheasant will often lay fifteen or seventeen, a partridge nineteen eggs, and the latter commonly brings all off. The nineteen eggs cannot be produced in less than twenty-one days, and it is therefore proved an egg will keep well three weeks. We have known partridge eggs hatch after six weeks, and without taking the least care of them. After the pheasants have been hatched about ten hours, the hen should be put under a rip or coop, solid all round except two bars in front, just wide enough to allow the poults to run in and out. In other respects it is precisely the same as a common rip for hen and chickens. This should be put on grass in a dry spot, well exposed to the sun and to the west or south-west; a run should be made for the poults for the first few days, by taking three boards one foot high, two of them

four feet long, the other two feet. The longer boards must be fastened to the rip or coop in which the hen is, and supported by three pegs driven into the ground; one at each end on one side, and one in the middle on the other. The shorter board is placed at the end of the other two, and fixed in the same manner. The space thus enclosed is then covered with a net to protect the poults from attack from birds of prey or other enemies.

If they go on well for five or six days, this may be removed and they may be allowed to run at will. The hen should be under the rip till the young are three weeks old, when she should be tethered to a peg by the leg, which is done in the following manner. A piece of leather, six inches long and one inch deep, is taken, and to it is added a yard of string. An incision an inch long is made in one end of the leather, and the other end being passed through it and round the leg, forms a secure fastening, which cannot injure the hen when fastened to the peg by the string. This allows her liberty all day, but at night she should be again under the rip, where her poults join her. In a field of two or three acres a great number of hens may be tethered in rows, each bird being six feet from the other, and a space of fifteen feet being left between the rows.

Immediately round the hens the grass should be cut short, but that on the space between the rows should be allowed to grow. It affords the poults shelter and a run, and it harbours insects, on which they feed. It is imperative that hens and poults be constantly supplied with clean and fresh water. The lack of it for a few hours, especially during the heat of the day, is very injurious and often fatal to the young. Where only three, or four, or six hens are set, all these precautions may seem unnecessary; but where breeding is carried on on a large scale, it is only by adhering to system that success can be attained. This plan has also the advantage of keeping the birds together, and consequently makes the overlooking, which is essential,

much easier. It is necessary to have some one always on the spot, as the hens sometimes twist their string close round the peg, and will injure themselves if not released.

Their food will be at first eggs boiled hard and chopped fine, crumbs of bread soaked in milk, curd made of milk and dried by pressure in a cloth till it is quite dry, and ants' eggs. They will afterwards do on dough made of oatmeal and mixed with water. This must not be thrown down to them, but they must be fed with little balls of it as long as they will eat. For change, give barley and wheat.

COLCHICUS.

Royal Dublin Society's Show.

THE great spring cattle show of the Royal Dublin Society (including poultry) commenced on Tuesday, the 18th. The whole of that day was occupied by the judges in the performance of their arduous task. There were 302 lots of poultry entered, embracing all the most approved and rare varieties, and presenting the best array which has yet been seen. They were appropriately arranged on both sides of the hall of the great exhibition building, which was densely crowded each day during the show.

The judges were, J. M. D'Olier, Esq., Arthur Haffield, Esq., Richard Chaloner, Esq., and Captain Croker. Steward, John Toler, Esq., M.B.

THE PRIZE LIST.

Section 1.—COCHIN CHINA. Over a year old.

No. 5.—Mrs. Teresa Carton, 16, Halston-street, Dublin. One lot buff Cochin China; 22 months old. One sovereign.

No. 6.—Same. One lot white Cochin China; 22 months old. Honorary certificate.

Under a year old.
No. 53.—Mr. G. Lugton. One lot cinnamon Cochin China; hatched June, 1853. Half a sovereign.

No. 27.—Mrs. Warburton, Kill, Naas. One lot silver cinnamon Cochin China; hatched in 1853. Honorary certificate.

Section 2.—**DORKINGS.** Over a year old.
No. 89.—The Hon. C. H. Lindsay. One lot Dorkings. One sovereign.

No. 90.—The Hon. C. H. Lindsay, Island-bridge. One lot gray Dorkings. Honorary certificate.

Under a year old.

No. 91.—Richard P. Williams, Esq., Drumcondra-castle. One lot gray Dorkings. Half sovereign.

No. 98.—Lady Naas. One lot Dorkings. Honorary certificate.

Section 3.—**MALAY.** Under a year old.

No. 114.—Anna Strahan. One lot Malay. Half sovereign.

No. 117.—Mrs. Delany. One lot Malay. Honorary certificate.

Section 4.—**SPANISH.** Over a year old.

No. 124.—Mrs. Teresa Carton. One lot Spanish. One sovereign.

No. 129.—Mrs. Le Clerc, Philipsburgh Avenue. One lot Spanish; hatched May, 1852. Honorary certificate.

Under a year old.

No. 171.—William Ledwich, Esq. One lot Spanish; hatched 1853. Half sovereign.

No. 155.—Wm. D. Selwood, Esq., Peafield, Rathgar. One lot Spanish. Honorary certificate.

Section 5.—**HAMBURG.** Over a year old.

No. 174.—Barbara Brett. One lot spangled Hamburg. One sovereign.

No. 177.—James D. La Touche, Esq. One lot. Honorary certificate.

Under a year old.

No. 180.—Richard P. Williams, Esq. One lot golden spangled. Half sovereign.

No. 181.—Same. One lot silver spangled. Honorary certificate.

Section 6.—**POLISH.** Any age.

No. 188.—R. P. Williams, Esq. Lot of white-crested black Polish. One sovereign.

No. 184.—Mrs. Phinn, Navan. Polish cock and two hens. Honorary certificate.

Section 7.—**ANY OTHER BREED.**

No. 198.—Hon. C. H. Lindsay, Island-bridge. One lot of Brahma Pootra; hatched June, 1853. One sovereign.

No. 202.—J. J. Nolan, Esq., Bachelor's-walk. One lot golden Dutch every-day layers; hatched 1853. Honorary certificate.

Section 8.—**CHICKENS.** Any breed.

No. 218½.—Mrs. Ledwich. One sovereign.

No. 216.—Mr. James Forrest, jun., Grafton-street. Six Cochins China chickens; hatched first week in March, 1854. Honorary certificate.

Section 9.—**TURKEYS.** Over a year old.

No. 228.—Lady Naas, Palmerstown-house, Naas. Norfolk turkeys, one cock and two hens. One sovereign.

No. 229.—Mrs. Shaw, Kimmage-house, Rathfarnham. Turkey cock and two hens; bred by Lord Roden. Honorary certificate.

Under a year old.

No. 237.—Mrs. Warburton, Kill, Naas. One lot of Cambridgeshire turkeys; hatched April, 1853. Half sovereign.

No. 238.—Same. One lot of Cambridgeshire turkeys; hatched April, 1853. Honorary certificate.

TURKEY POULTS.—Mr. James Carolan. Merit. No competitor.

Section 12.—**GEESE.**

No. 249.—Mrs. Warburton, Kill, Naas. One lot English geese; hatched April, 1853. One sovereign.

No. 250.—Same. One lot English geese; hatched April, 1853. Half sovereign.

No. 243.—Mrs. Teresa Carton, Halston-street. One lot of Toulouse geese. Honorary certificate.

Section 13.—**GOSLINGS.**

No. 253.—Anne Fleet, Petticoat-lane. Three goslings; hatched 1854. One sovereign.

No. 254.—Catherine Hoy, Malahide. Three goslings; hatched 1854. Half sovereign.

No. 252.—Mrs. Phin, Navan. One lot China swan goslings; hatched March 15, 1854. Honorary certificate.

Section 14.—**AYLESBURY DUCKS.**

No. 264.—George Perrin, Esq., Bullock, Dalkey. One lot Aylesbury ducks; hatched April, 1853. One sovereign.

No. 271.—Messrs. Harvest and Fair, Castlebar. One lot white Aylesbury ducks. Half sovereign.

No. 265.—Mrs. Perrin. One lot Aylesbury ducks. Honorary certificate.

Section 15.—**ROUEN DUCKS.**

No. 274.—T. J. Isacke, Esq., Woodview, Donnybrook. One lot Rouen ducks; hatched April 5, 1853. One sovereign.

No. 278.—Mrs. Teresa Carton. One lot Rouen ducks; 19 months old. Half sovereign.

No. 272.—Mrs. Jane Strahan, Ballytore. One lot Rouen ducks; hatched July, 1853. Honorary certificate.

Section 16.—**ANY DISTINCT BREED.**

No. 281.—W. H. Bourne, Esq.—One Labrador drake and two ducks; hatched 1852. One sovereign.

No. 283.—Right Hon. Sir E. McDonnell, Lord Mayor of Dublin. Two drakes and two ducks, East-India breed; bred by exhibitor. Half sovereign.

No. 282.—Mrs. Perrin. One lot Spanish ducks. Honorary certificate.

Section 17.—**DUCKLINGS.**

No. 286.—Anne Fleet, 7, Petticoat-lane. Six ducklings. One sovereign.

No. 284.—George Kinahan, Esq., Roebuck Park, Dundrum. One lot Aylesbury ducklings; hatched March, 1854. Half sovereign.

AYLESBURY LOCAL SHOW.—We are requested by Mr. John K. Fowler, of the White Hart Hotel, Aylesbury, to mention, that his Dorking Fowls, and not those of Mr. Richard Fowler (as stated by us in No. 8), were highly commended at the above Show.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

ADVICE TO PURCHASERS OF EGGS.

SIR,—Some of your correspondents appear to have been *done* in eggs bought from advertisers. Now to all purchasers I beg to offer a little advice.

1st. Always endeavour to *see* the stock, and if that is not practicable, there are plenty of ways of getting to know the character of an advertiser and of his stock.

2nd. Never purchase eggs from any one who has more than six hens running with a cock.

3rd. Never mind what the advertisers may say; always look with suspicion upon eggs produced by fowls *less* than a year old.

There have been innumerable sales of poultry, and large prices have been paid for very inferior birds. The purchaser having more eggs than he wants, naturally desires to turn an "honest penny" by the sale of his surplus eggs. He flatters himself his birds are the first in the kingdom; he advertises his eggs—an amateur purchases, and is disgusted with the result, and the advertiser is branded as something next to a rogue. There are a great many advertisers who trade simply for the sake of "the filthy lucre," purchase a lot of Cochins, Brahmas, Dorkings, &c., no matter what kind of birds they are; an advertisement appears with a grand flourish of trumpets. "In reply to numerous in-

quiries," "at the urgent solicitation of amateurs," "Mr. * * * * * has been prevailed upon." And, sir, whilst writing this, I find one person absolutely warrants his eggs in your advertising columns. If people can afford to throw away their money and trust to fate for the eggs turning out well, good. Surely those who appreciate poultry will be at some little trouble to inquire about the stock from which they get a sitting of eggs, and not trust to these grand advertisements. If they cannot take this trouble, they had better not meddle with poultry. Mr. Fairlie, from his account, seems to have adopted a very successful plan to satisfy those who have bought addled eggs from him by replacing them, and that very generously without extra charge. I cannot undertake to replace eggs, but I will undertake to pack mine perfectly fresh and safely—more I cannot nor will not undertake to do. I will, however, guarantee that they are not only fresh, but the produce of the birds and breeds I advertise. No person need replace eggs if he knows he has done right by the purchaser, and I never heard of such a rule being adopted except under very peculiar circumstances.

I feel rather a delicacy in writing this letter to you, because I have advertised in your columns, and this communication may be looked upon as "a puff indirect;" the only way I can avoid this is by sending you my name in confidence.

Now I will suppose that an amateur has purchased eggs from an *honest advertiser*, let him make a nest out of a sod, which must be hollowed out and half filled with sand, on which he places a nice layer of well bruised straw, and I think he will be pleased with the result on the twenty-first day. I have made all my nests this season in this way, and out of thirty eggs I have twenty-six chickens. I must, however, add, I have only four hens running with one cock. On the fourth or sixth day after the eggs are set I can generally tell what eggs will have chickens. I will illustrate the plan.

A common lantern with a bull's eye is made use of, and a tin or zinc tube to fit on to the bull's eye, through which the rays will concentrate in a focus at the end furthest from the lantern. The egg is held at the end of this tube—of course the rays of light are directed upon, or rather through it. If the egg has, if I may be allowed the expression, vivified, small bloodvessels will be visible; if, on the contrary, the egg is clear, depend upon it that egg is worthless, and you may take it away. I should add, that the hollow case is about three or four inches long, and the opening at the end should be the size of, say a Cochin or Black Spanish egg. In trying the experiment, I need hardly say it should be made in a dark room. I have tried this experiment frequently, and always depend upon it, and have tried eggs which would not pass the ordeal, by marking them, and I have never been wrong. Of course, dark-coloured eggs, such as Cochins, are more difficult to pass judgment on. Two days before the egg is ready to hatch, the motion of the chicken may be observed by the same means. Having heard of different plans for testing which eggs are good and which bad after being set a certain time, I am surprised that this means, so exceedingly simple, has never been noticed.—

Yours very faithfully,

HENRICUS.

WHAT IS A DEALER?

SIR,—I continually see, in reference to the poultry exhibitions, that dealers are not permitted to compete for prizes; and as in your last number the justice of their exemption is fully admitted, will you kindly enlighten me with a correct definition of that rather ambiguous title? I believe a dealer to be one who buys and sells, seeking to make a profit of it; but I must be wrong, for this surely cannot be applied to poultry exhibitors, as it is patent to everyone who reads your interesting publication, and other periodicals, that all our principal exhibitors would,

in that case, be dealers, for they advertise their fowls and eggs, with the prices and other particulars, sometimes modestly starting with an initial; at others, boldly with real name and address, and nearly every one of our principal prize-takers are now supplicating for orders by advertisements, and doing their utmost to drive a large and profitable business. Some amateur prize-winners expose their poultry for sale in shop-windows in leading thoroughfares. Others, not content with announcing their victories at the exhibitions by advertisement, actually invite orders for fowls and eggs through the medium of omnibus-tickets, for months together, side by side with "Natural Sherry," and "Eureka Shirts." Other amateurs I have seen stand by their pens at an exhibition, thrusting them on the notice of passers-by with the determination of an old woman selling herrings at her stall. Now, if these are really amateurs, will you kindly tell me what is a dealer? For, though they might not have a sign-board over their door, yet I have my misgivings if they are not dealers.

I remember once, when one of a party of pigeon-fanciers, this same question was mooted, and the best solution we could arrive at was, that a dealer meant one who kept a "shop." Now, if this is the actual fact, your reply will tend to relieve some conscientious scruples I have had within me for a long time.

It may be urged, that though I point out the selling branch of the business of the amateurs, I am silent about the buying. If so, Stevens's auction-room, and other facts equally apparent, render it clear that a sale is found for more birds than the owners have bred, and which they buy.

I ask, for my own information only; but as I dare say many will feel interested in your reply, I am the less reluctant to solicit your kind opinion.—Your obedient servant,

C. H. B.

[Like "C. H. B.," we have often put the questions,—what is a dealer, and where can we draw the line?—and found it very

difficult to gain from any a satisfactory answer. Perhaps the best distinction is,—the amateur sells from the surplus of his poultry-yard;—the dealer buys to sell again; and this definition only brings us back to the first question, with little alteration—who are dealers?—Ed.]

EGGS FROM COCHINS AND DORKINGS.

SIR,—A friend having forwarded to me a return of eggs laid by his poultry, consisting of “20 Cochin Hens and 40 Dorkings,” during the last three months, I have much pleasure in handing it to you for insertion in the “Poultry Chronicle,” as it shows the superiority of Cochins over the real old Sussex Dorkings as layers:—

Eggs laid by
20 Cochins. 40 Dorkings.

From January 1st, 1854,
to March 31st, 1854.. 532 521
showing the Cochins laid more than two
eggs to one Dorking.

The Dorkings left off laying 26th September, 1853, and began again 7th January, 1854. In the meantime, the Cochins went on laying, as follows:—

| | Eggs. |
|-----------------|-------|
| September | 56 |
| October | 68 |
| November | 50 |
| December | 141 |
| Total | 315 |

The Dorkings have greatly the advantage in space, having unlimited range of farming premises and land. The Cochin Chinas are confined within 500 square yards.—Yours, respectfully, J. S. B.

THE NEW DODGE.

MR. EDITOR,—I think it the absolute duty of every individual who lays claim to the appellation of an amateur, to expose any trickster plans that may, from time to time, be practised by the “knowing ones,” on the “Green-horns” in poultry. When

I first heard the particulars of what is aptly termed “the new dodge,” I confess my risibility found ample vent at the expense of a long-known friend, who most lachrymously narrated “how he’d been had,” in reference to a sitting-hen for his best Spanish eggs. The facts are few. At this season, amateurs generally find some little difficulty to procure fowls to incubate the eggs of the *non-sitting varieties*, just at the time they may be required, and it is this demand that has caused their *manufacture* (!) My friend procured a hen, whose determination to sit quite satisfied him that the purchase was advisable, even though at more than thrice its absolute value. After sitting quietly for several hours on a few addled eggs, the highly-prized ones were introduced, when you may suppose his astonishment, in finding, a few hours afterwards, she had broken every egg, and was strutting full of rampant cackle around her nesting-place. The tale is best told in my friend’s own words, as, no doubt, the announcement will be as novel to your readers as myself. “Confound them! she’d only sit whilst she was *drunk*; and when I catch the fellow who sold her, I’ll make *him* so that he can’t sit or stand, I’ll warrant it.” The plan adopted was as follows:—A quantity of gin was mixed up with barley-flour, and the hen afterwards crammed with it. This produced consequent torpor (a disposition for quiet rest and retirement), and it was this dulness, and inclination to remain quiescent, that was mistaken for “broodiness.” Had precaution been observed, I think my friend’s troubles need not have had existence; but, as I find his is not by any means a solitary instance of “successful trapping,” it is well to put others on their guard. I have, since the above occurred, had the opportunity of seeing a whole lot that have been “got ready” for the unwary ones. It is strange to see a hen thus inebriated, and yet more so, that flats are still procurable; but so here-about it is, and thinking it best in such barefaced cases to become a

"spoil-trade," I have forwarded you the particulars. It will be prudent for buyers to notice whether the hen "clucks," as many of them do *not*; but those that did so prior to the alcoholic application, do so still, and even *more vehemently than before*. But the sure, unailing test is, "to smell the breath" of these poor, involuntary drunkards, and then "no mistake" is possible. To the vagabonds who are thus doing business, a treadmill servitude for obtaining money under false pretences might be useful. I have advised my friend to try the Act against cruelty to animals, by an application to the magistrates; but whether he will adopt my suggestion is still to be proved.

"WIDE-AWAKE."

INTERMIXTURE OF FOWLS.

SIR,—The very injudicious system adopted by many poultry-breeders, of intermixing different breeds, and thereby producing *cross breeds*, has not been properly looked into; it appears to have been lost sight of by the majority. I had occasion for a sitting of eggs, and, having seen an advertisement in "Bell's Life" (the same person is now advertising in a *certain work*, and a *conspicuously-worded* advertisement it is), I called upon the advertiser, and was shown into his poultry-yard, the denizens of which consisted of about half-a-dozen tolerable Cochins, various coloured, with a sprinkling of Dorkings, Spanish, Hamburgs, Bantams, and Game, all mingled together. I remarked to him on the impropriety of mixing the different breeds. He replied that it was only during feeding time, and that during the day they were separated. I believed him, and bought a sitting at a long figure. I carefully brought them home; the hen sat close, undisturbed, in a dry and warm house. To sum it up, I had *one* chick, a diminutive, and one third-bred bird. There can be no excuse for allowing different breeds to run together; netting is

cheap enough, so is wire-work; for an outlay of a few shillings it can be avoided.
—Yours, &c., W. H. C.
Greenwich.

BRAHMA FOOTRAS.

"Sirs," cries the umpire, "cease your pother, The creature's neither one nor t'other."

MR. EDITOR,—When I heard of your advent, I thought there would be amusement for lookers on, and I rejoiced in anticipation of the pen-and-ink conflicts that would take place. I was disappointed till this week. Hardly a dissentient from anything written during the month, but now "Rus" and "Non-Exhibitor" have a little wordy war. I am unaccustomed to writing, but I feel a strong desire to interfere after the manner of some of the supernatural mischief-makers in poems and romances, lest each should retire, and the controversy die of inanition. Now, I think both are wrong. "Non-Exhibitor" describes the birds he has, and condemns others that are unlike them. "Rus" says it is a good description, and then finds fault with it. I like a little mischief, and shall therefore go on. We know, or we believe, they are from India, and come from the neighbourhood of the river after which they are named. What hindered our Trans-atlantic brethren from importing them, they are tolerably go-ahead; and if they imported them, why are those they have sent to this country, of necessity, "spurious?"

Did not the first we ever had come from America? And may not the first possessors of them be allowed to know something about them? Now, I will give my "notion" of a Brahma Pootra fowl, a real "high-caste" Indian.

Intelligent face; stately carriage; protuberant breast; orange legs, well feathered; pea-comb, spreading tail. The hen with pencilled hackle, body delicately marked all over the back, like that of the male silver pheasant. The cock, less regularly

marked, dark thighs, light hackle, clouded breast, pea-comb. Dark under-feathers in both. I do not say,

"This is the Brahma Pootra fowl,
And all the rest are spurious;"

but I think I have a right to my opinion. Thank goodness, we all agree they are not Cochins. I know not what to say, Mr. Editor, about judges; they are awful men. But a railway was once talked about, when the other "mania" existed, from a place no one knew, to another that never was heard of. Now, just imagine a snug little show in a provincial town, from one to two hundred pens. There must be a class for "any other variety." Somebody has heard that somebody has said that Jack Robinson has some fowls exactly like the Brahma Pootra fowls belonging to H. R. H. Prince Albert. Jack Robinson puts them in said class. Now, it is possible the judge or judges holds or hold these fowls in sovereign contempt, believes or believe they are not a distinct breed; but, seeing them entered as Brahma Pootras, and being really good-looking, healthy, and attractive fowls, they give to these birds a prize for their merits among Ghoroocks, Black Sea, Silky, and others that form that various class. It is barely possible the judge never saw a Brahma Pootra in his life. But Jack Robinson takes it as a *bona fide* prize, and shows them to "Non-Exhibitor," who laments the want of experience in those called upon to adjudicate.

Now, all this may occur with perfect good faith on the part of all engaged in it. Jack Robinson has been told his fowls are the real Brahma Pootras. Exhibited in the various class, labelled "Brahmas," and having no opponents, the judge may award them one of the prizes, were it only as a new and distinct variety, without pledging himself for their purity or excellence, and yet, like the railway in question, it is paradoxical throughout. There were no Brahmas exhibited, and there was no prize awarded to them as such.

RUS-TIGUS.

BOUGHT EGGS.

MR. EDITOR,—I think your correspondent "Zenas" sees that he was premature in writing on the subject of bought eggs; his condemnation was certainly sweeping, and on further reflection, I think he will withdraw that ugly word "rascal."

Although I sell eggs, I do not consider I am deserving such a name.

I must confess there are a *few* individuals advertising eggs who represent them quite different to what they really are; this I take from my own knowledge, having taken much trouble to answer advertisements and call to see the stock. In some *few* instances, I have been shown birds in back-yards, and they have been no more like what they are called than a cow is like a donkey.

I will relate a little circumstance that occurred about six weeks ago.

I sold a gentleman nine Brahma eggs; a month afterwards I met him, and as he approached me, he shrugged up his shoulders, shook his head, and said your eggs turned out bad, but said some eggs that I had from * * * * turned out well.

I told him I felt sorry that my eggs were unsatisfactory, but there was no avoiding such things.

On the morning of the 17th inst. I was at Mr. Stevens's rooms, and by arrangement my letters were brought to me; just as I was reading them, who should drop in but my friend to whom I sold the nine eggs. The letters that I received as to the result of my eggs were on this occasion most flattering. One gentleman to whom I sold a sitting gave me a very satisfactory account of them, at the same time told me that six he purchased from * * * were two broken and the rest turned out bad. These eggs that turned out bad were purchased from the person whose eggs in the other instance turned out preferable to mine.

I showed the letters to the gentleman that bought my nine eggs, and thus matters

were made pleasant. I do think this little incident must prove that there is not such rascality practised as "Zenas" imagines. I send you, "in confidence," the names of all parties, so that you may see this tale is not a fabrication. As to my own name, "you well know who I am." I do not think it right to put it, because I consider it would be tantamount to an advertisement of my eggs.—I am yours truly,

P. G.

[Our correspondent must observe that "Zenas" does not apply the terms "rascality" to advertisers of eggs generally, but only to persons who sell such as either will not hatch or which produce the wrong kind of chickens. In the instances which "P. G." gives of the uncertainty of hatching, the nine eggs which produced a good brood, and the unfortunate six from which came the singular and unaccountable result of not a single chicken, were from our own poultry yard.—Ed.]

THE DORKING'S LETTER.

SIR,—I am delighted to hear from every friend I meet that Dorkings are daily rising in public estimation; but, alas! whilst all my tribe rejoice to find their names nearly at the head of every prize-list, I am borne down with misery and shame, and see no chance of relief unless you will help me.

When your paper was established, I hoped soon to see an end of my grief, but my sorrow rather daily increased. Only a few days ago, I happened to hear my master read from some paper his advertisement, offering my eggs for sale, and saying when and where I had a prize.

It is quite true I once had a first prize, having earned it with my husband and sister at an important exhibition, and proud enough I was; but I no longer think my success a cause for rejoicing, for my present master claimed me directly at the low figure my first master put upon me (not knowing my value), and my husband and sister were immediately sold

away from me at a good profit. Ever since, I have been compelled to lead a most abandoned and disgusting life. In fact, I am tired of existence, for I am kept in a small yard, with about two dozen other unfortunates like myself, and we are compelled to associate with several disagreeable fellows, all of them probably well enough in their way, but not such society as I have been used to.

One great coarse Cochon (who had a prize the same day I changed masters) is particularly annoying to me, and I only wish my own working husband were here, for he would soon teach Mr. Cochon manners, whilst the little Dorking who lives in our yard has no pluck in him, and runs away if only Mr. Cochon looks at him.

In fact, I am quite ashamed of my eggs, and lay as few as I can; so let me entreat you not to buy any; for how could I bear to see my children amongst your Dorkings, wearing feathers on their legs like gaiters, and putting all their feet inside instead of outside their bodies?

But above all, that hoarse, coarse attempt at crowing, with which Mr. Cochon annoys me so much, would, in my own children, quite break my heart. So, if I must lay eggs, pray don't hatch them, and oblige

A DISCONSOLATE DORKING HEN.

RICE AS AN ARTICLE OF FOOD.—Rice is remarkable chiefly for the comparatively small proportion of gluten it contains. This does not exceed seven or eight per cent.—less than half the quantity contained in oatmeal. In rice countries it has often been noticed that the natives devour what to us appear enormous quantities of the grain, and this circumstance is ascribed to the small proportion it contains of the highly nutritive and necessary gluten. Rice contains also little fat, and hence it is less laxative than the other cereal grains, or rather, it possesses something of a binding

quality. It has recently been observed that, when substituted for potatoes in some of our workhouses, in consequence of the failure of the potato, this grain has, after a few months, produced scurvy. This may have been owing as much to the effects of sudden change of diet, as to an inherent evil property in the grain itself. Still it suggests, as many other facts do, the utility and wholesomeness of a mixed food.—*The Chemistry of Common Life.*

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

To give the weekly quotation of the price of poultry in Leadenhall Market is merely to record the continuance of an unparalleled scarcity, and consequent dearness. Were the demand as great as it usually is at this season of the year, it is questionable if there would be enough good poultry to supply it.

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|----|----------|-------|
| Fowls | 6s. Od. | to | 7s. 6d. | each. |
| Chickens | 4s. 6d. | to | 5s. Od. | " |
| Goslings | 7s. 6d. | to | 8s. Od. | " |
| Ducklings | 5s. Od. | | | |
| Pigeons | 0s. 9d. | to | 0s. 10d. | " |
| Guinea Fowls .. | 4s. Od. | to | 4s. 6d. | " |
| Rabbits | 1s. 8d. | to | 1s. 9d. | " |
| Leverets | 3s. 6d. | to | 5s. 6d. | " |

Plovers' eggs, in bulk, 2s. 6d. per doz.

To Correspondents.

To *Jacques*.—We heartily thank our correspondent for his good opinion and kind wishes, and hope with him that the reign of the "Poultry Chronicle" may be long and glorious: no effort on our part shall be wanting to make it so. We are making it our constant endeavour to have our country subscribers well supplied. All country booksellers can be supplied by Messrs. Routledge and Co., Farringdon-street, or by the publisher, 1, York-street, Covent Garden.

To *Ibid.*—We believe what we in the South call groats, or grits, to be well-dried oats cleared of the husk: we fancy the Lancashire name is "shelling." Middlings and pollard are the *first* and *second*, or *first* and *third*, refuse of wheat after the flour—fine and second quality. In London there is a quality of meal between middlings and pollard, called toppings, afterwards there is only the bran. *If possible*, remove your hen

from her valuable chicks, for the kind of catarrh denoted by wet nostrils is considered, by our best judges, to be very catching.

To *J. C., of Dorking*.—It is our decided intentions to give the lists of prizes, as soon after the shows as possible, and we mean to give them *entire*, for we know by experience, *those who get only a commendation* do not like to have the circumstance entirely passed over. In this we earnestly solicit the co-operation of Secretaries and Committees of shows (where we cannot be present), to forward us the prize list as *early as possible*. We perfectly agree with our correspondent, that the trouble to the Honorary Secretaries would be compensated by the additional value which their prizes would thus obtain. We shall be much pleased with the paper on the "White Dorking."

To *Featherlover*.—We hope to publish the prize list after *every* show. At the Aylesbury Local Show, only one prize was given, as mentioned in No. 8, page 168: no prize list was published.

To *R. B. R.*—We are much obliged to R. B. R. for his letter on the honesty of some persons who sell eggs, in which we have reason fully to concur with him.

To *A. C.*—Eggs will keep very well in lime-water with salt in it, in lime-water, or in simple brine; but we think it the best plan to have Cochin China pullets, when there will be plenty of really new-laid eggs for winter use.

A. Y.—Bolton Bays and Golden Pencilled Hambro's are the same fowl. They all have ample rosecombs, and the point should turn up behind. Blue legs, full tail, graceful and cheerful carriage. The foundation colour of the hen is a rich gold. The hackle should be free from any marking, the whole of the body accurately pencilled with black. The cock is of the same colour, but, if anything, of a richer and deeper tint; he should have large wattles, and a clear white deaf-ear. The tail should be black, but every feather should be shaded with a rich bronze at the edges.

A. C.—The best Golden Bearded Polands, independent of Mr. Vivian's, are Mr. Rawson's, of the Hurst; Mr. Symonds', of Weymouth; Mr. Cyrus Clarke's, of Glastonbury. On looking at the prize lists, there are doubtless many others that do not strike us at present.

An Amateur wishes to know "how long eggs will remain prolific, packed in bran." The fresher eggs can be set the better; we decidedly prefer them not more than two or three days old, but have hatched weakly chickens from some which had been kept over a month.

Q. Y.—There is no indication in the dissection of the Shanghai cock that would point to the

cause of death; on the contrary, everything would bespeak health. Sudden death is a malady of Shanghai fowls, or at least they are more subject to it than any other breed.

C. P.—There is no mistake in the Royal Agricultural Society's Prize List; there is no class for adult Cochins, save for the best cock of any age.

Advertisements.

EGGs from CAPT. HORNBY's celebrated Spanish and Dorking Prize Fowls may be had on application to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, Spring Grove, Hounslow, to whom Capt. Hornby has transferred his whole stock.

Spanish £4. 4s. per dozen.
Dorking £3. 3s. „

Remittances to be made by post-office order, and to include 2s. for packing.

SILVER-SPANGLED, GOLDEN-PENCILLED, & GOLDEN-SPANGLED HAMBURG EGGS.—From

Silver-spangled { HENS.—Pen 1422, Birmingham, First Prize, 1853.
COCK.—Pen 1496, Birmingham, H.C., 1853.

Golden-pencilled { HENS.—Pen 1235, Birmingham, Second Prize, 1853.
COCK.—Pen 4, Class 28, London Summer Show, First Prize, 1853.

Golden-spangled { Pen 1327, Birmingham, Third Prize, 1853.

Six Shillings per dozen, package included.—Apply to the gardener, CHARLES BEAGLES, Bristlington, near Bristol.

FIRST-CLASS GREY AND COLOURED DORKING EGGS FOR SALE.

MR. FOWLER has a few Sittings of Eggs to dispose of from his "Highly commended" Birds, shown at the Vale of Aylesbury Show. Price per dozen, package included, 10s.; Spanish, 6s. per dozen; Aylesbury Ducks, 6s.—Post-office order to JOHN K. FOWLER, Prebendal Farm, Aylesbury.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, near Haverhill, Suffolk, disposes of Eggs from his Buff, and also from his original Partridge-coloured, Birds, price 1s. each, and 1s. for package.—Applications for either variety will be supplied in the order received.

BLACK-BREADED GAME FOWLS' EGGS for SALE, from Birds that took first Prizes at Bristol and Honiton; and Grey Game from Birds that have taken Prizes at Derby, Bristol, and Torquay, at £1. 1s. per dozen; also Dorking Eggs, from Birds that have taken Prizes at London Summer Meeting, Summer Zoological Show, Malvern, Derby, Bristol, Taunton, Honiton, and Torquay, at £2. 2s. per dozen.—Apply to J. R. RODBURD, Aldwick-court, Wrington, near Bristol.

EGGs from FIRST CLASS and PRIZE BIRDS.—JOHN BAILY has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application. "Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG FOWLS.—EGGS from the above birds, which have taken several First and Second Prizes during the last season, can be obtained for 10s. a dozen, package included, on application to Mr. F. H. ABERDEIN, Honiton, Devon. A good Silver-pencilled Hamburg Cock for Sale.

JAMES DIXON, Bradford, Yorkshire, will SELL EGGS during the season from his Golden and Silver Spangled and Silver Pencilled Hamburg Fowls; also Spanish, from good White-faced Birds, 10s. the sitting.—Aylesbury, Rouen, and East India DUCKS' 6d. each. Most of the above have taken several prizes.

SPANISH and DORKING FOWLS.—Capt. Hornby having transferred his whole Stock of celebrated Poultry to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, of Spring Grove, Hounslow, a portion (for want of space) is for immediate Sale.

SPANISH FOWLS' EGGS FOR SALE.—From pure White-faced Birds (over the Eye). May be seen at 76, New Cut, Lambeth, near the Victoria Theatre.

EGGs.—First Prize London Coloured DORKING EGGS for Sale.—Apply to J. HISCOCK, Mildenhall, who has charge of the Fowls.

FANCY POULTRY.—PERIODICAL SALE.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will **SELL** by **AUCTION** at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on **TUESDAY**, 16th May, at 12 o'clock precisely, a Selection of **BRAHMAS**, **COCHINS**, &c. from the Yard of John Fairlie, Esq. of Cheveley, including some of his best brood stock; **Brahmas** from Mr. Cannan, of Great Marlow; choice Birds from C. Rawson, Esq.; Mr. G. Greggs, of Odeham; others, many of which are first-class specimens.—Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, London.

TO POULTRY FANCIERS.

EGGS.—BUFF, COCHIN, and SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURGS.—A few sittings from these Birds may now be had: **Cochins**, 13s. per dozen; **Hamburgs**, 7s. per dozen, including packing.—The **Cochins** are out of the birds that obtained the first prize at the Newcastle Show, 1853, Class 1. The **Hamburgs** took the first prize at Newcastle, April 20, 1854, Class 21, Number 132.—Eggs sent on receipt of Post-office order addressed to **SEPTIMUS YOUNG**, Esq., North Shields.

CHEVELEY PARK, NEWMARKET—**JOHN FAIRLIE**, Esq., can supply **EGGS** for the remainder of the season at 21s. per dozen from the following prize birds:—**Buff**, **Partridge**, **White** and **Black Cochins**, **Brahma Pootras**, **Dorkings**, and **Scotch Dumpies**.

PRIZE FOWLS.—EGGS from **White Silk Cochins**, which have taken four first-class Prizes, including one at the Great Metropolitan Show, 12s. the dozen. A few first-class **Buff Cochins**, 7s. 6d. to 12s. each, chickens of birds which took three Prizes; **Eggs** from ditto, 6s. per dozen. **White-faced Spanish** (chickens of prize birds), 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. each; **Eggs** from ditto, 6s. per dozen. **Brahma Pootra Eggs**, from birds which took a **First Prize**, £2. 2s. per dozen. One pair of **Brahmas** (**First Prize Birds**) for Sale, price £15. 15s.—Apply to **MR. JAMES BARBER**, Great Yarmouth.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS, from the choicest birds of an Amateur, **Brahmas** of whose breeding have competed successfully at the first shows in the kingdom, viz., the Royal Agricultural, Great Metropolitan, Birmingham, Great Yarmouth, Doncaster, Norwich, Winchester, and Manchester, price £3. 3s. per dozen. Warranted from the best prize and selected birds only. Apply to **W. C. G.**, Post-office, Sandbach, Cheshire.

MR. FLETCHER'S CHOICE BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS.
POULTRY-HOUSES, FENCING,
And every Requisite for keeping a large number of Poultry.

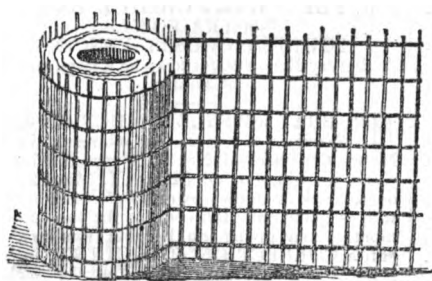
MR. BRAY will **SELL** by **AUCTION** on the Premises (observe the address), in the Mews at the back of No. 22, Upper Phillimore-place, Kensington, on **FRIDAY**, May 12th, at one o'clock precisely (by order of Mr. Fletcher, who is going into the country for the summer months, and giving up keeping poultry), his entire **COLLECTION** of **POULTRY**, including about 15 **Brahma Stock Birds**, picked, regardless of cost, from the best yards; nearly 100 **Brahma Chickens**, from one to ten weeks old; a few **Cochin China Fowls' Houses, Fencing Pens, Coops, nest and sitting Boxes, large Corn Bin, Barley-meal Mill, &c. &c.**—May be viewed the Morning of Sale. Catalogues had on the Premises, and of **MR. BRAY**, 259, High Holborn.

MR. FISHER HOBBS has **EGGS** for **SALE** from his Prize **Dorking Fowls**, at 5s. each, package included. Also a few **Golden-pencilled Hamburg Eggs**, from his birds that took **First and Second Prizes**, at 1s. 6d. each. A few **Dorking Cocks**, fellows to the prize birds, for Sale.—Apply at **Boxted-lodge, Colchester**.

PTARMIGANS FOR SALE.—The best **Cup-combed Cock** and **Two Hens**. Also, several fine pairs of these beautiful and original Birds. **Sittings of Eggs** from **Ptarmigan, Turkish, and Pure White-faced Spanish Fowls**.—Apply to **MR. CHARLES COLES**, West-street, Fareham, Hants.

GUINEA FOWLS' EGGS, 10s. the hatch of twenty-one, from the same stock that took the first prize at **Norwich**, and second at **Birmingham**. **Dark Grey Dorkings**, 10s. the hatch, from prize birds.—**W. COPPLE**, Eccleston, Prescott, Lancashire.

SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY-HOUSE, £4, consisting of house 4 feet square and 6 feet high, and roofed run for fowls 9 feet by 4 feet. Drawings of several sent free. The above are portable, and can be taken down or put up by any ordinary labourer. Wire work from 6 to 15 inches wide, 6½d. per square yard, to enclose poultry, &c.—**R. RICHARDSON**, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, near King's-cross. **N.B.** Maker of garden summer-houses, and iron and wood houses for emigrants; drawings of 21 Emigrants' houses, and 28 Summer-houses, sent free.



**WILLIAM DRAY AND CO.'S
PATENT WIRE FENCING,**
strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c.,
and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits,
Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot.

Ordinary Wire Netting, from 2½d. per
yard, 2 feet wide.

Address **WILLIAM DRAY and Co.,**
Agricultural Implement Manufacturers,
Swan-lane, Upper Thames-street,
London.

CLEAR BUFF COCHIN FOWLS' EGGS,
from sets of birds bred by Mr. Fairlie and
Mr. Andrews are now offered at reduced prices
in consequence of the advertiser having concluded
sitting his hens this season. The Eggs are very
productive, and the chicks come like canaries,
and heavily feathered.—Apply to Mr. C. Pock-
LINGTON, Boston, Lincolnshire.

**FOR POULTRY-HOUSES.
LIGHT, CHEAP, & DURABLE ROOFING.**

**CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE
ROOFING FELT** is perfectly impervious
to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by
a long and extensive experience in all climates.
Saves half the timber required for slates. Can
be laid on with great facility by farm servants or
unpractised persons. Price **ONE PENNY** per
SQUARE FOOT. Croggon's Patent **NON-CON-
DUCTING FELT** for covering Steam-boilers
and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and testimonials sent by post, on ap-
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Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs
generally, to equalise the temperature.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Pre-
serving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight,
Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons,
Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards
wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100
yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage-free.
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tended to.

To be had in any quantity at **GEORGE EATON
& Co.'s Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory,**
6 and 7, Crooked-lane, London.

**FRUIT-TREES, POULTRY, RABBIT,
SHEEP, and CAT FENCING.**—Worsted
NETTING to protect the bloom of peach,
nectarine, and other trees, flower, or seed beds,
from frost, blight, and birds, two yards wide, 5d.
per yard. New twine netting (tanned if required),
one yard wide, 1½d. per yard; two yards wide,
3d. per yard; four yards wide, 6d.; half-inch
mesh ditto, two yards wide, 6d. per yard.
Tanned netting, two or three yards wide, 1½d.
per yard; four or six yards wide, 3d. per yard.
Elastic hexagon garden net, or scrim canvas,
4½d. per square yard. Cocoa-nut fibre, or hemp
sheep-folding net, of superior quality, four feet
high, 4d. to 6d. per yard. Rabbit net, four feet
wide, 1½d.; six feet wide, 2½d.; eight feet, 3d.
per yard. Each edge corded, 1d. per yard extra,
suitable for poultry fencing. Square mesh crick-
eting net, fix its full width and length, made of
stout cord, 3d. to 4d. per square yard; this is
the best article made for fencing against fowls,
cats, &c.—At **W. CULLINGFORD'S,** No. 1, Ed-
mund-terrace, Ball's Pond-road, Islington. Or-
ders by post, with post-office order or town
reference, punctually attended to. Fishing-hets
of all kinds in stock.

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tion, 13s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.;
payable in advance by post-office order to **GEORGE
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Twelve o'clock on Monday.

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Farringdon-street.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

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Poultry Shows.

Hexham Poultry Show, in the Abbey Grounds. Second Annual Exhibition, Friday and Saturday, the 12th and 13th of May. Secretary, W. Turner, Esq., Hencotes, Hexham. Entries closed May 6.

Devon and Exeter Botanical and Horticultural Society, at Exeter, in conjunction with the Society's Spring Horticultural Exhibition, May 18th and 19th. Hon. Secretary, T. W. Gray, Esq., 22, Cathedral-yard, Exeter. Entries are closed.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries close this day, May 10th.

Cheltenham Third Annual Summer Exhibition, at the Pittville Spa, June 14th and 15th. Secretaries, the Messrs. Jessop, Brothers, The Avaries, Cheltenham. Entries close June 3rd.

Devon and Cornwall Poultry Society, June 27th and 28th. Secretaries, Mr. W. Hunt, Public Library, Plymouth, and C. Hancock, Esq., Emma-place, Stonehouse. Entries close June 12th.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries close June 1st.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. The Schedule not quite ready.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombrain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

By a mistake difficult to account for, the wrong date was mentioned for the closing of the entries for the Birmingham Show. We wish to draw particular attention to the fact, that the entries close on the 11th instead of the 4th of November.

In the inimitable Talpa, or "Chronicles of a Clay Farm," portraits are given of three agriculturists, with elongated faces, dissatisfied with everything, but agreed on one point, that "it's all up with farming." So Madame de Maintenon, writing to her ambitious and dissatisfied brother, says, "If at eighteen we could see in a glass the face we shall have at fifty, we should recoil with horror." She then reminds him that when children at home, their wishes were confined to a hundred and twenty pounds per year, and yet, she writes, "you have fifty times as much now, and you are dissatisfied."

It can easily be imagined that to the editor of a Poultry paper things are important or not as they bear upon the subject of which his paper treats, and after a conversation with a noted Cochin China breeder, in which he gave it as his opinion it was all up with poultry, we were struck with the analogy the above bore to the question.

It is said that every man views everything as it affects himself, and so our friend

goes about an alarmist, because Cochins do not now make fifty pounds each. When speculation is mad, and worthless shares make large sums in the City, a few make fortunes, and the mass suffers, but this is an unwholesome state of things; a panic ensues, and then a good, steady, and rational demand takes the place of feverish excitement. This is the history of Cochin China fowls during the last few years. But the world is composed of many races of people, and poultry is made up of many breeds. Certain among them have stood the test of years, some almost of centuries, and every new breed introduced enters the lists in competition with the old ones. Fashion may give them notoriety, and for a time may force them on the public, but they must at last be weighed in the scale of utility, and if found wanting, they must kick the beam, outbalanced by their more commonplace, but in reality more valuable rivals. While Cochins have gone down, Dorkings and Spanish have more than tripled in value, and this will prove not only that there is no sign of "its being all up with poultry," but that there is a steady and continuous increase in the demand for, and admiration of, good breeds. It is also proved that exhibitions of poultry, and correspondence and statistics respecting it, have done their duty. But to return more particularly to our starting point, and to apply it to our subject more closely, let us ask, who would not have been satisfied a few years ago, if he could have made of his surplus stock five or six shillings each, when six months old? Any one can do that now, but when he gets even double, and nets a handsome profit, he thinks of the

fowls that were once sold for fifty pounds each, and with a shrug of the shoulder, and a lengthened visage, he says, "I fear it's all up with poultry."

Schedule of the Devon and Cornwall Society's Poultry Show.

THIS exhibition is to be held in the grounds of W. H. Pole Carew, Esq., Antony, Cornwall, on the 27th and 28th of June, in connection with a fête Bazaar for the benefit of the funds of the Plymouth, Devonport, and Tor Point Mechanics' Institutions. An introduction of a form of entry in the schedule is a convenient improvement.

CONDITIONS AND REGULATIONS.

1. The Judges to be empowered to award additional prizes in any cases in which the specimens possess extraordinary merit, and also to withhold a prize or prizes in any of the classes in which the specimens are of an inferior quality.
2. Exhibitors must state on the certificate of entry the price, breed, and age (if possible), calculated up to the first day of the Exhibition. The ages of the chickens must be accurately stated. Chickens of 1854 cannot be shown in the classes for fowls one year old.
3. The specimens must be named with what the exhibitor believes to be their correct title; and it is requested that all known synonyms (provincial or otherwise) may be added. Fowls entered in a wrong class will be necessarily excluded from competition for the prizes.
4. High condition, quality, beauty of plumage, purity of race, and uniformity in the markings, combs, and other characteristics, will, in all the classes for fowls, be taken into consideration by the Judges in a greater degree than mere weight without these distinctions, if the more perfect specimens are at the same time of a fair average size.
5. All the specimens must be *bona fide* the property of the exhibitor. Fowls out at "walk" will, however, be equally admissible for exhibition by their real owners.
6. The discovery of any false statement as to proprietorship or possession of fowl, or their age, &c., will be followed by the exclusion of the exhibitors of such specimens thus improperly described from all future Exhibitions.

7. Exhibitors will, in all cases, be required to state the price at which they will sell their specimens; one of the main objects of these Exhibitions being to afford an opportunity to poultry keepers to improve their collections at a time when they are best enabled to form a correct opinion on the value of the several varieties. A prohibitory price, or what appears to be so, can of course be named, but the sale must take place if an offer is made to purchase at the price specified. Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales towards defraying the expenses of the Exhibition.

8. Exhibitors are particularly requested carefully to examine the Prize Lists and Regulations of the Show, in order to avoid errors in making their entries. It must also be understood that no alteration can be made in the prices as stated on the certificates, and set forth in the catalogue, except on application to the Secretaries, and the payment of a fee of 1s.; that the specimens must be sold in pens, and not divided; and that the Secretaries who have the management of the sales, cannot take charge of fowls which are disposed of privately. Exhibitors who do not wish to effect sales, are recommended to name a really prohibitory price, say £1,000 per pen. Attention to these regulations will greatly facilitate the business of the Show, and prevent errors in the accounts, and in the despatch of the specimens at its close. All applications for purchasing must be made to the Secretaries, and the money paid to them at the same time. No sales to be effected before the opening of the Exhibition to the public.

9. The Exhibition will not be limited to a particular district, and specimens may be sent from any part of the United Kingdom; but the competition for prizes will be strictly confined to amateurs. All Exhibitors will be required to pay entrance-fees as follow:—Each pen in classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 23, and 24,—3s. For each pen in classes 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 25, 26, and 27,—2s. 6d. For classes 19, 20, 21, and 22,—1s. 6d. For classes 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34,—1s. Facilities will be afforded to poultry dealers, and others, to dispose of their birds (without competing), provided notice be given by them to the Secretary of such intention on or before the 12th June next, and on their being sent in open wicker baskets, in which they can be shown; the entrance-fee for such to be 1s. 6d. per basket, not exceeding three specimens.

10. Certificates of entry may be had on application to Mr. William Hunt, at No. 10, Caroline-place, Stonehouse, from whom a prize list and certificate of entry may be obtained, on forwarding two penny postage stamps. A separate entry

on the certificate will be required for each pen, and exhibitors are requested carefully to examine the prize lists and regulations of the Show, in order to avoid errors in making their entries, which can only be received when made on the proper forms of certificate, which must be returned to the Secretary, as above, on or before the 12th of June, 1854.

11. The whole of the poultry must be delivered at Antony Lodge between 1 and 9 p.m. on Monday, the 26th of June next. The baskets, hampers, &c., may be addressed to the Secretary, at Antony, Tor Point, Cornwall, the carriage, in all cases, being previously paid by the exhibitor, excepting from the railway station at Plymouth, or from the London Inn; Tor Point, the charges to and from which places the Committee will defray. Birds for exhibition will be passed free of charge to and from Plymouth over the South Devon Railway. Birds cannot be removed before 8 o'clock on the second day of exhibition. The Committee will not hold themselves responsible for any accident that may happen to the poultry, although they will use every precaution to insure their safety.

12. All eggs laid during the Exhibition will be destroyed. Neither sticks, umbrellas, parasols, nor dogs can be admitted within the poultry sheds; proper persons will be appointed to take charge of the sticks, parasols, or umbrellas.

13. The Exhibition will be opened to persons entitled to a private view immediately after the Judges shall have completed the award of prizes; it will be open to the public at an entrance-fee of 1s. from 10 to 12 on first day, and from 8 to 10 on second day; and from 12 on first day, and 10 on second day, until the time for closing, at an entrance of 6d. each person, excepting to persons entitled to free admission.

By arrangement with the Fête and Bazaar Committee, the holders of the Poultry Society's Cards of membership and subscription will be admitted to the grounds without charge, on showing their Cards.

PRIZE LIST.

DORKING (Coloured).

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Class.</i> | <i>First.</i> | <i>Second.</i> |
| 1. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. 0d. |
| Chicken of 1854, best pen of 4, 10s. | | 5s. 0d. |

DORKING (White).

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----------|
| 2. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. 0d. |
| Chicken of 1854, best pen of 4, 10s. | | 5s. 0d. |

SPANISH.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|
| 3. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. 0d. |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|

SHANGHAE (Buff or Cinnamon).

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Class.</i> | <i>First.</i> | <i>Second.</i> |
| 4. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. 0d. |
| Chicken of 1854, best pen of 4, 10s. | | 5s. 0d. |

SHANGHAE (Brown or Partridge).

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----------|
| 5. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. 0d. |
| Chicken of 1854, best pen of 4, 10s. | | 5s. 0d. |

SHANGHAE (White).

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----------|
| 6. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. 0d. |
| Chicken of 1854, best pen of 4, 10s. | | 5s. 0d. |

MALAY.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|
| 7. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. 0d. |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|

RED GAME (any named variety).

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------|---------|
| 8. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 7s. 6d. |
|------------------------------|------|---------|

GREY GAME (any named variety).

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------|---------|
| 9. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 7s. 6d. |
|------------------------------|------|---------|

- | | | |
|--|------|---------|
| 10. Any other named variety of GAME | 15s. | 7s. 6d. |
|--|------|---------|

SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| 11. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 7s. 6d. |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|

GOLD-PENCILLED HAMBURG.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| 12. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 7s. 6d. |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|

SILVER-SPANGLED HAMBURG.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| 13. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 7s. 6d. |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|

GOLD-SPANGLED HAMBURG.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| 14. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 7s. 6d. |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|

POLAND (White or Buff).

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| 15. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 7s. 6d. |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|

POLAND (Black, white tops).

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| 16. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 7s. 6d. |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|

POLAND (Gold).

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| 17. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 7s. 6d. |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|

POLAND (Silver).

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|
| 18. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 7s. 6d. |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|

BANTAM (White).

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|
| 19. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 7s. | 3s. 0d. |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|

BANTAM (Black).

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|
| 20. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 7s. | 3s. 0d. |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|

BANTAM (Gold-laced).

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|
| 21. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 7s. | 3s. 0d. |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|

BANTAM (Silver-laced).

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|
| 22. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 7s. | 3s. 0d. |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|

| TURKEYS. | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------|----------|
| Class. | | First. | Second. |
| 23. | Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. 0d. |
| | Chicken of 1854 .. | .. 10s. | 5s. 0d. |
| GEESE. | | | |
| 24. | Best Gander and two Geese | £1. | 10s. 0d. |
| DUCKS (White Aylesbury). | | | |
| 25. | Best Drake and two Ducks .. | 10s. | 5s. 0d. |
| DUCKS (Rouen). | | | |
| 26. | Best Drake and two Ducks .. | 10s. | 5s. 0d. |
| DUCKS (any other variety). | | | |
| 27. | .. .. . | .. 10s. | 5s. 0d. |
| PIGONS. | | | |
| 28. | Best Bird—Carrier .. | .. 5s. | |
| 29. | .. Almond Tumbler | 5s. | |
| 30. | .. Fantail .. | .. 5s. | |
| 31. | .. Jacobine .. | .. 5s. | |
| 32. | .. Pouter .. | .. 5s. | |
| 33. | .. Trumpeter .. | .. 5s. | |
| 34. | In this Class, prizes according to the discretion of the Judges will be awarded to any specimens not named in the above list. | | |

Cottagers' Prizes.

NO. II.

I REALLY cannot do otherwise than congratulate myself, upon the similarity of opinions (since I first wrote to you on the subject), so freely expressed in your excellent periodical, by several correspondents on cottagers' prizes, at exhibitions of domestic poultry; more especially as I consider it a matter to which the attention of the public cannot possibly be drawn more closely than it richly deserves.

There seems still, however, to exist a predetermined disfavour on the part of some committees, lest it might injure the pecuniary returns of their exhibition, and from one committee I have received the unqualified avowal, "that if the labouring cottagers were admitted to compete, the gentry would leave them altogether, and the latter could not be prevailed upon to attend." I really hope and believe, that the committee to which I now allude, is

labouring under a misapprehension altogether, though at the same time I respectfully and candidly concede to them a more intimate knowledge on their part, as to the personal habits of the gentry in their own particular neighbourhood. It is admitted the writer has not been reared in notions of exclusiveness, to look down upon a poor man as not only of different caste, but as an unfortunate being, with whom publicly to associate for a few hours would inflict disgrace, and who, therefore, without any righteous cause, is treated with slight and indifference, or perchance, even constantly and absolutely avoided. It is alone to such false sentiments we can truly attribute nearly all the rugged gaps that now unhappily sever society, and not less so the want of sympathy in regard to each other that so frequently betrays itself, both on the part of the wealthy and also of the humbler classes,—for wherever the occasional relaxation of such imperious rule is allowed, it is there we as surely find an immediate and lasting reciprocity of good feeling—on the one hand, a more highly valued and universally esteemed benefactor, on the other, a working population more satisfied and contented.

It is a commonly accredited fact, "that fowls always thrive well under the care of a cottager;" this assertion may be pressed even further, for if well-managed and so situated, they even succeed far better than when enjoying the unlimited run of a large farm: the reason of this is, such fowls are kept in smaller numbers (which tends more than many suppose to their ultimate advantage), and again, they are accustomed to the warmth and shelter of the cottage, from which circumstance alone, it is, that not unfrequently fresh-laid eggs are here procurable, when from the extreme severity of the winter they are not generally to be obtained elsewhere. Such advantages, then, to a cottager increase very considerably the revenue arising from his poultry, as both eggs and also chickens (like most other eatables) are chiefly coveted when the most difficult to pro-

cure. The chickens too having greater care, warmth, and general supervision, thrive more rapidly and are sooner ready for the market; therefore, as a natural sequence, bring their owner prices very far superior to that of broods produced later in the season. These fowls oftentimes roost in the chimney-corner, or perchance in some thatch-roofed nook, most aptly erected at the back of the only fire-place; such little matters, with the additional benefit of a lane to run in, are accommodations that very far excel the costly and much boasted appliances of our wealthy amateurs. The more especial bane of the latter consists in keeping too many birds on a limited space, for nothing seems so completely to baffle and oppose success among poultry as over population, together with the very unnatural diet by which the unpractised in such matters attempt to stimulate them. I may also most emphatically add, the now extremely popular delusion of restoring poultry to health by medical applications alone, while the causes of sickness from the combined effects of unnatural diet and general mismanagement, are (strangely enough) altogether neglected and overlooked. So long then as these advantages are naturally incidental to "cottage management," a few general remarks to enlist public sympathy on this neglected subject will not, I think, on my part, be obtrusive or misapplied.

I am myself, a strenuous advocate of the principle of assisting the poor to maintain themselves; of teaching them habits of self-reliance; and by all means encouraging those who earnestly struggle to independently support themselves and families without eleemosynary aid. It surely is more advisable to help the striving labourer in his continuous up-hill struggle, against the dreaded and very close approaches of poverty (inseparable from small means in connection with a large family), than to assist by (even more extended) donations, those whose former recklessness and utter want of frugality,

have forced them within the iron meshes of poverty and privation. In the one case assistance is given exclusively to the really deserving recipient—in the other it very closely approximates to the nature of a present reward for former carelessness and indiscretion. On every occasion, then, rather let us encourage the man who uses all available means for present support, than the one who most likely will as certainly now misapply your proffered assistance, as he before-times did his own means.

Pray do not let us make paupers of the necessitous!

The striving man will receive your assistance with diffidence and hesitation, but the worn-out profligate becomes a never-ceasing drain for every donation, and will not as an individual feel any anxiety for self-support, if your aid is always ready and forthcoming. The one man with thankfulness receives the proposed help, and uses his own efforts combined therewith for the general welfare of his family—the other most probably only considers how far he can make your gifts available to spare himself the efforts of self-exertion. Oh, then, how much wiser it is to assist the deserving, though falling man, than to aid the one whose recklessness before-time, has not unfrequently been the sole cause of all his present privations.

Now, in country localities, I know nothing that will tend to the promotion of what I have just advanced, more than the encouragement of breeding poultry by cottagers. I do not mean to assert it will alone support a family, but it will, combined with the other general efforts, greatly assist to do so, and most assuredly no means will be so relevant to ensure the most profitable breeds and best management to labourers, as the distribution of cottagers' prizes at our general poultry exhibitions. The hope of obtaining these rewards, stimulates to exertion; the attainment of such (from a variety of causes) ensures never-failing benefits and emoluments. It, therefore, appears decidedly, rather the result of general inattention to the subject alto-

gether, than real apathy on the part of the public to the premiums I now speak of, as being unworthy of regard. I trust, however, that this matter may be well reconsidered, and I then fear not the ultimate determination of exhibition committees throughout the whole of our agricultural districts, where poultry shows are contemplated.

It need only be mentioned in reference to assisting cottage labourers, that the farther removed a man becomes from abject necessity, the less inducement exists for the infringement of the laws for the protection of property, and the objection sometimes urged against labourers keeping poultry, viz., that it will tend to the purloining from their employers, of corn to support such fowls, is therefore by no means a valid one. If a man is naturally dishonest, naught but the fear of conviction under the law will prevent his thefts; but, if urged by pinching want, and borne down by many privations, it no doubt has oftentimes occurred that a labourer, who at the onset was really well-intentioned, has been tempted to the commission of crime, that naturally his soul abhorred. I wish to be especially clear on this point: I do not argue that the most wealthy are the most honest; but I do not believe that the less causes of temptation are placed in the way of a very poor and necessitous man, the more unlikely will he naturally be to resort to pilfering.

The rationality of our assisting the cottar to raise poultry for the benefit of his family, is very apparent; its utility is also extended to the community at large, if we improve the breeds of poultry, and thus render the rearing of them available to the poor. If this arrangement is generally pursued, we ensure a larger supply for our markets, and a very far superior article for public consumption. This will prove no infringement on the pursuits of our wealthy agricultural friends (who may be holders of large farms), and our "country-cousins" may still obtain an equal return of "pin-money" by their poultry-produce;

for, depend upon it, the more liberal the supply, the more universal will be the demand for them. Even at the present day, it is well known that fowls are far more commonly to be found on the tables of the middle classes than formerly, and the consumption may still be marvellously increased, if proper attention is paid to the improvement of breeds, and certainty of a regular supply.

When, as is frequently the case, a stalwart peasant is only earning ten or twelve shillings per week, the prospect of improved circumstances is altogether out of the range of probability, whilst if illness happens to intrude into his home, how miserable becomes his lot; whether it visits himself, his wife, or one of his children, consider how thoroughly depressed his mind must be; and I will urge the indisputable fact, that all human efforts, when carried on under the hopelessness of despair and severe affliction, are indeed a sorry task. The labourer is naturally ill-maintained, while the employer is too apt with cause to consider his workman scarcely "worthy of his hire." These then are the reasons I give for enforcing the advantages of poultry-breeding among the country poor. I am well convinced that the income derivable from attention to a few fowls, will be very far greater than that arising from the employment of children to scare away birds from newly-sown corn. It is, too, the natural impulse of childhood to tend (and enjoy the occupation) any young live stock; besides, their really useful assistance in looking after poultry and chickens, and protecting them from harm, instils early habits of thought and carefulness, whilst it raises hopes in the minds of both themselves and also their parents, of the after-benefits that success with their present charge will certainly ensure. The necessary attention will be as efficiently rendered by the younger members as could be desired; the labours of the parents need not be interrupted; home (though humble) will have hitherto unknown latent charms,

and the additions thus made to the yearly income, will be, to parties in their limited circumstances, of inestimable value.

But I must return more particularly to the gift of cottagers' prizes at poultry exhibitions; if allowed to compete gratuitously (which should ever be the case), the emulation it produces few would accord, nor yet imagine the really excellent fancy poultry by this means sometimes called before the public. The amount of the prizes so allotted must of course be dependent in some measure on the state of the funds at the disposal of the committee, or on the special acts of beneficence of the surrounding gentry; experience, however, convinces me that where the attempt is strenuously made, an appeal to the latter source will by no means prove fruitless. A sovereign, or even ten-shilling prize, will generally call into existence a spirited competition: the reason is this, a party in easy, affluent circumstances can never appreciate the value set by an indigent workman on so small a sum—if gained, it comes forth an unexpected help (a perfect "God-send"), which does not belong to their general weekly income—and we are all well aware how very freely sales are constantly effected of prize poultry in our exhibition-rooms, and at prices which are very remunerative. Cottagers' stock by this means often sells for twenty-fold the sum that would be attainable in the general market, and not unfrequently to purchasers, who were hitherto alike equally unaware of the existence of either the owners of the poultry, or the fowls exhibited. I knew an instance myself, in which a poor man's pen was "claimed" for two pounds; and at the same show, another individual's changed hands at five pounds, to the evident surprise and rapture of their several owners; but still I fancied in one party, I could detect the emotion of a sigh,—in the other, when leaving the long-petted favourites (though I venture not to ascribe a cause) a flood of tears was freely indulged.

Who can tell the manifold and incre-

dible advantages the outlay of these sums might procure for parties in their straitened circumstances? I will not myself attempt it.

I briefly return to the principal objections raised, viz., the disinclination to admit the cottagers themselves to view the poultry, lest the finances of the show should be injured from the disinclination of ladies to be present under such circumstances. Though assured to the contrary, I fancy still there are very few who will insist that a loss of grade thus ensues from temporarily bridging-over the gulf that yawns between the affluent and the necessitous; but if anywhere it should be considered uncompromisingly imperative that the distinctions just mentioned should be enforced, it will be easy to remedy even this difficulty, by the admission of the humbler aspirants "to poultry fame," either at an hour so early that the wealthy are not then expected, or one so late as to ensure their previous return homewards. The plan now mentioned will at once comply with every principle of exclusiveness (even of such as carry out the idea to its most extreme bearing), and though I myself would fain hope the class just spoken of are numerically small, still I regret to say from the reports circulated, it might justly be supposed the objection was universal. My opinions have now been so frequently before the public, I have only to suggest, it must be ever remembered that such labourers are the well-known workpeople of the neighbourhood, and therefore the utmost propriety of conduct on their part is inevitably certain. I do not fear but the attempt will be constantly successful, and I also believe these annual little acts of familiarity and friendship will prove equally pleasing in the retrospect, to the affluent and the peasant. They will beget feelings of kindness and goodwill that cannot readily be lost or forgotten, and though not least, I am satisfied that by so trifling an act of self-denial on their part, even the most aristocratic of my countrywomen, will feel enjoyment in

the afterthought, that some labourer's home may thus have been made comparatively happy, or perchance the lone widow and her fatherless little ones, whose tears since their bereavement have hitherto only flowed silently and in sorrow, now contrariwise publicly gush forth with sudden impulse, amidst their involuntary transports of thankfulness and gratitude.

Is it not then worthy of the trial?

E. C.

Notes on Past Numbers.

Continued.

I AM glad that the river Brahma Pootra is considered as identical with that which I termed Burrapooter, and which the Editor confirms (with a string of aliases long enough to satisfy a burglar), as "Berampoota, Burrampoota, or Brahma-pootra." "Lector" also kindly informs me that this stream rises near the "Himalaya mountains, which will account for the hardness of fowls brought from its banks." This river, I presume (for I write at a distance from my Atlas), flows through a country in possession of the English, and the birds must be pretty plentiful to be supplied as live-stock to an American ship, and yet, though the breed has been fashionable in this country for three or four years, not one specimen has been imported into it direct from India. "G. B." states that his brother, who had been in India, immediately recognised them. Without doubting his veracity, I cannot undertake to defer to his judgment unless I were assured of his being sufficiently learned in poultry to form an opinion. I remember a case where a person, on being shown some Rouen ducks, pronounced them the same as a friend of his possessed, and kindly procured some eggs for his host in order to introduce fresh blood. They all turned out common ducks.

I hope that I shall not be accused of

undervaluing these birds. On the contrary, I think them very superior, and, for the sake of argument, I will concede that they are the finest we have. All that I demand is, some more decided proof than has been hitherto afforded, that they are a *distinct and pure variety*. I once amused myself with keeping a small dairy farm, and my cows were chiefly Devons, Durhams, and Jerseys. Each were good in their way, but the first cross between the last two sorts eclipsed the pure breeds both in amount of milk and butter, as well as in size of carcass. It never, however, occurred to me to give them any specific name, or to endeavour to unduly enhance their value in the market by proclaiming them as a new breed. Mention is made in the "Poultry Pentologue," of white top-knot Dorkings. Had the first breeder of them been "cute," he might have made a small fortune by naming them as "Paduan Dorkings," or giving them an origin from the banks of the Rio de Plata or Niger.

To show that I am capable of changing my opinions when my premises are proved to be unsound, I will merely state, that I once held the Rouen and common duck to be identical, and considered the Embden and Toulouse the same as the common goose.

I cannot personally confirm "Salvia's" account that Guinea-pigs are a murifuge (to coin a word), but I remember, when a boy, some schoolfellows keeping them for that purpose in their poultry-house. Whether the rats were deterred by their noise or their odour I cannot say, but they did not molest the birds.

I beg to side with "Xeres" against "A. J. H." on the question of the colour of the legs of Spanish fowls. "A long time ago," white was the desirable hue, but how it was procured is a mystery to me, as the contrast is so unnatural.

More than one of your correspondents recommend turpentine for curing the gapes, and it is perhaps the only *remedy*. *Boiled water*, supplied fresh every day, is

the surest *preventive*, if your birds are subject to this disease; but even this is useless if they have access to foul pools. The introduction of a feather into the *windpipe* (not *gullet*) is a ticklish task in more senses than one. A similar result, though not so immediate or sure, is to administer the turpentine in bread-crumbs. This, when taken in the stomach, impregnates the breath, and so reaches the worm in the windpipe, but, of course, cannot act so strongly as the more direct application by means of a feather.

The Egyptian fowls (page 194), appear to be a new breed, but, from their size, fitted only for a mere toy. With them, as with the Brahma Pootras, the unique comb appears to be the main distinction, though, unfortunately for the latter kind, many of its most strenuous supporters are against the pea-comb, which, if it be a true breed, I should set down as the characteristic feature.

"B. P. B.'s" articles on pigeons promise well, and I hope that he will tell us all that he knows on the subject, and nothing more. Writers upon poultry are very apt to venture out of their depth occasionally, and I know no topic which ranges over so extensive a surface as pigeons. No one man, I should say, was fully qualified to write upon all the endless varieties of the breed. If "B. P. B." will be kind enough to avow whenever he is at fault, I dare say some brother fancier will step forward to his assistance.

On looking over the Dublin Prize List, I see the following prizes offered, which I think worth noticing. "Class 11, Grey Shanghai, or Cochin China, Brahma Pootras." This would show that one Society, at least, denies a distinctiveness of breed to the Brahma Pootras.

Can any of your readers inform me what birds are meant by the "Gold and Silver Pheasant Fowl," in Classes 29 and 31? That Hamburgs are not meant is evident from the fact, that prizes are offered for "Dutch Pencilled Fowl, Bolton Greys, and Bolton Bays, in Classes 19 and 21."

Is it possible that Ireland possesses the long-lost white, black-topped Poland, or is the "Black-crested, white fowl" prize held out in the hope of restoring that breed? I wish some Poland fancier would devote one season to trying to resuscitate this variety, by crossing white hens with a black cock, and black hens with a white cock. Should he succeed, he will be well repaid for his trouble, particularly if he keeps his plan a secret.

What birds, in the name of potatoes, can be meant by the "White-crested, red Hamburgs, of Class 46;" and what are the "Gold and silver spangled fowls, in Classes 48 and 50," unless they be the before-mentioned Dutch, Pheasant, or Hamburgs? Either Ireland possesses varieties that are unknown in England, or the fanciers of the Emerald Isle are not versed in the classification of the different kinds of fowls. I see that the Editor is somewhat puzzled, and I do not wonder at it. A prize is offered for American turkeys,—good; and another for Norfolk,—bad. The finest turkey, and the one that should be most encouraged is the Cambridge.

Are Irish geese very indifferent, that a prize is only held out to an "improved breed"? I should argue, from the list, that a common goose would not be allowed to win were it ever so good.

ALLECTOR.

Poultry Sketches.

NO. I.—OLD SHANG.

IF amateurs, who remember the time when Cochin Chinas first became well known in England, were to note down their wanderings in search of the pure breed, where should we place those of Columbus and Cook, or the investigators of the sources of the Niger or the Nile? No trouble was thought too great, scarcely any journey too long, for the enthusiastic amateur, and a sight only of a stock—nay, even of a pair of true-bred fowls, was considered ample return for the toil, trouble, and expense.

The rain came down in torrents sufficiently heavy to daunt the energy for most exploits, when a certain amateur started at the call of a captain friend, conveying with it the welcome intelligence that a ship in dock had Cochin China fowls on board. The journey, like the weather, proved unpropitious. Waiting for the rain delayed the Cochin China seeker, and the unpleasant weather hurried the captain home to his dinner, for no regular appointment had been made with him, and a fruitless journey was the result.

The next day, however, was as fair and bright as sunshine and a genial temperature could make it, and then, with a companion this time, the amateur started again. Arrived at the docks, it was found that the fowls which had come in the *Emma Colvin* had been brought over for some one as passengers, and had been already passed on to their destination. So, whether they were large or small, smooth-legged or feather-legged, black, white, buff, partridge, grouse, brown, or non-descript, was never discovered; but the captain had his companions in tow, and was determined they should have what they wished to have, *i.e.* some imported Cochin China fowls, if he could find them. Every person that he had ever heard of receiving birds from China, in all that large and strange locality, was hunted up in their service, while they wandered off with their guide nothing loth.

That day, before these rambles came to an end, "Old Shang" was first seen by her future owner. What a glorious old hen she was! Large, wide, short-legged, square and compact, with a delicate texture of feather, silver cinnamon in colour, so slightly pencilled with a tinge, but one shade deeper than the ground colour, that it could only be seen when looked into quite close. How unwilling felt that Cochin-lover to come away and leave the hen behind! Well knowing that he would think it a most preposterous idea, it was yet ventured just to suggest to the captain

that, perhaps, the owner would not refuse 15s. for her. Reader, this was early in the days of Cochin Chinas,—before Phoenix was hatched. Nay, perhaps his mother and "Shang" might have rolled themselves together in the dust of the Celestial Empire, and bobbed at the self-same Chinese flies. They might, perhaps, have met in England and plucked at the same dusty blades of grass near P****.

Our friend the captain was no amateur; he only looked on a hen as something to lay eggs or to be eaten, and to be bought and sold for 1s. or 1s. 6d. Fifteen shillings for a hen!!—No! no! No one for the moment under his protection should be allowed to commit an act like that!!! —15s. for a hen!!! So "Shang" was left behind that time, but not for long, for her admirer could not give her up so easily. In course of time she was brought home, having been bought at a price which would indeed have astonished the captain.

The same yard has received many imported hens since that time, but never one to match you in beauty or in temper, dear old "Shang!" The old lady was long past chickenhood when she first came over. Afterwards she ran the usual career of hens, eating, laying, basking, scratching, and sitting. She was never a good sitter though, for she was clumsy, being too heavy for that kind of work. During the last spring of her life, after in vain asking for a nest of eggs to hatch, she cast a jealous look upon twelve chickens which a much smaller hen was rearing in the same house with her. At first, she was cross to the chickens and pecked them when they came in her way; but one cold day the little ones were fretful, and found it impossible all to get warm berths under their small mother, when "Shang" spread her broad wings and called several to nestle under them. They very willingly accepted the kind invitation, and so matters went on for a few days, the real and the amateur mothers dividing the work. After that, "Shang" began to hint that she considered the attention of the mother to

the chickens superfluous and somewhat impertinent, and very soon drove her off and took entire possession of the chickens, to whom she was a good mother as long as she lived, which was until they were about three months old. Then old "Shang" died, and, according to her owner's fancy, scarcely left her match in England.

A. B.

Chit-Chat.

A VALE OF AYLESBURY POULTRY ASSOCIATION has just been organised, under the patronage of the chief families of rank in the neighbourhood. A visit to this delicious locality with the landscape clothed in the thousand tints that it will wear early in October, will be no unwelcome treat, even to amateurs living at a distance, many of whom will, no doubt, make it the opportunity for taking a pleasant excursion.

The Howdenshire Poultry Exhibition, *For the Improvement of Domestic Poultry.*

A CORRESPONDENT has obliged us with the following:—

This exhibition was held at Howden, in Yorkshire, on the 17th April. The weather was very fine, and the company numerous and select; about 300 pens were exhibited. The following is a list of the successful competitors:—

SPANISH.—Cock and two Hens.
1.—John Hartley, Esq., M.D., Howden.
2.—Mr. George Boothby, Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire.
3.—Mr. Thomas Irvin, Howden.

SPANISH.—Cockerel and two Pullets.
1.—Mr. Haigh, Howden.
2.—Mr. Thomas Irvin, Howden.

COCHIN CHINA.—Cock and two Hens.
Of any colour.
1.—Mr. John Mell, Hessle, Yorkshire; buff.
2.—Mr. George Boothby, Louth; black.
3.— Ditto Ditto white.

MALAY.—Cock and two Hens.
1.—Mr. George Boothby, Louth.
2.—Mr. Appleyard, Thorne, Yorkshire.

DORKING.—Cock and two Hens.
1.—Mr. Blanshard, Bubwith.
2.—Mr. W. Andrew, Bradford.
3.—Mr. George Boothby, Louth.

GAME FOWL.—Cock and two Hens.
1.—Mr. C. Gags, Howden.
2.—Mrs. Saltmarsh, Saltmarsh.
3.—Mr. Glennan, Bubwith.

GOLD-SPANGLED HAMBURG.—Cock and two Hens.

1.—Miss Louiza Rodgers, Goole.
2.—Mr. Richardson, Thorne.
3.—Mr. A. Spink, Goole.

SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG.—Cock and two Hens.

1.—Mr. John Widdall, Staddlethorpe.
2.—Mr. George Clark, Howden.
3.—Miss Buckle, Howden.

POLAND.—Cock and two Hens.
1.—J. Conyers, Esq., Leeds; gold-spangled.
2.— Ditto Ditto white-crested black.
3.—Mr. George Boothby, Louth; silver-spangled.

CROSS BREED.—Cock and two Hens.
1.—Mr. Charles Hutchinson, Howden.
2.—Mr. George Clark, Howden.
3.—Mr. Robert Hepworth, Langrick.

BANTAM.—Cock and two Hens.
1.—Mr. George Boothby, Louth; silver-laced.
2.— Ditto Ditto gold-laced.
3.—J. A. Smith, Esq., Caiston, Lincolnshire; golden.

BEST COCK of any breed.
1.—Mr. Maud, Howden; buff Cochin.
2.—J. A. Smith, Esq., Caiston; ditto.

BEST HEN of any breed.
1.—Mr. George Boothby, Louth; black Cochin.
2.—Mr. D. B. Turner, Hull; partridge ditto.
3.—Dr. Hartley, Howden; ditto.

DUCKS.—Drake and two Ducks.
1.—Mr. Allen, Howden.
2.—Mr. Thompson, Knedlington.

TURKEYS.—Best Cock and Hen.
1.—J. Conyers, Esq., jun., Leeds.
2.—Mr. George Clark, Howden.

GUINEA FOWL.
1.—Mr. Wainwright, Howden.
2.—Mrs. Wilson, Willowtoft.

A few pens of Extra Stock were shown by Mr. Boothby which were much admired. They consisted of white silky fowl, buff Polands, black Polands with black crests, white ditto, and a pair of handsome white Ptarmigans.

Great credit is due to the Committee for their excellent management: and especially to the secretary (Mr. Hutchinson) for his unwearied exertions to please and gratify all parties.

On Lettuce.

I OBSERVE in one of your late numbers an extract from "The Farming Mirror," recommending lettuce to be given to fowls; it is a narcotic, and may be given with advantage to fowls when fattening; it acts on the liver, I believe, of all animals, and as it is the favourite narcotic in France, I have no doubt it is given to obtain the *foies gras*, so highly esteemed in Paris.

In the summer and autumn of 1852, I gave lettuce freely to a pig, which became very fat, and snored most lustily for some weeks before it was slaughtered; on examination afterwards, the liver (although in a clean state) was found so much enlarged, that it must have interfered with the breathing of the animal.

I recollect (several years ago) a pasture with a large proportion of dandelion in it (also a milky plant), where I found an unusual number of sheep afflicted with staggers, the narcotic acting, I suppose, on the brain, and I regret I did not examine the livers. Moreover, Teraxicum pills are given by medical practitioners to act on the liver of man.

From the foregoing facts, I conclude that lettuce may be given to fowls with advantage, but should be given with caution and discrimination, for fear they become like slaves to opium.

When fowls have a good range of grass, they will eat dandelion when they require it, as well as grass, so no other green food is necessary, except, perhaps, for Cochins,

as they do not provide for themselves. Where there is not a sufficiency of grass, no green food is cheaper, or more easily procured, than turnip-tops or German greens. The way in which I give these is, by placing a heavy weight on the stalks, or tying them to a post, so that the fowls may pull at them. A few cresses and green mustard, are excellent for mixing in the food of chickens, cut very small.

W. S.

Colombiary.

NO. IV.—THE CARRIER.

THE English carriers and horseman pigeons are so inseparably connected, that in describing one I must also describe the other. Indeed, I believe the horseman to be the primitive stock, and that the English carrier is the effect of the high cultivation of the former, those points of excellence which the fancier most highly prizes being more highly developed in the carrier. As I consider the horseman as the original, I will first draw attention to them. They appear to have come originally from Persia, and also to have been bred extensively in Turkey and Egypt, where they have been long used as mediums of communication. They are fine, noble birds, being considerably larger than the generality of pigeons. Their beak is long and stout, and covered at its base with a great quantity of wattle, wrinkled, whitish-looking skin, or, in other words, an extreme development of the nose; the eyes are also surrounded with a broad circle of the same appearance called the *seve*. The neck is long and rather bent, the feathers often opening a little in front of the bend, exposing a small streak of red skin. The chest is very broad and full, the shoulders wide; the bend of the wings stands rather out from the sides, the legs and feet very stout; the tail and pinion feathers are rather short for the size of the bird, the former being carried somewhat elevated.

The English carrier differs from this in

the greater development of the fancy points on which fanciers lay great stress, and according to their merits in this respect are they of proportionate value. The beak must be long, thick, and straight; the wattle large, high, and leaning slightly forward. The old fanciers admired it most when of a blackish tint; the *seve* round the eyes should be broad, even, and round, which is termed a rose eye; if uneven it is called pinch-eyed, which is a great defect. The head is long, narrow, and flat on the top; the colour of the iris is of a bright gravelly red. The neck must be long, thin, and without bend; they should be broad across the back but small in the waist. The pinion-feathers of the wings, as also the tail, should be very long and not carried up, consequently, they are much more elegant-looking birds than the horsemen; in colour they are mostly black or dun,—the duns generally have the best heads.

The horsemen are of various colours, black, white, blue, and pided predominating.

Having described the two extremes, it will show their differences; but pigeons are to be met with of all the various intermediate grades. If kept in health by exercise and judicious feeding, they are good breeders; if not, they become idle and inferior nurses. If kept for flying, they must be trained young and kept in constant practice, or the best will prove but indifferent homing birds, though, from their great value as fancy birds, they are but little flown, and, consequently, soon become fat, heavy, and unfit to fly.

I have had the large white horsemen, or as they are called in France, the swan-necked Egyptians, that could scarcely rise eight feet from the ground; but the young ones, while in training, flew with astonishing rapidity and went an end well. They would also outstrip my Antwerps in homing eight or ten miles, though they appeared to have great difficulty in first starting off, seeming almost unable to rise, till they got in full swing, when they went

along in fine style, having much the appearance of wild ducks while flying in the air.

The dragoon pigeons may be considered as an inferior variety of carrier or horseman, from which they were most probably a cross. They have the same properties as the carrier, but not so fully developed; they are smaller, more active, and swifter for short journeys. They are of various colours, but the blues are most esteemed. They are wild birds, but excellent breeders and nurses; so much are they esteemed on this account, that they are frequently kept as nurses for the larger sorts of fancy pigeons, and as they are large and fleshy, their young are excellent for the table. Shear dragoon is the name for those of this variety that have long straight beaks and heads, without much wattle.

Dragoons were the variety mostly used for flying before the introduction of the Antwerp; many persons still prefer them, and we have many extraordinary accounts on record of their performances. All these varieties have large soft beaks while young; the wattle grows, and continues to increase for a year or two.

Pouting horsemen are a cross between the pouter pigeon and the horseman or dragoon. They are fine, large birds, very active and merry, good flyers, and excellent breeders, being well adapted for general purposes, and not so shy as the dragoon; they would be good farm stock.

Skinnums are a cross between the common tumblers and dragoons. They are good flyers, and much used in London, but in other respects no better than the common pigeons, which they much resemble.
Sevenoaks. B. P. B.

Remarks on Poultry.

From the "American Agriculturist," April 19.

WE are not going to talk now of fowls as economical things, or as a branch of domestic or farm stock. This question has been from time immemorial settled in

the affirmative. For present purposes we are content to consider them as an amusement, an ornament, as a subject of beauty, of interest, and as a *study* for the leisure hours of the country resident, or the town or city resident either, if opportunity favours their keeping. Nor are we about to find fault with, or to criticise, the taste of any one in the selection of a variety, or of the several varieties that he may keep; although we frankly confess that we never affected the monstrous Asiatic fowls that are at present so highly popular. We admire the medium-sized and more graceful birds, that show finished breeding and high quality, as we would prefer the refined and blood-like Arabian to the huge Clydesdale or the Conestoga draught-horses. Such, however, is only individual opinion, and the wherefore need not, at this time, be discussed.

The great show at Barnum's, contrary to general expectation, brought out altogether the finest, largest, and choicest exhibition ever witnessed in America. Of their kinds, there were scarcely a pair of inferior birds in the collection, and many fowls came 500 miles for the occasion.

[After describing the manner in which visitors of all grades appeared to take delight in the exhibition, the author proceeds:—]

Now this means something. People would not congregate at this inclement season,* from fifty to five hundred miles distant, to witness a "chicken-show" in New York, unless there was "something in it." *There is something in it.* There is a study in it; a subject for investigation; a delightful contemplation in natural history, to speculate upon the almost numberless varieties that are produced, and their beautiful, harmonious arrangement of plumage, shape, and all the wonderful qualities they possess. They are a thing to love, to interest young minds, and old ones, too, who have enough of the natural

left in their artificial thoughts to appreciate any thing. They are among the things which make country life interesting, and attach people to home, and make it pleasanter to them than all the world beside. It shows, too, that the world is growing better in domestic feeling and home attachment; that little things are worth looking after, and although of no great magnitude, that one had better feel interested in a chicken, goose, duck, or pigeon, than not to be interested at all; and children and young minds, if not amused by innocent things, will surely become interested in vicious ones.

We never see a coop of fowls on their travels at the express office, but it gives us a sensation of pleasure. We know that some one is going to be made happy when the chickens arrive,—for a time at least,—and that *improvement* is thought of in the neighbourhood of their proposed sojourn.

To breed a good chicken, pigeon, duck, goose, turkey,—a good animal of any kind,—requires thought, skill, observation, study, genius. Not so much of either, perhaps, as to be a finished sculptor or painter; but *breeding perfect models* in form, grace, plumage, is an accomplishment in the fine arts, as well as to perpetuate their similitudes in marble, or fix them on canvas.

Ho, then, for the Poultry Society! We give it the right hand of fellowship, and wish it unbounded prosperity. No longer will the production of our beautiful improving feathered companions be confined to decayed spinsters and crippled serving-men; but, elevated, counted at their worth, appreciated as things of beauty and of taste, they will take their due position with the noble horse, the stately Short-horn, the sleek Devon, and all the other favoured creatures of the farm. In rearing and training them into the matchless perfection which our late exhibition has demonstrated they are susceptible, our young boys can improve their leisure hours, learn that their homes, although retired, have charms to attract them over all other

* At New York, on the 17th of April, the snow was a foot deep, and still falling.

places, our daughters have beautiful objects to look upon, and a new source of interest and happiness be created for the whole household.

On the Cross-breeding of Fowls.

“Lucanus, an Appulus, anceps.”—HORACE.

IN these days of poultry rivalry, when the contest of one race with another is a matter of so much moment to many amateurs who have a large stock of their own-favourites, it is to the breeder even, a matter of much doubt and sundry misgivings, to see in the schedules of many shows prizes for cross-bred fowls.

Apart from the extreme difficulty of deciding which are the best to keep of the pure races, this fresh intricacy comes in with more than ordinary perplexity, how to breed a cross with a fair chance of success for prize or profitable fowls?

Much has been said about the authenticity of the Brahma Pootras as a pure stock, and the arguments *pro* and *con*. are so ably urged, that it must still be considered a *vexata questio*, till the public has the opportunity of deciding by experience what are the real merits or demerits of this much-vaunted race.

Till I have better facts to go upon, those mentioned by “W. W.” in the 8th number of the “Poultry Chronicle,” seem to argue that the race is not pure; for “like produces like,” and the fact that the combs of parents and children vary, seems to go far in maintaining a position that has been advanced, viz., that the Brahmas are bred from a white Shanghae and a coloured rose-combed Dorking.

It is with great diffidence that the following maxims are advanced, on account of the imperfect data in the art of cross-breeding poultry; but, if the same rules apply to fowls as to other stock, I may claim some attention from those who intend experimentalising.

In all crosses it is found that, even if

the original stock so obtained is valuable, it must be kept up by a continued reproduction of that cross. In other words, the cross cannot be bred from with any hope of success, and must always be maintained by the same mode in which it was obtained.

Those who have cross-bred fowls state confidently that it is of very little use endeavouring to put upon one stock another to which it bears no affinity; that the chickens so produced unite in one the bad qualities of each parent.

For example, the Spanish and the Shanghae were confidently predicted to furnish a stock in which the exceeding propensity of the Shanghae hen to sit would be counteracted, and the size of the eggs increased.

In the only instance in which I know of the cross so made being fairly tested, it was found that the hens laid eggs as small as the Shanghaes, and would not sit at all; and that the stock was comparatively worthless to either of the above-mentioned breeds in their purity.

However this may be in other cases, it seems far more probable that a cross between the Shanghaes and Dorkings would be more useful than between the Shanghaes and a fowl that was of a lesser size or more wandering and active in its disposition,—as for example, the Hamburgs. Too much care cannot well be taken to get the stocks to be bred from as similar in habit as possible, in order that the result may not disappoint. It is highly probable that many a useful variety of fowl (of course, for domestic purposes) may be obtained by a judicious cross, care and experience being brought to bear on the selection of and mating the different breeds.

One word, in conclusion, on “in-and-in” breeding, so called. Many, if not all, noted breeders of cattle, horses, &c., make it a rule *never* to change the blood for the sake of so doing, unless they can import a better strain. Scarcely an amateur in poultry but has had to repent changing a

perfect male bird for one not so perfect, *solely* because of his relationship to the hens. Two years' breeding "in-and-in" is the average period given by the most forward advocates for changing the bloods; but it is confessed on all hands, that continued "in-and-in" breeding *increases the peculiar marks of the stock, though at the expense of size*. I must confess, I think the point of so continually introducing fresh blood has produced a deficiency in many amateurs' yards that have once furnished prize stock, who, by the *dictum* of poultry books or friends, have been led to change a bird, valuable in all his points, for one of very ordinary attractions indeed.

It was recommended in an article on prizè fowls, in an early number of the "Poultry Chronicle," to feed chickens, when young, on oatmeal, varying the diet as often as practicable.

I can testify to the usefulness of a mixture of barley, oats, and buckwheat, or bran, in about equal proportions, ground coarsely. A saucer is always kept full and ready for the chickens to feed, and on it, together with such insects as they find in the grass, and a little boiled rice occasionally, they thrive apace. Should any amateur be induced to try this plan, I feel convinced he will not be disappointed.

A. J. H.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

DEATH OF MR. ANDREW'S OLD HEN.

MR. EDITOR,—I have to inform you of an event of some little interest to a portion of the poultry world, being neither more nor less than the demise of the celebrated "Andrew's Old Hen," which has fallen a victim to the unfortunate but prevalent practice of over-feeding. She came into my possession on Friday last,—I will not say I bought her, for the price at which I took her was so ridiculously low, that it would be a shame to mention it. She was

at the time evidently in a very bad state of health, and some persons thought she would not live to reach my home, but she did so, and when put down, after having picked a little green food, appeared to revive, and I had some hopes of doing something with her; but to my sorrow and vexation, the next morning at six o'clock she was dead, and what makes the loss greater, is the fact that she had in her upwards of thirty eggs, and would certainly have laid in a day or two. She was in a very bad state of inflammation, the oviduct extensively so. I have no doubt it was brought on by over-feeding. For a long time after death, she weighed nearly 11 lbs., and upwards of 3 lbs. of solid fat was taken from her inside. Thinking it a pity that such a magnificent specimen of the breed, and one which had more than once played so conspicuous a part in poultry sales (having on one occasion realized the enormous sum of thirty-five guineas, and at another time, I believe, considerably over twenty pounds), should be entirely lost, I have placed her in the hands of a very good preserver of birds, &c.; and from what I see of her, am in hopes she will yet excite admiration, the only drawback being the very bad state of her plumage at the time of her death.

When finished, I intend, with the permission of Mr. Stevens, to take her some day to his rooms, when any person wishing to do so, will have an opportunity of seeing her, as I think it will be more convenient than asking them to come all the way to Fulham.—I am, Sir, yours truly,
P. JONES.

RATS—SPANISH FOWLS.

RATS.—As my experience with guinea-pigs is quite opposed to what "Salvia" tells us of their having frightened away the pests he was annoyed with, I beg to communicate the following, for the edification of your readers. Being once alarmed by discovering I had been visited by rats, and having been told that guinea-

pigs would, by their presence, deter them from again coming, I procured one, and placed it loose in the aviary, which they had burrowed into; it is true I had very little confidence in the experiment, and thought, on leaving the guinea-pig, it was like placing Daniel in the lion's den. Next morning I found the rats had killed and partly eaten him, and no doubt a similar fate would have befallen "Salvia's" pigs had they not been protected by being within a cage. Whether it was the squeak that drove away the rats, or not, I cannot venture to say; but, that it would be of no use to set them at large amongst them, I feel confident. Now, if a ferret had been placed in the cage in lieu of the guinea-pigs, and such a result had been communicated, my present doubts would have taken wing.

Rats almost invariably find their way to places where fancy pigeons are kept, but I never lost any by them, so long as they could feed themselves on the pigeon's food.

SPANISH FOWLS.—I was not a little surprised to read in the description of these birds at page 172, by "A. J. H." that they should be as short on the leg as possible. I have been a breeder of Black Spanish for ten consecutive years, and am also acquainted with most of the breeders in town of this very handsome variety, and, as short legs in Spanish have always been our abomination, I am anxious to know if we are really wrong in showing them the preference we have hitherto done.

The colour of the Spanish fowls less often gets lighter with age, and, although a pale-coloured pinky white pair of locomotives fills a fancier with raptures, yet I think it will be admitted, in early youth these were a pale steel blue; black legs are as much shunned by Spanish fowl-breeders, as those known by that name are among society at large, and long legs in Spanish have hitherto been our delight.

C. H. B.

[With Spanish fowls, long legs are

decidedly right; but is our correspondent well advised about the "pale coloured, pinky" legs?—Ed.]

EXCHANGE OF STOCK.

SIR,—Having from the first derived great pleasure in the perusal of your "Chronicle," my object in now sending these lines is this, it has often crossed my mind whether it might not be made useful in facilitating the exchange of poultry, as most, if not all your readers are aware that to keep up a stock of first-rate fowls it is necessary every other year to cross the strain. Now, Mr. Editor, I find the greatest difficulty to obtain a really good cockerel that can be depended upon, and I think that if birds from the north and midland counties could be crossed with the west, a great improvement would take place. I leave it with your numerous correspondents to suggest what plans may answer: some may say the poultry exhibitions offer the opportunity, but to those I would remark, is not that a most expensive one, as extreme prices are generally put on birds at such times? My suggestion is, could not a list be given in the "Chronicle," of good breeders of the different sorts of poultry, so that we may know where to correspond when in want? Trusting, if this should find a place in your valuable periodical, some good may arise,

I remain yours, &c.

GAME COCK.

[We with pleasure insert the letter of the "Game Cock," as it is always our wish to facilitate the exchange of opinion among our readers; but we fear his plan would be impracticable, except by means of our advertising columns. To say that there are a thousand amateurs in the country whose stocks are good enough, and kept with sufficient care to supply pens for our exhibitions, is speaking very much within bounds. Among these perhaps almost every stock has some merit of its own; to mention therefore a small number

of these and omit the rest, which may, most likely, quite equally deserve attention, would be unfair. We can only suggest the use of an advertisement for any fowl which may be desired, like that for a Black Cochon China Cock, which was inserted in Nos. 3 and 6 of the "Poultry Chronicle."—Ed.]

DUST BATHS.

SIR,—I believe that a point much neglected in rearing chickens confined to runs, and not having the advantage of an open field, is the due provision of dust baths. Birds of about two months old are much tormented by insects, bred in the feathers, and the best cure is to give them the means of dusting themselves. I have found wood-ashes the most effectual, but sifted coal-ashes mixed with a little flour of sulphur, which is very cheap, answers admirably; these placed in a box deep enough and not more than half filled, or in an old milk pan, which is the best receptacle, can be changed once a fortnight, and will not injure the lawn on which the chicken "runs" may be placed.

Brislington.

D. B.

CHICKENS—POULTRY—HOUSES.

SIR,—I have lately lost two Cochon China chicks, with a complaint for which I am at a loss for a remedy; the chick at first is slightly purged, for which I have given about one grain of chalk, this has stopped the looseness, but the anus has afterwards projected with a swelling immediately over the orifice, about the size of a pea; this appears filled with wind, and is reduced by pressure with the finger; the chick continues to feed as usual for about a week, when it becomes mopy, lingers for a few days, and dies. I have another chick getting just in the same way. If you or any of your correspondents can inform me of a remedy I shall feel much obliged.

At the same time I take this opportunity of suggesting a new mode of purifying fowl-

houses, which I have adopted with success. If you consider it deserving publicity perhaps you will give it a place in your next number; I can recommend it from my own experience as an excellent plan: it is as follows:—

About once in a month, or when you have no sitting hens in your house, clear out your old nests, and stop up all the crevices in the doors, &c.; procure about a peck of sawdust, put it in the centre of your house, and set fire to it; let it smoulder for about a quarter of an hour, taking care to keep the place properly closed, to prevent, as far as possible, the escape of the smoke: the vermin, if any, will be completely destroyed, and your fowl-house will smell sweet and clean for at least one month.

W. R. W.

MARKET SUPPLY OF POULTRY.

MR. EDITOR,—Being a subscriber to the "Poultry Chronicle," may I be allowed to say a few words (in favour of your most valuable remarks on the present, state of the London poultry market), and the answer to a correspondent, "H. H.," page 199, April 26.

Being an extensive producer of table poultry, I can only say your able remarks ought to be taken into consideration by all who breed poultry for sale, and, depend on it, that to take the year through (under ordinary circumstances) the dead poultry market pays the best.

The fancy fowl market is overstocked, and (with the exception of any new variety of fowl appearing), they will not realise the prices they have done; therefore I say to all who have house accommodation and a suitable run. Take to the Dorking fowl, it being the only one saleable (with profit) in a dead market, and the only one suited to Leadenhall market. If the most valuable of our fancy fowl were killed and sent to a salesman they would not realise half the amount as an inferior Dorking.

The poultry mania has done great mischief to our dead stock market all over the kingdom, more especially the Cochin, from the exaggerated reports of their laying propensities. Many farmers and cottagers have been induced to keep them in preference to the more useful sorts, which they formerly did keep.

Nothing would tend more to improve and encourage the production of good table poultry than a dead stock show (in connection with our present live stock shows).

Mr. Editor, trusting I am not troubling too much, I remain yours, &c.

J. WARE, Poulterer.

Newton-house Poultry-yard,

April 29, 1854.

[Dorking fowls are nice-looking poultry for the table, but it would be unwise for persons in general, amateurs especially, to depend on one good quality in a fowl. Most persons who have kept the Dorkings consider them tender to rear, and find them poor layers. We would strongly recommend many persons to give less exclusive attention to the fancy qualities of stock, to consider them first as producers of eggs and food, and to allow the fancy qualities to take a second instead of a first place. Treated with this regard to the useful, we believe there are many kinds of fowls which might be kept with more general advantage than the Dorking.—ED.]

“No great loss without small gain.”
The farmer who neglects to feed his cattle well at this season of the year will certainly feed the crows hereafter.—*American paper.*

To Correspondents.

To *Alector*, *Φιλορμιθα*, *T. W. L.*, *T. M. G.*, and other correspondents.—A number of applications from the readers of a periodical for a certain additional feature is an indication of its usefulness, to which it is the duty of an editor to give prompt attention. We shall consequently, in accordance with the wishes of many correspond-

ents, have pleasure in giving an index in each weekly number.

To *W. H.*—We are much obliged, and hope to receive the “*Facts*” mentioned.

C. D. P. considers it unfair of “*Alector*” to write an opinion of Jersey produce formed on observations made so long ago as 1851, and thinks a great writer should not do things calculated to do mischief to Jersey fancy poultry.

Φιλορμιθα.—We have only now begun to consider how often it will be best to complete a volume of the “*Poultry Chronicle*,” at the end of six months certainly, if not sooner.

T. M. G. wishes to know why the poultry show authorities offer no prizes to the Black Hamburg fowl. He writes, “It is as good a variety of the Hamburgs as any of the others, and the eggs they lay are remarkably fine and large; they lay very well too. I keep all the five varieties, and would rather part with any than with the Black.”

To *T. L.*—Mr. W. H. Woodcock, Foulstone, Salisbury, can give our correspondent information about pea-fowl’s eggs and pea-fowl. We have another communication for him if he will forward us his address.

Amicus.—A second article on the “*Cottager’s Home*,” and a continuation of “*Hints to Poultry Show Committees*,” are unavoidably deferred till next week.

C. H. B., on the Brahma Pootra, we hope to give next week; if not, in the following number.

To *Ditchet*.—Be assured your friend is greatly mistaken in supposing it right for his pair of “pure-bred Cochin China fowls, procured from the yard of a great amateur in Wilts,” to have five toes. We have been assured five-toed Cochins *have been* imported, but we never saw *one* which did not, like your friend’s birds, in the size of the tail, betray a mixture of the Dorking race.

We are gratified by your determination to continue to read the “*Chronicle*,” and heartily hope it may prove as useful as you anticipate, but assure you we shall never consider our correspondents “troublesome” for asking questions.

R. B. wishes us to inform “*Alector*,” in reply to his inquiry, “that the bird which took the prize for Best Cochin cock,” at the Manchester show was the produce of a bought egg—there were nearly twenty competitors.

Agricola will be much obliged if one of our contributors or correspondents will tell him the points of the Black East Indian, or Buenos Ayres Ducks. We are much flattered that our correspondent likes our little work so much, and will give attention to his suggestion.

G. Y. L. Queensdown, is respectfully referred to the answer given to “*An Amateur*” in No. 10.

T. B. F. next week.

W. W. wishes to know if any of our readers can tell him where to get a rat-trap on the principle of a round tube, the mouth of which is inserted in the rat's hole. When he enters it on reaching the centre a spring catches him.

M. A. wishes "to know the name of a respectable dealer in Leadenhall-market, to whom persons may venture to send their early chickens with full confidence that a fair price will be remitted to them in return." We recommend our correspondent to communicate with Mr. Fricker, Leadenhall-market.

B. C.—We regret that the note arrived too late to procure the desired information this week.

E. T., a Subscriber.—The combs of all Hamburgs should be alike, ample, wide, double, well fixed and firmly on the head, the point behind turning upwards. It should be erect, that is, it should not lap over on either side. They should have white ear-lobes.

T. W. L.—Pinion your young wild ducks at a month or five weeks old. Lay the wing on a table or a block, and with a sharp knife cut it off just above the spur of the wing. There is no difficulty, as the bone is not formed, and if the bird be turned into the water directly, the bleeding soon stops. They suffer but little from it.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

OUR task in this week relieved of some of the monotony that has characterised it of late, as the season of the year is beginning to tell its tale on some of our goods. We, however, stand much in need of warm weather, and especially, warm nights for the young poultry.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|----|----------|-------|
| Fowls | 6s. 6d. | to | 8s. 0d. | each. |
| Chickens | 3s. 6d. | to | 5s. 0d. | „ |
| Goslings | 7s. 0d. | to | 7s. 6d. | „ |
| Ducklings | 3s. 9d. | to | 4s. 6d. | „ |
| Leverets | 3s. 6d. | to | 6s. 0d. | „ |
| Rabbits, Tame .. . | 1s. 8d. | to | 1s. 9d. | „ |
| Do. Wild | 0s. 9d. | to | 0s. 10d. | „ |
| Guinea Fowls .. . | 4s. 0d. | to | 4s. 6d. | „ |
| Pigeons | 0s. 8d. | to | 0s. 10d. | „ |

Plovers' eggs, in bulk, 2s. 6d. to 3s. per doz.

Advertisements.

SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG FOWLS.—EGGS from the above birds, which have taken several First and Second Prizes during the last season, can be obtained for 10s. a dozen, package included, on application to Mr. F. H. ABERDEIN, Honiton, Devon. A good Silver-pencilled Hamburg Cock for Sale.

EGGS FROM SILVER HAMBURG FOWLS —PRIZE BIRDS.

THOMAS McCANN can supply EGGS from the best of his Silver-pencilled and Silver-spangled Hamburg Fowls, which have taken prizes at Birmingham, Metropolitan, and several other Shows. Price, 10s. 6d. per dozen, including packing. Eggs forwarded on receipt of post-office orders in the order in which they are applied for.—**THOMAS McCANN**, Graham House, Malvern.

EGGS FOR SALE, from Prize birds, from the Yard of **CHRISTOPHER RAWSON, Esq.**, The Hurst, Walton-on-Thames:—

Buff Cochins; Spanish; Coloured and White Dorkings; Gold and Silver, Spangled, and Pencilled Hamburgs; Gold and Silver Bantams; and Aylesbury Ducks, 12s. per dozen.

White and Black Cochins; Gold, Silver, and Black Polands; 21s. per dozen.

Brahma Pootra Eggs, from imported birds of the best strains, £2. 2s. per dozen.

Post-office orders (including 1s. for packing) to be sent with the order. The Eggs will be sent out in rotation according to the date of order.

PANCY POULTRY.—A Cock and Five Pullets of the very singular Corsican breed for Sale. Also, a Ptarmigan Cockerel, one year old. Two Ginger Bantam Pullets; Cock and Two Pullets, Buff Bantams; One pair ditto, White, and heavily feathered; One Gold-laced Bantam Pullet, and One ditto Silver-laced. Aylesbury Drake and Two Ducklings.—Apply to **T. P.**, Middleton Stoney, Bicester, Oxon.

LEMON and BUFF COCHIN CHINA EGGS. 8s. per dozen, box and packing, 1s.; warranted fresh, from large, heavy, well-feathered, and good-coloured birds, bred from Sturgeon's prize stock; none others kept but the above.—Post-office orders payable at the Post-office, Nelson-street, Greenwich, to Mr. W. H. CLARKE, 11, Lambton-terrace East, Greenwich, Kent, where the Birds can be seen.

BLACK-BREASTED GAME FOWLS' EGGS for SALE, from Birds that took first Prizes at Bristol and Honiton; and Grey Game from Birds that have taken Prizes at Derby, Bristol, and Torquay, at £1. 1s. per dozen; also Dorking Eggs, from Birds that have taken Prizes at London Summer Meeting, Summer Zoological Show, Malvern, Derby, Bristol, Taunton, Honiton, and Torquay at £2. 2s. per dozen.—Apply to **J. R. ROXBURD**, Aldwick-court, Wrington, near Bristol.

EGGS from CAPT. HORNBY'S celebrated Spanish and Dorking Prize Fowls may be had on application to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, Spring Grove, Hounslow, to whom Capt. Hornby has transferred his whole stock.

Spanish £4. 4s. per dozen.
Dorking £3. 3s. „

Remittances to be made by post-office order, and to include 2s. for packing.

SILVER-SPANGLED, GOLDEN-PENCILLED, & GOLDEN-SPANGLED HAMBURG EGGS.—From

Silver-spangled { HENS.—Pen 1422, Birmingham, First Prize, 1853.
Cock.—Pen 1496, Birmingham, H.C., 1853.

Golden-pencilled { HENS.—Pen 1235, Birmingham, Second Prize, 1853.
Cock.—Pen 4, Class 28, London Summer Show, First Prize, 1853.

Golden-spangled { Pen 1327, Birmingham, Third Prize, 1853.

Six Shillings per dozen, package included.—Apply to the gardener, CHARLES BEAGLES, Bristolington, near Bristol.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, near Haverhill, Suffolk, disposes of Eggs from his Buff, and also from his original Partridge-coloured, Birds, price 1s. each, and 1s. for package.—Applications for either, variety will be supplied in the order received.

EGGS from FIRST CLASS and PRIZE BIRDS.—JOHN BAILY has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

“Fowls,” by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

SPANISH and DORKING FOWLS.—Capt. Hornby having transferred his whole Stock of celebrated Poultry to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, of Spring Grove, Hounslow, a portion (for want of space) is for immediate Sale.

TO POULTRY FANCIERS.

EGGs.—BUFF, COCHIN, and SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURGS.—A few sittings from these Birds may now be had: Cochins, 13s. per dozen; Hamburgs, 7s. per dozen, including packing.—The Cochins are out of the birds that obtained the first prize at the Newcastle Show, 1853, Class 1. The Hamburgs took the first prize at Newcastle, April 20, 1854, Class 21, Number 132.—Eggs sent on receipt of Post-office order addressed to SEPTIMUS YOUNG, Esq., North Shields.

CHEVELEY PARK, NEWMARKET—JOHN FAIRLIE, Esq., can supply EGGS for the remainder of the season at 21s. per dozen for the following prize birds:—Buff, Partridge, White and Black Cochins, Brahma Pootras, Dorkings, and Scotch Dumpies.

GUINEA FOWLS' EGGS, 10s. the hatch of twenty-one, from the same stock that took the first prize at Norwich, and second at Birmingham. Dark Grey Dorkings, 10s. the hatch, from prize birds.—W. COPPLE, Eccleston, Prescott, Lancashire.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS, from imported B birds, at £1. 1s. per dozen.—Apply to the Poultry-maid, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

A PAIR OF BRAHMAS for SALE, at a moderate price.—For particulars apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

MR. FISHER HOBBS has EGGS for SALE from his Prize Dorking Fowls, at 5s. each, package included. Also a few Golden-pencilled Hamburg Eggs, from his birds that took First and Second Prizes, at 1s. 6d. each. A few Dorking Cocks, fellows to the prize birds, for Sale.—Apply at Boxted-lodge, Colchester.

CLEAR BUFF COCHIN FOWLS' EGGS, from sets of birds bred by Mr. Fairlie and Mr. Andrews are now offered at reduced prices in consequence of the advertiser having concluded sitting his hens this season. The Eggs are very productive, and the chicks come like canaries, and heavily feathered.—Apply to Mr. C. POCKLINGTON, Boston, Lincolnshire.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS.—Mr. J. S. BRAND will dispose of two or three of his magnificent imported Birds, which are perfectly correct in plumage. Also, a few EGGS from the above.—Great Yarmouth, May, 1854.

FANCY POULTRY.—PERIODICAL SALE.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will SELL by AUCTION at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on TUESDAY, 16th May, at 12 o'clock precisely, a Selection of BRAHMAS, COCHINS, &c. from the Yard of John Fairlie, Esq. of Cheveley, including some of his best brood stock; Brahmans from Mr. Canman, of Great Marlow; choice Birds from C. Rawson, Esq.; Mr. G. Greggs, of Odiham; and others, many of which are first-class specimens. Also, a Spring Van, built expressly for conveying Poultry to the Exhibitions, but equally adapted for Plants.—Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent-garden.

PITTVILLE SPA, CHELTENHAM.

THE THIRD Grand Annual Summer EXHIBITION of POULTRY will take place at the above magnificent Establishment, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 14th and 15th, 1854.—For particulars enclose a fully directed stamped envelope to JESSOP, BROTHERS, Secretaries, The Aviaries, Cheltenham.

JAMES DIXON, Bradford, Yorkshire, will SELL EGGS during the season from his Golden and Silver Spangled and Silver Pencilled Hamburg Fowls; also Spanish, from good White-faced Birds, 10s. the sitting.—Aylesbury, Rouen, and East India DUCKS' 6d. each. Most of the above have taken several prizes.

PRIZE FOWLS.—EGGS from White Silk Cochins, which have taken four first-class Prizes, including one at the Great Metropolitan Show, 12s. the dozen. A few first-class Buff Cochins, 7s. 6d. to 12s. each, chickens of birds which took three Prizes; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. White-faced Spanish (chickens of prize birds), 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. each; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. Brahma Pootra Eggs, from birds which took a First Prize, £2. 2s. per dozen. One pair of Brahmans (First Prize Birds) for Sale, price £15. 15s.—Apply to Mr. JAMES BARBER, Great Yarmouth.

FIRST-CLASS GREY AND COLOURED DORKING EGGS FOR SALE.

MR. FOWLER has a few Sittings of Eggs to dispose of from his "Highly commended" Birds, shown at the Vale of Aylesbury Show. Price per dozen, package included, 10s.; Spanish, 6s. per dozen; Aylesbury Ducks, 6s.—Post-office order to JOHN K. FOWLER, Prebendal Farm, Aylesbury.

MR. FLETCHER'S CHOICE BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS,
POULTRY-HOUSES, FENCING,
And every Requisite for keeping a large number of Poultry.

MR. BRAY will SELL by AUCTION on the Premises (observe the address), in the Mews at the back of No. 22, Upper Phillimore-place, Kensington, on FRIDAY, May 12th, at one o'clock precisely (by order of Mr. Fletcher, who is going into the country for the summer months, and giving up keeping poultry), his entire COLLECTION of POULTRY, including about 15 Brahma Stock Birds, picked, regardless of cost, from the best yards; nearly 100 Brahma Chickens, from one to ten weeks old; a few Cochin China Fowls' Houses, Fencing Pens, Coops, nest and sitting Boxes, large Corn Bin, Barley-meal Mill, &c. &c.—May be viewed the Morning of Sale. Catalogues had on the Premises, and of Mr. BRAY, 259, High Holborn.

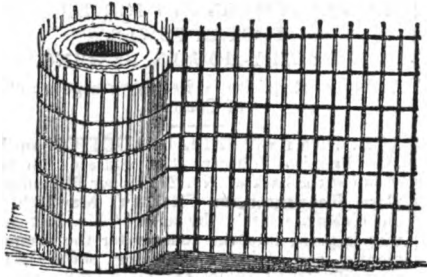
HOLMFIRTH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
Under Distinguished Patronage.

THE FIRST SPRING SHOW of DOMESTIC POULTRY, PIGEONS, RABBITS, &c., in connection with and under the auspices of this Society, will be held at Holmfirth, during the Feast, on Monday, the 29th May next.

Open for competition to all England.
Entries close on Saturday, May 20th.
Prize Sheets and Forms of Entry may be had on application to Mr. JOSEPH TINKER, Hon. Secretary, Holmfirth.

The Society's Annual Exhibition of HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, PIGS, POULTRY, and GARDEN and FARM PRODUCE, will take place on Friday, the 25th of August next. The Prize Sheets will be ready on the 29th of May.

SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY-HOUSE, £4, consisting of house 4 feet square and 6 feet high, and roofed run for fowls 9 feet by 4 feet. Drawings of several sent free. The above are portable, and can be taken down or put up by any ordinary labourer. Wire work from 6 to 15 inches wide, 6d. per square yard, to enclose poultry, &c.—R. RICHARDSON, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, near King's-cross. N.B. Maker of garden summer-houses, and iron and wood houses for emigrants; drawings of 21 Emigrants' houses, and 28 Summer-houses, sent free.



WILLIAM DRAY AND CO.'S PATENT WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot.

Ordinary Wire Netting, from 2½d. per yard, 2 feet wide.

Address **WILLIAM DRAY and Co.,** Agricultural Implement Manufacturers, Swan-lane, Upper Thames-street, London.

TO PIGEON FANCIERS.—A quantity of 1 first-class **PIGEONS** for Sale, including a few choice Almonds, White Carriers, &c. &c.—Apply, by letter, to Mr. **HENRY CHILD, Jun.,** Sherbourne-road, near Birmingham.

N.B.—Pigeons not approved of, if sent back within three days, the money will be returned.

FOR POULTRY-HOUSES.
LIGHT, CHEAP, & DURABLE ROOFING.

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons. Price **ONE PENNY** per **SQUARE FOOT.** Croggon's Patent **NON-CONDUCTING FELT** for covering Steam-boilers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and testimonials sent by post, on application to **CROGGON & CO.,** 2, Dowgate-hill, London, who also supply **SHIP SHEATHING FELT,** and **INODOROUS FELT,** for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Protecting Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage-free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

To be had in any quantity at **GEORGE EATON & Co.'s** Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory, 6 and 7, Crooked-lane, London.

FRUIT-TREES, POULTRY, RABBIT, SHEEP, and CAT FENCING.—Worsted **NETTING** to protect the bloom of peach, nectarine, and other trees, flower, or seed beds, from frost, blight, and birds, two yards wide, 5d. per yard. New twine netting (tanned if required), one yard wide, 1½d. per yard; two yards wide, 3d. per yard; four yards wide, 6d.; half-inch mesh ditto, two yards wide, 6d. per yard. Tanned netting, two or three yards wide, 1½d. per yard; four or six yards wide, 3d. per yard. Elastic hexagon garden net, or scrim canvas, 4½d. per square yard. Cocoa-nut fibre, or hemp sheep-folding net, of superior quality, four feet high, 4d. to 6d. per yard. Rabbit net, four feet wide, 1½d.; six feet wide, 2½d.; eight feet, 3d. per yard. Each edge corded, ½d. per yard extra, suitable for poultry fencing. Square mesh cricketing net, fix its full width and length, made of stout cord, 3d. to 4d. per square yard; this is the best article made for fencing against fowls, cats, &c.—At **W. CULLINGFORD'S,** No. 1, Edmund-terrace, Ball's Pond-road, Islington. Orders by post, with post-office order or town reference, punctually attended to. Fishing-nets of all kinds in stock.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 13s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.; payable in advance by post-office order to **GEORGE CLEMENTS, No. 1, York-street, Covent-garden,** to whom Orders and Advertisements may be addressed.—Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday.

Wholesale Agents, **G. ROUTLEDGE & Co.,** Farringdon-street.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 12.]

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.

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Poultry Shows.

Devon and Exeter Botanical and Horticultural Society, at Exeter, in conjunction with the Society's Spring Horticultural Exhibition, May 18th and 19th. Hon. Secretary, T. W. Gray, Esq., 22, Cathedral-yard, Exeter. Entries are closed.

Holmfirth Agricultural Society's First Spring Show of Poultry, Pigeons, and Rabbits, Monday, May 29th. Honorary Secretary, J. Tinker, Esq., Holmfirth. Entries close May 20th. The Society's Annual Agricultural Exhibition will take place August 25th, the Schedules of which will be ready on the 29th of May.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries are closed.

Cheltenham Third Annual Summer Exhibition, at the Pittville Spa, June 14th and 15th. Secretaries, the Messrs. Jessop, Brothers, The Aviaries, Cheltenham. Entries close June 3rd.

Devon and Cornwall Poultry Society, June 27th and 28th. Secretaries, Mr. W. Hunt, Public Library, Plymouth, and C. Hancock, Esq., Emma-place, Stonehouse. Entries close June 12th.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week

commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries close June 1st.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th. The Schedule will be ready soon.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. The Schedule not quite ready.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries,

J. R. Dombrain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

We beg to draw the attention of our readers to a small but most important mistake in "E.C.'s" second number of COTTAGERS' PRIZES, in our last number, where, p. 235, in line 31 of the first column, the accidental introduction of "not," which was *not* in the manuscript, entirely alters the sense.—Ed.

THE words of a curious old song, with one Jack Robinson for its hero, which may or may not have been published (for we do not know whether it was the invention of its merry chanter, now wandering in the wilds of Australia), were last week forcibly brought to our recollection. The gentleman returns to claim the promise of his affianced; and she, having proved less constant than himself, justifies her precipitancy with,—

Somebody came one day, and said,
That somebody else had somewhere read,
In some newspaper, that you was dead;

and the gentleman proclaims, in language too powerful for repetition in the columns of the "Poultry Chronicle," that he still enjoys, or endures, the excitement and the occupations of unimpaired vitality.

We were, in no small degree, astonished with the news, received from a bookseller in one of our largest manufacturing towns, that the "Poultry Chronicle" was not published that week, and that it would be discontinued as a *weekly publication*.

Now, we beg to assure our readers that the "Poultry Chronicle" *still lives* in full activity, and in the enjoyment of as great prosperity as its kindest friends could hope for at so early a period of its existence. It moreover lives in a well-grounded hope of an extended sphere of usefulness, as the frequent occurrence of the poultry shows, now only just commencing, may render early and ample news valuable and interesting to all who take a delight in the subject.

The number of gratifying letters which we receive (too numerous to reply to singly); the increase of correspondents, witnessed by the supply of our Letter-Box (in which department we are obliged to economise space by the use of a smaller type); the multiplication of our answers to correspondents, and the flattering opinions of our friends;—all added to an increasing circulation, convince the proprietors of the "Poultry Chronicle" that it is a work which *was required*, and which will continue to receive the *encouragement* and *assistance* of all the lovers of the feathered race.

Schedule of the Isle of Wight Poultry Exhibition.

THE Isle of Wight Society for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry will hold the annual show on the 16th and 17th of January, 1855, when first and second

prizes will be given for most of the usual classes of fowls. There are only two classes of Hamburgs given in the schedule—the golden and the silver. It appears, by this curtailed arrangement, that the spangled and pencilled varieties are, in both instances, included in one class; but, no doubt, to avoid confusion, the gentlemen of the committee will separate them in their arrangement in the exhibition. In the same manner all the Polands, except the white-tufted black, are placed in one class. Exhibitors of these different kinds of fowls would be pleased with further information about their classes. The schedule does not, at present, mention the amount of the prizes, but the committee has been anxious to get out the schedule thus early (in its present form) that persons anxious to exhibit may prepare for the show if they please, by the purchase of eggs, &c. In a letter which we had the pleasure of receiving from the secretary, he says, "We had our first show last December, and, for the locality, it was a very good one, being the produce, with one exception, of the island itself." From the rules and regulations, we give those most important to persons desirous of exhibiting, omitting those only which are the same at almost all poultry shows.

Subscribers and Donors of 5s. will be entitled to one card of admission; of 10s. to two cards; and so on in proportion. Admission to non-subscribers,—on the first day 2s. 6d. each, children under twelve 1s.; the second day 1s., children 6d. each.

Exhibitors to pay 2s. 6d. for each pen.

Exhibitors must state a price for all specimens that are for sale, as one of the main objects of the Society is to afford breeders an opportunity to improve their collections. Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales, to defray the expenses of the exhibition. The specimens must be sold in pens, and not divided. All sales must be made through the Secretary.

The Exhibition will not be limited to any particular district, and specimens may be sent from all parts of the world.

To afford breeders an opportunity to dispose of their surplus stock, space will be afforded to them where birds may be sold in baskets of white wicker, containing not more than three

birds, on payment of 1s. for each basket (the basket to be provided by the exhibitor), and on conforming to the general regulations.

All specimens must be addressed to the Secretary, with the exhibitor's name attached, and be delivered, carriage paid, on Monday, Jan. 15th, 1855, between the hours of 10 and 3 o'clock.

H. D. COLE, Sec.

Chit-Chat.

A CHELTENHAM CORRESPONDENT writes, "You would be much pleased with the way in which our show is carried out. The building and grounds are both extensive and beautifully kept, and the birds have always been a first-class selection; we do not covet a large collection. The company is generally fashionable and has always been well satisfied with the arrangements; in fact, we do all we can to make it a first-class affair, and to give such a character to these interesting kinds of amusement, that they shall not be talked of as mere cock-and-hen shows."

On the Selection of Judges for Poultry Exhibitions.

ONE of the most decidedly important matters in respect to an exhibition of poultry not having as yet been brought before the attention of your readers, and as it seems a somewhat overlooked feature, I beg to offer a few observations, a due attention to which, I am sure, will prove of no inconsiderable advantage to managers of every poultry show, and prevent a whole series of vexatious disappointments that too frequently have cast their gloomy influences over all the other exertions of a committee thus situated, and proved likewise a most serious and unlooked-for after-annoyance.

The subject to which I allude is the selection of the judges.

This is, perhaps, the most calculated of any of their appointments to make or mar

the success of the whole proceedings, especially as regards future meetings. It will not be denied that the efficiency of the judges to fulfil their allotted duties is all-important; nor yet will it be contested that the prospects of an exhibition have been frequently totally destroyed by some manifestly unjust award on the part of these gentlemen. Till dearly-bought experience proves its utter fallacy, the presumption seems to weigh paramount with most acting committees, that to find gentlemen to fulfil these duties "will be easy enough," and as "they will be the *last* thing wanted," the appointment may be, therefore, delayed until all the other items in the management are completed. Nothing, however, could be more strongly calculated to disappoint the hopes of a committee, or prevent altogether the idea of future shows being entertained, than carelessness on this point. To the mal-arrangement of past days in this single particular, many localities may now truly attribute the discontinuance of their annual meeting—an event that might otherwise have proved quite a reunion, and of singular advantage to the innkeepers and general tradesmen of the neighbourhood, from the influx of strangers and consequent increase of trade at these fashionable meetings. There can be no real necessity for withholding this appointment till the very eve of the meeting, for, as the quaint adage tells us, "what is left till the last moment, is rarely done well." But the principal objection urged by committees to an early arrangement of this matter seems to be the fear that the names of the judges may possibly transpire, and being whispered about, influence the entries of poultry for the exhibition.

Now, if I were to advise, I would suggest that these appointments should never rest on near inhabitants, as such parties have not only their local prejudices, but what is superlatively worse, they are very frequently conversant with the individual fowls themselves, that may be entered for competition; and we all know that even

poultry judges are but men—possessing mortal frailties—and doubtlessly acknowledging the friendship of near and valued acquaintances. But sometimes committees have been unwisely influenced by one or other of the two following misconceptions:—they think, on the one hand, "that by the selection of near neighbours they lessen the expenses of travelling, &c., to the place of exhibition: or, on the other, the appointment has been made, simply, to gratify the ambition of some influential resident, entirely on account of his generous pecuniary assistance to their partially-exhausted coffers." To the latter statement I need say but very little: if the individual is really competent to the proper fulfilment of his arduous duties the advantages are then allowed; but how sadly too often has it occurred, that the awards thus made were such as it was altogether impossible to justify, and would indeed have formed a serious difficulty even to palliate. Bewildered and confused, the aspirant and anxious official (as the time for public admission draws nigh) feels compelled "to do something," and, in his hurry and indecision, makes many awards that very naturally lead to loud and continuous complaints. Such, indeed, will always be the never-failing sequence of the inconsiderate selection of the judges. He finds the duties of this arduous office far more difficult than he at first supposed, and requiring the necessary presence of both judgment and self-possession. He therefore, perchance, wisely declares "he will never again incur its responsibility." If, on the other hand, both the committee and himself are of indomitable determination to again carry their point at every hazard, the very, very limited number of entries in the following year are the best and most convincing evidence of the folly of the arrangement.

As to the differences in the expense for travelling, and so forth, of distantly-resident and local judges, it will not be found to be "money lost, or thrown away;" for, by obtaining the services of parties from a

distance, the minds of exhibitors, and the public generally, will alike be best satisfied that equal justice and "fair-play" pervade the whole system. Human nature will ever suggest compliance where the undoubted efficiency of the judges employed is publicly known and fully acknowledged. Nothing can be more hurtful to the future interests of a poultry show, than a prevalent supposition among exhibitors that the judges have not done their duties properly; and I must, from experience, add, when there are not reasons to give the fullest confidence to the decisions, such outbursts of public feeling will (without doubt) always find utterance from the unsuccessful competitors, who invariably prove their aptitude (and very naturally, too,) in the speedy detection of any "mistake," however trivial, the judges may, unfortunately, have committed. It is for this reason the necessary efficiency of these gentlemen cannot be too strongly insisted on. Indeed, it should be the committee's most anxious consideration; for, depend upon it, the more careful they are in this particular, the more successful, beyond doubt, will be the general issue of their present management and speculation.

I will advert (though very briefly) to the consequences of neglecting this matter till the last moment, in an instance or two that have come within my own personal knowledge. Towards the close of last year, I know one gentleman (of extended experience as a judge of poultry), who had not less than three applications to officiate at as many different (and very distantly situated) local shows, on the same or consecutive days;—of course, this was altogether impossible. No doubt the delay took place, and the requests were made by the several committees, under the false conviction, that "the judges would be easily attainable whenever wanted." But let us see if such proved to be a correct opinion. One most energetic committee, "determined to get fit judges for the occasion, let the expense be what it might," sent one of

their body travelling almost all night by railway, nearly 200 miles, to procure the attendance of two gentlemen, the day but one before they were expected to officiate. In one application only, he proved successful, and this party, after much solicitation (for he had been led to expect the attendance of a colleague), was at length induced to act alone. In another of the cases alluded to, "a couple of gentlemen were picked up for a make-shift, for what could be done *then*? we found it impossible to get anybody worth having, for love or money" (so says one of the committee); and the labours of these parties were eventually proved to be equally unsatisfactory with those of the novice, whose unlooked-for difficulties I endeavoured to portray in the former part of this communication.

If men of standing are selected (and every committee will be guarded on this point) to fulfil this important trust, depend upon it the appointment will never be betrayed, and the managers of a poultry show, when thus secure of their attendance, will find their anxieties much lessened, whilst, likewise, from practically-conversant judges, they will, when present, no doubt, elicit many little hints that will prove very conducive to future benefit to both the exhibitors and themselves.

I fear lest my remarks may be considered too lengthy, but it is only on account of their undoubted importance I have ventured to suggest them, now that the advent of poultry shows is so fast approaching. I am quite confident that not a few of your readers, whose past vexations and annoyances are here faithfully described, and at whose express desire this article has been written, will feel great pleasure in finding "a warning voice" thus raised, to prevent others falling upon the like troublesome mishaps, which proved very stumbling-stones in the way of their own first beginnings. The experience of these parties will fully support my assertion, that too great attention cannot, by possibility, be devoted to the selection of indi-

viduals to fill this truly onerous duty, whose *competency* for the office no one will dispute.

AN ARDENT WELL-WISHER OF
POULTRY SHOWS.

The Cottager's Home.

NO. II.

THE approbation our last paper has met with on this subject, and the desire expressed for more information, induces us to continue. We were glad to see in the report of the Newcastle Show, that (we quote from the "Newcastle Courant") "not the least gratifying feature in the exhibition, was the very large display of stock by the cottagers; and it was equally pleasing to find, on inquiry, they had carried off a goodly proportion of prizes. This is a cheering indication of the interest taken in the Society's objects in at least one important quarter, and a satisfactory proof that some of the main purposes of its establishment are being fully answered."

The limit of a cottager was that his rent should be less than £8 per year. As many benevolent persons may be induced to think our statement of the position of the agricultural labourer overdrawn, we have, since writing our first number, conversed with the clergyman of a large rural district, with a population exceeding 1,500 souls. We asked him if he knew a labourer who had £5 belonging to him; he said, No. We reduced the sum to £2, then to £1, still the same answer. He then said he did not know one, and he was sure he was right. Who could be out of work or ill for three weeks, without either getting into debt, receiving assistance, or selling part of his furniture? And these were the choice labouring men, sober, honest, and saving, if they had the means of being so. We would add, this gentleman is an exemplary working clergyman, knowing and visiting all the poor in his parish. Our first picture, then, was a faithful one, and

we are asked for details in carrying out the plan we suggested of making poultry the means, in some instances, of lightening its sombre hues. There will be some trouble, but little expense. We would advise two classes of prizes. First, we would advance to some of the most deserving people, say to five or six, a cock and three hens,—Dorking chickens, which may be had for little money in November. Offer a money prize for the best pen of chickens that can be exhibited, the produce of these birds, in the last week of the following May. This will induce early breeding, and will teach them to rear valuable poultry for the market. The original birds may be paid for in chickens. It may be necessary to advance also a little food to help them through the winter months, this can also be paid in chickens. The probable cost of the whole will be—

| | £. | s. | d. |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| 6 pens at £1 - - - - - | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Food, six months, at 8s. - - - - - | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| Prize - - - - - | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenses - - - - - | 1 | 0 | 0 |

£10 8 0

It must be borne in mind that the fowls are not given to the cottager, but are lent to him, and must be forfeited or paid for by their produce. We have put down the money advanced for food at one penny per head per week, which is more than will be required, and we very much doubt if, at the competition in May, each cottager will not from the produce pay all expenses, and have a stock in hand. The loss must of necessity be small, as the birds will be more valuable in May than in the previous November. There are few neighbourhoods where they cannot be obtained at a less sum than that we have put down, but if any difficulty exist in purchasing them, the editor of this paper will undertake to provide them. This scheme will only be available where there are two or three good people, who will subscribe a trifle to endeavour to raise and help those

less favoured by Providence in worldly goods than themselves. But if the expense be a difficulty, we will suggest another and a cheaper plan. Give to each cottager you wish to befriend a sitting of good eggs in March, and offer prizes in August for the best pen of poultry reared from these. Plenty of such eggs may be bought at a moderate price, but they must be obtained from trustworthy people, as it would be unjust to give eggs of various qualities. The cost of fifteen dozen of eggs in this way will be less than £2, and the recipient of them may be bound to pay for them in chickens. Many a man in easy circumstances would advance them on these terms, viz., to have the choice of one chicken of their produce AFTER exhibition. We do not anticipate cottagers entering the lists at the great shows, but we have seen, with delight, the joy of a poor man at gaining a pound or thirty shillings—the first money he ever had without days of real toil. He went home a Croesus. We do not advocate this for the idle, dissolute, and drunken; no, nor for the frequenter of the ale-house; but for the good husband, father, and citizen; for the man who trembles for his dear ones, when even a slight pain reminds him that he is subject to sickness; for he knows that cessation from labour is ruin. Any change for the worse in such a man's lot is ruin. It may be objected that only one can gain the prize, that is, if there be but one; but others can be commended, and many may exhibit a good pen with others almost as good at home. His unsuccessful pen may sell for a pound. Is not that a prize? It will be carefully hoarded, it will keep his family for a fortnight, should he be sick or disabled. He may have one hen for which he may realize ten or fifteen shillings. What encouragement to persevere, and he will persevere, and the promoters of our poultry scheme shall rejoice at the success of their venture. But the example will be contagious. Hundreds would help the poor; but some fancy they have not the means, others know not how to do it,

but if they see how much may be done by a little scheme like this, they will take courage and try on a larger scale some larger project of their own, having the same object in view.

The rules must be stringent, and carefully looked to, that every competitor may feel he will have strict justice done to him. Poultry is the only stock a labourer can breed, and if the love of poultry should, after all, be ephemeral, if great exhibitions close, and fancy breeds disappear, then it will have answered a good and more than useful purpose, if it have only in some few instances helped an honest, industrious, but poor man, if it have given relief to a few over-wrought mothers, if it have paid a debt, small in amount, but a millstone to the debtor, or, if by its instrumentality a few boys have been educated, and thereby raised in the scale of society. And the promoters of these unpretending schemes will be richly rewarded; for kindness caused them to undertake it, and they will rejoice in the good they have done. SYLVANUS.

Fallacies of the Fancy.

NO. II.

THERE are very few persons, men more particularly, who would like to be considered ignorant of the various points of a horse. They consider it derogatory to their standing, as Englishmen, not to be able to give an opinion when some friend favours them with a sight of a new purchase, and, as I have been told by competent judges, ridiculous enough are the conclusions arrived at by these self-taught aspirants to acquire judicial fame. The purchaser of a horse has, however, in general, an advantage over the purchaser of a fowl. Notwithstanding he may be, in his own ideas, an excellent judge as to shape, make, and action, he is cautious enough to take a professional opinion as to the soundness of the animal and his freedom from disease. But the reverse is too

frequently the case with poultry fanciers. They forget the axiom that "a little learning is a dangerous thing." They do not consider it necessary to "dip deep" before they enter, unaided, on the selection of fancy poultry. Why such a difference should be made between a horse and a fowl (for it must be remembered that in these days the one frequently costs as much money as the other) I cannot account for, excepting in this way, that self-sufficiency is one of the main ingredients of our nature, and the desire of catering for one's self is a predominant feature of an Englishman. "What can there be about a fowl," say they, "that requires such an exercise of the judgment? Any simpleton can give an opinion about that." True, so he can about horses, and too frequently they cry *peccavi* when too late. Taking Albert Smith for an example when he *really* commences his assent of Mont Blanc, I will drop the ludicrous, and not attempt to amuse the reader with any harmless vagaries, harmless as regards himself, that the tyro may commit, but will endeavour to point out the serious consequences that result from a too hasty resolve to exercise his own judgment long before that judgment is sufficiently matured. It happens very often that a person who has commenced keeping poultry as an amateur by the purchase of a sitting of eggs, and who, moreover, has had the misfortune to find himself "not placed" at the first exhibition he *honours* with his patronage, becomes discontented with his stationary situation, and being brimful of ardour, sets his wits to work to know how he can make a more rapid progress. Ways and means present themselves, in numbers, amongst which are various sales by auction, catalogues of which are forwarded, containing the description of such and such prize birds, from the well-known yard of Mr. So-and-So. The glittering bait is too tempting, and forgetting that birds are not frequently sent to auctions for any *good* qualities they may possess, he heedlessly makes his selection of a certain number of lots, and keeps

up a vigorous bidding until they are knocked down to him. He takes his new purchases home, and immediately introduces them to his old favourites. Some kind friend, whom he invites to inspect them, pronounces them to be suffering from roup, and advises a separation immediately. The decision is thrown to the winds, and the truth is not forced on his mind until his fowls droop one by one, till at length all are affected, involving for weeks a vast amount of trouble, not of a very agreeable nature, and perhaps loss. Again, as regards selecting fowls for exhibition, I would caution the beginner against the evils of self-sufficiency. In all probability he will not watch his birds well, or perhaps may keep some of his best specimens at home, in either of which cases he is sure to be unsuccessful; or if he possess a variety of birds, and is ignorant of the particular value of each sort, he will enter a pen of birds that would command a high price, at such a figure that it is immediately claimed, and on the contrary will frighten the public by affixing a large sum on those birds that have pretensions to only a sixth part of the amount. In conclusion, I would advise all persons about to commence poultry keeping, being at the same time totally uninformed on the subject, not to depend on their own judgment, but to enlist the services of some person who is capable of giving an opinion, and that a disinterested one, and by that opinion let them be guided, when they will find in general, instead of failure, success, and an immunity from a large share of unpleasantness and expense.

AMICUS.

VALUE OF POULTRY.—The estimated value of poultry in the United States is 40,000,000 dollars, in England, 60,000,000, and in France 75,000,000. The city of New York annually consumes seven millions of eggs, the Astor House alone requiring a supply of over 1,000 per day.—*American Paper.*

Nugæ Rusticæ.

TRIFLES, ORIGINAL AND SELECT, FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF A DERBYSHIRE YEOMAN.

The Cochin China Fowl.

"BREEDING to a feather" is very silly work if no higher object be aimed at. But of this, more anon. As a practical farmer would prefer "a fashionable roan" heifer of *equal* form and *size* to a red one, so would he, if choice were given, select a good buff-coloured Cochin China fowl in preference to one with foul marks, provided other qualities were equal;—but, as his love of beef would induce him to select a well-formed and full-sized *red* cow in preference to an ill-shaped *roan* one, so would he, in the denizens of his poultry-yard, make colour subordinate to quality, shape, and substance. A dark hackle, or a "mealy" wing, may be safely disregarded if conjoined with short, well-feathered legs, shanks wide apart, a broad back, and a tail whose largest feathers are very small, and only slightly more curved than a Turkish scimitar. But woe betide the man who buys great, gaunt birds with long *naked* legs, a fierce expression of eye and face, and wings and hackles loaded with black feathers. No less than ten of such birds were being hawked about Derby market on Friday last, as "the real, genuine Cochin Chinas." My attention was directed to them by a most respectable farmer, who invited me to accompany him from a sale of fowls in the Athenæum Room, to see those which were in the market, which were bigger and finer than those in the sale-room, and "to be had for six shillings a couple." I accompanied my kind and disinterested adviser to these "fine birds," and was perfectly horrified by as much ugliness as it was possible to see concentrated in any living thing. This episode is inserted here, lest my praise of the Cochin China fowl should induce some unwary housewife to purchase any fowl which might be called by that name, and then expect

to have plenty of eggs and saleable chickens, or failing this, to become very angry with "the paper" for deceiving her. Let the advice of the "Note Book" be followed, and she will not go far wrong; or if this be too prolix, let these three qualities be remembered:—

Great weight—nine or ten pounds in the Cockerel.

Feathered legs with *four* toes, the outer one *feathered*.

A *very small, slightly* curved tail.

No known fowl resembles the Shanghai or Cochin China in these three combined qualities, and although there are many, very many, degrees of excellence in the symmetry, size, and colour of individual fowls, yet attention to the above simple rules will preserve inexperienced purchasers from such hideous abortions as those which ignorance or cupidity was palming upon the public on Friday last, as "the real, genuine Cochin Chinas;"—*genuine* they might have been, but bearing no more relation to the birds of "A Derbyshire Yeoman," than do the Mouflon sheep of Corsica, or the hairy sheep of Fezzan, to the fine "Leicesters" of Mr. Sandys, of Holme Pierpoint, or to the beautiful Southdowns of Mr. Jonas Webb, of Braham.

The great utility of Cochin China fowls, then, consists in their laying a large number of eggs, and that too at an earlier age than other poultry. As *table-fowls*, they are not equal to the Dorkings, nor will they fetch anything like the same price as these in Leadenhall Market, or other poultry shops. Still, I do not think that they are either "as tough as a donkey," or as "rank-tasted as a parrot" (as some writers on poultry have stated); but, not having tasted either of these latter delicacies, my personal experience will not enable me to decide on the edible excellencies of the Cochin China as compared with those of the long-eared quadruped, or the green-feathered bird.

Fowls are often rendered tough by bad management. A Cockerel thirteen or four-

teen weeks old, of the Cochin China breed, will be a very acceptable dish if the following preliminaries be attended to:—feed him well for three weeks on oatmeal made stiff with milk; let him fast twelve hours before he is killed, and hang for four or five days after death; then let him be dressed, and roasted by a good cook, and he will form a dinner upon which any “Derbyshire Yeoman” might dine with enjoyment, provided the company were as good as the dinner. Last summer, a kind friend of mine dressed a fine Cockerel of this breed for my especial gratification, hoping, moreover, to pass it off at the table for a Dorking fowl, but the massive thigh and the comparatively small breast at once revealed the cheat; yet candour compels me to write, that the very great pains which had been taken by the Cochin-fancier and his cook had produced a dish that left nothing to be desired, and which would have formed no unfit companion for a Dorking fowl from Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, or a rich Game one from Knowsley Cottage, or Comberford Mill.

There is one fault alleged against the Cochin China fowl. It is said to be an enormous eater. My experience confirms this only as compared with the smaller fowl, such as the Hamburg, or the Poland, but not relatively to its size and productiveness. It has, however, been confined to such close quarters through many generations, that, like a spaniel, or other pet dog, it has acquired the habit of looking to man for its daily supplies, rather than diligently searching for its own food like the game birds, or barn-door fowls. This habit will probably disappear as the bird becomes acclimated to our farm-yards and fields. In the mean time, it should be remembered that the digestive organs of a fowl are capable of extracting nutriment from anything that contains it, and that any *cheap, bulky* material may be supplied to them with advantage.

The Cochins will thrive upon a cheap compound of *bran, pollard, and barley-meal,*

in equal proportions, mixed with a small quantity of tallow-chandler's greaves. A correspondent from Morecambe Bay has recommended boiled Swede turnips and Indian meal. I can endorse his excellent suggestion; ten geese, under my eye, have become very fat upon raw Swedes, which they have completely scooped out with their beaks (as a schoolboy does an apple with a bone scoop), leaving the outer rind almost perfect, so that the heap of Swedes appears to have been untouched until you examine or weigh them. This will be a cheap food; for although the Swedes contain 800 parts in 1,000 of water, yet they also possess a considerable amount of sugar, albumen, and starch, while the maize is especially rich in organic matter, and comparatively free of water, containing only about 130 parts of water in 1,000. The following is a rough analysis of this grain, as given by Solly:—

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Organic matter | 857 |
| Inorganic matter | 13 |
| Water | 130 |
| | 1,000 |

The chickens of the Cochin China fowl are hardy, and reared easily.

I must now, however, whisper of one defect in these “celestial” fowls. Like the fair ladies on the other side of the Atlantic (the beautiful sisters of brother Jonathan), the Cochin China fowl becomes very plain at an early age. The lovely characteristics which have been enumerated melt away, and the round, intelligent face becomes wiry and wizened; the bright full eye contracts, and the feathers of the body generally become loose, untidy, and scare-crowish; they in truth “live fast” (the fowls, not the American ladies), and *therefore* cannot live long; the great and rapid supply of eggs exhausts their vital powers, and gives them a very old look after a very few summers. At an age when the Game fowl and the Dorking are in their full vigour, and lusty beauty, the Cochin China is losing its especial attraction, and the rich buff hue, and the costly

fluff, the well-feathered legs, and all the other "endearing young charms," remind one of the Poet's lament, without inspiring the same grateful sentiments—for who would say :

Thou wilt still be beloved, as this moment thou art,

Let thy loveliness fade as it will,
And around the *dear ruin* each wish of my heart

Will entwine itself *verdantly* still?

—By permission of the author, from "The Derby Reporter."

Colombiary.

NO. V.—THE ANTWERP CARRIER.

THE innate propensity of all tame pigeons to return to the place of their nativity or their established home has led man to make use of them as mediums of communication, and as some sorts are pre-eminently useful in this respect, they have been named carrier pigeons. Of these, the Antwerp, the English carrier, horseman, and dragoon, the tumbler, and the owl, are the sorts most generally used. For the present, I will confine myself to a description of the Antwerp carrier, a pigeon of all others that has proved itself most useful for long journeys, having performed extraordinary distances.

The Antwerp carrier derives its name from being first bred in the city of that name, in Belgium. In the ancient towers and lofty steeples of that venerable city nestle a small variety of rock pigeon, peculiar, I believe, to that part of the Continent; in colour they are mealy or strawberry, the wings barred with a redder tint, as also the neck; their beaks are dove-shaped, long and fine, the head round in front like that of the blue rock; the eyes bright and prominent, of a gravel or pale yellow colour. They are exceedingly shy and wild, it being almost impossible to entrap any of them; young ones are, however, occasionally taken from the nest

and reared. These and their progeny constitute the true Antwerp carrier. But these wild Antwerps must not be confused with the wild, or rather the many escaped pigeons, numbers of which frequent the public buildings in most large towns.

The few persons that breed this variety of pigeon are very choice of them, and rarely part with any; when, indeed, they do, it is generally those they can rely upon returning home.

The housing propensity of this valuable variety of pigeons is so natural to them, that it is surprising what a small amount of training will make them proficient; squeakers will often return home from long distances though they may have been kept in a considerable time. One marked peculiarity of the Antwerp is their flight, starting off in a straight line when thrown up, then turning direct for home, not circling round as other pigeons do before they start, and also the straggling appearance of the flight when turned out from their loft for exercise. They are good breeders at home, but if removed to a strange place it is almost impossible to get them to do so. So wild and restless are they, that if confined in an aviary for twelve months, most of them will be found in flying condition at the expiration of the time, and quite ready to perform the journey home, though it may be 100 or 200 miles; whereas, were other pigeons thus confined, most of them would be so fat and out of practice that they would be quite fatigued with a few circles, and very few of what are commonly called carrier pigeons would have any inclination to leave after such a long confinement.

It may be wondered at that, as these pigeons are so valuable, and also good breeders, they do not become more plentiful; but this is to be accounted for in many ways, a few of which are as follow:—The various accidents to which pigeons are liable, either in being sent or returning home from long journeys; the great number of birds of prey which are everywhere to be met with on the Continent; the con-

tinual disturbance to them while sitting to send them out for a match, for this pigeon-flying is carried to a great extent in Belgium, which causes those possessed of a pure strain to be very careful not to part from them, through the fear that they might, at some other time, unavoidably match against their own birds; this will also in a great measure account for their rare appearance in England.

I am, however, inclined to believe that the Antwerp of which I have been speaking is comparatively a recent acquisition, perhaps within the last twenty or thirty years; the pigeon formerly in use in Belgium was, without doubt, the owl. The short-faced Antwerps are a cross between the real Antwerp and the owl pigeon, which latter they frequently very much resemble, many of them having quite respectable frills and gullets. They are not quite so wild as the true sorts, but inherit much of their excellent homing properties, and I have been informed of squeakers doing London and Dover without training. This variety are very small, and in addition to the occasional frill and gullet, have very short beaks; their colour is generally blue or mealy, sometimes chequered. Not being quite so intractable as the longer-beaked ones, they may, with due care and a little patience, be settled in a new abode; at any rate, they will breed in a fresh loft, consequently are much better known in England.

A cross-breed between the short-faced Antwerp and the dragoon pigeon, however, is the kind mostly used for carrying communications in England, and is considered more certain for short distances. The thorough-bred Antwerps, it is alleged, frequently overfly themselves in a ten or twelve miles' match; these half-bred birds are considerably stouter than the Antwerps, have rather thick, but not very long beaks, and but little wattle. They are the same colours as the short-faced Antwerps, excellent breeders, and becoming very common.

A great variety of mongrels and crosses

are brought from Belgium under the title of Antwerps, many of which are the ugliest, most runtish-looking birds imaginable; some of them, it is true, have a good deal of Antwerp blood in them, and will perform long journeys, but such are, by no means, desirable.

Sevenoaks.

B. P. B.

Hints to Poultry Show Committees.

PERMIT me to correct a slight misprint or two in No. 10. "Doors at the back and bottom of the pen, which ought to be only 2 feet deep, are altogether inadmissible," ought merely to read, "that doors at the back or bottom of the pens are altogether inadmissible." I have elsewhere said, that the pens ought to be 3 feet deep. Instead of "art" read "cost" of erecting; but to return to the Hints.

The Committee must also provide a weighing-machine, as the judges will certainly wish to weigh some of the stock exhibited.

I must now allude to another subject, which will require a delicate "hint" from me, or I shall certainly have all sorts of complainers, each vigorously urging that I am wrong—I must avoid Scylla, and also try to steer clear of Charybdis—I allude to the feeding department. The Committee must secure a sufficient quantity of various sorts of grain and meal; I consider it best to give the birds a variety of food, say one feed of meal slacked with water, and the next of grain, say wheat, barley, and other cereals mixed. I consider this infinitely better than constantly cramming the birds with meal dough, and I have seen turnips sliced and thrown into the pens. I consider this good, and would recommend either turnips or beet sliced to be given to the birds; cabbage or other vegetables would be good, but they are generally rare during the months best adapted for poultry shows. The Committee will certainly receive from many exhibitors all sorts of directions respecting the feeding of

their birds, some very amusing, from their absurdity; indeed, I have seen directions which, if attended to, would require the constant attendance of a committee-man to look after the "pets." The demands for the "cuisine" for some birds will be very little short of mutton-chops and champagne for luncheon, and a hot supper at night; but, after all, the best mode is to engage some competent feeder to look after the whole, and see that the under-feeders and water-carriers are constantly at work. To supply the quantity of water required will be more than one man's work, for the excitement is thirsty work for the poor birds; the water-fowls ought to be supplied with large vessels, such as full-sized flower-pot saucers, or perhaps two smaller ones are better than one large one, which one bird may perhaps monopolize by trying to have a swim; the water-fowl will require constant supplies of water, and their pens, moreover, ought to be made with a slight incline on the floor, to carry off the spilt water to the back of the pens.

The Committee should obtain their provisions from some corn-dealer who will agree to receive back the portion not used.

The Committee will also have to obtain some coarse sand or clean gravel for the floors of the pens; it is infinitely superior to sawdust, which is recommended by some people: the sand or gravel affords some amusement to the birds searching for something to assist their digestion, which they cannot get from sawdust.

The water-fowl ought to have clean straw on the floor of their pens instead of sand or gravel, or their plumage will be spoiled by the sloppy mess they will soon make with sand and water. I have now, I believe, provided all the necessary comforts for the birds. By the bye, it will be well to provide a few extra pens above the number absolutely required.

I must now pass on to those gentlemen who have been so frequently called upon to give so much of their time to the public, but too often gratuitously, but too often abused; whose office is a most difficult one, but most

honourable; the task most difficult, but too often little understood by those who criticize their verdicts. If our ablest law judges are sometimes misled, and sometimes err in their judgments, assisted as they are by the whole *posse comitatus* of counsel and witnesses, assisted by auricular as well as circumstantial evidence, what must be the difficulties which surround a poultry judge, called upon to give a verdict by what he merely sees; most probably too in a very hurried manner; pushed by a committee, who inform him that the public are waiting and must be admitted immediately? This ought not to be, and truly I may say that many of our best judges deserve great praise for the patriotic manner in which they have discharged their important duties under very trying circumstances.

They are gentlemen, and are sometimes sorely tried, their judgments condemned, their tempers tested by inconsiderate conduct on the part of the Committee, exhibitors, and even, alas! be it said, of an obstinate and self-opinionated brother-judge. Gentle reader, I will suppose you to be a judge and a gentleman, and possessing strong feelings of honour—what would be your sensation if offered a proof catalogue of the poultry you had to judge the following day for your evening's amusement and "edification;" if when you were judging, and had passed over with a cold look a pen of birds, to be recalled by an exclamation from So-and-So's feeder, "Why, sir, them's the birds you gave first prize to at So-and-So;" or to be joined by an exhibitor whilst you were discussing the merits, and receiving his gratuitous opinions? These things ought not to be, and it must be the business of the Committee to protect the judges from such interference and insult. I would therefore recommend the Committee to attend to the following hints:—

If your exhibition consists of 500 pens, secure the services of three judges, and let them have plenty of time, if possible the whole day; it is impossible to fix any scale of time for the work to be done. If the

competition is very keen and merits equal, the task will be longer, or it may be done in a few minutes; but I fancy the judges may be expected to pronounce an opinion on about 40 to 50 pens per hour. If the pens are 1,000, have more judges. I would recommend the judges from a distance in preference to those in the immediate neighbourhood, and the Committee ought to reward them for their services: it is a delicate matter to name the amount, but I should say that three to five guineas, with travelling expenses, would be a fair thing; the labourer is worthy of his hire, and it is too bad to expect that because a gentleman possesses a thorough knowledge of poultry, that he must give his time and services; rely upon it, he has not acquired that knowledge gratuitously, but frequently at a great outlay of capital, time, and labour. Some doubtless will refuse to receive anything, but do give them the chance of refusing. Secure their names early, but do not, if possible, allow their names to transpire. And now for the knotty point, who ought to be judges? Should dealers be allowed to judge or not? I am disposed to say that they should not, and I must premise the opinion with the remark that I have no personal objection to dealers judging. I know little of them, having never bought but one bird from a dealer; but I am disposed to yield to the feelings and opinions of others, on this ground, that there are parties who object to having their poultry judged by dealers acting with amateurs, and there are judges who object to acting with dealers—but on the other side, there are not any exhibitors who insist or require that a dealer shall be amongst the judges. This opinion sounds like special pleading, but I think it better to remove the cause of a needless objection rather than allow it to remain as a stumbling-block, for I do consider that there are many dealers who are eminently qualified to act as judges, and who would give an honourable and unbiassed opinion.

The Committee will have to provide blank catalogues for the judges, *i.e.* con-

taining the various classes, pen numbers, and ages of the birds, pencils for remarks, and sticks for the judges to rouse up the poultry; an attendant to open the pen fronts and to weigh the birds if required; weights sufficient to test a whole pen of geese will be requisite. Now for a few words about the protection of the judges from interference. Sometimes the judges are shown into the building by some of the Committee, who remain outside, supposed to be the sole occupants during the investigation. I must say that the above cases of interference alluded to have all taken place where this plan has been adopted, the parties appearing from "somewhere," after the judges had been locked in, and I may safely assert that the whole poultry world would be filled with amazement if I named the exhibitor who, on one occasion, so unceremoniously intruded on the judges. I therefore would recommend that the Committee appoint two or three of their number to attend on the judges, to be with them in the show-room; they may easily prevent any interference by remaining at the end of the alleys, and taking care to keep at a proper distance from the judges, so as not to interfere or appear to intrude upon the judges, but at the same time to protect them. Space will compel me to defer this subject until next week.

W. W.

Productive Farming.

In a treatise on "Productive Farming," just issued from the press, the following observations occur:—

"It is in vegetable as in animal life; a mother crams her child exclusively with arrow-root—it becomes fat, it is true, but, alas! it is rickety, and gets its teeth very slowly, and with difficulty. Mamma is ignorant, or never thinks, that her offspring cannot make bone—or, what is the same thing, phosphate of lime, the principal bulk of bone—out of starch. It does its best; and were it not for a little milk and bread, perhaps now and then a little

meal and soup, it would have no bones and teeth at all. Farmers keep poultry; and what is true of fowls is true of a cabbage, a turnip, or an ear of wheat. If we mix with the food of fowls a sufficient quantity of egg-shells or chalk, which they eat greedily, they will lay many more eggs than before. A well-fed fowl is disposed to lay a vast number of eggs, but cannot do so without the materials for the shells, however nourishing in other respects her food may be. A fowl, with the best will in the world, not finding any lime in the soil, nor mortar from walls, nor calcareous matter in her food, is incapacitated from laying any eggs at all. Let farmers lay such facts as these, which are matters of common observation, to heart, and transfer the analogy, as they may do, to the habits of plants, which are as truly alive, and answer as closely to every injudicious treatment, as their own horse."

Onions.

SCARCELY too much can be said in praise of onions for fowls. They seem to be a preventive and remedy for various diseases to which domestic poultry is liable. Having frequently tested their excellencies, we can speak understandingly. For gapes and inflammation of the throat, eyes, and head, onions are almost a specific. We would recommend giving fowls, and especially the young chicks, as many as they will eat, as often as twice or three times a week. They should be finely chopped. A small addition of corn meal is an improvement.

In addition to the above, we will give the following from a little work which every one should read:—

"IMPORTANCE OF THE ONION.—The onion is worthy of notice as an extensive article of consumption in this country. It is largely cultivated at home, and is imported, to the extent of seven or eight hundred tons a year, from Spain and Portugal. But it rises in importance

when we consider that in these latter countries it forms one of the common and universal supports of life. It is interesting, therefore, to know that, in addition to the peculiar flavour which first recommends it, the onion is remarkably nutritious. According to my analysis, the dried onion root contains from twenty-five to thirty per cent. of gluten. It ranks, in this respect, with the nutritious pea and the gram of the East. It is not merely as a relish, therefore, that the wayfaring Spaniard eats his onion with his humble crust of bread, as he sits by the refreshing spring; it is because experience has long proved that, like the cheese of the English labourer, it helps to sustain his strength also, and adds, beyond what its bulk would suggest, to the amount of nourishment which his simple meal supplies."—*Chemistry of Common Life.*

Many Kinds of Fowls on the same Space objectionable.

THERE is not, perhaps, a more universally prevalent failing in amateurs of poultry, in these days, than keeping many varieties of fowls, on a space too limited for their accommodation; whilst this error invariably paves the way for the introduction of its twin-born mistake—overpopulation.

It will be generally found, that an amateur, at the onset, keeps one kind of poultry only, such being from natural impulse, those his own fancy dictates; his more especial attention will probably be directed to their proper selection, and (not less essential) after care.

From these active causes, we not infrequently see a name, hitherto unknown, suddenly heading our "prize list," to the no small gratification of the successful one, though oftentimes even his now existent good-fortune proves a very stumbling-block in the way of future well-doing, simply by the impress of the phantom-

conviction on his mind, that the present success will certainly and perfectly be altogether eclipsed, by his more extended competition, and consequent distinctions, at future exhibitions. With a mind thus prepossessed, and blinded to the possibility of error by the intoxication of the moment, it is most probable an individual thus situated rushes headlong into the pit-fall so omnipresent at our poultry exhibitions, that he purchases several of the prize pens (his own lucky ones having been secured, most probably, in the mean time, by "claiming them and paying the commission"), and he then takes all to premises which, though perfectly commodious for his own original favourites only, become literally thronged when his new-comers are domiciled along with them.

It now requires no logician to prove, no seer to foretell, the inevitable result; our friend has been pursuing a "will-o'-the-wisp," the self-created phantom of his own excited imagination, and soon finds (like all the treacherous members of this notorious family), it has but lured to destruction, not only his future hopes, but also proved the utter downfall of his present enviable position.

Thus cramped for accommodation, but at the same time quite unwilling to part with specimens of poultry, that have so recently gained, and therefore, to his mind, must certainly in future rivalries still maintain their pre-eminence; his only resource is to literally subdivide the (at best not too large) space, hitherto allotted to his former birds alone, among the whole of his now extended stock. From this unwarrantable and thoughtless act, how many amateurs have deplored the disappointments, after-vexations, and regret, which a less covetous and less emulous disposition would most assuredly have led them to avoid!

The foregoing statement will, I fear, appear to some of your readers the very recital of their own misadventures; it is not, however, intended by the writer to be personal; for I happen to know this is now

(or has been) the position of numbers so great, that, were I desirous, I could not individualize them. I only hope to point out (beacon-like) this general failing to the uninitiated in such matters, to prevent in them its reproduction, and the thereby consequent loss and annoyances assuredly entailed.

These alterations complete, the owner now most probably plumes himself on his own skilful arrangements; looks with superlative confidence to the future; and narrowly calculates prospective advantages generally. How sad a change awaits the spirit of his dream! Fevered by the close presence of antagonists, perchance for a brief interval, the excitement of rivalry alone keeps up appearances among his poultry; but a short time only speeds onward, before truly outward signs tell the approach (though hitherto latent) of fell disease; the birds lose "condition," the plumage fails, and at length depopulation, the never-varying effort of nature under such adverse circumstances, at once commences; the weakest, of course, being the first victims. But now disease has really made its inroads, the experiences of many an amateur will suggest the end,— "Who dare even now attempt to foretell the ultimate results?"—but the issue (like the motive cause) of all this grievous disaster is somewhat dependent on the appliances of the owner.

If *all* the fowls are still retained in their present position, it is certain, death will lay claim to the majority; but if, on the other hand, the bulk are sent away to other walks, and plain and effective means at once adopted to cleanse their present habitation, we may yet hope for better things.

Quick lime slacked, and whilst hot used as whitewash, is one of the most ready and useful means with which I am acquainted, and if the *whole* of the fowls could be taken away for a few weeks, the remedy would be yet more certain, and the place more surely and conveniently disinfected.

I must, however, still give a few more

words of concluding advice to those for whose benefit this contribution is more especially intended. If you have already been successful on a small scale, pray continue satisfied. Let not exultation lead you into error. Cultivate that especial variety alone by which your laurels have been secured, and by careful management strive hard to retain those honours. But be sure, when tempted (as you are certain to be), to remember the fable of the *dog* and the *shadow*. E. C.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

MOISTURE GOOD FOR INCUBATION.

MR. EDITOR.—Many of my friends who are poultry fanciers, having complained to me of the great loss they have sustained this spring from chickens dying in the shell both before and after they had chipped from weakness; being pretty well assured from my own experience, that the very dry state of the atmosphere might in a great measure account for the loss, I determined to try what assistance I could afford to nature under the circumstances; below, I try to forward you the result.

On the morning of Saturday, the 15th of April, I set two good-sized Dorking hens as follows:

No. I.—On a boarded floor, with a fresh-cut sod under the nest, which was of straw, but before putting the straw I saturated the sod well with water; this hen had thirteen eggs, viz., six Brahma Pootra and seven Golden-pencilled Hamburgs. On the morning of Friday, the 5th inst., she had hatched five chickens, viz., two Brahmas and three Hamburgs, and had six eggs chipped; in the evening the six were all out, the remaining two eggs were bad.

No. II.—On a brick floor with a fresh-cut sod and straw, but not saturated with water; this hen also had thirteen eggs, viz., seven Brahma Pootra and six Golden-pencilled Hamburgs; during sitting, two eggs were thrown out of the nest, leaving eleven; on Friday, not an egg was chipped. On Saturday morning, two eggs chipped Brahmas and two Hamburgs, they were out of the shell in the afternoon, and four more chipped; of these, two hatched, but were not out till Sunday morning, and two died in the shell; of the remaining, one had a dead bird in it and two were rotten. Now this, I think, proves the necessity there is for a certain amount of moisture

to keep the egg and chick in a healthy state, as the eggs that had plenty of moisture hatched the day before they were due, whilst those that were not so moist were a day after, and not near such strong, healthy chickens. In the hatching of game, moisture is even of more moment than with chickens, and ducks under a hen in a dry henhouse seldom come to any good.—Ever yours,
K. W.

[Our correspondent's account reminds us of a *very pretty sitter*, who once occupied a corner of a manger at home. A sod was placed in the corner of the manger and *well watered*; the hen was a bright yellow Cochin China; the grass enjoying the watering, sprang up in large pale-green blades all round her, and she and the grass formed a *very pretty nest*.—Ed.]

FROM "ZENAS."

MR. EDITOR.—One word more. I was actuated by no malevolent motives when I first addressed you on the subject of bought eggs; I spoke of simple facts in my own experience, and with the (what I certainly thought rather laudable than otherwise) object of warning "verdant" purchasers to mind what and of whom they bought: if my warning has effected any good whatever in the way intended, I am satisfied. As has been stated to me since my letter appeared, "it would be positively ridiculous of me to suppose that I alone had been selected as a victim," and I therefore concluded that others too could tell of hopes and dreams of prize chickens, from "first-rate buff and white Cochins, and real white-faced black Spanish fowls' eggs," being sadly dispelled at hatching time, not alone in the number produced, but the worthless character of the chickens themselves; that my conclusions were not without foundation, is evidenced by several other of your correspondents. It is a remarkable thing, that people arguing from the very same data sometimes arrive at totally different conclusions, so it is with myself and your correspondent, who this week states that he thinks that I must consider my strictures on egg-sellers were premature. I think nothing of the kind, and I leave your readers to draw their own conclusions; after having heard what each party has said on the subject as to the correctness or otherwise of my view of the matter. People so well known in the poultry world as Mr. Fairlie and "W. C. G.," are not likely to be victimised, because it would be useless to attempt deception with them, at any rate in the quality of the stock which the bought eggs would produce; but those like myself, quite unknown, often have to pay for their whistles, and dearly enough too, though

we certainly get a little experience. I would only say further to "W. C. G.," that sneers at my arguments, and that however "miserable" my attempts may have been, I have now upwards of 120 chickens, all, with two exceptions, from home-produced eggs, and that it would be a very marvellous circumstance indeed if any attempts of mine could produce feathered-legged Spanish from thorough-bred white-faced birds, or half-bred Spanish from real buff Cochins, to say nothing of Cochins quite unfeathered, from well and heavily feathered and booted stock. I must now leave the subject, and beg to thank you for your courtesy in the matter. ZENAS.

BRAHMA POOTRAS.

SIR,—So many errors are now brought into requisition to supply the declining glimmer of the Brahma lustre, now nearly extinct, that it will require but few words to convince the unprejudiced of your readers that these birds have no more claim to originality as a distinct breed than I have to the crown of England. To proceed *seriatim*, in your last number "B. P." asks how was it that no Brahmas were imported among the Cochins during the mania? Why, the reason is manifest, that as other colours were then in the fashion, and more sought after, they would be the kind to which the preference would be shown, and for which most money would be obtained, and accordingly this preference for importing buffs is soon accounted for, as the fancy were then as eager for buffs as they lately were for greys, and consequently the greys were left behind; but it is not the case that no Brahmas were then brought over with the Cochins, the fact being that I know several were then and so introduced; but as no one would then buy them, they were unnoticed and left to blush unseen.

"B. P." next asks if the advocates of the Shanghae opinion will tell him they ever bred their buffs, cinnamons, and grouse with pea combs. I answer, Yes, and have seen numberless instances of every variety in the shape of the comb being obtained when they were manufactured of the same compound as most of these Brahmas are, viz., with Malays and Dorkings, and doubtless most of your readers are too well aware of the circumstance to doubt it for one moment—a pea-combed Brahma, it is true, might not be a Shanghae, but that it is a half-bred one is true.

"B. P." must indeed have been fortunate to have bred above one hundred Brahmas without having any with unfeathered legs. I suppose some had feathers sufficient to swear by, and no more, for out of the thousands I have seen, at least one-half

were very partially feathered, or altogether clean-legged.

In the next place, the same correspondent speaks of "Non Exhibitor" being woefully mistaken in saying the American birds are crossed with Malays, as no mixture is so easily detected. I am quite of this latter opinion with "B. P.," and in consequence I feel sure that it is Malays with which these Brahmas (as they call them) are crossed, and am borne out in it by the very remarks he calls attention to; these Brahmas have large tails, Malay heads, eyes, beaks, and combs, long legs, and their other characteristics; but I have yet to know that Malays are small-bodied—they are close feathered, shaped like a bullock's heart, and large.

"Rusticus" next flies to the rescue, and inquires if the first Brahmas did not come from America. Can he be sincere with such a question, when it is so well known that they did not, and that Mr. Stainton had lots of them in 1851 from China? Your readers will not consent to have dust thrown in their eyes in this way, when they are warned of its coming, and I fully established this fact in a correspondence on this question in the "Cottage Gardener."

Thank goodness that we all agree that they are not Cochins, is the next hope "Rusticus" indulges in; but the only agreement at present in this case is to differ, for everybody knows a pure grey Shanghae, or Brahma Pootra, is a pure Cochin, and any departure from the true Cochin type is so much in favour of their being a cross.

The tottering fabric is almost down—it was only built upon sand in the first instance, and a few more assaults, provoked by such discharges as in your last number, will consign these Brahmas amongst the things that were.

C. H. B.

MY COCHIN CHINAS.—NO. II.

SIR,—Thanks to "A. G. H." for adopting my suggestion, and giving a description of Black Spanish. If other fanciers would give their experience as regards other varieties, it would no doubt be acceptable to your readers; but what I apprehend is wanted by amateurs is, as well as an account of the POINTS of the different breeds of poultry, their actual qualities as layers, sitters, mothers, &c.; whether hardy or difficult to rear; what sort of birds for the table; in fact, their whole domestic history; the various methods of feeding, and its results. To dealers this would no doubt be superfluous; but as your useful periodical is for the information and instruction of amateurs, they would appreciate it. I am sorry "Gallus" does not find his Cochins

prove good mothers,—mine having turned out well in every particular.

At the risk of being deemed tedious, I cannot refrain from bringing the account of my Cochins in No. 6 up to the present time.

April 19. Sat the Red Hen on 15 eggs, she having laid 60 eggs.

April 26. Sat Partridge Hen on 15 eggs, having laid 35 eggs since bringing up first brood.

April 26. Sat Buff Hen on 15 eggs, having laid 25 eggs since bringing up first brood.

May 1. Sat Cinnamon Hen on 15 eggs, having laid 20 eggs since bringing up first brood.

You will see I have 60 eggs under four hens, the result will prove the wisdom of sitting a hen on so many eggs as 15.

I am glad to see your correspondent, "E. W." agrees with me in thinking Cochins the best variety for general purposes, not even excepting the Brahma Pootra. The method adopted by "H. H." in curing apparently lifeless chicks is new to me, and no doubt to many others, and I will not fail to try it, should any of my chicks become half dead; although, I must say, I have not much faith in the experiment.

The superiority of Cochins over Dorkings as layers is convincingly proved in page 221, by "J. S. B."

Hoping to be supplied more regularly with the "Chronicle" for the future,

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
"Gus."

EGGS PRODUCING COCKERELS OR PULETS.

MR. EDITOR,—Trusting to your kindness in offering your pages as a medium for all sorts of inquiries and information concerning poultry matters, I take the liberty of referring to you, in hopes that either you or some of my fellow-readers may be able to enlighten me on a point, which has been a matter of some little speculation to me. Mr. Richardson, who writes that useful little work on poultry that we see about at the railway stations, mentions a notion, which he says is *falsely* entertained by some people concerning the possibility of discovering the sex of the chicken in the egg, by the position of the air-bladder at the blunt end of it. Wishing to try the experiment for curiosity's sake, towards the end of last September, I set under a Cochins hen nine eggs, which promised to produce hen chickens according to this rule, and four which promised to be cocks. The whole thirteen were hatched out, and subsequently appeared to be cocks and hens as I had predicted. Now, although this does not of course prove the old theory to be right, and another experiment might

turn out quite differently, still it was enough to make me wonder what could have been the reason that Mr. Richardson so peremptorily dismisses the notion. Reasons, I have no doubt, there are, but, as I said at the beginning of my letter, I only write for information,—understand, I do not write to criticise Mr. Richardson's book. Should you, therefore, be able to give me any information, you greatly oblige your constant reader.

LIVE AND LEARN.

[Will any of our readers, who may have tried the same experiment as "Live and Learn," oblige us with the result?—Ed.]

THE VITALITY IN EGGS.

SIR,—Among many things which I have read with interest and profit in different publications are examples of the retentive vitality of eggs during the period of the hen's incubation, but I was never more struck with the circumstance than I have been by my own experience during the last month, and as it may, perhaps, prove useful information to the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," I trespass a little upon its valuable space.

On April 4th, I set a favourite hen upon thirteen choice white Shanghae eggs; my pet, although an excellent sitter, seemed on the eighteenth day after sitting, very much inclined to leave her eggs, and as I found she was unwell and imparted but a slight degree of heat to her charge, began to be rather fearful of the consequences; she, however (although she came off her nest about every hour), on the 26th of April, hatched one chick, which appeared to be strong and healthy. I took the bird away till the evening, when I replaced it under her again, in the first place ascertaining by means of warm water, that every egg under her (twelve) had in it a live chicken; thus my anticipations of a numerous brood were raised to the tiptoe; but no sooner had the hen obtained her chick again under her, than she raised herself up so completely, that she scarcely touched the eggs, consequently they were in the morning to all appearances and "sensibilities" stone cold. However, I did not give up in despair; but when I found that in the evening she had been off continually during the whole of the day, and the eggs had retained their morning's "frigidity," my hopes respecting my hatch were completely destroyed; and having fortunately another Cochins hen broody, I despairingly put the cold eggs under her, when, to my utter astonishment, on the 29th of April, four days after their proper time, from the twelve eggs I had hatched eight beautiful chicks, which

promise remarkably well, and are at present looking strong and thriving.

It is a singular feature in this instance, that without the aid of any outside warmth, the eggs should retain sufficient heat to keep alive for so long a period the embryo chickens, without in the least conducing to their progress, which is proved by their hatching four days later than they otherwise would have done.

Trusting these remarks may prove serviceable to some of our poultry friends, I am, Sir, yours truly,

Braintree.

T. B. F.

SETTING HENS.

"WILL your lordships allow the petition to lay on the table?"

"Hens lay, brother.

"The court will not set to-morrow.

"Hens set, my lord."

Who has not heard the above? and it is said to be true. I believe, Mr. Editor, the last answer is perfectly true: I think hens set. I am sorry to differ from all the authorities you have quoted; and I am sorry to treat your research so lightly; but I differ from you. I cannot quote high authorities; but I believe sitting and setting to be two distinct acts. The human being alone sits: it is an attitude that belongs to none of the brute creation. Even the amusing and mocking monkey does not sit. If one is put near a chair, he gets into it, but he draws his legs under him. A man very much fatigued sits down: an animal lies at full length. To sit, implies to rest the body, by affording the bulky and heavy part a support, while all tension and effort is taken from the legs, although the feet are on the ground.

If a hen sits, we must have a box made perforated to allow her legs to pass through, while the eggs shall be on a board, on which her body shall sit. We shall then succeed in justifying (in my opinion) the use of the word. The only foundation I can find for the alteration is, that it is vulgar to ask a friend to set down, but it need not be so to set a hen. Fancy now, that poultry forms part of everybody's letters, a newly-fledged French scholar writing from school to his mother, displaying his lore, and asking in his letter, *Combien de ses poules sont assises?* This would be the effect of looking for "sit" in the dictionary.

Sporting gentlemen must now be good enough to take sitters when they go shooting. If a hen sits when she crouches or squats on eggs, so does the dog when he lies down before his game. To sit, is to take a seat. As my employment is to do so all day, I sign myself

SEDENTARY.

ON THE DESTRUCTION OF RATS.

MR. EDITOR,—I regret being compelled so soon to nullify "Salvia's" statement, that "rats will not visit premises where there are guinea-pigs;" but, as "facts are stubborn things," I will just relate one, for the benefit of those who may be inclined to think that they have at last found a way to terrify these pests. A few years since, being greatly annoyed by rats, and having been assured that the noise and smell of guinea-pigs would cause them to decamp, I placed a hutch containing five guinea-pigs in one of their principal haunts. For a few days I flattered myself the experiment answered; but within a fortnight after, on going to the hutch, I observed two full-grown rats make their exit by means of a hole they had gnawed in the bottom of the box, and they were afterwards seen to eat out of the very dish in which oats were placed for the guinea-pigs. I wish, for my own sake, that I could "ratify" "Salvia's" account; but after such a proof, you will not wonder that you are now troubled by

W. P.

P.S.—William Kidd gave most ample directions for the destruction of rats with phosphorus: but after having spoiled a new pair of "inexpressibles," damaged an "optic," and killed no foes, I consider myself beat. Have others been more successful?

[We heartily wish guinea-pigs proved as useful to all as they did to "Salvia." A rat (a veteran we know, by the extent of his depredations) has just established a dwelling with the entrance in our larder (we are much obliged to him for preferring that to the house where the Brahma chicks sleep). The gentleman's entrance-hall was filled with hot tar, but by the next morning he had opened it again.—Ed.]

A FEW QUESTIONS CONCERNING POULTRY.

MR. EDITOR,—I have read with much interest your remarks on the breeding and rearing of early chickens for the London market. I have great facilities for doing so, and wherever I have attempted early chickens, have been very successful, even with Dorkings. There are, however, several points on which I feel desirous of information, and I venture to hope I may obtain it through your useful publication.

I should like to know what is the earliest time at which there is a demand in Leadenhall-market for spring chickens.

At what age (or weight) are they preferred?

Are they fattened (crammed), or sold as they are?

How should they be prepared?—trussed? or only cleaned and picked?

Would a Dorking hen, nine or twelve months old, be saleable if fatted? and at what price?

How old are the "fowls" mentioned in the "Poultry Chronicle" as selling at from six to eight shillings each?

What is their weight? I do not know where "Newton-house Poultry-yard" is, but I think Mr. Ware may feel inclined to answer these questions, should he see them.—I remain, Mr. Editor, yours obediently,

A FARMER'S WIFE.

Warwickshire, 10th May.

[Our correspondent will find a portion of the information she requests in a most practical paper, written by our excellent contributor "H. R." "A Word to our Irish Friends," page 14 of the "Poultry Chronicle." We are sure he, and no doubt others of our valued correspondents, will assist her with further information.—Ed.]

POULTRY WORKS.

Sir,—May I ask the opinion of some of the numerous readers of your "Poultry Chronicle," which is the best written and published work upon domestic poultry at the present time, as to the different kinds now known in this country, fully describing them in every respect, and the best mode of management, and any other information respecting them that ought to be known or studied by an amateur; by allowing me to do this, you will very much oblige a

CHRONICLE SUBSCRIBER.

April 28, 1854.

The following has been related to me by the owner of the perpetrator of the deed. A cat was worrying, *more suo*, a mouse in the poultry-yard of a gentleman residing near Plymouth, at the time when a maid-servant was feeding the poultry. A Polish cock, disapproving of this tantalizing process, with a spirit worthy of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, watched his opportunity, and suddenly snapping up the locomotive morsel, bolted it, to the joint-stock astonishment of servant, cat, and mouse. So immediate and unhesitating was the act of deglutition, that the captive was seen to move in the crop of the bird.—*Poultry Pentologue.*

The following is an extract from an American paper, and even if the hen took the year round to do the work named, it is no small degree of productiveness for one little creature:—

AN AWFUL HEN STORY.—A man named Andrew Roggy claims, in the Washington County Post, to have a Shangae hen that laid 150 eggs, and hatched and raised three broods of chickens, between the 20th of January and the 1st of November, 1853. This would embrace a period of 284 days. Now let us figure:—

To lay 150 eggs would require
 at least - - - - - 150 days.
 The sittings would be - - - 63 "
 A hen cannot be said to raise a brood of chickens in less than 30 days, but we will say 25 - 75 "

288 "

We beg leave to doubt the veracity of Mr. Roggy's figures. We think it would be safe to add 12 days to the above for the time requisite to lay 150 eggs.

To Correspondents.

W. H. C., in reply to "C. H. B.," considers that he can prove that most poultry breeders and exhibitors are dealers, and gives authorities for reckoning all who trade in a particular commodity to be dealers.

Gus regrets that, in consequence of the negligence of his news-agent, in not getting him the "Poultry Chronicle" regularly, he has not sooner answered "J. L." and "Bessie." He writes, "I purchase my pollard,—thirds, or topplings, as it seems to be indiscriminately called here,—of Wallace, corn-dealer, Twickenham, at 2s. the bushel, weighing 24 lbs. My poultry thrive well on it, mixed with the refuse from the house."

B. C.—Old Hamburg hens frequently moult lighter after the third year. We consider them old at three or four years. They are still good to breed from, but younger birds are preferable. All great producers wear out early.

C. B. H.—There is little doubt the cock, whose case you describe, was over-fed with stimu-

lating food, probably meat, when young. We do not think him incurable. Let him have a good grass run. Give him every third day a tablespoonful of castor oil for nine days. Feed, and if necessary, cram him morning and evening with oatmeal mixed with new milk. Every two hours give him egg boiled hard and chopped fine. Whenever he will pick it, let him have stale crusts soaked in strong old ale. Much benefit may be derived from "Baily's condition pills."

Alpha would be much obliged to any reader who could tell him how to effect a cure in a Shanghae hen, which, after sitting and bringing out a brood of chickens, has lost the use of her legs.—If it is cramp, the hen should be kept warm, and may soon recover; but if it is paralysis, we should be very doubtful of her. An occasional dose of castor oil might be beneficial, but as she is already in poor condition her strength must be kept up. "*Alpha*" also mentions that amateurs need not think too much of the colour of Cochins when first hatched, as he has known dark-brown chickens turn out black, partridge, dark-necked buff, and even clear-necked buff birds when fledged. Also canary coloured chickens to turn out light buff and dark-necked cinnamon, and yellow chickens to turn out white, light buff, dark-necked buff, and partridge colour.

To *F. B.*—We will insert the letter next time, and also reply to the question, as we have not been able to get the necessary information for the present week.

H. H. S. wishes to know if there is such a society as the "Columbarian," and to whom he can apply to obtain full particulars concerning it.—We are sorry we do not possess this information, but we hope some of our readers may be able to give it. In reply to the second query, we believe nothing has at present been settled.—Our correspondent writes, in conclusion, "I am sure all pigeon fanciers will concur with me in thanking 'B. P. B.' for his excellent articles."

Φιλοπνιθα.—It will always be our endeavour to consult the convenience of our readers; at the request of several of them, we had great pleasure in adding the weekly table of contents. We are much flattered by our correspondent's expectation that the "Poultry Chronicle" in a volume will become a "useful book of reference," and shall give full consideration to the advice which he so kindly offers respecting a copious index to each volume.

An Inquirer.—We have been informed by our correspondent, signing himself "Game Cock," that the South Devon Railway Company will convey the birds free which are for exhibition at the Devon and Cornwall poultry show.

Q. Y., Boston.—We shall be pleased to receive

articles, from time to time, on the points and qualities of various fowls. Your suggestion shall receive attention.

To the *Editor of the "Country Gentleman."*—It will give us great pleasure to make the proposed exchange.

What is a Dealer?—After the letter on this subject, signed "C. H. B.," was in print, we received one from a Dublin correspondent, in which the sentiments were so similar that we regretted we could not give space to both. "*Salvia*" considers it probable that "C. H. B." failed to frighten away rats with guinea pigs, from making the attempt with one only. When there are two together they make much more noise, and when in a confined space it adds to their squeaking inclination. He mentions that a neighbour has tried the experiment with success, and suggests that the rats may fancy the music proceeds from ferrets (their mortal enemies), and so desire to be off from their company as soon as possible.

Advertisements.

EGGs FOR SITTING, of the choicest Varieties. Most of the birds have taken Prizes at Winchester, Southampton, Surrey Gardens, and Salisbury Exhibitions.

Black and White Cochins, White Polands, and Ffarmigans, 21s. per dozen.

Pure Buff Cochins, 15s. per dozen.

Post-office orders payable to FREDERIC FLIGHT, 72, High-street, Winchester.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—Mr. Hebblethwaite, of the Castle, Knaresborough, has now for SALE, two BUFF COCKS and PULLETS. The male birds have taken prizes at York, Lewes, Huddersfield, and Howden, and the Pullets are highly commended.

Address to Mr. HEBBLETHWAITE, the Castle, Knaresborough.

A PEN of WHITE COCHIN CHINA FOWLS for SALE, consisting of a Cock and two Hens, all last year's birds, and of first-rate quality. They were selected with great care for the purpose of Exhibition by the present owner, and are parted with under peculiar circumstances.—Apply to G. T. H., by letter only, post-paid, to be addressed to the Office of the "Poultry Chronicle," York-street, Coreat-garden.

EGGs from splendid imported BRAHMAS and Prize DORKINGS, 1s. each.—Apply to the POULTRYMAN, Abington Rectory, Northampton.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, near Haverhill, Suffolk, disposes of Eggs from his Buff, and also from his original Partridge-coloured, Birds, price 1s. each, and 1s. for package.—Applications for either, variety will be supplied in the order received.

EGGS from FIRST CLASS and PRIZE BIRDS.—JOHN BAILY has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg, Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

SPANISH and DORKING FOWLS.—Capt. Hornby having transferred his whole Stock of celebrated Poultry to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, of Spring Grove, Hounslow, a portion (for want of space) is for Sale.

CHEVELEY PARK, NEWMARKET—JOHN FAIRLIE, Esq., can supply EGGS for the remainder of the season at 21s. per dozen from the following prize birds:—Buff, Partridge, White and Black Cochins, Brahma Pootras, Dorkings, and Scotch Dumpies.

MR. FISHER HOBBS has EGGS for SALE from his Prize Dorking Fowls, at 5s. each, package included. Also a few Golden-pencilled Hamburg Eggs, from his birds that took First and Second Prizes, at 1s. 6d. each. A few Dorking Cocks, fellows to the prize birds, for Sale.—Apply at Boxted-lodge, Colchester.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS.—Mr. J. S. BRAND will dispose of two or three of his magnificent imported Birds, which are perfectly correct in plumage. Also, a few EGGS from the above.—Great Yarmouth, May, 1854.

GUINEA FOWLS' EGGS, 10s. the hatch of twenty-one, from the same stock that took the first prize at Norwich, and second at Birmingham. Dark Grey Dorkings, 10s. the hatch, from prize birds.—W. COPPLE, Eccleston, Prescott, Lancashire.

VALE OF TAUNTON DEANE HOTICULTURAL & FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE FIRST EXHIBITION of the above SOCIETY will be held in the VIVARY PARK, Taunton, on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, the 21st and 22nd days of JUNE next. Handsome Prizes will be awarded to Nurserymen.

The Society have resolved to hold in conjunction with the same a GRAND POULTRY EXHIBITION. Upwards of Eighty Prizes will be given.—Schedules for both Exhibitions, and all further information may be obtained of the Honorary Secretary, Mr. JOHN KINGSBURY, 10, Hammet-street, Taunton, Somersetsshire.

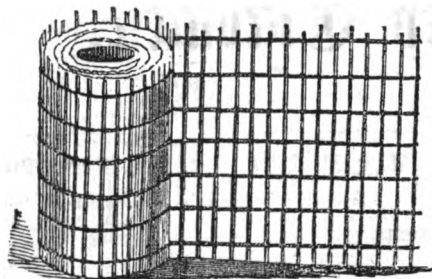
EGGS from CAPT. HORNBY'S celebrated Spanish and Dorking Prize Fowls may be had on application to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, Spring Grove, Hounslow, to whom Capt. Hornby has transferred his whole stock.

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Spanish | £4. 4s. per dozen. |
| Dorking | £3. 3s. .. |

Remittances to be made by post-office order, and to include 2s. for packing.

PRIZE FOWLS.—EGGS from White Silk Cochins, which have taken four first-class Prizes, including one at the Great Metropolitan Show, 12s. the dozen. A few first-class Buff Cochins, 7s. 6d. to 12s. each, chickens of birds which took three Prizes; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. White-faced Spanish (chickens of prize birds), 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. each; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. Brahma Pootra Eggs, from birds which took a First Prize, £2. 2s. per dozen. One pair of Brahmas (First Prize Birds) for Sale, price £15. 15s.—Apply to Mr. JAMES BARBER, Great Yarmouth.

A LADY who has taken Four Prizes in the last Season for BUENOS AYRES, or LABRADOR BLACK DUCKS, will have a few Sittings to part with during this month and next, at 10s. per set of thirteen, quite fresh laid, and package included. Also, some Rouen Duck Eggs, of a very large breed, at 7s. 6d., package included. Fine speckled or Grey Dorkings (some of the hens are of a prize breed) at 8s. the set of thirteen. A young Black Buenos Ayres Duck and Drake to be disposed of,—the Duck laying,—price £1. 1s. A Black Pole Cockerel and Pullet, with good white top-knots, price £1. 5s.—Direct to Mr. THOMAS BROMWICH, Jun., Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham.



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 strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c.,
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THE THIRD Grand Annual Summer EXHIBITION OF POULTRY will take place at the above magnificent Establishment, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 14th and 15th, 1854. —For particulars enclose a fully directed stamped envelope to **JESSOP, BROTHERS, Secretaries, The Aviaries, Cheltenham.**

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TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Preserving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage-free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

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Samples and testimonials sent by post, on application to **CROGON & CO., 2, Dowgate-hill, London,** who also supply **SHIP SHEATHING FELT,** and **INODOROUS FELT,** for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

TO POULTRY FANCIERS.

EGGS.—**BUFF, COCHIN,** and **SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURGS.**—A few sittings from these Birds may now be had: Cochins, 13s. per dozen; Hamburgs, 7s. per dozen, including packing.—The Cochins are out of the birds that obtained the first prize at the Newcastle Show, 1853, Class 1. The Hamburgs took the first prize at Newcastle, April 20, 1854, Class 21, Number 132.—Eggs sent on receipt of Post-office order addressed to **SEPTIMUS YOUNG, Esq., North Shields.**

SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY-HOUSE, £4. **S** consisting of house 4 feet square and 6 feet high, and roofed run for fowls 9 feet by 4 feet. Drawings of several sent free. The above are portable, and can be taken down or put up by any ordinary labourer. Wire work from 6 to 15 inches wide, 6½d. per square yard, to enclose poultry, &c.—**R. RICHARDSON, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, near King's-cross, N.B.** Maker of garden summer-houses, and iron and wood houses for emigrants; drawings of 21 Emigrants' houses, and 28 Summer-houses, sent free.

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Wholesale Agents, G. ROUTLEDGE & Co.,
 Farringdon-street.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 13.]

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1854.

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Poultry Shows.

Holmfirth Agricultural Society's First Spring Show of Poultry, Pigeons, and Rabbits, Monday, May 29th. Honorary Secretary, J. Tinker, Esq., Holmfirth. Entries are closed. The Society's Annual Agricultural Exhibition will take place August 25th, the Schedules of which will be ready on the 29th of May.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries are closed.

Cheltenham Third Annual Summer Exhibition, at the Pittville Spa, June 14th and 15th. Secretaries, the Messrs. Jessop, Brothers, The Aviaries, Cheltenham. Entries close June 3rd.

West Kent Association, at Farningham, Tuesday, June 20th, and following day. Secretary, Baptiste Thomas, Esq. Entries close June 5th.

Vale of Taunton Deane Horticultural Society, in the Vivary Park, Taunton, Wednesday and Thursday, June 21st and 22nd. Honorary Secretary, John Kingsbury, Esq., 10, Hammett-street, Taunton. Entries close June 13th.

Devon and Cornwall Poultry Society, June 27th and 28th. Secretaries, Mr. W. Hunt, Public

Library, Plymouth, and C. Hancock, Esq., Emma-place, Stonehouse. Entries close June 12th.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries close June 1st.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th. The Schedule will be ready soon.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. The Schedule not quite ready.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

THE capabilities of a subject are never known till they are tested. That which seemed most limited often proves nearly inexhaustible, and a temporary hobby becomes a delightful pursuit. We have found it so with this paper; ourselves poultry amateurs, we have, through it, formed delightful acquaintances, we hope we may say valuable friends. We have an innocent, cheerful, and healthy recreation in tending our fowls. But nothing has given us more pleasure than the communications which pour in upon us from those who are anxious to carry out our suggestions for making poultry the means of bettering the condition of labourers in the agricultural districts. We earnestly believe much good may be done by it, and it has this advantage, that it affords the means to agricultural labourers of earning money, and, consequently, not only of averting poverty, but of raising them in

the social scale, and relieving them from the slavish dread of the union, which engenders either prostration or recklessness, both equally lamentable.

Whatever may be the end of the present poultry mania, it is unquestionable that the demand for poultry will continue. Immense numbers of fowls are being exported daily, and although the supply may be greatly increased, it is unequal to the demand.

It was said, years ago, that when railways were finished, horses and oats would be unsaleable. Every one knows this has not been the case, and it will be so with poultry. We are entirely without statistical returns on the subject, but if they were compiled, people would be astonished at the great consumption both of eggs and of birds. We know the number of the former that is *imported*, but we have no idea how many are sent daily from Scotland, and from different parts of the country, to the London market. Poultry, except to rich people, has always been a luxury, it may still continue so during a few months in the year; but there is no reason why, in the autumn and winter months, it should not be within reach of those whose means are small. It can be raised at little expense, and sold for little money. We think it is one of our duties to bring these facts constantly before our readers and subscribers. We believe, a horse that had once been first favourite for the "Derby" was sold by auction for eleven pounds; we know that thorough-breds are to be met with in cabs. They were "once upon a time" much thought of for coaching purposes; they are still

prized for common work, because of their "blood," and it is undeniable that immense good has been done by the breeders of them, as though many prove unfit for the turf, yet, for other purposes, they are valuable animals. So it will be with poultry; the disqualified for exhibitions will supply our markets plentifully with capital birds; wherever such are offered for sale, purchasers will be found, and they will create a market where none before existed.

Schedule of the Taunton Show.

THE Vale of Taunton Deane Horticultural and Floricultural Society will hold an Exhibition of Poultry and Pigeons in the Vivary Park, Taunton, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 21st and 22nd of June, in conjunction with the usual Horticultural Show.

A First and Second Prize of 20s. and 10s. respectively is offered for the best Cock and two Hens of each of the following classes:—

1. Spanish.
2. Dorking.
3. Cochin China (Brown or Partridge).
4. Cochin China (Buff, Lemon, or Cinnamon).
5. Cochin China (White or Black).
6. Malay.
7. Game (Black, Brassy-winged, Black-breasted, and other Reds).
8. Game (White, Piles, Greys, and Blues).
9. Hamburg (Gold or Silver-pencilled).
10. Hamburg (Gold or Silver-spangled).
11. Poland (Black).
12. Poland (Gold or Silver).
13. Any other pure breed.
14. Hybrids.

Two Prizes of 10s. and 5s. for each variety of Bantams (Silver-laced, Gold-laced, Black, and White).

For Turkeys, Geese, Aylesbury and Rouen Ducks, and Ducks of any other variety, two Prizes each of 20s. and 10s.; and one Prize of 10s. to the best pair of each of the following varieties of Pigeons,—Carriers, Tumblers, Runts, Fantails, Pouters, Barbets, Jacobins, Trumpeters, Owls, Nuns, Turbits, and any other variety.

We give some of the regulations, omitting those which are the same at most exhibitions.

REGULATIONS.

1. All exhibitors will be required to pay 2s. 6d. for each entry, in the classes giving first prizes of 20s., and 1s. 6d. in the classes giving first prizes of 10s., to aid in defraying the expenses of pens, food, &c. The amount to be paid to the honorary secretary at the time of entry.

2. All entries are requested to be made to the honorary secretary, on or before Tuesday, the 13th of June, on certificates, which will be furnished by him on application, and no entry can be made after that time.

3. Exhibitors will, in all cases, be required to affix a price at which they will sell their specimens; but it is desired that the words "not to be sold" may be used instead of a prohibitory price, where the owners do not wish to effect a sale.

4. Should any pen be claimed, a sale must take place through the honorary secretary, when five per cent. will be deducted towards the expenses of the Exhibition. No offer will be accepted until three o'clock on the first day of exhibition, and should there be more than one application for the same pen, at the same time, the highest offer will be taken.

9. The Exhibition will not be limited to any particular district; and facilities will be afforded to professed dealers for the sale of specimens, subject to the deduction named in rule 4.

10. Persons exhibiting as dealers to affix prices, and pay an entrance-fee of 3s. for each pen not exceeding six specimens; such specimens to be entered and paid for, in accordance with rule 2.

11. It is particularly requested that no birds be sent, unless in a perfectly healthy condition. All specimens must be sold in pens, and not divided.

14. All the specimens intended for exhibition must be at the place of exhibition on Tuesday, the 20th of June, or they will not be admitted. Baskets, hampers, &c., to be addressed to the honorary secretary; and the carriage in every case to be previously paid by the exhibitor.

16. All letters addressed to the honorary secretary, requiring a reply, to contain a fully directed stamped envelope.

17. All prizes, and the amount of sales, will be paid at any hour during the second day, on application to the honorary secretary.

19. Subscribers to the Horticultural Society will be charged 1s. each admission to the Poultry Show on the first day; non-subscribers will be charged 2s., which will include admission to both Exhibitions; and on the second day the charge

will be 1s. to all visitors, which will include admission to both Exhibitions. Subscribers' tickets will be available only on the first day.

20. The Exhibition will be subject to such further regulations, or bye-laws, as the committee may find it expedient to adopt, of which due notice will be given.

21. The Show will close on the second day, at four o'clock, and all birds will be despatched to their destination the same evening.

JOHN KINGSBURY, *Hon. Sec.*,
10, Hammet Street, Taunton.

Schedule of the Farningham Show.

THE West Kent Association will hold their Second Annual Poultry Exhibition, in conjunction with the Flower Show, at Farningham, in the Market Field, on Tuesday, June 20th (for the private view), and on the following day.

PRIZE LIST.

COCHIN CHINA (Buff or Cinnamon).

Class.

1. For the best Cock and two Hens
above 18 months old £1 10 0
Ditto, not exceeding 18 months old 1 0 0

COCHIN CHINA (Brown and Partridge-feathered, and White).

- 2-3. For the best Cock and two Hens
above 18 months old 1 0 0
Ditto, not exceeding 18 months old 0 15 0

COCHIN CHINA (Chickens of any colour).

4. For the best coop of Six or more
Chickens of one brood, not exceeding 3 months old 1 10 0
Second Prize 1 0 0

DORKING (Single-combed or Rose-combed, and White).

- 5-6. For the best Cock and two Hens
above 18 months old 1 10 0
Ditto, not exceeding 18 months old 1 0 0

DORKING (Chickens of any colour).

7. For the best coop of Six or more
Chickens, of one brood, not exceeding 3 months old 1 10 0
Second Prize 1 0 0

SPANISH.

8. For the best Cock and two Hens
above 18 months old 1 10 0
Ditto, not exceeding 18 months old 1 0 0

SPANISH (Chickens).

Class.

9. For the best coop of Six or more
Chickens, of one brood, not exceeding 3 months old £1 10 0
Second Prize 1 0 0

HAMBURG (Golden or Silver-pencilled).

10. For the best Cock and two Hens
above 18 months old 1 10 0
Ditto, not exceeding 18 months old 1 0 0

HAMBURG (Golden or Silver-spangled).

11. For the best Cock and two Hens
above 18 months old 1 0 0
Ditto, not exceeding 18 months old 0 15 0

HAMBURG (Chickens, Golden or Silver-pencilled or spangled).

12. For the best coop of Six or more
Chickens, of one brood, not exceeding 3 months old 1 10 0
Second Prize 1 0 0

POLAND FOWL (Of any colour, with or without ruffs or beards).

13. For the best Cock and two Hens
above 18 months old 1 0 0
Ditto, not exceeding 18 months old 0 10 0

POLAND FOWL (Black, with white crests, or all white).

14. For the best Cock and two Hens
above 18 months old 1 10 0
Ditto, not exceeding 18 months old 1 0 0

POLAND FOWL (Chickens of any sort).

15. For the best coop of Six or more
Chickens, of one brood, not exceeding 3 months old 1 10 0
Second Prize 1 0 0

CROSS BETWEEN ANY BREED.

As the crossing of the different breeds of poultry may produce the most valuable results, all crosses must be particularized with the pedigree of the races from which they sprang.

16. For the best Cock and two Hens
above 18 months old 1 0 0
Ditto, not exceeding 18 months old 0 10 0

CHICKENS or PULLETS.

17. The great object in fixing the Exhibition of this Society in the middle of June is to encourage breeders in their endeavours to increase the natural fecundity and precocity of the different species of Poultry, so as to produce the most valuable descriptions for the Table, either by

crossing the various breeds, or preserving their original purity. With this view, a Grand Prize of a GOLD MEDAL will be given for the best brood of Six or more Chickens, of any breed, properly described, hatched since Christmas, 1853.

GAME FOWL (Of any colour).

Class.

18. For the best Cock and two Hens
above 18 months old .. £1 0 0
Ditto, not exceeding 18 months old 1 0 0

BANTAMS (Gold or Silver-laced, Black, and other varieties).

Two Prizes are offered for each variety, of 15s. and 10s. respectively.

DUCKS (Aylesbury, Rouen, and other varieties).
Drake and two Ducks, two Prizes to each kind, of £1 and 10s.

DUCKLINGS (Of any sort).

21. For the best brood of Five or more
Ducklings, not exc. 8 weeks old 1 0 0
Ditto, hatched since Christmas, 1853 1 0 0

GEESE.

22. For the best Gander and two Geese 1 0 0
Second Prize 0 15 0

GOSLINGS.

23. For the best brood of Five or more
Goslings, hatched since Christmas, 1853 1 10 0

TURKEYS.

24. For the best Cock and two Hens .. 1 0 0
Second Prize 0 15 0

GUINEA FOWL.

25. For the best pair 0 15 0

PEA FOWL.

26. For the best Peacock and Hen .. Silver Medal
Second Prize 0 15 0

FOR ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED OF POULTRY.

27. The Judges will award a First, Second, or Third Prize in this Class, according to their respective merit, to deserving specimens of a Cock and two Hens above 18 months old; to a Cock and two Hens not exceeding 18 months old; also to Single Birds of any age, as well as to Breeds of different ages hatched since Christmas, 1853, of any distinct variety not mentioned in the foregoing Classes.

PIGEONS.

Pouters or Croppers (any colour), and Carriers, two Prizes of £1 and 10s. Dragons, Tumblers, Bald-heads, Beards, Jacobines, Fantails (of any colour), Large Spanish or Leghorn Runts, two Prizes to each variety of 15s. and 10s. For the best pair of any new variety, a Prize of 10s.

RABBITS.

For the most worthy specimen, two Prizes of £1. 10s. and £1.

We give those of the regulations which relate expressly to this exhibition; the remainder belong to every poultry show.

The ages of the Chickens must be accurately stated, and those under 18 months old may be shown in the classes for fowls of any age, at the option of the exhibitor.

Cottagers may compete in any of the classes free of expense, upon approval of the Committee. A subscriber of 10s., or holder of two 5s. cards of admission, may nominate one cottager; a subscriber of 20s. two cottagers, and so in proportion.

Exhibitors must state a price for all specimens that are for sale; specimens that are not for sale must, therefore, be distinctly so stated.

The Exhibition will not be limited to any particular district.

Exhibitors of Poultry to pay 2s. 6d. for each pen; Pigeons, 1s. 6d.; Rabbits, 2s.

The certificates of entry will be ready on or before the 27th of May; and no entry can be registered but from such certificates, for which class labels will be returned. The entries will close on the 5th of June.

The whole of the specimens must be in the place of exhibition on Monday, the 19th of June. Hampers, baskets, &c., must be sent (carriage paid), to the Secretary, Lion Inn, Farningham.

Subscribers of 5s. will be entitled to one card of admission to the Private View, Tuesday, June 20th, and the following day; subscribers of 10s. to two cards of admission; and subscribers of £1 or more, to additional cards, in like proportion. It is particularly requested that the subscriptions may be paid as early as possible, to facilitate the nomination of cottagers as competitors, as well as the early distribution of the admission cards.

Admission to non-subscribers (on Tuesday, the private view), 5s. each; on Wednesday, 2s. 6d. each; and after four o'clock, 1s. each.

Ten per cent. will be deducted from all sales towards defraying the expenses of the Exhibition.

BAPTISTE THOMAS, Sec.

Notes by "Alector."

THE "Poultry Chronicle" is fast verging into a state of monomania. Its correspondents touch upon nothing but cocks and hens in general, and Cochin Chinas and Brahma Pootras in particular. I propose, therefore, by way of administering a salutary alterative, to indulge myself with noting, in Hibernian fashion, some points on which past numbers have *not* touched.

Although I do not pretend to an intimate acquaintance with any of the denizens of the poultry-yard, beyond the varieties of the domesticated cocks and hens, yet, having had opportunities of observing the stocks of others, and having occasionally kept geese, ducks, &c., myself, I think I may be sufficiently qualified for the task of setting the ball a-going, and perhaps some of your correspondents, who may be more practically conversant with the subject than I am, will be able to improve upon my matter, so as to make it a more trustworthy guide to the tyro. I will, without more ado, commence with—

The Peacock, however ornamental it may be, is a decided nuisance in places where there is not ample room, and where the gardens are not well watched. The voice, too, is anything but agreeable; but there is some consolation in the fact, that its harsh notes are a kind of barometer, and foretell rain. It is almost impossible to eradicate their untamed propensity to roost on the tops of trees or houses, from whence, at the earliest dawn of day, they descend on foraging excursions into the gardens, where naught in the shape of fruit comes amiss to them, to say nothing of the buds of plants and shrubs, which they pick out as cleverly as a bullfinch. If pinioned, or confined to an aviary, they become almost useless as ornaments; for it is in their flight and freedom of action that their chief beauty consists. When, however, they are kept in large numbers at some little distance from the house, viz., at an

entrance-lodge, they form a very ornamental addition to the beauty of a park or extensive lawn.

I believe these birds are polygamous, but am not at all sure. Both the cock and hen are great destroyers of the young of other poultry, and especially the latter when she has a family of her own; but this propensity is more developed in some individuals than others. They do not breed so early as other kinds of poultry, nor are they so prolific; the hen not breeding till her third year, and her eggs rarely exceeding half-a-dozen in number. She invariably steals her nest, and if disturbed, as invariably forsakes it. The period of incubation is 28 days, and the chicks, with care, are not particularly difficult to rear, at least not more than those of Turkeys and Guinea fowl. As a matter of profit they are not worth the trouble of rearing, as some eight or nine months must elapse before they are fit for the spit, and then they are not, according to my solitary opportunity of judging, so good as Turkey poults.

I only know of two kinds of Pea fowl, viz., the common variety and the white, which latter is, I presume, an *albino* "sport" from the former. There is, I believe, a third sort, but I have never seen it. The white Pea fowl has only novelty to recommend it, its plumage and train being very inferior.

The Points of the Spanish Fowl.

THERE have of late been many inquiries and remarks in the "Poultry Chronicle" respecting Spanish fowls, and, as misapprehensions seem to exist on several points, I have thought it would be acceptable to your readers if I gave a short description of them, and of what are considered their principal merits in competition. The cocks should have upright, the hens, falling combs; but there is a peculiarity in this point, that birds reversing the carriage of combs, with perfectly white

faces, would be judged more meritorious than others, faultless in this particular, but having red intermixed with white. It cannot be too strongly impressed on Spanish breeders and amateurs, that the purely white face is the most arbitrary rule in judging fowls of this breed, and will cover many trifling deficiencies. Of course, the plumage should be black, without mixture of any other colour. The body should incline to a point, every way, to the tail, which should be ample, and carried cheerfully. The head should be long, and the face skinny; the beak strong; the legs long, compared with many other breeds, and, invariably, of a leaden blue shade.

Although cocks at seven months, and pullets at ten, ought to give promise of what they will be when they come to maturity, yet I would not advise the beginner to be precipitate in forming a judgment, and condemning those that are not apparently perfect, as many, and more especially pullets, are from eighteen months to two years in becoming really white, and it is undeniable that a Spanish hen improves up to three years old.

XERES.

The Poultry Maid.

CHAPTER I.

MANY amateurs that used formerly to tolerate a dozen neglected fowls, now keep a hundred, which are well cared for. In many families where giving the fowls their corn used to be a duty which fell to the lot of cook, housemaid, gardener, or any one who might happen to observe or to recollect that they were hungry, the poultry-yard is now a department to receive requisite attention and attendance, like the garden, the piggery, the kennel, and the stable; to contribute, like them, produce for the use of the family, or pleasant recreation for its members: the honour of success, very often, and the attendant profit which always waits on the possession of anything excellent of its kind.

There are many ladies, and gentlemen too, living in country villages (and also in towns), who take an interest in their poor neighbours, and who are pleased with an opportunity of serving them in the manner most likely to lead to a satisfactory result. Every one who has taken an interest in placing out young girls of the working classes, has found a great difficulty in getting places for lasses from eleven to sixteen years old. At this age, unless they have been brought up with unusually tidy habits, they are no very valuable acquisition for household work. Frequently where the lady of a family could have patience with a girl unaccustomed to the observances of a house, so different in every respect from those of her father's cottage or lodging, and promote and wait for improvement, her fellow-servants, occupied with their own work, and more nearly interfered with by the troublesome faults of the novice, find it too much to put up with annoyances of daily—perhaps hourly—recurrence. The girl is dismissed to find another place, which she leaves in the same manner, and thus a few years of her young life pass away, until the time when practice and the experience of life have made a servant of her; and we find one to whom habit has given an indifference to—almost a fondness for—perpetual change.

Yet girls cannot be supported by their parents until they are old enough to profit more readily by the teaching which they receive in service.

Now the young are always fond of living things, and are often faithful and trustworthy in the care of them. There is no hard work in the care of poultry! nothing which would not promote activity, growth, and education; nothing which an industrious, careful, conscientious little girl, from ten to fourteen years old, could not *do well*; and, while her work is such as she *can do well*, she *cannot* live in a respectable family without gaining a certain knowledge of household work,—a knowledge which will ease her path when-

ever she may turn to it at a future time. Thus a few years pass away. If after that time she can still be employed about poultry, she has what she may almost call a trade at command; and if not, the very qualities of obedience, tidiness, method, and careful observance, which have been called into play, will make a valuable servant of any kind.

Amateurs now are not very limited in number. If a good many would take young girls in this manner, the benefit to the working classes would be great in a thing which is found difficult in so many families—getting out the girls. And for the young girls themselves, how much better than either idling at home or working in the fields.

Nor would it be a one-sided benefit. In the case of how many amateurs does success come short of expectation because they cannot work out their ideas in the arrangements which they plan; and how many amateurs there are who have the head to plan, but who have not the hand to do the work. This is especially the case now that so many of our countrywomen pay attention to the home-improving, useful, and truly feminine amusement of rearing and improving our domestic poultry.

Perfect cleanliness and constant watchfulness are two very important items towards success, especially with our young chickens; and however much a lady may be annoyed by their absence, and see its injurious effects, she cannot, conveniently, either take a broom in hand, or spend much time among her fowls.

To take a little girl, whose chief appointed duty it is to do as she is bid, among the poultry,—to act under direction, carefully and exactly, will prove a very good thing, both for the fowls and for their owners, and not very expensive either. In a family, from the middle rank upwards, one more at table makes little difference, and how many hundreds of parents would be thankful to have their little girls hired at a shilling a week, or less! for at their

table one hearty girl is not a small addition, nor is it with them a small consideration to establish the health of a growing child, by securing for her a regular and ample supply of food.

E. W.

Cottagers' Prizes.

NO. III.

SEVERAL of your correspondents, as well as myself, having recorded their individual opinions as to the expediency of allotting prizes to cottagers at our general exhibitions of poultry, it is possible a few simple remarks as to the fowls most suitable for labourers' purposes, with the most easy mode to obtain them, will not, to many of your readers, be either irksome or intrusive. There is always to be borne in mind, in the consideration of this subject, that to parties thus limited in means, an extensive outlay at the onset is perfectly out of the question, being altogether impracticable; for, allowing a man to be fettered with the cares and expenses of a large family, combined with but a trivial amount of weekly gains, very probably in almost all instances the wages are literally "bespoke" before they are received; the huxter monopolizes nearly the whole, and the remnant goes in allotted portions for the weekly payment of the itinerant packman or the village shoemaker. Under these circumstances, when fairly weighed, it is no longer a matter of surprise that this really beneficial branch of humble rural economy has been hitherto so completely neglected, and that even the doubt has sometimes found expression, whether cottagers could keep poultry to advantage. It is, however, simply the want of trial that has produced such impressions, and I feel confident, if fairly and perseveringly carried out, all such preconceived ideas must in justice be at once abandoned.

It has been my happy lot to know personally many who have, through the keeping of poultry, been much raised in position—their children better attended—their

households been made more comfortable and respectable, in proof of which your readers will easily call to mind a few of my experiences, as previously narrated in the "Poultry Chronicle." There are no doubt some instances of failure; for as in trade occupations, if negligently pursued, the issues are, as a matter of course, perfectly identical—without care, no benefits can possibly arise—with thoughtfulness and attention the advantages are as certain (and may be calculated on as positively) as with any other kind of "live stock." Accidents and disappointments may arise, but just in proportion to the attention paid will be the probabilities of future advantage. I make these what to some may appear rather prosy remarks, because it has been my annoyance to find some labourers, when they have once obtained a few excellent fowls, leave them entirely to shift for themselves, or to become a perpetual annoyance to near neighbours. I have known also some others, who, after their possession (a week or two) have become listless and inattentive, and thus altogether blighted every hope and expectation; but I myself rather look upon these cases as only the temporary bane of my desires, for on the other hand the industrious and careful have given me confidence in asserting that the poultry thus obtained has not been misapplied or unproductive of the most extended advantages both to themselves individually and to their dependent families. The only thing necessary to be strictly observed is, where poultry are gratuitously presented, to let the gift be restricted as far as possible to parties that will really value the proffered birds, and carefully attend to their afterwards. It may by some individuals be considered that to have withheld the foregoing statement (as far as regards CARELESS labourers) would have been the better policy; that only to have made known "the brighter side of the picture" would have been the most likely to promote the ends I have in view. I fancy otherwise—and think, to be "forewarned of mis-

haps," not unfrequently altogether prevents their taking place, and even "produces the best feelings in the long run." I am aware also that no small proportion of my fellow-creatures, if unsuccessful in their first attempts, either abandon at once the effort as hopeless, or else pursue it afterwards with so little energy, that eventual success cannot fairly be expected, and for this reason therefore I have plainly "given both sides of the question." Let the really deserving be your only care (and but little discrimination, if well known, is necessary to advise you among those in your own neighbourhood); if so arranged, there is naught to fear as to the sequel; but if, contrariwise, you lavishly attempt to confer such gifts wholesale and indiscriminately, the result will of course be occasionally vexatious, and almost tempt you to declare yourself opposed to the principle, or, may be (in a spirit of pettishness), resolve not to trouble yourself with the attempt in future. Let us see how much benefit may be conferred with the least injury to donors. It will not be denied by any amateur breeder, that, however excellent and perfect the "parent birds" from which they are produced, there will be a proportion of chickens quite useless for the purposes of the "exhibition-pen;" these, when grown, must either be used for table purposes, or at least they must be kept till they are of sufficient size for the poulterer. There are but few amateurs who are not complaining, before the season draws to a close, of being "overstocked," that they have "not room," and that these fowls (now half grown) "injure each other from being crowded too closely." As it is oftentimes by no means difficult to select the indifferent chickens at a very early age, it would save great trouble to their owner, and give a chance to the remaining better ones, if these were removed at a very much earlier period than is now generally adopted, for too frequently this necessary duty is delayed until over-population has caused deterioration in the whole flock, and therefore no after-care can then counterbalance the

effects of former negligence. Many of these youngsters, though literally valueless to the person who bred them, would be of great worth to the needy and the exigent (at their very outset in life), who would be able thus to rear a few fowls from these outcasts, which, for utility (not exhibition), might prove equally valuable with their more favoured fellows. Any chickens deficient in the general traits of character, such as malformation in the combs (according to their respective varieties), or, among Dorkings, those wanting the additional toe, will be for cottagers "generally useful," and perchance pave the way to better ones; these can be detected the very day they leave the egg-shell; and when an amateur has limited room, and is desirous of raising "exhibition birds," will, if kept among his own, be an eyesore and objection, and therefore the gift of such (however desirable to the recipients) will, to himself, be but a very trifling self-denial. I have alluded to the deficiency of the extra toe in Dorking chickens, which oftentimes (in spite of every care) will show itself; these, for show birds, are, of course, "disqualified," but so far from being less useful for domestic purposes, are absolutely more so.

E. C.

Philo-Peristeron Society.

IN reply to the inquiry of "H. H. S." "if there is such a Society as the Columbarian," a reader of the "Poultry Chronicle" sends us the rules of the above society, which he says used formerly to go by that name.

Freemasons' Tavern, Jan. 1853.

At a Meeting held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, Strand, on Monday, the 4th day of January, 1847, J. J. Bowler Esq. in the chair, it was resolved, by the gentlemen then present, to form a Society for the enjoyment of social converse, the improvement of the breed, the discussion of subjects relating to, and the exhibition of, every variety of Pigeon, worthy the attention of the Fancier.

1. Resolved, that the Society be called "The Philo-Peristeron Society."

2. That it be conducted by a President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Committee of four, three to form a quorum. The President being an ex-officio member and chairman thereof.

3. That a President, two Vice-Presidents, Committee, Treasurer, Auditors, and Secretary, be elected annually, at the next meeting to that of the anniversary of the Society; the holders of these offices being eligible for re-election.

4. That the ordinary meetings of the Society commence in October, at seven o'clock p.m., and on each alternate Tuesday up to March, inclusive, also an intermediate meeting on the second Tuesday in July, for the exhibition of young birds.

5. That a grand public exhibition of birds take place annually, on the anniversary meeting of the Society, between the hours of one and four o'clock, p.m. to which visitors shall be admitted by tickets only, subscribed with a member's name.

6. That at the general meeting held for the election of officers, &c., it shall be competent for members to propose any alteration or addition to the rules; such alteration or addition having the written sanction of a majority of the founders, and of which notice shall have been given to the secretary at least one month previously.

7. That any member desirous of submitting a subject for discussion, may at a meeting give notice thereof, in writing, to the secretary, who shall read the same to the members present, and inform all absent ones when the discussion will take place; but which shall not in any case be earlier than the succeeding meeting; and it would contribute much to the convenience of the discussion if the proposer, in his notice, divide the subject into heads, as particular objects of consideration.

8. That all motions made must be duly seconded, or the chairman shall not put them to the meeting.

9. That the members dine together annually, in commemoration of the formation of the Society, on the second Tuesday in January in each year.

10. That members may invite friends to dine with the Society, on the same terms as members.

11. That the election of members be by ballot, two negatives to be an exclusion.

12. That persons desirous of becoming members, be in the first instance introduced as visitors, at a subsequent meeting may be proposed and seconded, and ballotted for at the next. The proposer to hand to the secretary the name, address, and profession of the person proposed, in writing, and the secretary shall, at his earliest convenience, on the same evening, affix it conspicuously in the room, for the information of the

members present, and forward a written notice thereof to those that may be absent.

13. That each member on his election pay £1 entrance-fee to the funds of the Society, in addition to the annual subscription of one guinea.

14. That members at the commencement of the season in September pay an annual subscription of one guinea; but if such subscription remain unpaid in November, the secretary shall give notice that unless it be paid on or before the last meeting in December, it will be considered that the member has retired from the Society.

15. That members retiring from the Society renounce their claim to the show pens, and all other privileges and advantages of the Society.

16. That upon the retirement of a senior member, the Secretary announce to the Society the name of the next member in rotation, who shall be entitled to fill the vacancy, and exercise all rights and privileges attaching to it.

17. That the names of the officers and members of the Society be printed with the rules.

18. That members be at liberty to introduce friends, except on evenings appropriated to business, but the same visitor not more than three times in one season; and that any person not being known to a member, and desirous of introduction, may send his card to the President.

19. That gentlemen, non-residents of the metropolis, may become members of this Society without previous introduction, on satisfactory reference being given, and amateurs of every country are invited to become correspondents.

20. That birds exhibited are not to be considered for sale; but any member desirous of purchasing, shall be at liberty, on payment of one shilling to the funds, to put a bird or birds up for sale; it being competent for any member to bid for the same, and the highest bidder shall become the purchaser; reserving the right to the owner to make one (and only one) bidding. In default of exercising such right, or after having done so, a higher bidding be made, the bird shall become the property of such higher bidder, upon payment of the sum bidden.

21. That the Committee be authorised to allow a reasonable remuneration for the carriage of any extraordinary specimens exhibited to the Society by persons not being members—permission to send such birds to be first obtained of the Society—and which the Treasurer is authorised to pay in the manner hereinafter directed.

22. That all moneys be paid to the Secretary, and be handed over by him to the Treasurer.

23. That the Treasurer make no disbursements except on a draft, in writing, signed by the President and Secretary.

24. That in all matters relating to finance,

proxies be received, such proxies to be deposited in the hands of the Chairman.

25. That the Auditors examine the accounts, and report thereon to the Society, not exceeding one month after the anniversary meeting.

26. That minutes of the proceedings at the meetings of the Society be taken by the Secretary, and entered in a book to be kept for that purpose, as a means of reference, and as a record of the Society's transactions, and that such minute-book and books of accounts be laid on the table after the audit of the season.

27. That the Society shall not be dissolved without the consent of a majority of at least two-thirds of the members, when the show pens, or any other property of the society, shall be disposed of to the best advantage, and the proceeds equally divided amongst the then members.

28. That no Pigeon Dealer be admitted either as a member or visitor of this Society.

29. That all subjects not otherwise provided for, shall be referred to the Committee for consideration and decision, with power to call a special General Meeting if necessary.

Cleanliness in Poultry-houses.

THIS may be attained in a great degree by spreading rough hay beneath the roosting places. The droppings may be easily removed by shaking up the hay every morning. A little lime beneath the hay is still further useful. I have tried this, and find it answer well.

T. P.

Columbarian Societies.

IN reply to a question from "H. H. S.," a correspondent has obliged us with the following information.

There is such a society as the Columbarian, and it holds its meetings at a tavern in the Borough-market, Southwark, each alternate Thursday evening during the autumn and winter. Mr. Eaton, the able author of the work on the "Almond Tumbler," presides as Chairman. The fanciers also meet one evening in the intervening week, at the United States Tavern, Liverpool-street, City, over which meetings Mr. Morey presides; and on these occasions the members meet to enjoy each

other's conversation, and to exhibit their favourites: an entrance-fee of 10s., as a subscription towards defraying expenses and to keep the members from improper intrusion, is required for admission to the society over which Mr. Eaton presides. The applicant must be introduced by a member; but at the United States Tavern, this is not required. There is also a society of gentlemen pigeon-fanciers, known as the "Philo" Club, who hold their meetings and exhibitions occasionally at Anderton's and the British Hotel, of which a Mr. Esquilant is the secretary; but this is very exclusive, and admission can only be obtained by a member's introduction: birds, quite equal to any to be seen there, are shown by the Spitalfields weavers at their tavern shows through the winter, and may be seen by any one who will condescend to visit them. Mr. C. H. Brown, late of King's Cottage, but now of No. 7, Jubilee-street, Mile-end-road, would be a good party to apply to for further information, from his long connection with the fancy; or probably Mr. Eaton, of 7, Islington-green, would render it.

The Exeter Poultry Exhibition.

THE second annual show of poultry took place at Exeter, on Thursday, the 18th inst., and the following day, drawing together a very numerous and fashionable company. At sunrise on Thursday, the rain commenced falling, at first only in slight drizzle, afterwards increasing until everything bespoke a very heavy and settled rain; and it was under these inauspicious circumstances, Dr. Scott, of Exeter; Mr. Edward Hewitt, of Birmingham; and Mr. Baker, of Chelsea, commenced (and likewise carried through) their duties as judges. The disadvantages of an exhibition, exposed entirely to the vicissitudes of our ever-variable climate, were here fully illustrated, and caused great apprehensions on the part of the committee, lest it might seriously affect

the returns to the general society; most luckily (and unexpectedly), however, the weather cleared up altogether about mid-day (the time for the public admission)—the sunshine alike dispelling the heavy clouds which had previously obstructed his own rays, and not in a less degree "clouded the hopes" of the original promoters of the exhibition.

It is obvious that, for many reasons, an "under-cover show" has (all things considered) manifest advantages over an exposed one; for had not this opportune change of atmosphere taken place just when it did, the whole affair must unavoidably have resulted in a complete failure. As it was, however, the warmth of May soon absorbed the surface-lying water; the sun shone brightly, as if itself rejoicing in the happy change; many hundreds of the fair sex, gaily attired, bespoke the general holiday; and last, though by no means least, the regimental band from the adjoining barracks, having, by the kind permission of their commandant, been permitted to attend, played at intervals many lovely ballads; but, from the military fervour that now pervades all classes among us, the warlike airs were evidently most congenial to the public ear, and frequently drew forth well-merited applause. The arrangements for the show (had the weather not failed) were such as reflect great credit on the managing committee; ranged on three terraces, the competing pens told pleasingly and to great effect, the local advantages of situation being unusually good; the wide banks of grass, verdant with the freshness of spring; the lofty trees, waving in the brightness of the after-day; the echoes of the band from the far-off buildings, and the exultant crowings of the poultry, when all combined, forming a subject of genial congratulation, and we sincerely hope many such happy reunions may enliven the future meetings of the Exeter Poultry and Horticultural Society. Still, however, we indulge the idea, that a suitable provision against stormy weather

would not prove itself a mistaken prudential measure, and is a subject quite worthy of the careful attention of the committees of poultry shows in general.

Public taste is now fairly aroused to the utilitarian character of poultry, and as a necessary consequence, we find the most useful are the most "general favourites" with the bulk of the amateurs of this present day. In other words, we see what are strictly termed "fancy fowls," doffing their laurels and reputation to their more humble-looking, but more profit-producing fellows: this is just as it should be, for if poultry shows are to be rendered permanent and enduring, the foundation must necessarily be a certainty of profit, altogether independent of the fancy market. It is to this cause only that we must attribute the reaction in the prices of many of the fancy kinds, whilst the strictly useful have risen in value in proportion, and constantly command a remunerative and ready sale. The fictitious and ridiculous prices of late years are "by-gones," let them so continue; a more healthy state of things is before us, and every succeeding show fully proves, that "John Bull (very wisely) esteems most that which is most useful."

We append a few general remarks, and the entire prize-list of the successful competitors. In Spanish, the entries contained some very good specimens; the first-prize pen were excellent, and purely white-faced birds, shown in the highest possible condition; in the second-prize pen we noticed one hen whose comb was a serious detraction from the merits of the whole, and in very close competition would, doubtless, have proved a drawback to success—a hint that may be useful to exhibitors generally, who are too apt to overlook the necessity of uniformity in the birds competing. The Dorkings, whether grey or white, were unusually superior, being weighty, well-built, good-coloured birds. In one pen, however, that at first sight struck the eye as of very superior quality, a very slight feathering

on the legs of two of them proved their questionable purity (though the bulk of the feathers had been carefully, and we must add very ingeniously, removed); a failure of every chance of success was the natural consequence. In the first-prize pen of white Dorkings was one of the best hens we have ever yet seen; the second-prize fowls were too small for Dorkings; and in the third-prize pen, a slight shade of blue in the legs of one hen must, most unquestionably, have lowered their position. The grey Dorking chicken proved what can be done by careful management; they were some of the largest and best we ever remember to have seen, so early in the season, the climate of Devon tending to early production. The Cochins, of whatever colour, were sadly degenerate from those of former days; so much so, that, in one instance, the first prize was altogether "withheld." All this has arisen, no doubt, from the late popular delusion, of over-looking more essential characteristics, in the pursuit of colour only. The folly of so doing will, we think, prevent its being still continued; for surely, after years' attention, the characteristics of race should ever take precedence of mere colour. To the prize chickens, however, in class 10, the above by no means applies; they combined the most lovely colour with the highest pretensions in all other respects, were perfectly clear-hackled and well built, and very creditable specimens. In pen 85 a pullet was exhibited that has rarely been surpassed in shape, but she stood alone from her fellows.

In the Game classes many were very good; the first-prize pens were, indeed, "glorious birds," and proved the beauty of the game breed, and the attention they received from visitors. The "white or pile game," however, were withheld from prizes altogether; the cross-bred class would have found in them specimens not unworthy of support. Both the Malays and all the Hamburgs were very well represented, every class containing birds of first-rate character. The Polands were

indifferent, and we could not but observe how industriously the anterior feathers of the crests of the black varieties had been removed—a fact that seems by no means to have escaped the judges in their arbitrations.

In the "extra class," a pen of *white* Spanish very justly obtained a prize; they were splendid specimens of this very unusual variety. The Bantams were well represented; as were also the turkeys and Aylesbury ducks; but the Rouens were sadly degenerate, as compared with those of former days. Some white Malays, and a grey Dorking hen, among the single specimens, were extremely good. The care and attention to the poultry, whilst confined, was of the highest character, and well calculated to produce future confidence.

PRIZE LIST.

CLASS 1.—SPANISH.

1st Prize, Mr. Plummer, Brislington, near Bristol; 2nd, Mr. J. Babbage, Exeter; 3rd, W. Rowe, Esq., Milton Abbot, Tavistock. Commended, T. Marshall, Esq., Belmont, Taunton.

CLASS 2.—COLOURED DORKINGS.

1st Prize, C. Harward, Esq., Plymtree; 2nd, J. Pearce, Esq., Wypole; 3rd, R. Bramwell, Esq.; Holsworthy. Commended, W. Rowe, Milton Abbot.

CLASS 2.—WHITE DORKINGS.

1st Prize, F. J. Coleridge, Esq., Ottery St. Mary, Exeter; 2nd, Joseph Cliff, Esq., Dorking; 3rd, Chas. Edwardes, Esq., Brislington, Bristol.

CLASS 4.—DORKING CHICKENS (pen of six).
Prize, C. Harward, Esq. Plymtree.

CLASS 5.—DORKING CHICKENS (pen of four).
Prize, Mr. H. Drew, Peamore, near Exeter.

CLASS 6.—COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon or Buff),
Cock and two Hens.

1st Prize, Rd. Daw, Esq., Mount Radford, Exeter; 2nd, Miss Dyott, Torwood Mount, Torquay; 3rd, Capt. Ellicombe, St. Sidwell's, Exeter.

CLASS 7.—COCHIN CHINA (Brown or Partridge
coloured), Cock and two Hens.

1st Prize, Mrs. Brueton Ford, Ide, near

Exeter; 2nd, Rev. G. F. Hodgson, Banwell, Somerset; 3rd, ditto.

CLASS 8.—COCHIN (White), Cock and two Hens.
1st Prize, withheld; 2nd, Jas. Turner, Esq., Northbrook, Exeter; 3rd, R. Branwell, Esq., Holsworthy.

CLASS 9.—COCHIN CHICKENS (pen of six).
Prize, T. R. Robard, Esq., Langford, near Bristol.

CLASS 10.—COCHIN CHICKENS (pen of four).
Prize, T. Robard, Esq., Langford, near Bristol. Commended, T. Stone, Esq., Oddicome, near Knightsbridge.

CLASS 11.—GAME (Black-breasted and other
Reds), Cock and two Hens.

1st Prize, T. Robard, Esq., Langford, near Bristol; 2nd, Mr. H. Shield, Taunton.

CLASS 12.—GAME (Duckwings, &c.), Cock and
two Hens.

1st Prize, T. Robard, Esq., Langford, near Bristol; 2nd, Mrs. Quicke, Newton St. Cyres, Exeter.

CLASS 13.—GAME (Piles and Whites), Cock and
two Hens.

All the prizes withheld.

CLASS 14.—MALAYS (Cock and two Hens).

1st Prize, Mr. Chas. Ballance, Taunton; 2nd, do.; 3rd, Henry Andey, Esq., Lympstone.

CLASS 15.—GOLDEN-PENCILLED HAMBURGS.

1st Prize, Miss F. Pattison, Feniton Court, Honiton; 2nd, Doctor Rogers, Honiton; 3rd, Mrs. Brutton Ford, Ide, near Exeter.

CLASS 16.—GOLDEN-SPANGLED HAMBURGS.

1st Prize, Mr. T. Hine, Thickthorn, near Ilminster; 2nd, C. Edwardes, Esq., Brislington, near Bristol; 3rd, S. H. Warren, Dulverton, Somerset.

CLASS 17.—SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURGS.

1st Prize, Thos. Michelmores, Esq., Berry, Totness; 2nd, W. Rowe, Esq., Milton Abbot, Tavistock; 3rd, Miss F. Pattison, Feniton Court, Honiton.

CLASS 18.—SILVER-SPANGLED HAMBURGS.

1st Prize, Chas. Edwardes, Esq., Brislington; Bristol; 2nd, do.; 3rd, Doctor Rogers, Honiton.

CLASS 19.—POLANDS (Black with White Crests).

1st Prize, Mr. T. P. Hine, Thickthorn, Ilminster.

ster; 2nd, C. Edwardes, Esq., Brislington, Bristol; 3rd, Rev. G. Hodgson, Banwell, Somerset.

CLASS 20.—POLANDS (Golden).

1st Prize, R. Bush, Esq., Clifton, near Bristol; no other entry in this class.

CLASS 21.—POLANDS (Silver).

1st Prize, W. Rowe, Esq., Milton Abbott, Tavistock; 2nd and 3rd, withheld.

CLASS 22.—(Any other variety).

1st Prize, Mr. Connett, Exeter (Silky fowls); 2nd, Miss Northcote, Upton Pyne (White Spanish); 3rd, T. Robard, Esq., Langford (Black Cochin).

CLASS 23.—GOLD-LACED BANTAMS.

1st Prize, Rev. G. Hodgson, Banwell, Somerset; Do. equal, T. G. Gully, the Frison, Exeter; 2nd, W. Connett, Exeter.

CLASS 24.—SILVER-LACED BANTAMS.

1st Prize, Rev. G. Hodgson, Banwell, Somerset; 2nd, W. Connett, High-street, Exeter.

CLASS 25.—BANTAMS (any other variety).

1st Prize, Rev. G. Hodgson, Banwell, Somerset (white); 2nd, W. Connett, Exeter (black).

CLASS 24 (A), TURKEYS (Cock and Hen).

1st Prize, Chas. Edwardes, Esq., Brislington, Bristol; 2nd, W. Rowe, Esq., Milton Abbot, Tavistock; C. Sherriff, Esq., Beacon-house, Pinhoe.

CLASS 25 (A), GEESE (Gander and two Geese).

1st Prize, Mrs. Anne Hole, Plymtree; 2nd, W. Rowe, Esq., Milton Abbott, Tavistock; 3rd, C. Sherriff, Esq., Beacon-house, Pinhoe.

CLASS 26.—DUCKS (Aylesbury).

1st Prize, Mrs. Brutton Ford, Ide, Exeter; 2nd, Mrs. Brutton Ford, Ide, Exeter; 3rd, C. Sherriff, Esq., Beacon-house, Pinhoe.

CLASS 27.—DUCKS (Rouen).

1st Prize, Withheld; 2nd, W. Rowe, Esq., Milton Abbott, Tavistock; 3rd, T. Bembridge, Esq., Heavitree.

CLASS 28.—PIGEONS.

Prize (Carriers), Master Mackey, Fairhill, Exeter; Prize (Almonds), Doctor Rogers, Honiton. Commended (Almonds), C. Bluett, Esq., Taunton; Prize (Fantails), Miss Northcote, Upper Pyne; Prize (Jacobins), Doctor Rogers, Honiton.

CLASS (SINGLE SPECIMENS).

Commended, (White Cochin cock), F. Cole-ridge, Esq., Ottery Saint Mary, Exeter; (White Malay cock), Mr. L. Berry, of Brook-cottage, Clist, St. George; (White Malay hen), Mr. L. Berry, of Brook-cottage, Clist, St. George; (White Malay hen), H. Hadney, Esq., Lym-estone; (Coloured Dorking hen) Doctor Rogers, Honiton; (Cochin Buff cock), Mr. S. Gillard, Heavitree, Exeter.

Although belonging to the Horticultural part of the Exhibition, we cannot refrain from noticing a hundred heads of Asparagus (each head cut according to the rules of the Show *under* seven inches long) that weighed twelve pounds and fourteen ounces, pretty good proof that Exeter can produce equally first-rate "chickens and asparagus," for the purposes of the dinner-table.

Hexham Poultry Society.

THE second annual exhibition of the Hexham Poultry Society took place on the 12th and 13th instant, in the Abbey Grounds.

In Spanish, we observed some pens of fair birds. The Dorkings good, particularly the cock and one hen of Mr. Isaac Lawson, of Holme House, Gateshead, which carried off the the first prize in Class 5. There was nothing very good in the Cochin class. In Game, some nice individual birds were shown, but the judges awarded but few prizes, the birds being badly matched. Amongst the Hamburgs were some nicely-marked birds, though the entries were not numerous. In Poland, but few pens were exhibited; Mr. Trotter, who carried off the first prize at Newcastle, was again successful, both with golden and silver. In Bantams, there was nothing particular, if we except a pen of gold-laced belonging to Capt. W. H. Snell; they were well laced, but to our eye rather too large. In Turkeys, Miss Richardson showed a very handsome American bird. In Ducks, Mr. Trotter's pen of Aylesbury obtained the first prize, and were well worthy of it.

The Rev. R. Pulleine and Mr. Gibson were the judges.

The day was very fine and the arrangements good. The thanks of visitors and exhibitors are due to the indefatigable exertions of the committee, at the head of which, if we may venture to particularise, we would place Mr. England. If they continue to exhibit the same zeal they have this year shown, we doubt not but that the Hexham Poultry Society will contribute much to the improvement of the breed of poultry in the neighbourhood. K. W.

Nugæ Rusticæ.

TRIFLES, ORIGINAL AND SELECT, FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF A DERBYSHIRE YEOMAN.

The Dorking Fowl.

THE common sense of the public has brought back the Dorking fowl to its wonted pre-eminence. At the sale after the Metropolitan Show, and also at the Birmingham Exhibition of this year, the Dorking fowl met with reader disposal at large prices than any other bird. The public voice has recognised it as *the* bird for the English farm-yard; it is altogether the pet of John Bull, as possessing great and good qualities, without ostentation and clamour. The history of our county town records no less than three poultry sales by public auction, and at each of those the Dorking fowl obtained the highest bidding—good hens selling for as much as thirty shillings each; and further, the most successful breeder of Dorking fowls is at this moment selling their eggs readily, at three guineas per dozen. These and the Game fowl are the true British poultry. They are racy of the soil, and come down to us, like many other good things, from a remote antiquity. If it were possible to engraft the hardihood and quality of the latter upon the size and early maturity of the former, *perfection* would be obtained. The veriest Gourmand could ask no more, for there would be quantity and quality enough to satisfy the

most capacious and capricious of appetites. Tenderness and plumpness would go hand in hand with a juiciness fitted to enrapture an Alderman or a Bishop. These are great and critical authorities in matters of taste. Bland, unctuous, and rosy as they appear, they are nevertheless excessively fastidious, the terror of cooks, and the final appeal in all matters appertaining to gustativeness and alimentary delight; but even such an ordeal could be borne by the fowl that combined in itself the respective excellences of the Dorking and Game breed. The delicate taste of an Ariel who could sip only where the bee sipped, and the greediness of an Esquimaux, might be cotemporaneously gratified under such a combination, and short only of this, the Dorking fowl stands *pre-eminent* as *the* fowl for the table. Those persons, and those only, who saw and studied pen 160, at the Birmingham Poultry Show of 1853, can form an accurate idea of the size, quality, and beauty of a first-rate Dorking fowl. They were the birds of the exhibition, and before them the whole tribe of Spanish and Cochins, black, white, brown, and buff, “paled their ineffectual fires;” thirty-five pounds weight of the most delicious meat under heaven were there enshrined in beautiful forms, and robed with a plumage in which richness and grace struggled for ascendancy.

Although this fowl was described by Pliny, by Columella, and by Aldrovandus “a thousand years ago;” although it has been long known to naturalists as the “*Gallus Pentadactylus*,” or five-toed hen, and recognized through this quality by every good housewife, who sought a good fowl in Leadenhall Market, yet, strange to say, it has been little patronized by the farmers in general, or even by persons of greater pretensions. Mr. Trotter, who has recently received a prize from the Royal Agricultural Society for the best essay on Poultry, devotes eighteen lines only to the Dorking Fowl, and in this quarter page commits several errors respecting them. He says, “This breed degenerates when

removed from its native place." Now it is a fact, that birds bred in Lancashire have hitherto beaten all competitors. The Rev. Mr. Boys, of Biddenden, in Kent, took the chief prizes at Reigate, in Surrey (the very home of the Dorkings); but his birds, which he valued at £200, were beaten utterly at Birmingham by fowls from Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Shropshire. If I were to write that the Dorkings of Derbyshire may challenge the world, it would appear like a big, burly, blustering sentiment, "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing;" but it is nevertheless not very far from the truth. Take not one county away, or one division, or one town, but remove the birds of *one individual* from the competition, and then it is the modest opinion of a Derbyshire Yeoman, that the Dorking Fowl within a ten-mile radius of his county town may safely vie with all England, and therefore with all the world. To the proof; in judging of public questions, we can be guided only by public results. If asked, where are the best Leicestershire sheep in England? the reply at once is, at Mr. Sandy's, Holme Pierpoint, Nottingham—and why? because in a Royal Competition open to the United Kingdom, he carries off the prize. There is no other standard. People may hug themselves with self-complacency, and flatter themselves that *they have better at home*; but let them compete, and perhaps they will discover that there is something in a home atmosphere which leads to optical illusions, and thereby to defective judgment. A little solitary hill in a wide plain looks wonderfully large for want of others with which to compare it; and both cattle and poultry have been known to look much larger by themselves than by the side of their rivals. But to return to the Derbyshire Dorkings; it was something that in our own county show, open to general competition, the first and second prizes in the adult classes, and the first prize in the chicken class, should be borne away by the native birds of the district, more especially, when it is known that

they evoked the admiration of so experienced and able a judge as Mr. Bond, of Leeds, and that, not simply in comparison with the birds with which they were *then* in competition, but as fine specimens of their class. The *Cottage Gardener* (a great authority), moreover, stated that the prize chickens "were admitted by all to be the finest pen of young Dorking Fowl ever exhibited." In the show of world-wide reputation, and almost world-wide competition, at Birmingham, the fowls from this neighbourhood were only second to those, of which exception has been made, and indeed the *first* prize for the best cock and pullet was carried off by Mr. Drewry, of Newton Mount, near Burton. These facts are related, to show that the Royal Agricultural Society's Prize Essay was incorrect in speaking of the degeneracy of the Dorking Fowl when removed from Surrey, and to justify the opinion of a Derbyshire Yeoman, that (with the exception of the Knowsley breed) there are three poultry-yards within eight miles of each other, and all within ten of our county town, that might safely challenge any other three yards in the United Kingdom for the display of Dorking Fowl.—*By permission of the author, from "The Derby Reporter."*

Unusual Heroism of a Cochin China Fowl.

PERHAPS, where opposed by so strange and *powerful* an antagonist, there has never been recorded an equal instance of determined valour, and *dogged perseverance* on the part of a fowl, as that displayed by the hero of the following anecdote. A gentleman having purchased at a public sale a pair of two-year old Cochin fowls, took them to a property where they enjoyed the run of a large yard, unmolested by any other poultry. In less than three weeks the hen was found to have "stolen a nest," on the bare ground, behind some old timber in a vacant stable, and was sitting on

fourteen eggs. The male bird seemed unusually interested in her occupation, and seated himself regularly about a yard from his mate nearly the whole of his time. Their owner, however, was not a little annoyed to find that during the night an egg had been purloined from the sitting hen; and later in the same day still another was missing. Acting under the impression that his losses proceeded from some youths in a workshop that overlooked his yard (and whom he had frequently heard speak covetously of his favourites), he determined to watch for the intruder, through a small fissure in an adjoining building. Shortly after taking his position, he observed a large rat creep stealthily towards the nest; on its approach the hen raised herself, but though apparently much alarmed, offered no opposition, and the rat, after several ineffectual attempts, rolled an egg gently from the nest, and continued pushing it with its head towards a hole about five or six feet distant. At this juncture the cock, which till now had appeared quite a passive spectator of the whole affair, suddenly rushed upon the aggressor, and following up his advantages by a rapid succession of blows with the feet and spurs, still persevered, until he had driven the rat into a corner; here, however, a change took place in "the fortune of war;" and the latter, summoning up all its courage, jumped upon the head of the cock, inflicting at the same time a serious bite through the swallow, which caused the fowl to fall from its feet and struggle violently with its wings. The owner, greatly troubled at this apparently unequal contest *now* hastened to the rescue; his surprise, however was great on finding, when he reached the combatants, the cock standing upon the rat, which had fixed firm hold of its opponent through the foot. This strange warfare was "allowed now to take its *own* course," and soon drew to a close, for the Cochin seized its adversary by the nape of the neck, and at one pull literally scalped it. From the hemorrhage that instantly took place, the result was no longer

dubious, the gripe of the rat slackened, and he sank dead at the feet of our courageous favourite. The matter, however, was not altogether settled, for after two or three exultant crowings, the Cochin commenced a cannibal's feast, devouring the head, and part of the intestines. The writer of this paragraph saw the *remnants* of the defeated the same evening, they *then* weighed three quarters of a pound. Great inflammation ensued to the cock's wounds, he being bitten in eleven places, chiefly about the comb and wattles, but it is satisfactory to relate he at length perfectly recovered. E.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

A REPLY TO THE "FARMER'S WIFE."
Newton House Poultry Yard,
Yorkshire.

MR. EDITOR,—In reply to "A Farmer's Wife," I beg to say, at this time of year my time is fully employed, and consequently cannot answer as I would wish; but she will find much information in the article you refer to, and also in others in back numbers.

The principal time to send chickens and all other young poultry to London is, from February to June following. They should be well fed (or fatted), killed (by strangulation), and picked while warm and clean; the hairs singed off, and feet washed clean, placed in a cool pantry, on a shelf, breast downwards, in a close, compact form, side by side (the heads hanging over), and when quite cold, will be fit to send off by packing in clean straw.

It will be useless to send any but young things, the Dorking hen nine months old would not pay the carriage. The fowls selling at the price mentioned would not be more than five months old, and of the very best sort, prepared by men of great experience, who make a living by it. Whatever is sent to London at this season, it should be so managed as to get it into the market over night, or early in the morning, as the principal trading hours are from five to nine o'clock; poultry arriving after this, in hot weather, is sold at a reduced figure.

Any person intending to supply the London markets should take a peep into Leadenhall or Newgate Market, early some fine morning, and he would then have a correct lesson at once.—Yours, &c., T. WARE.

SITTING AND SETTING.

DEAR SIR,—I “sit” down to write, but I “set myself” to the work, not with a view of “setting” the question at rest, for that is hopeless in any controversy; though, the truth is, there can be no question between “sit” and “set” as applied to hens, any more than between lie and lay, or any other active verb and a neuter verb. Hens “lie” down to die, but they “lay” their eggs.

The fact is, that “sit” is neuter, “set” is active. I “set” cabbages, I “set” my chair on the grass plat and “sit” down and smoke my pipe. I “set” the tea-things on the table. I “set” the hen upon her eggs. But the hen when there “sits.” If she steals a nest for herself, we say she “sets” herself, but we after that say she “sits” in the fence. There is, moreover, no difference between man and hens, as to “sitting” or “setting.” I “sit” upon a chair, but I say to a friend, familiarly, come “set yourself” down, and I say so grammatically. So, “I lie down,” but I may equally say, “I lay myself down.” There can be no question on this subject, therefore let us never hear any more of “setting hens” if we mean to describe hens upon their eggs; but if you wish to tell us how to place them on their eggs with the best chance of success, you may then write us an article on the best method of “setting hens.”

Wishing your time to be occupied on more practical subjects,

I subscribe myself yours, &c.

RUSTICUS, A. B.

May 15, 1854.

PHEASANT FOWLS.

SIR,—In your current number of the “Poultry Chronicle,” I observe a writer, “Alector,” mentioning the various names of the Hamburgs, and asking what is meant by Golden Pheasants, &c.? With regard to the latter, I am inclined to think it is certainly different from the Hamburg when viewed by those who possess both varieties. I find, however, people naming erroneously the silver-pencilled and spangled Hamburgs, Silver Pheasants, and so I suppose with others the golden-pencilled and spangled in a similar manner. In Cumberland and many places in Northumberland, what are understood as pheasant-fowls are supposed to have some alliance to the common pheasant, but this is no doubt erroneous. The bird is much larger and lays a larger egg than the Hamburg, equally good as a layer, and never sits. The most common has some marks on the feathers somewhat resembling the pheasant, but there are no doubt different

colours. An old acquaintance lately informed me, that he knew a person who had a fine breed of white pheasants above fifty years ago. To the amateur who has not space they are not suitable, for their industry equals the Poland, but they are the best barn-door fowls hitherto known.—I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

AN AMATEUR.

MY POULTRY.

As any facts about poultry are interesting now, I send you a few, the results of my own experience.

My stock consists of three Brahma Pootras, and about fifty Dorkings.

The former have been shut up, since January, in a shed with a small yard, about 30 feet long and 12 broad. They have never been out at all, and till the last three weeks have both (there being two pullets and a cock) laid regularly.

One has evinced an inclination to sit since then, and has shown quite a different nature from either Cochins or Dorking; for both of the latter I have always been able to put off, by confining them in a dark place for a couple of days, when I did not want them to sit, but the Brahma has been confined in the dark several days, put in different places,—almost starved, &c., and has continued most determined to sit till the last day or two, when I hope the inclination has begun to die away.

This appears to me to be a very different habit from Cochins.

I like the Brahmas very much—they are the best layers and hardiest fowls I have ever had. I do not think I have lost one chicken.

With regard to Dorkings, I have been a breeder for the last six years, and of late have crossed my fowls with the best blood I could get from Capt. Hornby, Messrs. Boys, Towneley Parker, and Blandford, who, I consider, are about the best breeders of the day; and I must confess I read the weighty accounts of Dorkings sometimes with incredulity. I know my fowls are very fair specimens, as I was twice commended last Birmingham meeting, and have before taken a prize there and at other places, and out of fifty picked birds, and several of them prize birds bought at various places, I have only one hen that weighs 8 lbs., which I see spoken of as a common weight, and no cock above 9 lbs. My fowls have every advantage possible; they are mostly only five hens with one cock, plenty of range, grass, gravel, and plough, and are well fed; so, why mine do not weigh as much as other people’s I can’t understand; but I know this, if any one goes to Messrs. Bailey, Miller, or Baker, and asks for good Dorkings to weigh

7 or 8 lbs., without being fed up and too fat for breeding, he will have great difficulty in getting them. I have tried, and never could, though price was no object.

In this part of the country, the early spring was bad for chickens, for though dry, the winds were very cold, and my early ones did not do very well; however, they have made up for it the last month and have got on famously.

One pullet of the last year was set on twenty eggs, and hatched them all; they are now nearly a month old, and all alive and well. This was done by way of experiment, as I always thought thirteen or fifteen were quite enough.

My chickens, of which there are nearly two hundred, are fed on dog biscuit, Indian meal, chopped lettuce or vetches, and now and then a little whole corn, barley, and buckwheat mixed, and for the last month I have not lost one, which shows their treatment agrees with them. I keep several Cochin hens for sitting, and find they make excellent mothers for a time, but after about three weeks, want to leave their chickens and begin to lay again, so I am obliged to keep the hens cooped up much longer than I should do otherwise. I have one at the present time which lays in the coop with her chickens, and still takes the greatest care of them, but if she is let out, takes no notice of them at all.

One white Cochin I have is a most excellent mother—she has twenty-nine chickens with her, and perfectly covers them all. It is a very pretty sight to see them all run out together.

I am trespassing too far on your space, so must conclude. F. T.

P.S. In answer to "C. H. B.," I beg to say I have a great many young Brahmas, all with feathered legs, and as the chickens prove like the parents in every respect, have no doubt they are a distinct breed.

"C. H. B." says, "he has seen thousands," and "at least one-half were very partially feathered, or altogether clean-legged."

I am sorry he should have got among such bad specimens of the breed, and think he will find some very superior birds exhibited this year, and that they will be the most popular fowl of the day, in spite of all disappointed Cochin fanciers may write and say against them.

DORKING FOWLS.

MY DEAR MR. EDITOR,—You have roused me to break a lance with you, by the tenour of your remarks on a letter signed "J. Ware," in your last number, in reference to Dorkings. Your observations are so opposed to the experience I have had in breeding this variety, that

I really could not keep silence, knowing that anything you and I may say on the matter is with the love of truth, and—Poultry! But, seriously, I have found their chickens anything but tender—in fact, I consider them positively hardy. And when I tell you that my soil is a cold, retentive, gravelly clay, from which the water cannot make its escape, I am sure you will agree that it is not to be called a favourable locality for rearing them. Yet I have found them much hardier than Spanish, and free from ailments or drawbacks. I have three hens, who, from January 1st to the present time, have laid me 112 eggs. One has wanted to sit three times, but has not been allowed; the second is now sitting for the second time, having the first time sat for six consecutive weeks on two batches of eggs; and the third has sat once, or rather for six weeks on two batches. So really I must not find fault with them. Then, as mothers, I think them unsurpassed, and as no one quarrels with them on the table, I shall say naught about them there; but having behaved so well to me, I could not resist giving them their due (and no greater!) praise. I do not wish to exalt them over every other variety of fowls, but I do not think any other sort can be kept with "more general advantage!"—I remain yours, F. B.

PHEASANTS.

SIR,—Still further to confirm my statement made to you some months ago, that pheasants would sit in confinement, the same pheasant that sat last year has again made a nest and is now sitting on thirteen eggs; and I shall this year try boiling the water,—as mentioned in the "Poultry Chronicle" as a preventive against the gapes—that they have to drink, and I will let you know whether it succeeds and the fate of the hatch.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

A COUNTRY RECTOR.

[A subscriber to the "Poultry Chronicle" and a keen sportsman, recommends a pill of Barbadoes aloes as large as shot No. 1 for the gapes in young pheasants.—Ed.]

THE FORTUNATE HEN.

SIR,—Can any of your readers solve the following problem?

Yesterday, being the twentieth day, we saw three pretty little heads peeping out from a white Dorking pullet, under which we had set ten gold and silver Hamburg eggs, and no more. On lifting up the little mother this morning to ascertain her progress, what was our astonishment to see nine healthy living chicks and five unchipped

eggs! I ought to add, that another hen was set at the same time in the same cart; always allowing our fowls to choose their own nests, as far as we can accommodate them.

I think the circumstance, however explained, is curious and interesting, and will afford at least a "variety" in your pleasing columns.

M. E. B.

[Is it possible that the hen *stole* the additional eggs from her companion? We know by experience that hens are prone to such little deceptions.—Ed.]

NOVEL USE FOR A MAIL COACH.—One of the once celebrated London and South Mail-coaches is, at the present time, laden with a full complement of inside passengers. One of the seats is occupied by a couple of Dorking hens, sitting, and the opposite one by a Turkey hen, also in the act of incubation. The front boot or box is occupied by other hens, also sitting, and the hind or guard boot contains another sitting Turkey hen. To what purposes may not some of our first-class railway carriages be applied when other inventions knock them off the road.—C. P., Boston.

To Correspondents.

South Hants Poultry Society.—We are much obliged for the early particulars of the forthcoming exhibition.

P. C. H., Glasgow.—We shall be very grateful for an account, from time to time, of poultry matters in your locality; and shall feel obliged if you will address your contributions, to save loss of time, to Monk Barns, Hampstead.

To J. B., Glamorganshire.—We regret that the great number of letters which we have received on the same subject as yours, make it impossible to find space for it, and some others. It is very satisfactory to hear of such good success from purchased eggs.

To W. H., Plymouth.—The Editor had great pleasure in forwarding "W. H.'s" enclosure.

W. W. B.—For chickens infested with vermin, cleanse and whitewash the houses, and give them wood ashes to roll in.

Linda suggests that a lump of chalk cut into the form of an egg is a much more economical nest-egg than glass eggs at 4s. a dozen; she has used them for above a year. She wishes to know "if a hen was ever known to eat one of her chicks." In reply, we are sorry to say we have known such an unnatural instance. A few days

back, a hue-and-cry was raised by the gardener and the poultry maid that a certain pullet, whose duty it was to hatch that day, was pecking at the chicks as they emerged from the egg, and so it proved, for before she could be stopped she had killed and begun to eat two.

Linda also wishes to know if there is any particular reason for the great delicacy of Dorking chickens at about three weeks old? and how we can tell cockerels from pullets at an early age? In early fledging kinds the set of the tail may be a guide, but the earlier show of comb and a fiercer look about the eye we think is the best rule. Pullets have altogether a milder look about the head. Our correspondent concludes, "Your papers descriptive of the peculiarities and markings of the different classes of fowls will be most valuable."

To Game Cock.—We were very much obliged for the schedule of the Taunton Show, although the secretary had kindly recollected us the day before. There is no reason why your bookseller should not get you your "Poultry Chronicle" on the day of publication, as editor and proprietors have made a great point of having the work out every Tuesday afternoon, that country subscribers may receive it by the early post on Wednesday; in this they have been seconded by printers and publisher, and the "Poultry Chronicle" is always ready for those who may apply for it at the office on Tuesday, four o'clock, p.m.

The Barbary Pigeon is very scarce. We are not sure what is their value; we believe they are worth from two to three guineas the pair. The colour is a reddish salmon.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE changes of the market usually looked for at this season of the year come on but slowly. The notoriously bad hatch of this spring, and the cold nights, both contribute their quota towards the scarcity that causes the unusually high prices we have to quote. The supply of chickens has been better the last two or three days, but the almost total absence of fowls tends to keep up the price, which for best quality is,

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----|----------|-------|
| Fowls | 6s. 0d. | to | 8s. 0d. | each. |
| Chickens | 3s. 0d. | to | 4s. 6d. | " |
| Goslings | 6s. 0d. | to | 6s. 6d. | " |
| Ducklings | 3s. 6d. | to | 4s. 6d. | " |
| Pigeons | 0s. 10d. | to | 1s. 0d. | " |
| Rabbits, Tame .. | 1s. 8d. | to | 0s. 0d. | " |
| Do. Wild | 0s. 11d. | to | 0s. 11d. | " |
| Quails | 1s. 9d. | to | 2s. 0d. | " |

Plovers' eggs, in bulk, 2s. 6d. to 3s. per doz.

Advertisements.

THE HORTICULTURAL JOURNAL and Farm and Garden Advertiser. No. 6, on Saturday, May 20, price 2d, stamped 3d., will contain a Full Report of the **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW at CHISWICK.**

This work is edited by George Glenny, F.H.S., and is devoted exclusively to the use of the true Practical and Amateur Gardener. It contains full reports of Shows, New Flowers, Weekly Operations, &c.

Published every Saturday, by F. DILLON, at the Office, 14, York-street, Covent-garden, London, to whom all communications are to be addressed.

EGGS from FIRST CLASS and PRIZE BIRDS.—JOHN BAILY has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

EGGS FOR SITTING, of the choicest Varieties. Most of the birds have taken Prizes at Winchester, Southampton, Surrey Gardens, and Salisbury Exhibitions.

Black and White Cochins, White Polands, and Ptarmigans, 21s. per dozen.

Pure Buff Cochins, 15s. per dozen.

Post-office orders payable to FREDERIC FLIGHT, 72, High-street, Winchester.

A PEN of WHITE COCHIN CHINA FOWLS for SALE, consisting of a Cock and two Hens, all last year's birds, and of first-rate quality. They were selected with great care for the purpose of Exhibition by the present owner, and are parted with under peculiar circumstances.—Apply to G. T. H., by letter only, post-paid, to be addressed to the Office of the "Poultry Chronicle," York-street, Covent-garden.

EGGS from splendid imported BRAHMAS and Prize DORKINGS, 1s. each.—Apply to the **POULTRYMAN**, Abington Rectory, Northampton.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, near Haverhill, Suffolk, disposes of Eggs from his Buff, and also from his original Partridge-coloured, Birds, price 1s. each, and 1s. for package.—Applications for either variety will be supplied in the order received.

A LADY who has taken Four Prizes in the last Season for **BUENOS AYRES**, or **LABRADOR BLACK DUCKS**, will have a few Sittings to part with during this month and next, at 10s. per set of thirteen, quite fresh laid, and package included. Also, some Rouen Duck Eggs, of a very large breed, at 7s. 6d., package included. Fine speckled or Grey Dorkings (some of the hens are of a prize breed) at 8s. the set of thirteen. A young Black Buenos Ayres Duck and Drake to be disposed of,—the Duck laying,—price £1. 1s. A Black Pole Cockerel and Pullet, with good white top-knots, price £1. 5s.—Direct to Mr. THOMAS BROMWICH, Jun., Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham.

TO POULTRY FANCIERS.

EGGS.—BUFF, COCHIN, and SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURGS.—A few sittings from these Birds may now be had: Cochins, 13s. per dozen; Hamburgs, 7s. per dozen, including packing.—The Cochins are out of the birds that obtained the first prize at the Newcastle Show, 1853, Class 1. The Hamburgs took the first prize at Newcastle, April 20, 1854, Class 21, Number 132.—Eggs sent on receipt of Post-office order addressed to SEPTIMUS YOUNG, Esq., North Shields.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—Mr. Hebblethwaite, of the Castle, Knaresborough, has now for SALE, two **BUFF COCKS** and **PULLETS**. The male birds have taken prizes at York, Lewes, Huddersfield, and Howden, and the Pullets are highly commended.

Address to Mr. HEBBLETHWAITE, the Castle, Knaresborough.

PRIZE FOWLS.—EGGS from White Silk Cochins, which have taken four first-class Prizes, including one at the Great Metropolitan Show, 12s. the dozen. A few first-class Buff Cochins, 7s. 6d. to 12s. each, chickens of birds which took three Prizes; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. White-faced Spanish (chickens of prize birds), 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. each; Eggs from ditto, 6s. per dozen. Brahma Pootra Eggs, from birds which took a First Prize, £2. 2s. per dozen. One pair of Brahmans (First Prize Birds) for Sale, price £15. 15s.—Apply to Mr. JAMES BARBER, Great Yarmouth.

SPANISH and DORKING FOWLS.—Capt. Hornby having transferred his whole Stock of celebrated Poultry to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, of Spring Grove, Hounslow, a portion (for want of space) is for Sale.

CHEVELEY PARK, NEWMARKET—JOHN FAIRLIE, Esq., can supply EGGS for the remainder of the season at 21s. per dozen from the following prize birds:—Buff, Partridge, White and Black Cochins, Brahma Pootras, Dorkings, and Scotch Dumpies.

MR. FISHER HOBBS has EGGS for SALE from his Prize Dorking Fowls, at 5s. each, package included. Also a few Golden-pencilled Hamburg Eggs, from his birds that took First and Second Prizes, at 1s. 6d. each. A few Dorking Cocks, fellows to the prize birds, for Sale.—Apply at Boxted-lodge, Colchester.

EGGS from CAPT. HORNBY's celebrated Spanish and Dorking Prize Fowls may be had on application to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, Spring Grove, Hounslow, to whom Capt. Hornby has transferred his whole stock.

Spanish £4. 4s. per dozen.
Dorking £3. 3s. ,,

Remittances to be made by post-office order, and to include 2s. for packing.

EGGS FROM SILVER HAMBURG FOWLS
—PRIZE BIRDS.

THOMAS McCANN can supply EGGS from the best of his Silver-pencilled and Silver-spangled Hamburg Fowls, which have taken prizes at Birmingham, Metropolitan, and several other Shows. Price, 10s. 6d. per dozen, including packing. Eggs forwarded on receipt of post-office orders in the order in which they are applied for.—**THOMAS McCANN**, Graham House, Malvern.

BEDFORDSHIRE POULTRY
EXHIBITION.

THE SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION of POULTRY will take place at the CORN EXCHANGE, BEDFORD, on Tuesday, the 31st of October, and Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2nd of November, 1854.—Forms of Entry and Schedules of Prizes may be obtained on and after the 16th of June, of the Secretaries, Mr. J. T. R. ALLEN, Bedford; and Mr. CHARLES HOWARD, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

VALE OF TAUNTON DEANE
HORTICULTURAL & FLORICULTURAL
SOCIETY.

THE FIRST EXHIBITION of the above SOCIETY will be held in the VIVARY PARK, Taunton, on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, the 21st and 22nd days of JUNE next. Handsome Prizes will be awarded to Nurserymen.

The Society have resolved to hold in conjunction with the same a GRAND POULTRY EXHIBITION. Upwards of Eighty Prizes will be given.—Schedules for both Exhibitions, and all further information may be obtained of the Honorary Secretary, Mr. JOHN KINGSBURY, 10, Hammet-street, Taunton, Somersetshire.

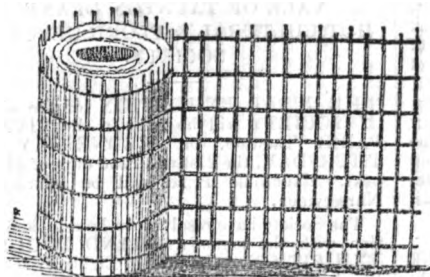
WEST KENT ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF POULTRY, &c., and Miscellaneous Flower Show (open to all England), under most distinguished patronage, will take place in the Market Field, FARNINGHAM, on Tuesday, (private view), June 20th, 1854, and following day. Subscription tickets of admission (available on both days), 5s. each. Lists of Prizes and Certificates of Entry for Poultry, &c., are now ready, and may be had on application, post-paid, to the Secretary, B. THOMAS. For Schedules of Prizes for Flowers, &c., apply to Mr. ALFRED LOCKYER, Hon. Sec., Farningham. The Entries will close on the 5th of June.

By order of the Committee of Management,
BAPTISTE THOMAS, Sec.
Committee Room, Lion Inn,
Farningham.

DEVON AND CORNWALL
SOCIETY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
DOMESTIC POULTRY.

AN EXHIBITION, under the direction and management of the Committee of the above Society, will take place on the 27th and 28th days of JUNE, 1854, on the delightful Grounds of the Mansion of W. H. Pole Carew, Esq. at Antony, near Torpoint, Cornwall, on the occasion of a GRAND FETE and BAZAAR being held there in aid of the Funds of the Mechanics' Institutions of Plymouth, Devonport, and Torpoint.

Applications for Prize Lists, &c. and Certificates of Entry, to be made to Mr. WILLIAM HUNT, Secretary, 11, Caroline-place, Stonehouse, Plymouth. Entries close June 12.



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PATENT WIRE FENCING,**
strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c.,
and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits,
Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot.

Ordinary Wire Netting, from 2½d. per
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THE THIRD Grand Annual Summer EXHIBITION OF POULTRY will take place at the above magnificent Establishment, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 14th and 15th, 1854. —For particulars enclose a fully directed stamped envelope to **JESSOP, BROTHERS, Secretaries, The Aviaries, Cheltenham.**

**FOR POULTRY-HOUSES.
LIGHT, CHEAP, & DURABLE ROOFING.**

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons. Price **ONE PENNY per SQUARE FOOT.** Croggon's Patent **NON-CONDUCTING FELT** for covering Steam-boilers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

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TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Pre-**T** serving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage-free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

To be had in any quantity at **GEORGE EATON & Co.'s Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory, 6 and 7, Crooked-lane, London.**

COMMON BLUE PIGEONS FOR SALE.

THE Owner being desirous of doing away with his Pigeon House, has several Dozen **BIRDS** for SALE at a low price.—Apply to **H. G. APPLETON, Tadcaster.**

SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY-HOUSE, £4, consisting of house 4 feet square and 6 feet high, and roofed run for fowls 9 feet by 4 feet. Drawings of several sent free. The above are portable, and can be taken down or put up by any ordinary labourer. Wire work from 6 to 15 inches wide, 6½d. per square yard, to enclose poultry, &c.—**R. RICHARDSON, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, near King's-cross. N.B.** Maker of garden summer-houses, and iron and wood houses for emigrants; drawings of 21 Emigrants' houses, and 28 Summer-houses, sent free.

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*Wholesale Agents, G. ROUTLEDGE & Co.,
Farringdon-street.*

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 14.]

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

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Poultry Shows.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries are closed.

Cheltenham Third Annual Summer Exhibition, at the Pittville Spa, June 14th and 15th. Secretaries, the Messrs. Jessop, Brothers, The Aviaries, Cheltenham. Entries close June 3rd.

West Kent Association, at Farningham, Tuesday, June 20th, and following day. Secretary, Baptiste Thomas, Esq. Entries close June 5th.

Vale of Taunton Deane Horticultural Society, in the Vivary Park, Taunton, Wednesday and Thursday, June 21st and 22nd. Honorary Secretary, John Kingsbury, Esq., 10, Hammet-street, Taunton. Entries close June 13th.

Devon and Cornwall Poultry Society, June 27th and 28th. Secretaries, Mr. W. Hunt, Public Library, Plymouth, and C. Hancock, Esq., Emma-place, Stonehouse. Entries close June 12th.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secre-

tary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries close June 1st.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th. The Schedule will be ready soon.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. The Schedule not quite ready.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. J. T. E. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st. The Schedule will be ready June 16th.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombrain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

To say that we are sorry for the difficulty which several of our subscribers have experienced in getting their numbers with regularity, falls very far short of expressing the chagrin, the annoyance, the regret, which all connected with the "Poultry Chronicle" have felt relative to this subject. From the first we saw the necessity of having the work ready for the supply of the trade on Tuesday afternoon, in time to reach country subscribers (by post or railway conveyance) EARLY on Wednesday, — the day of publication. Being seconded in the desire for this arrangement by printers and publisher, the "Poultry Chronicle," from the second number, has always been placed in the hands of the publisher at four o'clock on Tuesday, and all persons who apply to either Mr. Clements, No. 1, York-street, Covent-garden, or to Messrs. Routledge and Co., Farringdon-street, can have the "POULTRY

CHRONICLE" in ample time for the evening trains on that day.

It is the zealous desire of the publishers to facilitate matters for the country and other booksellers: parcels of the "Chronicle" will be either forwarded by rail to their destinations, or sent to any locality in London, from which they are in the habit of receiving their parcels at any specified day and hour, and it will be the earnest endeavour of all parties connected with it to obviate for the future the inconveniences to which their subscribers have been subjected, and at the same time to assure them that the booksellers and news-agents with whom they deal can, with the information now given, procure the work without difficulty by *Wednesday morning*.

After making the useful little addition of a table of contents to our weekly numbers, perhaps there are few of our readers who feel the convenience of it more than ourselves, and we can very heartily sympathize with several correspondents, who found it no easy task, on wishing to refer to past numbers, to look through the whole matter for that purpose. It was once our fate (with able assistance) to write above 600 pages on a certain subject; a friend one day finding us engaged referring to the volume, astonished us in no small degree with the expression of surprise, "What! learning from your own book?" Now, perhaps, although necessarily pretty well acquainted with the minutiae of the work, there are none to whom the table of contents is a more welcome boon than to the Editor. We can only hope respectfully

and heartily that all our readers will be as pleased as we are with the CONTENTS of the "Poultry Chronicle."

—
 "De omnibus rebus."

THE past is not always a sure guide for the future in poultry. Those who, at this time last year, were breeding largely in Cochins, and anticipating a continuation of those prices which had excited the wonder of every one, were disappointed. There was one person who refused six pounds for pullets in August, and sold them by auction for a few shillings some months later. This is no wonder,—they were, at such large prices, creatures of fashion; at moderate sums they become valuable. Their best friends admit that they are only good for the table—not equal to some others. No one denies their merits as layers: but for fowls to prove a good investment by producing eggs, the outlay must be moderate. Prize birds are but as one in many thousands. A prize, in the principal classes, falls to the lot of one exhibitor in fifty; while, then, those that are sure to be honourably distinguished by the judges will always make a large sum, the majority of breeders will be influenced by the price which the average birds are likely to realize.

Every new breed, after the trial of a few years, will be judged by its real merits; they must be submitted to the touchstone of utility. Extraordinary excellence in every thing should command its full worth; and now, that the fury of the fancy has passed, superior Cochins will find a ready sale at large prices; but when any misery that could lay claim to the form or feather of that breed easily realized three or four pounds, it was truly a mania, and could not last. This is not the only lesson that the Cochins taught us. They were fed, forced, and strained to become takers of chicken prizes; and so over-wrought when young and growing,

that they were worn out before, in a natural state, they would have attained maturity. Hence the falling off perceptible in the adult classes at all the late shows of last year. The prizes were withheld because the birds were unworthy, and the judges were continually tormented by remonstrances that they had disqualified, as adults, the chickens that had never been beaten.

If 1853 saw the decline of Cochins, it saw the rise of Dorkings. These latter have occupied, for centuries, the pinnacle of the poultry temple; but, unfit for towns, and possessing few of the startling points of plumage or shape, they remained, to a certain extent, unnoticed, and their good qualities were only appreciated when an unusually delicious fowl on the table caused a look up, inquiring whether the fifth claw did not at once explain the cause of excellence. Till last year these meritorious birds were to be had for a few shillings—witness the beautiful hens exhibited, four years since, by Lord Hill, which were sold for 10s. 6d. each; next, the excellent ones of the Hon. and Rev. S. W. Lawley, which were put at £1; and many others, till the Birmingham show of 1853, and the Hitchin show of the same year. At the latter place, the Rev. Mr. Boyes sold his prize pen for £50. At the Midland Counties, the Rev. S. Donne lost his prize birds, although protected by twenty guineas. At the Metropolitan, Mr. Fisher Hobbs sold nine birds for 78 guineas; Mr. Terry, of Aylesbury, sold his for 5 guineas each. Capt. Hornby protected all his pens by a reserve of £500, but it is beyond a doubt they would have been claimed at £100. This was the rise of Dorkings, but their rise partakes of the quiet, every-day, and useful character of the birds themselves. While the best make the best prices, there are plenty of good, useful, pure-bred birds to be had at moderate sums. The increase does not spread over the whole race, as it did in Cochins; these will never go out of favour as a really good fowl on the table. It

seems almost impossible the Dorkings of last year can ever be surpassed; if they can, then he would be a bold man who would fix limits to their capabilities.

An improvement in Cochins may be looked for, and I do not for a moment think we shall be disappointed; amateurs want to see the birds of 1851 and 1852. They were under a cloud last year.

This brings me to the note of preparation for the shows. Farningham, Bath, Cheltenham, and Lincoln are close at hand, and those interested, while they criticize and scan their own pets, on which they have placed their hopes, and where "they have garnered up their hearts," calculate the chances of success or defeat. Those who have been fortunate in saving early chickens are likely to have "*beau jeu*," for it has been a lamentable season, and empty yards proclaim it. What has been the cause?

First, seven weeks of unusually dry weather. The old tradition says, swans can only hatch in a thunder-storm. That may or may not be, but the experience of this season tells us that eggs hatch badly in dry weather. Few of these old traditions are without some foundation, and it may be that the young of the swan appear after a shower, which, in the summer, is often a thunder-shower, and that the moisture forwards the hatching. The motto with which I started allows me to be discursive. Ducks in a state of nature leave the nest, search for food in the water and out of it, and their appetite being satisfied, they return to their occupation. A pheasant sitting in a wood, leaves her eggs at break of day to feed; how often is the dew so heavy, that, to use a country phrase, "it is like walking through a river." She returns wet and draggled, and takes to her nest again. She hatches at her time. We must learn from these things. In a dry season, with every "means and appliance to boot," save wetting, no chickens are hatched. Old women have said, you should damp your eggs, and have been laughed at for it, for old women's tales; but I begin

to think they are right as regards children and poultry. This year I knew a hen engaged from Monday till Thursday, bringing seven chickens out of eleven eggs. Since then I have sprinkled the eggs, and have done better. Cold nights and mornings have also done their part; in the month of May there has been ice on the ponds and ditches, and in April registering thermometers have marked eleven degrees of frost, and this in the last week of that month. No egg subjected to that degree of cold can ever be productive.

These causes must have effect on the chicken entries at the early shows, diminishing their numbers. But in December we shall have the lusty May chickens holding their own gallantly, and showing us that a fowl bred in the natural season, and growing night and day, without a check, is, after all, the most perfect for every purpose.

SYLVANUS.

Cottagers' Prizes.

NO. IV.

THE remark with which I concluded my last article on this subject, viz., the non-importance of the fifth toe of the Dorking, when it is considered only as a useful fowl, leads me to mention a fact in connection with Dorkings that may amuse some of your amateur readers. Some years since, I first had the pleasure of meeting a reverend gentleman at an exhibition of poultry, whose fowls have since that time obtained him almost numberless laurels, and not a trifling pecuniary remuneration into the bargain, as pens have been sold as high as fifty pounds the four, and many at figures closely approaching that sum. Judge, then, of the writer's astonishment to find that "the additional toe had, with great care, been amputated during their chickenhood, as it was found so confoundedly in the way of the sitting hens, and those with broods of young chickens." These, as nearly as recollection serves me, were the identical words of the ex-

hibitor, and his other general remarks at that time proved he had hitherto been rather the follower of utility than of "fancy." A few hints dropped at this meeting (I will use my reverend friend's own words at a subsequent exhibition) "were invaluable to me, they proved strictly correct, and there is" (pointing to his fowls then present) "the exact colour you said, and I've left them their toes to gratify public taste." These fowls, like many others of this gentleman's, never went to their native home again, though the price affixed "looked the very thing." As to being prohibitory, five minutes from the time of admission exposed the fallacy of such an idea, for twelve pounds ten *each* (!) proved no safeguard, and even a liberal advance on that sum ("for buying") was offered and *refused*. These fowls were the produce of birds that had been, as before said, mutilated in their early days. If then (till advised for the purposes of exhibition) one of our principal amateurs found it prudent and expedient to amputate the extra toe, surely there are but very few who will maintain that when naturally unprovided with this additional appendage, such fowls must for general purposes (exhibition excepted) be equally available and profit-producing. A few "clean-legged" Cochin chickens, or Hamburgs, that perchance may "come single combed," then, are ever a valuable present to the poor labourer; his family, from such a gift, may receive many benefits, and the donor have thus added to his opportunities of room for better stock. I once heard an amateur (thank goodness, he was an isolated exception) who advanced as an objection, "that it was just possible a cottager, with these helps, might run away with a first prize in future years, by the produce of his ill-favoured stock, as thus originally obtained;" from my heart I wish such may be the case: if persevering, they deserve success, and to whom will triumph be so acceptable and full of encouragement as to the striving and hard-working agricultural labourer? Another

plan by which a few fowls may be rendered easily attainable by a cottager of straitened means, and by which also great benefit may arise to an amateur who "breeds for exhibition," is to give up the care of a brood of chickens into the hands of a labourer's wife, the return for her services being half the chickens when reared. This arrangement produces satisfaction to both parties: the amateur (reserving to himself the right of selection) obtains those that best suit his fancy; the cottager, on the other hand, thus gets possession of a great family-supporting help, in a way so easy, that by any other means they might not have been procurable. The poultry thus raised generally enjoy a state of robust health only rarely existent in the crowded appliances of an extensive exhibitor, and the birds are not unfrequently far better-grown fowls than had they remained exclusively on his own premises. These are advantages that to further record would be useless, I will therefore step onward to the almost certainty of obtaining from some one (if the humble possessor is really worthy and self-striving) of his neighbours a sitting of eggs (when his fowls are broody, if those birds in his possession are not all he could wish for or desire); he may, by these means, obtain fowls as perfect as his more wealthy neighbour, and not unfrequently by a very small outlay for the eggs, or even receive them from some generous-hearted one gratuitously. I have extended these remarks further than at first intended, because I feared some parties might not have well reflected on its advantages, or regarded the attainment of first-rate fowls by cottagers as impracticable, on account of their narrowed circumstances; having shown such is not the case, I will now suggest that to cottagers (more especially) the varieties that produce the most plentiful supply of eggs are by far the most desirable, as they cause no further outlay of their limited means, and as the accommodation is mostly equally restricted, they are on this account far more useful than such as produce re-

turns chiefly from their chickens. The Spanish, Hamburgs, and Cochins (whatever may be the colour of the latter), will all be found most excellent layers, and highly remunerative; and though the latter are the greatest consumers of food, their return of eggs is always most abundant when such eggs sell for highest prices; therefore the advantages are about equalized. A strenuous effort on the part of cottagers themselves—an assisting hand from the more affluent employer—combined with the colossal motive-power so freely put into circulation by the gift of "Cottagers' Prizes at our poultry shows" is, I feel, nearly all we want to secure a more regular, more plentiful, and eventually a supply of poultry of far better quality for our tables than can now be procured. Nearly all the efforts hitherto made to produce the latter good effects have been paralyzed by the "ever-ruling passion" in most agriculturists "to let things go on as they always have done" in the poultry-yard, from the truly false conviction "that at best they can only produce a very scanty amount of pin-money for the wife or daughters."

It is strange, these men fully acknowledge the manifold advantages of cross-breeds in other descriptions of live stock on their homesteads, and value them accordingly; let me therefore (in a most friendly and earnest manner) entreat of such parties to read and "think over" carefully the advice thus respectfully offered them by alike your and their well-wisher,

E. C.

The White Dorking.

I HAVE often thought, when reading the weekly numbers of the "Poultry Chronicle," that though much valuable information was imparted, it would be very desirable to give papers occasionally, devoted solely to one kind of fowl, and in the words of "Gus," in the "Chronicle" for May 17th, to state the points of the breed,

qualities as layers, setters (not sitters), mothers, &c.

As a commencement, I will briefly sketch, in this manner, "the White Dorking," and should this not prove the kind of fowl *he* wishes to hear about, it may be welcome to some other beginners. If my example is followed, we shall gradually collect a description of all our fowls useful to the amateur, and as a book of reference.

By way of preface, allow me to say that I think that I do not cherish any prejudice in my preference for this breed; for I too have run the gauntlet of Cochins, Polands, Brahmas, &c., and appreciate them all for their distinctive and valuable characteristics; but still I think we have no competitor for the Dorking, as a combination, to a certain extent, in one bird, of nearly all the good qualities of these breeds, and very few of their bad ones. My individual reason for preferring the White to the Coloured Dorking is, that though the white is certainly a somewhat smaller bird, it has the great advantage of a handsome plumage, a desideratum not to be overlooked by those who rear poultry as a source of pleasure, and not for a livelihood. Many of the birds shown as White Dorkings at the different poultry shows last year were called so with as much justice as a London cab-horse might be palmed off as a pure Arabian or a first-rate Yorkshire hunter; of course, this would not apply to many pens exhibited, but, taking the whole of those which came under my notice, it was very evident many exhibitors were totally ignorant or indifferent as to what were the necessary points. But I will describe what I consider to be a good bird, and then leave your readers to judge for themselves.

First, the colour:—This should be a *pure* white, without any shade of yellow, or any coloured feather of any description about the body. When the attention of the novice is directed to this single feature, he will be astonished to find how few specimens (especially of the cocks) will pass

in this respect; but still it is essential; for as beauty is the only point in which the White Dorking is superior to the Grey or Speckled, so much more is it necessary that the feature which gives them this pre-eminence should be distinct and perfect.

The comb:—Both single and double combed birds may be pure bred, but it is now, I think, almost decided that this beautiful appendage should be double; indeed, any person of taste, who has no knowledge whatever of poultry, would immediately pronounce for the double, as being more graceful, and more in harmony with the general appearance of the bird: in the cock it should be very broad at its base near the beak, gradually passing over the back of the head in the form of a triangle, the point of which should be slightly curved upwards; the whole of the surface should be evenly serrated, and not ragged and unequal; the colour should be a bright red, indicating a healthy state and good condition: the same remarks will apply to the hen, only that the comb will always be very much smaller.

The form:—The back should be broad, and from the point of the head to the root of the tail should be almost straight; the breast should be broad, full, and gracefully rounded—wherever a large bird is found with a concave back, a straight instead of a full breast, legs large and not white, and a short instead of a flowing tail, you may strongly suspect a trace of Cochin blood; the legs should be white, a proportionate length, and a fair distance apart to allow of a good broad breast; each foot should have five claws, the fifth being as distinct as any of the rest. Viewing the bird as a whole, the attitude should be erect and bold, lively in its motion, and appearing full of spirit.

Qualities:—When describing these, I would be understood as describing chiefly from my own birds, and not from anything I may have read about this breed. In breeding Dorkings, one thing is essential to success,—I here refer to a dry soil; if this is present, and they receive an

ordinary amount of care, they will be found a prolific bird, very fast growers, and easy to rear, my broods, this year, varying from ten to fourteen chickens in each, and up to the present time we have only lost one, and that a weakly one, the day after it was hatched. All our broods, to a bird, are in strong and healthy condition; they are small eaters, good layers, and though not laying to the same extent as the Cochins, their eggs are finer and more delicate; as mothers, they are excellent, taking great care of the young chickens, and not forsaking them at so early an age as the Cochins. Their superiority for the table is so well known, that it will be unnecessary to enlarge on that point.

I did purpose adding a little on our mode of rearing, feeding, &c., but am afraid it would make this paper too long even for "Gus," so will only say, that we do *not* indulge our birds like a gentleman I heard of only yesterday, who "dashes a glass of sherry into their food;" for though ours are not vegetarians, every chicken we have is a staunch teetotaler!

J. C., of Dorking.

Notes by "Alector."

SWANS, like peafowl, are "*non cuius nomini*," and should never be kept unless there be an expanse of water, and some extent of ground, as they are, at least, but half reclaimed, and are apt, consequently, to take excursions without leave of absence being granted. This evil, however, may be obviated by pinioning; an operation which, if properly performed, can be readily borne by cygnets. Swans do not come to full plumage until the third year, when the hen commences laying. The eggs are about eight or ten in number, and the period of incubation six weeks.

Swans are useful, as well as ornamental, and will keep down weeds in ponds—they will also graze, and soon learn to eat garden produce, as endives and lettuces;

when these are not to be had, as in winter, they ought to have an extra allowance of corn,—of oats they are very fond, and twenty bushels a year would suffice for a pair of swans. For cygnets, meal is best, which, if thrown lightly on the surface of the water, they will skim off with their bills. When the cygnet is the size of a goose he is fit to be fattened for the table. Though residing in the neighbourhood of one of the largest swanneries perhaps in England (I have counted forty birds at one time), I cannot say that I have ever tasted the dish, excepting once when a boy. A friend of mine, some time ago, promised me a first-rate receipt for dressing these birds, but as yet I have not received it,—in common charity I will conclude that the delay is occasioned solely from the desire of sending me a cygnet to practise upon. In November next, therefore, I may be able to give you an account of this regal dish.

Swans pair and are very constant to each other,—in fact, after having made a match of it, Doctors' Commons becomes a *terra incognita* to them. Some ten or twelve winters ago, a flock of these birds strayed from the swannery above mentioned to a creek about six miles off; being taken for wild birds, they were shot at, and one of them was slightly wounded in the wing—the rest escaped; but notwithstanding the intervention of a large and populous town, the wounded bird was daily visited by its mate. In the course of a few weeks the maimed limb regained its strength, when the owner forthwith returned home, accompanied by his faithful spouse, “where they lived happily,” I conclude, “ever afterwards.”

The only other variety of swan that I have seen kept (and that only on one occasion) is the Australian black kind; it is a smaller bird, but though it has a proportionately longer neck, its colour forbids it being so ornamental as the white sort; I believe, also, that it is more pugnacious. I am sorry that “C. D. P.” should think me unfair towards Jersey; I was

there in 1851, not 1831, and saw nothing worth noticing in the poultry. It will perhaps mollify his feelings to know that I gave a resident in that island the first nest of Cochin China eggs known there. It may be, therefore, that I laid the foundation of the existing improvement; and if so, I am quite open to an acknowledgment of my services in the shape of a piece of plate. Now that summer is coming on, a claret jug (silver, of course) would be very acceptable, and I will send my coat of arms as soon as requested to do so.

Will “Mr. W. H. Woodcock” kindly help out my scanty notes on peafowl?

I am obliged to “R.B.” for his information—nothing like facts.

Thanks for the index, which caught my eye at once.

How would it answer to breed ortolans in this country? I wish some lady possessed of an aviary would try the experiment. These birds, just now, command prices nearly equal to fowls; but then, it must be borne in mind that they are last year's birds.

What think you of a Spanish pullet, not four months old, gravely clutching two deserted Cochin Chinas, of little less than half her age? This is philoprogenitiveness with a vengeance.

A few words, with which to conclude on Nos. 11, 12, and 13. So far from thinking that the “value of poultry,” *quoad* quantity and quality, is decreased, I consider that it must be advanced, probably by one-fourth. So far, too, from holding the opinion advanced in No. 11, that the cultivation of fancy kinds has injured the market, in the Leadenhall sense of the word, I think that the contrary is the case. The scarcity of good birds for the table, just now, arises chiefly from the great demand for good breeders of these kinds, and to an unwillingness on the part of their owners to weed their stocks at an age when they hesitate to pronounce decisively on their merits. There will be no lack of birds in the autumn; and less next spring than there

has been this. In estimating the increase of poultry, we must bear in mind how much the weight and size have been advanced as well as the numbers.

I do not think that the experiment, in No. 12, of the sex of the future chick, is at all conclusive; whenever any one shall hatch an entire brood of cockerels or pullets, I shall think that there is something in the theory.

As no one has replied to "A Chronicle Subscriber's" query, I will.—The works with which I am most conversant are "Johnson and Wingfield's Poultry Book," originally published in six numbers, at half-a-crown each; the "Rev. E. S. Dixon's Ornamental and Domestic Poultry" costs, if I remember rightly, five or six shillings; Mr. John Bailey's work can be had for two shillings; Mr. Richardson's for one; and Mr. Furneaux's "Poultry Pentologue" for eightpence. Orr and Co. are the publishers of the first and last named of these works, but I am not sure about the others. In addition to these, there are the productions of Mr. Tegetmier, another Mr. Dickson (with a *ck* instead of an *x*, for a "difference," as the heralds have it), and a writer who adopts the *nom de plume* of Martin Doyle. If the "Subscriber" will buy all these, study them carefully, and follow out all the advice therein contained, I will undertake to guarantee him an empty poultry-yard in six months. Should he, however, select a good work, stick to it, and use that compound of eyesight and reflective faculty called common sense, he will do very well, with a little purchased experience in addition to his book.

Far be it from me to lay aside that spirit of cautiousness which is the characteristic of my disposition, by venturing to recommend any one in particular of the works I have named. I have witnessed the consequences of the entrance of a snail into a hive,—the bees gummed him down for life; and I have seen the results of a dog intruding his nose into a wasp's nest,—after an unequal fight he fled. As neither passive nor active resistance could

save me from the *genus irritabile* of authors, I must decline calling their combative organs into activity, and leave "Subscriber" to choose for himself.

I quite agree with "An Amateur's" solution of "Pheasant fowls," by which the kind of Hamburgs known as "Moonies" must be meant. One of the great advantages of exhibitions is the recognition of a general nomenclature, and the abolition of local names.

"Rusticus, A. B." with the aid of Lindley Murray, has, I think, settled the relative properties of "setting" and "sitting."

Addendum.—As my experience in black Hamburgs has been entirely confined to the cultivation of the vine, perhaps "T. M. G." will be good enough to enlighten me with his version of the subject. Black Hamburg fowls are quite a novelty to me; I not only never saw or heard, but never dreamed of them, which is the more extraordinary as my nocturnal visions once presented me with an emerald green Cochin China; but just then Cochin Chinas were all the rage.

Are these black Hamburgs common in any given district, or are they peculiar to "T. M. G.'s" stock? How long has he had them, and whence did he get them? If they are really a good kind, and a distinct variety, let them be shown as extra stock; and if then approved of, the owner may expect to realize a small fortune.

[A pen of black Hamburgs was shown in Baker-street, last January, but the place they occupied was too dark for any black fowls to be appreciated.—Ed.]

Pigeons at the Shows.

I TAKE the liberty to offer a few remarks, now that the shows are over for one season and about commencing again. As not many prize lists are at present out, it seems the proper time to make a few

observations regarding the awarding of prizes to Pigeons.

The fanciers and visitors must have noticed, that at some of the poultry shows Pigeons have not been exhibited, and I think it would be wise to endeavour to find out the cause. The committees of management may not have considered Pigeons sufficiently attractive, or gentlemen of the Pigeon-fancy may have considered the prizes held out, too low, and have therefore declined exhibiting birds of the first class.

I think it is necessary for both parties to mind their stops; the fancier has no right to expect larger prizes than the committee of a show can afford. The *value* of the prize or medal ought not so much to be looked upon as the *honour* of taking it. Here I would suggest the propriety of having medals for prizes as low as 5s.; fanciers could show their brother-fanciers and friends their medals (provided they had them), and feel proud of them, whereas they would not like to show their five shillings. But let this be optional, as some might prefer the money, to pay the carriage, &c., of the birds.

Nothing can be so destructive to poultry shows as for the outgoings to exceed the receipts; while, on the contrary, nothing assists one more than a large number of handsome prizes. Most shows are hits or misses, owing to casualties over which the committee of management have no control, viz., the weather, &c. Where it proves a hit, could its surplus funds be better appropriated than by founding a ragged school? If it were announced in the programme that the surplus funds would be so used, I cannot help thinking that a large surplus would remain; and who knows what blessings might attend the poultry shows which are taking place in all parts of her most gracious Majesty's dominions? To think of a little ragged brother,—now as ragged as a colt,—fifty years hence, as Lord Mayor of London, returning thanks for health drunk, and stating that his education had been received at a ragged school

formed from the surplus funds of a poultry show. If they could be the means of raising one ragged school in every county, would not this cause the cottager's heart to sing for joy? Surely this is worth a trial.

Where poultry shows are unsuccessful, it may arise from many causes; the prizes may have been too many, and too high. Pigeons and Rabbits may have been excluded, whereas if they had been included, the show might have done much better. Fanciers of Pigeons and Rabbits are numerous, and would go many miles to see them; but their taste not being in fowls, they would not have power to attract them. So it ought to be; there is no accounting for the different fancies of men; it would be a bad job if every one fancied the same thing,—it must be with fanciers as with husbands, each believing "he has the only lovely Nan." There cannot be too great a variety to draw the many; it is said, "many a little makes a mickle,"—the greater the variety at a show, the larger the company.

I will suggest what I consider a good prize list for Pigeons, and offer a few remarks afterwards:—

PIGEONS.

ALMOND TUMBLERS, OR SPLASHES.

For the best pair, tested by the Standard of the Five Properties,—First Prize.

Ditto, Second Prize.

Ditto, Third Prize.

POUTERS, OR CROPPERS.

For the best pair of Black, Dun, Blue, Yellow, Red, White, and Mealy,—each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties.

CARRIERS, OR STOUT BIRDS.

For the best pair of Black, Dun, Blue, Silvers, White, Red, Yellow, Black-pied, Blue-pied, Black-mottled, Red-mottled, and Yellow-mottled,—each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties.

(To be continued.)

JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

A Fowl Slander.

THE "Peedee Times" (S. C.) thus discourses of the new "invention":—"We are averse to all big things, except big mountains, and we love them because they are the immediate creation of God, and are indices pointing to heaven. We never saw a big hog, or ox, but had cost more than he came to, in making him grow up to his size. So with big roosters; and in reply to a Shanghae friend, afflicted with the declining *furor*, we here give it as our opinion, that two pairs of legs attached to small and thrifty fowls, like the Mexican game and Dorking, will sustain and keep in a better condition more flesh and feather than a pair of gouty stilts under a modern Chinaman. And, too, careful comparison, deduced from the realities of cause and effect, teaches us that, as scratching is one of the elements of good living to a rooster, the smaller breeds, in this particular, have greatly the advantage over the automaton monsters of the poultry-yard. With bountiful crops and good seasons they may be made to do; but 1853 was wholesale sorrow to practical Shanghae breeders. Give us a Dorking or Mexican game for the spit, a bantam to crow, a turkey to roast, and guinea fowls for eggs, and we will give up all other fowl fancies to those who choose to indulge in them. 'Cock-a-doodle-doo' was the good old-fashioned smart crow of the roosters in the days of our boyhood; the insupportable 'Come and f-e-e-d me m-o-r-e' of the Shanghae is doleful enough to announce the funeral of a corn-crib."—*American Paper*.

White Spanish Fowl (Andalusian).

AN amusing writer of a little work, called "The Poultry Pentologue," asks if the White Spanish are a pure breed, or to the Black what the Alpino is to the human race. In the more elaborate work of the "Poultry Book" some valuable information is given regarding the White Spanish. My decided conviction is, that they are totally distinct from the Black fowl,—as distinct as the White Dorking is from the Coloured,—but that unless procured from some most carefully selected stock in Spain (a most difficult thing to find), however white the parents may be, some of the progeny will be coloured, white and brown chiefly, but *never* black. Last May I

brought over some of the white, and, owing to the demand I had for eggs, commissioned a friend to procure me twelve more; after nine months he was only able to send me seven, worth having, last month. I have bred from my old stock and these; I found the former stand the winter well, and lay this spring at least two months before my Black Spanish. The eggs are of an equal size with the Black, but I get more of them from a similar number of fowls. The chickens appear very hardy, and very precocious; two cockerels (one I now possess) were the most forward chicks I ever heard of; the one I still have *crowed at a fortnight old*, and many competent persons who have seen this bird think him a most extraordinary chick. A lady who had some eggs from me speaks similarly of her chicks.

The birds do not attain the size of the Black; their carriage is, if anything, rather better, and to those who prefer white-legged fowls, they have an advantage.

The *common* Andalusian fowl is speckled, not unlike our Dorking in colour.

Cowes.

W. S.

Domestic Fowls.

IT is said that the census of 1850 reveals the fact that the value of poultry in the United States was, at that time, twelve millions of dollars. This we do not regard as unreasonable, as it only amounts to fifty cents for each person. Still it is a very important item, and one which has been rapidly increasing for the last three years. If the value in 1850 was twelve millions, it may now be safely estimated at fifteen millions; and yet the country is not half supplied. The markets are not sufficiently supplied with *good* poultry, while there is a constant scarcity of eggs, except, perhaps, in May and June. Even early in the winter eggs have been as high as 22 cents per dozen, in villages remote from large cities. We think that now eggs can not be bought at retail in any village

in Western New York for less than eighteen cents per dozen.

There is a simple remedy for this. Now, more than two-thirds of families in villages buy their eggs. Let all such keep from 10 to 25 fowls, according to the extent and convenience of their premises. They are far more profitable, agreeable, and *decent*, for villagers, than pigs. By carefully saving the refuse from the kitchen, a few fowls may be kept at an expense not exceeding 25 cents each per year; and, when properly cared for, each hen (if of a good breed) will supply 10 dozen eggs per year. Here is a positive and palpable profit which can be realized in no other way so pleasantly and with so little trouble. Besides this, two or three hens may be allowed to raise broods of chickens, by which a supply of poultry will be provided for winter use.

We have spoken of this matter only in relation to families in villages, or those whose premises consist of a small lot with limited facilities for such business. The idea may, of course, be *expanded*, and applied to families differently situated, and to the business on a larger scale.—*From the Farming Mirror.*

Hints to Poultry Show Committees.

I HAVE NOW recorded the principal preparations, and, during the time that the committee have been busy with them, their secretary will have had his hands full—receiving entries and answering all sorts of correspondents—and unless he has the happy knack of doing his business with regularity and on some system, will be fast getting into a mess; and unless he is pretty cool and collected, will be fast losing his temper and getting hurried, and then adieu to regularity and order. How easy it is to lose your temper, and how difficult to recover your composure; one is the work of a minute—an unguarded moment—and the other requires hours to recover.

We will suppose the show day to be now approaching,—the committee ought to review their resources and preparations, and, if possible, have all ready. Unluckily, this is easier written than done, and the last few days generally are a scene of scramble and confusion, just what they ought not to be.

The committee must make efficient preparations for the reception of the birds, and I consider the best mode is to station a responsible committee-man at one of the doors, having all the rest closed and locked, and let him receive the hampers from the exhibitors at the door; do not allow one of them (the exhibitors), or any other person, to pass that barrier on any pretence, or you will have confusion and annoyance. If you admit the exhibitors to pen their own birds, every one will think he ought to be attended to first, and there is great danger of birds being “made safe” (to use a sporting term) by some distrustful competitor. Take my word, and admit nobody; have an efficient force of respectable porters to carry the hampers from the entrance-barrier to the pens, where your feeders, if they are the right sort of men, will unpack and pen the birds as quickly as the porters can bring them. The committee-man at the barrier will want an attendant, to enter in a book the carriage to be paid on any hampers, because, in many cases, exhibitors from a distance, and sometimes a very short distance, cannot pay the through carriage; the boy or clerk must enter these, and the secretary should at once write for payment before the birds are returned. This committee-man ought also to have a list of the number in each alley placed near him, or chalked on a door, so that the porters may see it; for instance, No. 1 alley, 1 to 50; No. 2 alley, 51 to 100. A man arrives with three hampers, Nos. 49, 62, and 90; they are passed under the barrier, and three porters take them in hand, look at the list; one goes off to No. 1 alley, and two to No. 2 alley, deposit their hampers in front of the proper pens; the

feeder comes up, opens the basket, casting an eye at the cards to see that all is right, puts the birds in the pen, fastens it, and pushes the hamper under it, the full hampers in front show him where to go next.

There will be required one or two, not more, other committee-men in the room, to keep a supervising eye on the men; but the committee-man at the door must on no account leave his post.

The staff of porters should be sufficiently numerous to do their work easily without being hurried. I should say, for 1,000 pens, 15 to 20 men will be required for the afternoon of reception; I believe at Birmingham they have about 30 for that work. The feeder and water-carrier must attend to the comforts of the birds as soon as possible after they are penned, and it is very desirable that the birds should be left to have a quiet night in the dark after they are all penned. Of course, a trustworthy watchman or two must be left in charge, or the police; and I may here remark that it is well to have a few policemen; they command respect from otherwise unruly and unmanageable persons, and make excellent parties to station at the exit doors.

I may now pass on to the sale office and its management: the secretary will require a cheque-book; on the leaves there must be two printed forms, one to be kept and one to be delivered to the purchaser, viz. :—

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Sold to | |
| Pen No. | |
| Price | |
| and on the other part— | |
| Bought by | |
| Address | |
| Pen | |
| Price | |

The secretary will require two assistants with him in the sale office,—one to write out the purchase, one to write off the numbers as sold, and the third for extra work. If the sale office is not opened until an hour or two after the doors, the same

staff that the secretary has worked with the judges, will do all the sale work, otherwise it will be an additional expense; for the secretary and his assistants will be very busy after receiving the awards from the judges, having a copy quickly prepared for the printer to get ready before the public are admitted.

The committee will also have to provide ticket and money-takers at the doors; they will want at least two money-takers at each door to relieve one another, and the treasurer should be prepared to receive from them, every hour, the cash, and from the ticket or cheque takers, their cheques to correct the cash. Umbrella and stick porters with tickets will be required, and these men must be quick-handed and able to read, or there will be an active business in the umbrella exchange trade done, greatly to the discredit of the show.

I have placed before your readers all the preliminary arrangements, and will suppose the birds to be comfortably penned; it will now be necessary that the secretary, or some member of the committee possessing a proper knowledge of birds, shall, with a catalogue of the birds in his hand, go carefully round the show, and ascertain that each lot of birds is in its right pen. Mistakes will occur in the best-regulated establishments, and birds sometimes get into the wrong class; this very frequently happens from carelessness or mistake on the part of the owner or his servants in packing, and the young birds are sent packed in the old class hamper, or, *vice versa*; but be the mistake where it will, the committee will be blamed for not having the birds penned rightly, and a little trouble and examination will save this unpleasantness by correcting the error.

All now being right, the birds penned, the pens cleaned, and floors swept, the hampers stowed away out of sight, all unnecessary attendants being turned out, the judges with their appointed guard of honour are admitted, with the pen opener in attendance, and the secretary and his

staff ready to receive from the judges their decisions. We will suppose them to have commenced and ended their part of the performance, and to have given in their awards; the secretary passes the prize list, made out, to the printing committee, who, on honour, do keep it secret, and produce it only when the public are admitted. The secretary and his staff fill up the prize cards with the classes and numbers, and attach them to the winning pens; the judges and working committee retire, the doors open, and an expectant crowd rush in to see and admire: this is, if they are admitted the same day as the judging; if they are not, and a night elapses between the judging and the showing, I recommend that the judges are asked, on honour, not to divulge the winners' numbers, but, having made their awards, they give in, in confidence, the list to the committee to have printed, and the winning cards be affixed only just before the show opens to the public. All this is to prevent the forestalling of which so many people complain, and which, or the suspicion of it, is so difficult to avoid. I would recommend those committee-men who have worked hard at the receiving and penning of the birds, to retire and take their rest, and be ready, with refreshed strength, to repack the birds after the show, which subject I will review in your next.

W. W.

Remarks on the Introduction of Classes for Single Specimens

At our Poultry Exhibitions.

THEY who frequently attend poultry exhibitions must hear at almost every show they enter, visitors bewailing the impossibility of purchasing "a single bird that is a first-rate one, to cross the blood of their own favourites at home;" and, to supply this deficiency, it has been attempted of late to secure the opportunity of so doing by the gift of prizes to single birds only.

This is an arrangement (where there is space to carry it out) that will undoubtedly become exceedingly popular with amateurs generally, though perchance the experiences of poultry committees will attest that there are, connected with it, some few temporary inconveniences; still I feel so positively convinced it is a step in the right direction, that I am anxious to see it generally adopted, and therefore respectfully intrude my opinions as to this subject upon those who feel interested in poultry matters.

To many amateurs of poultry nowadays the purchase of a prize pen of fowls is a very trivial and insignificant affair, as such parties enter the room with the fixed determination of buying, let the price demanded be as apparently prohibitory as it may. I am very glad to find a number of such parties among us, as their "long purses" may benefit the less affluent class of amateurs; but as I consider such cases to be more the exception than the rule, my attention is naturally drawn to the numerous body to whom extensive outlay is impossible, from their comparatively restricted circumstances. There are very many who may anxiously desire a single specimen, who could ill afford to purchase a pen of three or four fowls, with the idea of selling the greater bulk of them to secure the one they coveted; more especially when they consider the great reduction in price consequent on such re-sale,—there are likewise not a few who would not choose to trouble themselves by this second disposal, but would really prefer to give the long figure for "just the one they wanted," and that alone. From these causes it is a well ascertained fact, that the single prize fowls very rarely return to their original owners, although the prices demanded may appear far beyond their value, and thus a breeder feels his interests equally consulted with those of the individual purchasing (so that such parties have no just cause of complaint from the loss of the fowls exhibited). I have now, therefore, only to call the attention of the committees of exhibi-

bitions to the sunny side of the affair, in the very increased number of entries, and the extended interest to the public generally, but of connoisseurs more especially.

No one will, I think, be prepared to deny the fact, that very many amateurs, who can show a single specimen that would be a credit to any exhibition, are quite foiled in the attempt of competition with a pen of three or four fowls; hence their chances of success are exceedingly limited, the excellency of a single fowl shown with others (if these are indifferent birds) never appearing before the public (the extreme recognition being a private note in the judge's book), and it is this that not unfrequently leads to exhibitors expressing their perfect astonishment, "such a fowl could by any possibility be overlooked," or sometimes going so far as to declare the adverse decision to be simply "the result of negligence," "want of efficiency," or even "favouritism," in the parties by whom the prizes were awarded. I deeply regret that any party in possession of such a bird should not have free opportunity of testing its excellencies by a public competition, which, notwithstanding anything that may be advanced to the contrary, is the best and surest ordeal of its superiority or otherwise; for it is at such times we find how prone we are to pre-suppose none others so good as our own, and sometimes are reluctantly compelled to acknowledge ourselves fairly and well beaten, though quite unexpectedly. It is for these plain reasons I advise classes for single birds only, in conjunction with the usual ones.

There have been two principal objections raised against the plan I now advocate, viz., the additional expense in arrangement of pens, and the much greater noise (from crowing) produced by cocks when cooped alone. To the latter objection I cannot suggest any remedy, but think it one of those unavoidable misfortunes that, as it admits of no cure, must be patiently endured; to the former I think the additional "entrance money" (where charged by the pen) will serve as an ample remuneration for the extra trouble and annoyances to the managing committee, and it must never be overlooked that the most perfect specimens in the whole show are in this class always (or at least generally) exhibited.

This plan insures to the breeder a far higher price for his bird, and to the purchaser a much better specimen for his outlay, a combined accommodation to which I may add the certainty of a change of blood (when, on the other hand, by securing a prize pen containing three or four fowls, it not unfrequently happens that they are the most intimately related, even fellow-chickens from the same hatch, and from such an intercourse we may depend never failing degeneracy in their offspring will certainly ensue). There may be some little hesitation felt also to the introduction of these classes from the fact that very great accessions of numbers of "the entries" would increase the exhibition beyond its due limits if prizes were given to single birds.

This may be met by the premiums being of less amount in these single classes, and also limited to some few of the principal varieties alone.

There is, in addition to what has been said of single fowls, much benefit to be hoped for by the introduction of classes for single pairs of fowls; and I have noticed that, generally speaking, such pens have contained poultry the most perfect, and therefore the most interesting, in the whole room wherever this arrangement has been hitherto attempted.

These classes afford in no slight degree an unfailling test of the absolute efficiency, or the contrary, of the judges themselves to fulfil the office they have undertaken; for here, by these gentlemen, "no loophole can be sought," each fowl relying alone on its individual merits, independently and exclusively of all others; and therefore I repeat, the justice of the decisions, or the reverse, is immediately evident.

The summary of these remarks is soon given:—you have superior specimens, more

given:—you have superior specimens, more

easily available to purchasers—increased number of entries—more lively interest in the exhibition by the public (and breeders of poultry more especially); while last, though not least, absolute change of blood, for the “brood stock” of spirited buyers. These I feel assured are no mean advantages for consideration, and do therefore hope they may engage the careful attention of those poultry committees who are now consulting how they had better frame the “prize list” of their first exhibitions.

E. C.

Guinea Pigs v. Rats.

ALL the statements and counter-statements in your few last numbers, that guinea pigs are or are not a protection to poultry against rats, appear to me so contradictory, yet so truthfully recorded, that it is most difficult to reconcile them; and the only mode that occurs to me of supposing that your correspondents on both sides are right, is, that your friend, whose poultry are so happily under the protection of piebald rats, luckily for himself and chickens, is residing in the neighbourhood of a community of rats of the Jewish persuasion, who eschew the unclean swine in all shapes, and that your friend who suffers? must be too near some Gentile rats, who are still disposed to go the whole pig. I must say, that I was somewhat astonished at the statement that rats disliked the society of Guinea pigs, inasmuch as I was a witness a few years ago, when residing at Rio de Janeiro, that they had a particularly strong desire for a very close acquaintanceship with some Guinea pigs which belonged to a friend with whom I was then living, and from appearances, I strongly suspect that the rats were the most anxious to form the connection, and that if the Guinea pigs could, they would have gladly cut the rats, and no doubt voted them a bore—but to my anecdote.

My friend had three very large Guinea pigs in a room; the night after their

arrival, piggy *père* was missing, leaving his disconsolate widows, who looked very lively and knowing, but not being able, could not explain to us the cause of his elopement; the following night one of the fair dames vanished also. The servants were accused of having taken the two; this suspicion annoyed one of them, and caused him to watch: hearing a grand scuffle in the room, he suddenly opened the door and beheld two rats dragging the unfortunate pig away by her ears, each having one in his mouth, and apparently quite “up” to the job; by the struggles of the luckless Guinea pig, it was evident she was no party to the elopement, and I have not a doubt but that the rats found cold pig very good, for they took her also a few nights after, notwithstanding all attempts to protect her from them.

W. W.

Chit-Chat.

ISLE OF WIGHT POULTRY SHOW.—A correspondent, residing at Cowes, writes, “You *should* have said, in your notice of our show, that it is under the patronage of H. R. H. Prince Albert, as few are similarly honoured.”

The Editor's Letter-Box.

RETENTIVE VITALITY IN EGGS.

SIR,—So much has of late been said and written respecting the retentive vitality in eggs, that I feel nothing can be said by me which has not already been told by others; yet I will just mention an instance, where, had I not previously been enlightened upon this subject, a setting of eggs would, in all probability, have been destroyed.

A friend of mine had a hen sitting upon twelve eggs, and on the morning of the tenth day, he, as usual, took her off to feed: just at this time he was called away by business, and never once thought of his hen till the afternoon, when, on going to his hen-house, he found the eggs, to all appearances and “sensibilities of touch,” quite cold. I happened to see him in the evening, when

he related the circumstances to me, and said he intended to destroy the eggs and put some fresh ones under; but I recommended him to let her continue sitting, as I had heard that eggs, though they appeared quite cold, still retained their vitality for some hours: he accordingly did so, but on the twenty-first day he informed, me with rather a long face, that no chicks had appeared, but still he intended waiting another day, and the result was, that on the morning of the twenty-third day he had the pleasure to find eight chickens, which are now all doing well.

Hoping these few remarks may in some slight degree prove of service to some of the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," as previous remarks have proved of service to myself and others, I remain, Sir, yours truly,
 TYPO.

POULTRY EXPERIENCE.

Æ SIR,—My experience proves that a hen will cover successfully 15 eggs at this season, as you will see by the following progeny produced from my four hens, each sitting on 15 eggs:

- May 10. Cinnamon hen hatched 14 out of 15.
- 18. Buff hen hatched 14 out of 15.
- 19. Partridge hen hatched 12 out of 15, 3 eggs being broken in the nest.

May 22. Red hatched 13 out of 15, all doing well. I must not omit to mention, that I have had two opportunities of restoring apparently lifeless chicks by holding them in the smoke. I must say, to my great surprise, in both instances I was successful. The chicks, when I removed them from the nest, appeared as if they had been trodden on; they were moist as they came out of the shell, seemingly lifeless and stone-cold. I thought immediately of "H. H.'s" plan; he certainly could not have had two worse subjects to operate on. After holding the first in the smoke of the kitchen chimney for a few seconds, it opened its beak, shortly after its eyes, and in a few minutes began chirping lustily. I placed it in a warm basket near the fire for an hour, when it was quite fit to be returned to the parent hen. The other chick I treated exactly the same way, and with the like success; they are now well, and not to be distinguished from the other chicks. Having laughed at "H. H.'s" method as a tale, I should be wrong in not making the *amende*, and thanking him for the wrinkle he has given, and acknowledging its efficacy.

The articles by "Sylvanus" are very interesting. I think a good plan to induce cottagers to keep a superior sort of poultry, and so increase their comforts, would be to set before them a plain statement of the profits and expenses arising from a small number of fowls, for which purpose I

give an account of four Cochin hens and a cock, which I received in November last.

RECEIPTS.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Eggs laid by 4 hens, from Nov. 1853, to May 1854, 260; set, 78; leaving 182; value, say 1d. each | 0 | 15 | 2 |
| Although worth much more, having been laid early. | | | |
| Sold at Leadenhall-market, 11 chicks between two and three months old: | | | |
| May 19th | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| 5 ducklings, two months old, value, say 3s. each | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 53 chicks, value, say 6d. each | 1 | 6 | 6 |
| 2 buff chicks, retained from first brood, value each, say 3s. | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Total | £4 | 10 | 8 |

EXPENSES.

| | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Cost of food from Nov. to May | 1 | 10 | 6 |
| Carriage of chicks to London for sale .. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Commission for sale | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | £1 | 15 | 6 |
| Total receipts | 4 | 10 | 8 |
| Deduct expenses | 1 | 15 | 6 |

Leaving clear profit on six months from
 4 hens £2 15 2

It will be allowed I have put down the value of the eggs and chicks below their worth, so as not to mislead. Half the eggs would, no doubt, have fetched 2d. or more each, being laid in the winter, putting out of the question their value as pure Cochin eggs for setting. The attention requisite should, and would no doubt, be looked on as a pleasure by the cottager's family, and need not interfere with their occupation; and how far more satisfactory to earn a little in this way, than to spend the money required for keeping them at the ale-house. I trust that amateurs will never object to give an egg or two to the industrious, honest cottager, whom they see endeavouring to support his family respectably, and to encourage all attempts on his part to better his condition.

Before I close this, I must mention that my four hens, sitting all at the same time, put me at my wit's end to find eggs for them, as I had given a great many away, and I was anxious to put fifteen eggs under each hen for experiment. I made up the number, all but four, out of my own eggs; and these four I filled up out of a box of eggs a neighbouring grocer had just purchased; they were French eggs, and I was curious to see the style of fowl that produces so many

eggs as to enable our Gallic friends to supply us as they do. The result is one chick, and a most queer specimen he looks alongside the Cochins chicks. I trust you will continue to give the weekly state of the poultry market, which I see is left out in No. 12.—Your obedient servant,
Gus.

“SITTING AND SETTING.”

MR. EDITOR,—Will you call your correspondents to order, who constantly abuse all grammatical rules by talking about “Eggs for sitting,” “Sitting Hens on Eggs,” and “Hens that are setting?” To *sit* is a neuter or intransitive verb, and hence makes sense of itself without any addition, or conveying the idea of action. To *set* is an active and transitive verb, hence the action passes on to an object that receives the action. For example; I set a hen. What do I *set*?—a hen, which is the object of the action. The hen sits. What *does* the hen?—*Sits*. What does she *sit*? Nothing at all; she simply *sits*, there being no object, the verb being complete in itself.
X. L. B.

THE BRAHMAS.

MR. EDITOR,—My solicitude is really very much awakened on behalf of my friend, and your correspondent, “C. H. B.,” by reading his letter to you on the Brahmas; and were it not for the fact that I have the honour and pleasure of his acquaintance, and know that, at the time his letter must have been written, he was at large, I should be quite uneasy about him. I trust and believe, however, that while penning his remarks to you, he was only in a waking dream, from which I hope to be able to recall him. What does he mean by saying that the Brahma lustre is nearly extinct? Is it because they do not realise such fabulous prices as he was in the habit of obtaining for his favourite Buffs and their eggs, during the last two or three seasons? If so, I shall at once join issue with him, and state that there is a steady and increasing demand for Brahmas at fair remunerative prices; not £30 or £40 each, it is true, but 30s. to 60s. each for good chickens of this season, and from 7s. to 20s. for others not exhibiting particular marks of excellence. I am now speaking from my own experience, and this is certainly a much more wholesome state of things, and more likely to last, than when people were running madly after Buffs, and giving their 40 guineas for Salopians and Nelsons, and 20 to 30 guineas for Andrews hens, Anjies, and Clouds—to say nothing of the world-famed 100 guinea Phoenix—it was not natural; but these things have now

found their level, and only let the Brahmas have a fair field and no favour, they must go a-head; and “C. H. B.” may rest assured, that those who undertake to supply Brahmas like other fowls, at fair, reasonable prices, need not fear obtaining customers: let them take my advice and try.

The second paragraph in his letter is even more inexplicable to me than the first; for when answering “B. P.” on the question of the pea comb in buff and other coloured Cochins, he says distinctly, that when Cochins are manufactured from Malays and Dorkings, they have a pea comb. Why, he is getting worse and worse; Cochins produced by a cross between Malay and Dorking!!! Oh, ye Gilberts and ye Collinsons, ye Sparhams and ye Fletchers, fly to the rescue and remove this bar-sinister from the escutcheon of your indomitable buffs. He next doubts the fact of “B. P.” having bred a hundred Brahmas, well-feathered on the legs. I do not know who “B. P.” is, but I quite believe him, and will undertake to produce “C. H. B.” fifty chickens of my own breeding, which he shall acknowledge to be all well-feathered; I have not at present seen or heard of a single chicken bred from my eggs which has not been so. I should very much like to know where the *thousands* are to be found that “C. H. B.” says he has seen. It reminds me of the hundred cats the boy saw in his grandmother’s garret, but which, on inquiry, turned out to be “our cat and another!” I suspect “C. H. B.’s” thousands would dwindle down to about the same proportions, unless he has been imposed upon by some designing person, who has shown him a lot of chickens described as, and which “C. H. B.,” in his innocence, believed to be, Brahmas. He next calls attention to the fact of Mr. Stainton having *lots* of these birds in 1851: it is true that Mr. Stainton had some gray birds about that time, which he sold at Mr. Stevens’s, and they sold pretty well too; but they were in many respects essentially different from the strains we now have, and as a crowning point, were nearly all furnished with a very respectable crest or top-knot. I had a little experience with these birds, having bought a pair and bred from them, but got nothing but silver cinnamon chickens from them; and a lady who took a fancy to them had half-a-dozen eggs with exactly the same result, while, on the contrary, I have not a single chicken from my Brahmas but has come true to colour; some lighter, some darker, according to the parents, but all possessing the distinctive gray plumage, with well-feathered yellow legs. “C. H. B.’s” allusion to the correspondence in the “Cottage Gardener,” on this subject, is like the French-

man's account of the battle of Waterloo: he said, "we gain one grand victory and then we go away." It is notorious that he got quite the worst of the fray on that occasion, as I doubt not he will now, for I dare say more able scribblers than I will have furnished you with more powerful answers to the dicta of "C. H. B." than I have the ability for.

He says, in conclusion, "The tottering fabric is almost down, and needs only a few more discharges to complete its entire destruction." Why he should wish to destroy it at all I know not; but indeed he is quite mistaken if he thinks that the pop-guns he has brought to bear on the citadel will have any effect on its adamantine walls; not even the long-range guns, now battering away at Sebastopol, would do it, unless loaded with more powerful ammunition than "C. H. B." has at his disposal; the sterling qualities of the Brahmas, will for ever sustain them against such attacks as those of your correspondent "C. H. B." In order, Mr. Editor, that I may not be told this is a capital advertisement of my birds, I leave it to you to place my name, initials, or any *alias* you please, to this letter; but to any one wishing for it, you are at perfect liberty to give it.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

P. JONES.

SITTING HENS' NESTS.

MR. EDITOR,—Your correspondents, "K. W." and others, having mentioned moisture as necessary for incubation, allow me to offer a brief statement of seven sitting hens and the result. I confess I have no faith in any one plan as certain at all times to insure success; the time of the year and state of the atmosphere must, I think, guide you in your choice of a position, and the materials of which to construct a nest. I trust other of your readers will give the result of their experience. I would remark that the first six hens were under my own management, and had equal facilities for procuring food, water, and dusting baths; and that all sat well, all were Cochins, and the eggs were the produce of my own yard.

1st. A set of 6 eggs on a clay floor, with a straw nest; produce, 5 chicks.

2nd. A set of 13 eggs in a loft, nest made by the hen in a truss of straw; produce, 12 chicks.

3rd. A set of 14 eggs in ashes, on a brick floor, with a thin coating of straw; produce, 13 chicks.

4th. A set of 11 eggs, do. do.; produce, 10 chicks.

5th. A set of 5 eggs in do. on an earth floor; 5 chicks.

6th. A set of 14 eggs on do.; 13 chicks.

7th. A friend and neighbour of mine, who keeps the duckwing game, set a hen in a box a yard from the ground, in a dry house, on 15 eggs; to these she added 2 before sitting close, making 17, and, much to his surprise, she hatched the whole of them; and to-day I have seen the produce (now three weeks old), and a more healthy brood I never beheld.—Yours, G.

RATS.

SIR,—Several numbers of your valuable periodical, the "Poultry Chronicle," have been placed in my hands, I have now ordered them, and perceiving that many of your correspondents are much annoyed with rats, I beg to submit the following as my own experience. A piece of good sponge was washed, and consequently extended to the utmost; it was then saturated with honey, cut into pieces about the size of a nut, placed on a plate and baked in an oven, when it was placed in the runs secure from all other animals, and soon devoured by the rats, and the consequence was the destruction of the entire colony. In some situations this would make their putrefying carcasses unpleasant, which is the only objection I am aware of.—Yours obediently, C. D.

The above is at your service in any way you please.

FAIR PLAY TO THE BRAHMAS.

MR. EDITOR,—As a constant reader of your excellent little paper, will you grant me a small corner of it, for a few words I have got to say, in defence of the unfortunate "Brahmas," which have been so unceremoniously carved in Nos. 10 and 12 of the "Chronicle."

In these articles, we are told the "Brahmas" are a cross between the white Shanghai and the coloured rose-combed Dorking, or a "compound" of Malay and Dorking. Now, Sir, if either the one or the other of these statements is true (for it is impossible they can both be so), the bird becomes comparatively worthless in the eyes of the fancy breeder, and we must, henceforth, erase its name from the list of choice birds; but I think it would be well, before we do so, to obtain some proof on the point, and not to act on mere suppositions, which are as likely to be false as true. I would, therefore, ask the writers of the articles in Nos. 10 and 12, whether they have ever raised chickens from the crosses they name, or can prove that "Brahmas" have been so produced? if so, they should have told us, and not dealt in bare assertions, which determine nothing; thus, I am sure, they would have gained

thanks from all who are, at present, interested in the birds. Unless they or some one else can tell us candidly and honestly that "Brahmas" have been raised by crossing, we must, I think, for the present, admit the purity of the bird, and allow a valuable fowl to enjoy its high reputation, unimpugned by the ill-natured remarks and premature conclusions of a few.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

A PROOF-SEEKER.

Foot of the Grampians, May, 1854.

THE STATISTICS OF A POULTRY-YARD.

SIR,—I am not going to enter the gladiatorial arena, being a man of peace myself. But in the contention between Cochins and Brahma Pootras (I was taught to spell the river Burrampooter, in a plain, straightforward way (see *Walker*), when I was at school—no doubt the division of the word and two capitals is more stylish), let each have their respective merits, without trying to run down each other's favourites. Besides, our tastes, our means, and our objects are different. I am only a beginner, but I want the best bird, that is, for my purposes, namely, mainly for eggs, with quiet domestic habits, and something handsome to look at. Facts are always valuable. Let me tell what my Cochins have done for me. My stock is so small that I know every egg, and keep an account of what each fowl lays accurately. One of them, a good bird, but not a fancy one at a show, began to lay in dead winter. At her 29th egg, she wanted to sit. Thinking it too early for our accommodation and appliances, we put her off. In about a week she began to lay again, and has gone on, missing only a day now and then, ever since, till she has now given us upwards of twice her own weight, not very small either, in eggs; her 110th this season being laid to-day! Perhaps this is nothing remarkable. So much the better for the Cochins if it is not. But I want to know what fowl does better, or comes near up to it? My other Cochins, finer bred birds, have done well; one of them being now on her second brood, with plenty of eggs to give away besides. A half-bred hen, between Cochin and Dorking, began to lay in the winter, before any other hen whatever. In due time she brought up a fine family of Cochins; and in three weeks, with thirteen chickens about her, began to lay again. I was pleased and surprised; but perhaps it is only my little experience that makes me think anything of it. My object in sending these facts, if worth recording, is simply information; and I will report the final result of my Cochin hen laying, if thought worth while.—I am, respectfully,

TYRO.

EXPERIENCE IN THE POULTRY-YARD.

SIR,—In the month of May, 1853, I raised, from eggs which had been given me, three Shanghae pullets; they began to lay on the 1st December last. I will call them as coloured, ginger, cinnamon, and buff. The ginger pullet has never evinced any desire to sit. The cinnamon I set on ten eggs on the 13th February, nine of which she hatched on the 6th March; she left her chickens at six weeks, having commenced laying just before. I set her again on Saturday last, the 13th. The buff pullet I set on nine eggs on the 21st February; she hatched only two on the 14th March. I removed the chickens, and put them under another hen; she did not appear to miss them more than three or four days, and in less than a month began to lay again. I have a Brahma hen which laid about twenty-five eggs; she sat the 3rd of April, hatching on the 25th. I found her a very bad mother: she ate one of her chickens on chipping the shell, and as the others hatched, greedily devoured the shells. She has not again commenced laying. From these birds I have had 284 eggs since the 1st of December. The Brahma lays very much larger eggs than the Shanghae, and to me appears decidedly a distinct breed of bird. The Shanghaes are quiet and retiring, and nothing apparently will induce them to be friendly with the Brahmas. The cackle of the Brahma after laying is much shriller than the Shanghae, and there is a fullness of feather over the eye in the Brahma which is not perceptible in the Shanghae. I have bred from the Brahmas heavily-feathered birds, white, with grey wings, and I find the young Brahmas most pugnacious, and they will not fraternise with the young Shanghaes; they are shorter in the body, carry themselves more erect than the Shanghaes, and feather more rapidly. I cannot discover much difference in the crow of the male bird from the Shanghae, but he is perpetually, so to say, chattering to the hen, with a peculiar hissing kind of noise which I have never noticed in the Shanghae.

If the Brahmas are the result of a cross and are nothing but grey Shanghaes, how is it they breed so true to colour? Your correspondent "C. H. B." says, out of the thousands (Brahmas), he has seen, at least one-half were very partially feathered. I was not aware that thousands of Brahmas were in this country; I have no doubt he alludes to the so-called Brahmas, many of which at one time had brown feathers intermingled.

I will mention one fact well known, which occurred some few years since. A gentleman, desirous of breeding game birds, sent the eggs to a tenant of his to hatch. The agreement was, that

the tenant should have all the pullets, and the cockerels were to be kept for the landlord; somehow or other the tenant never could manage to breed cockerels—they were always pullets; unquestionably it was by design, and this I think goes far to prove that the sex is discernible by the position of the air cell.—Yours, G. S. B.

N. B. I enclose my card for authenticating my statement.

UNFERTILE EGGS.

SIR,—Among the many remarks with which your correspondents have obliged your readers on the subject of Brahma Pootras, I do not remember to have seen one on the number of unprolific eggs which they lay, yet I think few who possess them can have failed to notice it. May not this defect be caused by the in-and-in breeding which must have taken place, supposing they all sprang from one pair, and is it not a proof that they are a distinct race?—Yours truly,

EMMA.

ENGLISH SKYLARKS IN AUSTRALIA.—

Among the passengers taken on board the P. Van Marnix, Dutch ship, while lying at Gravesend, were twelve English skylarks. Of these, one died in the Channel, but another flew on board, and was caught while the ship was skirting the Bay of Biscay, again making up the dozen; but this one soon died from exhaustion. The remaining eleven crossed the line, and began first to sing in lat. 16 S., singing best in boisterous weather; rounded the Cape safe all the way to the Isle of St. Paul, where one died, and two more off the coast of Australia, leaving eight, which entered the Heads. Upon the New Land, another died (which had been some time sickly), leaving seven surviving out of the dozen, which seven were let loose, all brisk and well, on the Barrabool hills, surrounding Pollock's-lord vineyard. When the door of the cage was opened, the merry songsters flew off well together in a covey—better than could have been expected after their long confinement. They required very great attention during the voyage. It may be interesting to watch their progress in their new country.—*Galway Advertiser.*

RETENTIVE VITALITY OF EGGS.—A gentleman at Kulon had, a short time since, a Cochon hen sitting in an outhouse, the nest having been constructed upon a heap of fagots; but, to the dismay of the servant, one morning, after the hen had sat some days, three of the eggs were gone; rats were blamed, and traps accordingly set, and on the following morning all the eggs were gone. The appearance of the nest, however, caused a search to be made, and on the ground, three feet from the nest, the lot were found unbroken and quite cold; the eggs having apparently slipped from one stick to another until they all reached the ground in safety. The most extraordinary thing, however, was the fact that, at the expiration of the twenty-one days, the birds began to make their appearance, and, by the end of the twenty-fourth day, nine chicks were hatched, and are now in good health.—

C. P., Boston.

WHEREVER IT IS POSSIBLE, let your fowls travel by night: the only difference to them then is, they roost in the basket, instead of at home.

To Correspondents.

To G. G. of O.—Your chequered little Brahmas are quite as likely to turn out very handsome as whiter chicks. Some *prefer* the darker markings. We think perfection of colour, white saddle, well-defined hackle, and a sort of chinchilla gray for thighs and under part: the cocks with black spangling on the breast; but of course tastes differ. We are much obliged for the contribution.

To J. C.—We should be *very* much obliged for a second paper on the W. Dorking, with an account of our contributor's mode of feeding and management.

T. M. G.—The best floor for a fowl-house is made of gravel-stones, clay and chalk, rammed hard together. It is well to leave part of the run gravel, as it is food in wet weather. Part should be loose earth, where the fowls can scratch, and part grass. High perches are bad for all fowls, and as yours are Hamburgs, they will not be stolen: taken off the perch at night, their noise would alarm a city. Mixed grass is best for fowls. Wood-ashes make by far the best

dust-bath. Malt dust will make the eggs taste, as the birds eat it.

C. J. W.—Many thanks for the kind offer respecting "Taunton," which we gladly accept. *Φιλορριθα*, in a letter, for the insertion of which we much regret we have not space this week, gives an account, most gratifying to an amateur, of the success of some eggs purchased of Mr. Baily, of Mount-street; they travelled forty miles by rail, endured a jolting journey of ten miles, were placed under a hen at the end of a week, and produced five fine chicks from six eggs.

T. M. G. wishes to know "which is the best (complete) work on poultry." We reckon the simplest and best to be Mr. Baily's "Fowls," (we believe the price is 2s.), and the "Poultry Pentologue," price 8d. Several others are enumerated by "Alector" this week. We believe the best plates are in the "Poultry Book," by Messrs. Johnson and Wingfield.

To *Gus*.—We do not think of discontinuing the report of the poultry market; its omission one week was occasioned by the most unusual occurrence of a letter lost in the post.

A Beginner.—A Cochon China, of whatever colour, can scarcely have a greater fault than clean legs: the feathered legs is one of the most characteristic points of this fowl.

Bantams have been allowed to run with large descriptions of fowls, but it is much better to keep them apart.

Q. Z.—There is little difficulty in filling up your certificate. You can call them by their names, Grey or Speckled, as you will. The prize is given for Dorkings, without restriction as to colour, which is the only distinction possible. The rules for matching were published in our paper a few weeks since. It is impossible to name any weight as that which a cock ought to be at twelve months, but one weighing 8½lbs. is a very capital bird.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE supply of chickens during the past week has been large, and there is a slight reduction in the price of them, but fowls are still unusually scarce. The demand has been good, and the best qualities have met a ready sale at the following quotations:—

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|----|---------|----------|
| Fowls | 6s. 6d. | to | 8s. 6d. | each. |
| Chickens | 3s. 0d. | to | 4s. 6d. | „ |
| Goslings | 5s. 0d. | to | 6s. 6d. | „ |
| Ducklings | 3s. 3d. | to | 4s. 0d. | „ |
| Leverets | 3s. 0d. | to | 5s. 0d. | „ |
| Pigeons | 0s. 10d. | to | 1s. 0d. | „ |
| Quails | 1s. 6d. | to | 1s. 9d. | „ |
| Plovers' eggs, in bulk, | 3s. 0d. | to | 3s. 6d. | per doz. |

Advertisements.

THE HORTICULTURAL JOURNAL and Farm and Garden Advertiser. No. 7, on Saturday, May 27th, price 2d., stamped 3d., contains a FULL REPORT of the ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY'S SHOW at Regent's Park.

This work is edited by George Glenny, F.H.S., and is devoted exclusively to the use of the true Practical and Amateur Gardener. It contains full reports of Shows, New Flowers, Weekly Operations, &c.

Published every Saturday, by F. DILLON, at the Office, 14, York-street, Covent-garden, London, to whom all communications are to be addressed.

PIGEONS.—A TREATISE on the Art of Breeding and Managing Fancy PIGEONS. Also, how to breed the Antwerp, or most subtle, canning, sharpest-flying Pigeon for Homeing. Carefully compiled from the best authors, containing the whole of the Works of Moore, 1735; Mayor, 1765; Girtin; Roy, Esqr's., Notes. With Observations and Reflections, by J. M. Eaton, with seven elegantly-engraved coloured Portraits (large as life) by Wolstenholme. Published by and to be obtained of the author, JOHN MATTHEWS EATON, 7, Islington-green, London, price 10s., post free. Money Orders payable 86, Upper-street, Islington.

MRS. LYDIA C. STOW, of Bredon, will now DISPOSE of EGGS from her PRIZE SPANISH BIRDS, at three guineas for a dozen, box included.

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Dorkings | One Guinea. |
| Buff Cochon China | ditto. |
| Black Cochon China | ditto. |

Post-office orders to be made payable at Tewkesbury.

TO BE DISPOSED OF, WHITE-CRESTED POLANDS, Cockerel and Pullet, from first-class birds, £1. 10s. Also Duck-winged Game Eggs, from first-rate Prize Birds, 15s. per setting. A Silver-pencilled Hamburg Cock and two hens, £1.—Apply to J. MORRIS, jun., Amptill, Beds.

CHICKENS OF 1854.

JOHN FAIRLIE, Esq., Cheveley-park, Newmarket, will be prepared, after the 25th June, to DISPOSE of his CHICKENS, all bred from his well-known Prize Birds.—Terms may be had by enclosing a stamped-directed envelope as above.

FANCY POULTRY.—PERIODICAL SALE

MR. J. C. STEVENS will SELL by AUCTION at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on TUESDAY, 6th June, at 12 o'clock precisely, a selection of very choice BRAHMA POOTRA and COCHIN CHINA FOWLS and CHICKENS, from several first-class breeders, including Captain Snell, Messrs. Cannon, Shackel, Jones, Hill, &c.—Catalogues, by enclosing a stamped-directed envelope to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent-garden. N.B. These auctions take place on the first and third Tuesdays in every month. Persons wishing to include birds in the catalogue are requested to send particulars at least ten days before each sale.

GUINEA FOWLS' EGGS, 10s. the hatch of twenty-one, from the same stock that took the first prize at Norwich, and second at Birmingham. Dark Grey Dorkings, 10s. the hatch, from prize birds.—W. COPPLE, Eccleston, Prescott, Lancashire.

JAMES DIXON, Bradford, Yorkshire, will SELL EGGS during the season from his Golden and Silver Spangled and Silver Pencilled Hamburg Fowls; also Spanish, from good White-faced Birds, 10s. the sitting.—Aylesbury, Rouen, and East India DUCKS' 6d. each. Most of the above have taken several prizes.

PRTARMIGAN EGGS for SALE from Prize Birds, £2. 2s. per dozen. Sent on receipt of Post-office order, addressed to FREDERIC BERNAL, Esq., Fareham, Hants.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, near Haverhill, Suffolk, disposes of Eggs from his Buff, and also from his original Partridge-coloured, Birds, price 1s. each, and 1s. for package.—Applications for either, variety will be supplied in the order received.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—Mr. Hebblethwaite, of the Castle, Knaresborough, has now for SALE, two BUFF COCKS and PULLETS. The male birds have taken prizes at York, Lewes, Huddersfield, and Howden, and the Pullets are highly commended.

Address to Mr. HEBBLETHWAITE, the Castle, Knaresborough.

TO AMATEURS.

A rare opportunity now presents itself of PURCHASING, at a moderate price, first-rate early-hatched DORKING, BLACK, SPANISH, and BUFF COCHIN Chickens.—For price, pedigree, &c., apply to S. H. HAMERTON, Esq.

EGGs from FIRST CLASS and PRIZE BIRDS.—JOHN BAILY has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

EGGs from splendid imported BRAHMAS and Prize DORKINGS, 1s. each.—Apply to the POULTRYMAN, Abington Rectory, Northampton.

SPANISH and DORKING FOWLS.—Capt. Hornby having transferred his whole Stock of celebrated Poultry to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, of Spring Grove, Hounslow, a portion (for want of space) is for Sale.

MR. FISHER HOBBS has EGGS for SALE from his Prize Dorking Fowls, at 5s. each, package included. Also a few Golden-pencilled Hamburg Eggs, from his birds that took First and Second Prizes, at 1s. 6d. each. A few Dorking Cocks, fellows to the prize birds, for Sale.—Apply at Boxted-lodge, Colchester.

EGGs from CAPT. HORNBY's celebrated Spanish and Dorking Prize Fowls may be had on application to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, Spring Grove, Hounslow, to whom Capt. Hornby has transferred his whole stock.

Spanish £4. 4s. per dozen.

Dorking £3. 3s. "

Remittances to be made by post-office order, and to include 2s. for packing.

BEDFORDSHIRE POULTRY EXHIBITION.

THE SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION of POULTRY will take place at the CORN EXCHANGE, BEDFORD, on Tuesday, the 31st of October, and Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2nd of November, 1854.—Forms of Entry and Schedules of Prizes may be obtained on and after the 16th of June, of the Secretaries, Mr. J. T. R. ALLEN, Bedford; and Mr. CHARLES HOWARD, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

**DEVON AND CORNWALL
SOCIETY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
DOMESTIC POULTRY.**

AN EXHIBITION, under the direction and management of the Committee of the above Society, will take place on the 27th and 28th days of JUNE, 1854, on the delightful Grounds of the Mansion of W. H. Pole Carew, Esq. at Antony, near Torpoint, Cornwall, on the occasion of a GRAND FETE and BAZAAR being held there in aid of the Funds of the Mechanics' Institutions of Plymouth, Devonport, and Torpoint.

Applications for Prize Lists, &c. and Certificates of Entry, to be made to Mr. WILLIAM HUNT, Secretary, 11, Caroline-place, Stonehouse, Plymouth. Entries close June 12.

**WEST KENT ANNUAL EXHIBITION
OF POULTRY, &c., and Miscellaneous
Flower Show** (open to all England), under most distinguished patronage, will take place in the Market Field, FARNINGHAM, on Tuesday, (private view), June 20th, 1854, and following day. Subscription tickets of admission (available on both days), 5s. each. Lists of Prizes and Certificates of Entry for Poultry, &c., are now ready, and may be had on application, post-paid, to the Secretary, B. THOMAS. For Schedules of Prizes for Flowers, &c., apply to Mr. ALFRED LOCKYER, Hon. Sec., Farningham. The Entries will close on the 5th of June.

By order of the Committee of Management,
BAPTISTE THOMAS, Sec.
Committee Room, Lion Inn,
Farningham.

PITTVILLE SPA, CHELTENHAM.

THE THIRD Grand Annual Summer EXHIBITION of POULTRY will take place at the above magnificent Establishment, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 14th and 15th, 1854.—For particulars enclose a fully directed stamped envelope to JESSOP, BROTHERS, Secretaries, The Aviaries, Cheltenham.

**THE BIRMINGHAM
CATTLE AND POULTRY SHOW, 1854.**

THE Sixth Great Annual EXHIBITION of STOCK and DOMESTIC POULTRY will be held in Bingley Hall, on the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December next. The Prize Lists, and any further information, may be obtained from JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Sec. Offices,—38, Bennett's-hill, Birmingham.

**FOR POULTRY-HOUSES.
LIGHT, CHEAP, & DURABLE ROOFING.**

**CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE
ROOFING FELT** is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons. Price ONE PENNY per SQUARE FOOT. Croggon's Patent NON-CONDUCTING FELT for covering Steam-boilers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and testimonials sent by post, on application to CROGGON & CO., 2, Dowgate-hill, London, who also supply SHIP SHEATHING FELT, and INODOROUS FELT, for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Preserving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage-free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

To be had in any quantity at GEORGE EATON & Co.'s Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory, 6 and 7, Crooked-lane, London.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

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For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 13s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.; payable in advance by post-office order to GEORGE CLEMENTS, No. 1, York-street, Covent-garden, to whom Orders and Advertisements may be addressed.—Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday.

*Wholesale Agents, G. ROUTLEDGE & Co.,
Farringdon-street.*

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 15.]

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

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Poultry Shows.

Bath and West of England Society, at Bath, the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June. Director, Jonathan Gray, Esq., 12, Upper Finchley-road, St. John's Wood, London. Hon. Sec., H. Spackman, Esq., 6, Terrace-walks, Bath. Entries are closed.

Cheltenham Third Annual Summer Exhibition, at the Pittville Spa, June 14th and 15th. Secretaries, the Messrs. Jessop, Brothers, The Aviaries, Cheltenham. Entries closed June 3rd.

West Kent Association, at Farningham, Tuesday, June 20th, and following day. Secretary, Baptiste Thomas, Esq. Entries closed June 5th.

Vale of Taunton Deane Horticultural Society, in the Vivary Park, Taunton, Wednesday and Thursday, June 21st and 22nd. Honorary Secretary, John Kingsbury, Esq., 10, Hammett-street, Taunton. Entries close June 13th.

Devon and Cornwall Poultry Society, June 27th and 28th. Secretaries, Mr. W. Hunt, Public Library, Plymouth, and C. Hancock, Esq., Emma-place, Stonehouse. Entries close June 12th.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secre-

tary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries closed June 1st.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th. The Schedule will be ready soon.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. The Schedule not quite ready.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st. The Schedule will be ready June 16th.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombrain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

SHAKSPEARE'S Justice was "full of wise saws and modern instances." Our good friend Sancho Panza talked in proverbs. While cogitating on what we should write, we thought "there was nothing new;" and then it struck us that this our labour was a new one, and that it formed a regular history of life. Spite of the old song, hopes and fears are not confined to infancy; whatever a man undertakes, works on all his feelings and passions, and the disappointment experienced by the loss of a prize which was considered certain is as great to the middle-aged man as the detention for a day of the basket of luscious contents was to the same person some thirty-five years earlier, when at school. Then we thought of the good produced by emulation and competition, and how often a defeat should rather be termed a salutary check. How often would it be impossible to convince an exhibitor that his

pets were not faultless were they not defeated; and would he not remain ignorant of their deficiency did he not see the required virtue or point salient in the pen of his more fortunate antagonist? And then we thought the lessons derived from these trifling disappointments were as full of meaning, and as instructive, as if they involved much weightier interests; and being in a moralizing mood, we thought of the innocent nature of the pursuit we advocate,—we thought a lesson is often lost because the opportunity of practising the newly-acquired wisdom is too remote, but in the season of exhibitions; the lesson acquired in August may be practised every succeeding month in the year, and "practice makes perfect." We thought "experience makes men wise;" but till this little, unpretending sheet appeared, there was no vehicle of publicity for the experience gained by amateurs.

Cheltenham Poultry Exhibition, June 14th and 15th.

INFORMATION TO VISITORS AND EXHIBITORS.

THE entries closed on Saturday, June 3. Each pen of birds should be packed in a separate basket, as, should the pen be claimed, the basket will, according to the regulations, be sold too. Be careful, in fastening on the direction card, first to see that it is properly addressed for the return journey; secondly, that the number of the class, marked in red ink, corresponds with the birds: this is important. Forward the hampers so as to arrive in Cheltenham not later than twelve o'clock on Tuesday the 13th inst.; they will be unpacked and fed with soft food with as little delay as possible.

Parties accompanying a number of pens

for the exhibition should write, stating the train by which they will arrive, and the secretary will cause a conveyance to be in waiting for them.

The birds competing will be displayed in the magnificent domed room of the Pittville Spa, with a spacious tent at each end, giving a length of nearly 300 feet and a width of 40.

Ample space will be allowed for the convenience of visitors, and seats in abundance will be ranged on each side of the broad walk.

The great beauty of the grounds, commanding extensive views of the surrounding hills, is well known. They are at any time worthy of a visit, but at this season peculiarly attractive.

A band will commence at two o'clock each day, and give a selection from the most favourite composers; between each piece a band of her Majesty's drums and fifes (for which, permission to attend has been granted) will march down the spacious promenade to the lake, returning to the grand terrace.

[For the sake of the poor birds, already subjected to the irritation of unusual confinement, we hope the music will be kept far away from the pens.—Ed.]

Tickets for the first day, if taken before the 12th of June, 2s.6d. each, may be had by enclosing a post-office order to the secretaries; after that date, or at the gates, 5s. each. The gardens will open at two o'clock; on the second day at ten, when the admission will be 1s. The exhibition will close at eight o'clock on the first evening, and seven on the second. Parties wishing to take their birds with them must apply to the secretaries for an order, without which no pen will be allowed to be removed.

Refreshments, either light or substantial, may be obtained upon the grounds.

Omnibuses will run from every train to the gate of the exhibition, and from the gate to each train.

As it is provoking to find, some weeks after, that a friend you much wished to see was at the exhibition, it would be well

if parties would, as soon as convenient after their arrival, enter their addresses in the visitors' book, kept at the bar of the George Hotel for that purpose.

[Many committees now making arrangements (perhaps, for a first exhibition), will be equally pleased with those about visiting the Cheltenham poultry show, with the details above given; for there are few in the habit of attending poultry shows who have not experienced inconvenience from ignorance on all the minor points of omnibuses, the removal of the birds after the exhibition closes, and the general accommodation of visitors, so carefully considered in the present instance.—Ed.]

More about the Brahmas.

If it be fair to speak of the "declining glimmer of the Brahma lustre," as "C. H. B." does, how is it that their owners are so well content with their bargains that it is rare for really fine specimens to come into the market, and also that sales, which are now so out of fashion that some kinds of fowls, which have been popular, will not sell at them at all, middling specimens of Brahmas still fetch prices which are good in the eyes of reasonable persons?

Those who have had many fowls from China, have been most abundantly supplied with *great numbers* of cocks and hens, of *much* more unsaleable colours than the grey tinted white of the Brahmas would ever have proved, even while American Brahmas were yet unknown. Plenty of amateurs sent to China for fowls, but in getting *fashionable colours* were grievously disappointed; dull, heavy cinnamons, browns, partridges, and colours less popular still, predominated to the extent of 49 in 50. "C. H. B.'s" position here is untenable. It cannot be the unfashionable colour which has prevented our getting *one occasionally* from a country which has sent them out so irrespective of colour, that to get one buff fowl was an event in a poultry-yard.

Those who have had the best oppor-

tunities of getting birds from China, and of getting or seeing those also which came accidentally to the port of London, have never met with any "then and so introduced."

As to their being half-bred fowls, it is no use to enter into the question about what Malay breeders will say as to the great difference between the Malay and the pea-comb, nor to state, with regard to breast, how that of the Dorking is as plump, but *not so broad by far*. More experienced writers will take up these and many other questions too; and the part of the argument that others can do better than I do, I leave to them.

About Mr. Stainton's fowls, "C. H. B." makes a great mistake. Mr. Stainton never had *lots from China, the bird, or pair of birds*, which he had, and which came from Hong-Kong, had a tuft on the head; the chickens had the same. The cock was a fine bird, and bore the appearance of being of a distinct breed, but he was decidedly neither Cochin nor Brahma. The half-bred progeny of these Hong-Kong fowls *may* be passed off for Brahmas, but in their chicks watch for the tuft on the head! the progeny of the American importations do not show it.

Admirers and opponents may squabble as they will, the Brahma Pootra fowls must stand or fall by their merits or demerits, and all who keep them acknowledge that they are first-rate layers, and possess other chicken virtues in great perfection.

PAUL PRY.

On the Evil of Over-exhibiting and Over-taxing Birds.

THE approach of poultry shows leads us to offer a few suggestions to our readers on the management of their birds before and after exhibition.

Those intended for competition should be together for some days previous to the show. They need not remain in confinement more than an hour at a time; but

they should be put in a place the size of an exhibition pen, and carefully watched while in it, that they do not fight. Not only will they become used to the confinement, but they will know each other. Any one will readily understand the difference between a pen of birds at home and at ease, cheerful in their small abode, and unruffled in their plumage, and one of equal merit when pent up, but where, for want of agreeing, the cock has beaten the hens, and either one of them is crouched in a corner, very likely scalped, or, as is frequently seen, the pen that should contain three has but two, and the third is put away in a basket. Yet the only difference was, in one pen the birds agreed, in the other they did not. The result was, one had a prize, the other was disqualified. Birds that agree well in a yard, will differ in confinement; and it will often be necessary to change one, from the impossibility of ensuring concord among them. Those who exhibit often will do well to have three or four pens in which they can thus match their birds and reconcile them.

When they return from shows, they should not be turned out immediately with the others. We do not believe in exhibition fever; we think that where birds are sent in good condition and properly fed, they will return in health; but if, as there will be sometimes, there is predisposition to disease, then the confinement will cause it to show itself. There should be a quiet grass walk devoted to birds on their return from shows. On their arrival at home, every one should have a little stale bread soaked in warm milk, a few hours afterwards each should have a table spoonful of castor-oil. They should then be turned out, and fed entirely on soft food. If it is not possible to provide a grass run for them, sods of grass, cut thick, should be given freely to them; they will eagerly devour both grass and earth. If, after four or five days, there be no appearance of disease, then they may safely be turned with their fellows. If disease appear, let it be taken in hand at once.

And now we would add a few words on behalf of the fowls. Exhibitions and prizes are more numerous than prize-birds; and the consequence is, that the same are hurried from show to show till they are defeated by inferior competitors, solely from lack of condition. We have seen the victors at Birmingham over-worked and over-taxed till third-rate birds beat them at a small show. It was a pitiful sight! noble frames reduced to skeletons; combs apparently perished; and a pen really worth £50, lowered in appearance to £10; the conquerors in the greatest known competition undistinguished, where birds of no value took the first honours. Valuable birds should not be exhibited more than four times in a year, and there should always be a clear month between the trials. If, during that period, symptoms of weakness or disease show themselves, withdraw the entry rather than spoil your birds. It is not enough to have perfect birds, but they must be exhibited in perfect condition. Although we have said we do not believe in exhibition fever, we know that no bird goes to a show without losing condition; and if, before it has recovered from the first, it is sent to a second, then it must suffer. They must have their breeding and moulting times. That will leave four exhibitions in four months, October, November, December, January. We will not say they may not, if the opportunity occur, try once, or even twice, for laurels in July or August; but certainly not more.

Let owners be as wise for their birds as they would be for themselves. They know if they over-tax their own strength, injury must follow, and something must give way. It is so with their feathered pets, if they are over-exhibited.

SYLVANUS.

WEIGHT OF CHICKENS.—An amateur has been heard to say, "When the pounds of a chicken's weight gain *one* upon the months of his age, his owner may be satisfied."

Notes by "Alector."

WHAT endless gossip one might write about!—I am almost afraid to begin the subject, for fear of not knowing when to stop; but "Agricola's" inquiry about "East-Indian or Buenos Ayres Ducks" has set me off, and so I shall begin with them.

These birds are also known by the title of Labrador ducks, but I believe that it is quite uncertain whence they come, though I am inclined to lean to South America. The place of Homer's nativity was disputed (after his death, when there was no fear of his claiming a pension) by seven cities, all, however, tolerably near to each other; but this honour fades into insignificance, when we find three such widely-sundered portions of the globe claim to have given birth to a duck.

The Buenos Ayres duck, as I call it, is a very beautiful bird, with a black plumage, highly bronzed over with a metallic golden green, and in size it is somewhat on a par with the white call duck. Notwithstanding its suit of sables, it is apt, like a cheerful widow, to let a forbidden colour peep out occasionally, and most possessors of them (*i. e.* ducks, not widows) have cause to mourn over the appearance of stray white feathers, and this too under circumstances which forbid the suspicion of a "blot on the scutcheon." It is simply the nature of the bird, though of course such a blemish disqualifies for exhibition.

I first became acquainted with these birds at a place where they had considerable range, of which they took full advantage, as I frequently found them at a great distance from home. They fly well, and can scarcely be considered as more than half-tamed. On one occasion, whilst fishing, I observed a slight motion of the water amongst some reeds in a stream that flowed through the park, and on examination, I espied, as I thought, a water-hen lying concealed. I endeavoured to spear it with my fishing-rod, and, to my subse-

quent satisfaction, missed; for it proved to be one of these ducks, and flew off in a highly hysterical state, though, as is usual in such cases, more frightened than hurt. Having heard that these birds have an eccentric propensity to lay their eggs in the water, I made a search for them, but found none. I once heard of a gentleman who got rid of his Buenos Ayres ducks on the ground of their not laying, and had hardly done so, when, on draining a small pond, he found a collection of eggs at the bottom. The story sounds somewhat apocryphal, but I give it for the sake of evoking confirmation or contradiction.

This kind, in common with all the smaller varieties of duck, possesses the enviable property of being always in a fit state of body to avail themselves of the venerable Mrs. Bond's time-honoured adoration of "come and be killed."

The only additional peculiarity that I can call to mind is, that the eggs laid early in the season are of a black colour, which grows fainter as the laying proceeds. This hue is not, as is the case with Game and Cochin China eggs, incorporated with the substance of the shell, but is laid on *à la rouge*, and is removable by scraping like so much mercurial ointment.

I may here take the opportunity of stating that twenty-eight days is the period of incubation of all, except the musk duck, which, being a slow, sluggish creature, occupies five weeks.

The white call duck is a handsome, lively little fellow, with orange legs and bill. It is, I believe, a native of Holland, and is imported thence to this country. It obtains its name from being used in the Lincolnshire decoys to attract wild ducks into the snare. Its conspicuous colour, capricious ways, and seductive eloquence, combine to make it a very Delilah of the fens.

Far more beautiful is the Italian call duck, with its purple iridescent plumage, that surpasses my powers of description. Of all the varieties that breed freely in this country, it is, to my taste, by far the most lovely. I have observed that this

kind, more than any other, indulge in a habit, common, I fancy, to all ducks. The drake suddenly erects himself in the water, presses his bill down on his breast, and emits a sharp sound, something between a whistle and a drone, that may be heard to a considerable distance. This done, he generally looks as demure as a schoolboy, who has unintentionally given vent to a whistle in school hours. Whether this note is a challenge to a rival, a call to the female, or an act of self-enjoyment, I know not. The three kinds that I have enumerated are peculiarly "fancy" ducks. I will now proceed to describe those that are best fitted for the purposes for which ducks were created, viz., "onions and sage." A "stump" orator once remarked that "it was a providential dispensation that large rivers generally flowed through large towns." This observation, though rather confounding causes and consequences, is nevertheless entitled to the merit of originality. The same award, but minus the drawback, is due to myself for the discovery and enunciation of the above-mentioned fact; and I am convinced that if the said vegetables were to become extinct, the whole anatine race would speedily follow the fate of the Dinormis, and be known to the next generation only by some specimens preserved at Sydenham.

The Aylesbury duck differs from the white call duck only in size, and in the bill and feet being of a pale flesh colour instead of a deep yellow. If the owner wishes to exhibit his birds, he must not let them range on peat mosses or other places where the bill might become stained. An Aylesbury's bill, like Queen Elizabeth's portrait, should be free from the shadow of a shade upon it. Though not so hardy or such an early layer as the Rouen duck, it is nevertheless well worth keeping.

The largest of the tribe (the almost worthless Musk duck excepted) is the Rouen, and it is also the quietest, being contented with almost as little room as Cochin China fowls. The great development of the abdominal sac is one of the

characteristics of this variety, which in colour should resemble the wild duck. White feathers indicate a cross with the farm-yard breed. These birds, from their even dispositions and sluggish habits, fatten better than any others.

Of the wild duck I will say no more, than that, in the opinion of some, he is the ancestor of the common domestic duck, whilst others affirm the contrary. A friend of mine, once witnessing a street row, was amused at seeing a passing Irish labourer, who, without pausing to inquire into the merits of the case, plunged into the middle of the fight with a preliminary prayer (like a good knight of old) that "he might be on the right side." Now, as I have no particular wish to be involved in a controversy about ducks as well as Brahma Pootras, I shall content myself with observing, like Sir Roger de Coverley, that "there is much to be said upon both sides."

It may not be amiss to insert here the following anecdote. A gentleman residing in my neighbourhood had his farm-yard ducks strongly crossed with the wild breed. Being about to house a rick of corn, an action of ejectment was served upon the rats by a couple of attorn—I mean ferrets. Whilst the *posse comitatus* of boys and terriers were awaiting the result of the search-warrant, they were surprised at seeing a duck take wing from the top of the rick with a ferret attached to it, like a certain lawyer to a certain heiress, in a way more persevering than pleasant. The bird, as might be expected, soon came to the ground, and on examination of the top of the rick, it was found that she was sitting on a nest of eggs,—unbeknownst, as Mrs. Gamp would say.

NUMBER OF EGGS imported into the
United Kingdom in the month ending
..... May 5, 1853 14,950,407
..... May 5, 1854 15,204,441

Taken for home consumption in the
month ending .. May 5, 1853 14,999,967
..... May 5, 1854 15,269,601

Pigeons at the Shows.

(Concluded from page 310.)

SHORT-FACED MOTTLED TUMBLERS.

For the best pair of Black-mottled, Red, and Yellow,—each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties.

SHORT-FACED TUMBLERS.

For the best pair of Black, Blue, Red, Silvers, Duns, Yellow,—each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties.

SHORT-FACED BALDHEADS.

For the best pair of Black, Blue, Red, Yellow, and Silver,—each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties.

SHORT-FACED BEARDS.

For the best pair of Black, Blue, Red, Yellow, and Silver,—each tested by the Standard of the Five Properties.

DRAGONS.

For the best pair of Blue, Dun, and Pied, of whatever colour of feather.

JACOBINES.

For the best pair of whatever the colour of feather.

OWLS.

For the best pair of whatever the colour of feather.

NUNS.

For the best pair of whatever the colour of feather.

TURBITS.

For the best pair of whatever the colour of feather.

FANTAILS.

For the best pair of whatever the colour of feather.

BARBS.

For the best pair of whatever the colour of feather.

MAGPIES.

For the best pair of whatever the colour of feather.

TRUMPETERS.

For the best pair of whatever the colour of feather.

LARGE SPANISH RUNTS.

For the best pair of whatever the colour of feather.

LARGE LEGHORN RUNTS.

For the best pair of whatever the colour of feather.

ANTWERPS.

For the best pair of whatever the colour of feather.

Foreign Birds—best left to the judgment of the judges.

It may appear that I have awarded much; there are many prizes which I know will not be taken, if offered, among the carriers and others; besides, the judges are empowered to withhold any prize where there is not sufficient merit in the birds; it does not follow that the judges are bound to award the prize to the best bird of a bad lot. It often happens at shows, that the committees bring out their prize-list, then look after a practical man to assist them, when the mischief is done. From the above list, committees can select whatever birds they think fit, and according to their finances; if they can only award one prize to each different species, let it be to the best pair of whatever the colour of feather, tested by their properties.

I will now give you my reason why I should like the word Splash added to the Almond, to read thus: for the best pair of Almond, or Splash Tumblers, tested by the five properties, head, beak, eye, shape, and feather. I believe it would give great satisfaction to the gentlemen pigeon-fanciers who exhibit their pigeons at the shows; for what is a Splash, but an Almond-bred bird? and how often do you hear experienced fanciers preferring a Splash to an Almond to breed, from being more likely to break and spangle the bird? An Almond and a Standard Almond—where is the difference? The standard laid down, as regards the feather of the Almond, is as follows:—three colours, viz., black, white, and yellow, in the nine first feathers of each wing, counting from

their extremities, and twelve in the tail; the aforesaid three colours, well developed, would constitute a standard; but the back, breast, and rump, should likewise be variegated, to be complete in feather; the hackle, or neck feathers, should be bright, and well broken with the same colours, and should resemble the delicate touches of the pencil of a fine artist. If the judges adhere to this standard, it is possible there may not be an Almond there, consequently the prize could not be awarded; should a bird be perfect, save only one feather, in flight or tail, it would be disqualified for showing as an Almond, notwithstanding it had four other excellent properties. If this rigid rule is adhered to, it will give dissatisfaction to the exhibitors and fanciers. The pens being fastened up (save only to the awardee of prizes), as they ought to be, fanciers cannot handle the birds, to see whether they are Standards, or not; besides, the birds having their flights and tail closed in the pen, this could not be seen. Fanciers and visitors would exclaim,—What, that bird take the prize! there are many better birds for head, beak, eye, and shape. The first time I had the honour of attending the Columbarian Society, held at the Gray's-Inn Coffee House, London, when the Almond Tumbler, that took the first prize, was shown me, I expressed my surprise (being a young head and beak fancier); but a gentleman, a good fancier, made it clear to me, when he stated that it was the only bird in the pen that came up to the standard of feather. It often happens that the best feathered birds are very deficient in other properties; besides, when their flights and tail are closed in the pens, you cannot perceive they are Standards, it not being visible; it is otherwise with the other four properties, viz., head, beak, eye, and shape.

With regard to those Pigeons that fanciers consider worthy of a standard, viz., the Tumbler, Carrier, and English Pouter,—for instance, if the Tumbler possessed feather and shape, two grand properties; if another Tumbler is shown

against it, and possessing the properties of head, beak and eye, the bird taking three properties out of five must be awarded the prize. Again, if a Carrier, or Stout Bird, possessed length and thinness of neck, length of body, and great width of chest,—which is, after all, only one property, viz., shape, also the head; if another Carrier is shown against it, and possessing the properties of beak, wattle, and eye, the bird taking the three properties out of the five must be awarded the prize. Again, if an English Pouter possessed the properties, shape, beauty in feather, nevertheless, if another English Pouter is shown against it, and possessing the properties of length of body, length of legs, and crop, the bird taking three properties out of the five, according to the standard laid down by fanciers, must be awarded the prize, notwithstanding the general appearance of the bird possessing feather and shape, which is truly beautiful.—From a Brother Fancier,

JNO. MATTHEWS EATON.

7, Islington-green, London.

A Trial about Fancy Fowls.

From the "County Herald."

As it is perhaps the first occasion on which a dispute about fowls has positively been brought into court, we cannot help laying before our readers the chief circumstances of this case. The trial took place in the County Court, Reigate.

Lewry v. Charles Constable.—Claim 13*l.*—Mr. C. J. Smith appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. G. C. Morrison for defendant.—It was an adjourned case, the amount claimed being for two silver-pencilled Hamburg fowls, and was pleaded as a set-off to Mr. Constable's bill at the last Court.—Mr. Smith, having submitted that all witnesses should be out of Court, then addressed the jury, and stated that defendant had paid 2*l.* into Court, but which his client considered totally inadequate, as there was a poultry mania raging throughout the country at the time, and all persons were anxious to get some fancy fowls. Defendant, he said, had inquired of plaintiff for some first-rate fancy fowls, and he would prove that plaintiff had been bid 12*l.* 15*s.* for those which defendant had purchased; he

would also prove that plaintiff had sent in his bill before he had received defendant's.—Plaintiff stated he was a dealer in fowls at Horley, and had paid great attention to the breed of fancy fowls: in July last he met defendant, who asked him if he had any first-rate fancy fowls: plaintiff sent two silver-pencilled Hamburg fowls, and told defendant if he did not like them to send them back: defendant told him he must not charge 1,000*l.* for them: he said he liked them very much, and that they were splendid hens: plaintiff had been offered 12*l.* 15*s.* for them by Mr. O'Grady, North Wales: he had often received letters from gentlemen last year for fowls, but did not mention the price: Mr. Rawson had written to plaintiff for some, and said he wanted them good and to be charged high.—His Honour: I dare say you could oblige him as to the latter request. (A laugh.)—Plaintiff continued: Had exhibited his poultry at Farningham, and had obtained four prizes: he would give 20*l.* now for two marked the same as those he had sold defendant: there is a common breed of the silver-pencilled fowls which sells for 4*s.* or 5*s.*; but the value depends entirely on the breed, the feather, and the comb: he considered the price a fair and reasonable one.—Cross-examined: Plaintiff had bought the fowls at Chichester Market, and gave ten guineas for them, but he did not know whom he had bought them of: had adopted the name of Gibson, and went by that name at the Liverpool show: had never bought any fowls of that kind before: gave ten guineas for them because they were true and perfect: Mr. O'Grady had been in the habit of giving plaintiff 20*l.* for Dorkings: would swear defendant had never said he would not pay any expensive price.—Mr. Morrison said, he would ask the jury if they thought plaintiff had made out his case? He feared the plaintiff's case was more than a mistake: he would prove the fowls were diseased at the time of purchase, and defendant had lost 40 or 50 fowls in consequence. He thought it was the most disgraceful case he had ever heard.—Defendant deposed: I am a miller at Horley, and had asked plaintiff about some bantams: I told him I would not have anything expensive, and I never said anything about 1,000*l.*; I just saw their heads when they were brought in a bag, and sent them to Mrs. Gasson, who looked after my poultry: thought Lewry never offered to take them back: they died with the disease in about five weeks after they had been in my possession.—Cross-examined: Did not know anything about silver-pencilled fowls: plaintiff was to have sent bantams, and I thought they were such.—Amelia Gasson said she was defendant's servant, and attended to his poultry: she saw the two

fowls which had been sent by plaintiff in July: they were sent to the farm to go with the other fowls; one of them had a "tizziking cough," and both died: forty other fowls also died, which were healthy previous to the arrival of the other two. They used to call such fowls silver layers twenty years ago, but supposed they had given them a new name now (a laugh): she did not know anything about their being valuable for laying, but she never liked them.—W. Austin, wine merchant of Charlwood, said he was acquainted with silver-pencilled Hamburg fowls, and during the last week, he had been offered some for 3s.; had bought some which had gained the third prize at Birmingham, and had given 15s. for them in July last; they were not a genuine, but a mixed breed, a cross between pencilled Hamburgs and Sir John Sebright's silver bantams: there were hundreds of them at Leadenhall: had never heard of their fetching high prices.—John Churchman, farmer, of Leigh, said he had kept silver-pencilled Hamburgs: had bought some very good ones for 2s., and would sell them for 5s. each.—George Larman, architect and surveyor, said he was acquainted with silver-pencilled Hamburg fowls; the price at Leadenhall was about 4s. a piece.—Cross-examined: they were not very valuable unless they were prize birds: had known them to sell from 10s. 6d. to 15s.—His Honour carefully summed up the case to the jury, and said if they could believe the evidence of plaintiff in all that he had said, and that he had given ten guineas for the fowls to a person he knew nothing of at Chichester Market, plaintiff might consider them worth 13l., but it should never be forgotten there was a vast difference between the evidence of a person who had a direct interest in the question, and that of independent witnesses. They had heard that there had been a monomania raging at the time throughout the country with respect to poultry, and he should consider such to be the case when gentlemen trusted to the honour and virtue of a man, and put it to the highest by telling him to charge a good price, which he had no doubt but he was able to do. This was all the plaintiff's statement, which he had no witnesses to support; but the defendant said he did not think they were fancy fowls, and he did not seem to treat them as such, but he had put them to roost with his other poultry. The case was this—If they considered the plaintiff's story correct, then they should give a full verdict for him; but if they placed a greater reliance upon the defendant and his witnesses, they must give a verdict for him, as he had paid one guinea into court.—The jury in a few minutes gave a verdict for defendant, and professional and witnesses' costs were granted.

Animals Foretelling the Weather.

INSTINCT AND REASON.

It is said that the woodcock in New Jersey is building its nest, this year, in open and moist places; and old huntsmen predict in consequence that the summer will be a dry one. There was a time when science, or what was called such, laughed at signs of this description, as no better than "old women's tales;" but though many of them are still unreliable, a larger observation of nature has taught that animals have an instinct, which not unfrequently becomes prophetic, as in this example. At last year's meeting of the American Association for the advancement of Science, a curious paper was read on this subject, by Mr. N. B. Thomas, of Cincinnati, who had, for several years, studied the habits of animals in reference to the indications which they might afford respecting the weather. He showed that birds, if the season was to be a windy or wet one, built their nests in sheltered places; but if it was to be dry, in localities more exposed; that certain kinds of snails always came out, and crept up the limbs of trees several days before rain;—and that locusts, wasps, and other insects were invariably to be found under leaves, and in the hollow trunks of trees, hours before a storm set in.

The sagacity thus displayed, if we may call it such, seems to put the higher reason of man to shame. In vain do our most expert *savants* endeavour to predict the character of an approaching season, or even to foretell, a few days in advance, the condition of the weather. The woodcock that unerringly fixes its nest in the spot best suited for the coming summer, or the snail whose tubercles begin to grow ten days before the rain they are preparing to receive, appear, at first sight, to surpass the more developed men. But the inferiority of those lower orders of animals is in the quantity of their endowments, rather than in the quality; they have a

single faculty developed to an extraordinary degree, while man has, as it were, faculties almost infinite. In thus adapting each organization to its special position, the wisdom of the Creator is forcibly exhibited.—*Philadelphia Ledger, May 9.*

A Desultory Chapter

On Good-Breeding, Eatables, and other Interesting Matters.

I CONSIDER it to be one of the chief rules of good breeding, at any rate among chickens, to have the parents old enough. Cockerels and pullets, *i. e.*, one year old birds, never did and never will produce strong, hearty, kindly fledging chickens; no—nor even a cockerel or a pullet, mated with an older companion. In this, better judges may differ from me, but it is *experience* which has led me to the conviction. So far for my own fancy; but I want to know what other people think, in some cases where I am in doubt. Now, for instance, with regard to cross-bred fowls; it is the generally received opinion among connoisseurs, that they will not do at all, but will always continue an ever-varying set of mongrels to the end of the chapter. Now I should very much like to know if any readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," ever either *made* a breed of fowls, or attempted to do so and failed. Cross-bred fowls and their children, even when joined by the grandchildren, are not test enough; they should be watched generation after generation, and kept and watched for years. I *should like* to know if a breed *could* be established by crossing.

Again, with regard to breeding in-and-in, how far can it be done with impunity? Will the first remove deteriorate the chickens? I know a family of imported fowls, which I believe have been bred on, without a change for years; a few years back they were reputed good layers; they are now uncertain layers, and it is almost impossible to breed from them. Much the same is the case with our own Sebrights.

Good breeding in our poultry-yards is a grand thing, and good feeding comes next. Some capital hints on this subject may be picked up in the "Poultry Chronicle." While speaking about feeding, another thing comes into my head. I have often thought, at poultry shows, that consideration on this subject should not *end* with feeding the chickens; for their owners and visitors are but mortal, and in these poultry-loving days, amateurs often take long railway journeys to attend exhibitions of this sort.

At the grandest poultry show I ever went to see, the committee had let out a gallery for the sale of refreshments, where very good *pies and things* were sold at the same price as at the shops; thus setting a good example to some places of fashionable resort, in and near the great metropolis, where persons holding refreshment stands sell bad commodities at double prices. The World's Bazaar was another instance of good management in this respect; and I really think it a thing which should receive attention from the committees of management at poultry shows. In the case of the poultry show above mentioned, I recollect reading strictures somewhere, I forget where, written by some one who considered that the sale of refreshments ought not to be tolerated, as it too much resembled the doings of a tavern; but I had enjoyed, at a moderate cost, as wholesome a luncheon as I could have had at my home (which I could not conveniently reach for the purpose, because it was a hundred miles away), and therefore I was a nonconformist to the opinion.

In a large place, London for instance, a gentleman can buy what eatables and drinkables he likes; but a respectably dressed female, if she does not like pastry, may wander about, hungry and tired, with money in her pocket, and cannot, with it, procure the victuals she wants.

A BIT OF A WANDERER.

NEARLY all the diseases of gallinaceous birds arise from cold moisture.—*Dr. Bennett.*

Relative Merits of Fowls.

In passing a judgment on the different breeds of poultry, everything should be taken into consideration and duly weighed, before it is formed, and, above all, published. Fowls, like human beings, are susceptible of being influenced by change of climate, diet, soil, and water. They require a little care till they become acclimatized, which they never fail to be after a time; but it is unfair to condemn them as tender or unfitted for any particular locality, because a trial of a few weeks has not been satisfactory. Their habits should also be studied. Some bear confinement without injury, others require a range. Their properties are so different, that everyone may be suited if he will only take the necessary trouble, and seek proper information.

In towns and confined places, in back and stable yards, I recommend Cochins and Spanish; it is in such neighbourhoods that new-laid eggs are valuable. Both these breeds are excellent layers; Hamburgs, I believe, lay more than either, but they require a run of grass, and for those who can supply them with it, I think they are the most profitable, as they are very small eaters. Wherever the profit is to be made from eggs, they must be produced in the winter and early in the spring. To accomplish this, chickens of the previous May must be saved, and as Spanish and Hamburgs do not set, other hens must be procured to do so for them. Here the good properties of the Cochins will be apparent. They will be broody when others are only beginning to lay; it may also be fairly said of them, they are the most prolific layers in the winter of all we have named.

If you are breeding for a market, the Dorkings are the best birds, but these *must* have a good run. They are also good layers, good sitters, and excellent mothers. They do best on a light soil, if with chalk sub-soil so much the better. But if proof were wanted that they are not a tender

fowl, two facts will prove it: first, the inspection of the different prize-lists, where birds of this breed will be found successful competitors from every part of the kingdom where they have been bred; and next, the undeniable truth, that the London market is supplied with that poultry for which it is so famous during the spring months, exclusively from those of this race. Another advantage in keeping them for market is, that they fat easily, and are not large consumers of food. The number of eggs a fowl will lay, or ought to lay, in a season, has been so often stated, and has led to so many disappointments (as it depends greatly on the management of the fowls), that I will not attempt to give it. It is, however, a common thing in the winter for new-laid eggs to make four penny each, which is highly remunerative. The same difficulty exists in naming any price for dead fowls in the market, but in seasons like the present, they will pay far better than any other live stock.

J. B.

Food for Young Chickens.

As amateurs are sometimes at a loss respecting the food suitable for very young chickens, the following, after two years' trial, may be recommended:—

1st day.—Chicks to be left under the hen.

2nd and 3rd day.—Hard boiled egg and bread crumbs.

4th and 5th day.—Scalded groats and bread crumbs.

6th and 7th day.—Barley meal mixed up dry.

8th and 9th day.—Boiled rice.

10th and 11th day.—Scotch barley rolled in meal.

12th and 13th day.—Crushed barley.

This, with some kind of green food, if there is no grass run, will generally succeed in bringing them through their chickenhood.

T. P.

Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

THE spring exhibition of this Society was held in the Cattle-market on Thursday, the 25th of May. The poultry was exhibited, as usual, in the exhibitors' own coops. Mr. Hartung's band was in attendance.

The Judges for poultry were, Messrs. M. Gibaut, J. W. Godfrey, and W. Shayler.

AWARDS OF PRIZES.

CLASS 1.—BLACK SPANISH.

Best Cock and 2 Hens, Mr. Clement
Du Parcq. £0 5 0
2nd best do. do., Mr. B. Saunders .. 0 2 6

CLASS 2.—COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon and Buff).

Best Cock and 2 Hens, Mr. Clement
Du Parcq. 0 5 0
2nd best do. do. 0 2 6

BROWN, PARTRIDGE-FEATHERED, WHITE, OR BLACK.

Best Cock and 2 Hens, Dr. Cahil .. 0 4 0

CHICKENS OF 1854.

Best Cock and 2 Pullets, Mr. Clement
Du Parcq. 0 4 0
2nd best do. do., Mr. Newland .. 0 1 6

Tickets "Worthy of Commendation" were affixed to the undermentioned Poultry.

Game Cock and 2 Hens (black red), Mr. W. Godley.

Game Cock and 2 Hens (blue) do.
Cock and 3 Hens (rumpless), Mr. M. De La Taste.

Cock and Hen (half-bred) Mr. N. Poingdestre.
Hen and Chickens (Cochin China, buff), Mr. Newland.

Cock and Hen (black Spanish) Mr. Thos. Dorey.
Cock and Hen (black Spanish) Mr. Ph. Pepin.

Cock and 2 Pullets (Cochin China, buff) Mr. C. Du Parcq.

3 Aylesbury Ducks (white) Mr. Wm. Shayler.

Chit-Chat.

AMERICAN STATE POULTRY SHOW.—

At a meeting of the Managers of this Society, held in Utica, on Friday last, it was decided that the next grand exhibition should be held at Utica, in November next, and a committee was appointed to make all necessary arrangements, and

instructed to have the premium list and regulations printed and ready for circulation on or before the 1st of August ensuing. We trust that the people of Utica and vicinity will give the Society as hearty a reception at its second exhibition, as it received from the Albanians on the occasion of its initial show, held in February last. Utica is a central and easily accessible location, and the month chosen is in some respects superior to any other in the year, for the purpose of a fowl gathering.—From the "American Agriculturalist," May 17th.

Bearing Poultry for Consumption.

WHILE the desire to rear poultry appears to maintain its position, so far as those specimens which may be termed "fancy" are concerned, and while the breeding of the more useful sorts is followed up with an ardour looking for its recompense in the honours that may be awarded at the various exhibitions, there appears to be something still wanting to bring poultry to its legitimate position, viz., as an article of food. From what has already been advised in the "Poultry Chronicle," it is devoutly to be hoped that all our forthcoming exhibitions will grace their prize list with awards for cottagers. This will be a grand step in the right direction, and if the philanthropic views and recommendations of various contributors be responded to, as no doubt they will be, a very large increase to our markets will be the happy result. No class of people can render such material assistance in making up the deficiency which has been for so long a time a disgrace to our agricultural economy, as the rural labouring population, and according to the returns which have been of late furnished, of the exorbitant prices realized, the profits will be considered, even by the most avaricious, as at least respectable. It may, however, be objected, that if the supply be increased, these large prices will not be realized. Probably not: but the demand

will increase in a similar, if not a greater, proportion, and there are very few persons who will not allow that more good will accrue from a large supply and a large demand at a fair profit, than from a limited quantity and almost fabulous prices. The returns of the London poultry-markets, as they have of late come before the public, cannot be considered as indicative of a sound, healthy state of things in this particular. These high quotations are a true index of a very scanty supply, for poultry cannot be held for any length of time by the overreaching speculator, in the same manner as corn, without incurring the certainty of a depreciation in its value. Again, can it be doubted for one moment, that the retail vendor is a great loser with such markets as generally occur after an inclement season? His trade is to supply a portion of the public, with whom poultry is a necessary article of food. However incredible it may appear, it is no less true, that he cannot charge his customers even the price he is compelled to give. He is therefore obliged to sell at a loss, which the advance of the season does not cover, for he can then only charge a fair profit.

But how can this state of affairs be altered? How is it possible to contend with inclement seasons? Is it practicable to rear chickens in the months of January and February with the same chances of success as later in the season? The question must be answered in the negative. All the resources of art and science may be brought forward in attempting to carry out the undertaking, but so long as the face of Nature is uncongenial, comparative success only must be expected. But because there may be difficulties in the way, is that a reason why the attempt should not be made? To whom then does the pursuit more particularly belong? To our farmers; those persons who have hitherto considered poultry as a thing of no value; who have allowed their wives to keep fowls as a source whence they might derive a little pin-money; and the fairer portion of that community have been

as blind to their own interests as their short-sighted lords, or they would, ere this, have worried them into a more liberal frame of mind, and obtained permission to go to a trifling expense, the result of which would have been a larger amount of that coin which ladies in particular know so well how to dispense.

If ducks can be raised at Aylesbury and in its neighbourhood, producing an annual revenue of something like forty thousand pounds, why cannot fowls be raised with similar success? And why should the rearing of ducks be confined to that one particular locality? We are told, that at that fertile spot, the children have frequently to turn out of their beds to make room for the ducks. Not that such a system is to be advocated, but it might be conjectured, that being once out of bed, under such circumstances, there would be little desire on the part of the children to get in again, and so the ducks have the full benefit of warm blankets, &c. Hence their speedy attainment to maturity. To our cottagers then, must we look for a large amount of assistance; but as they could be expected to undertake only the preliminary step,—that of raising the young stock to a certain age, the farmers' aid must be called in requisition, he having at hand the food, &c., necessary for them. To ensure success, the undertaking must be carried out *con amore*. It must have as much care and attention devoted to it as the sheep or the pigs; nay, a little more, for fowls are more delicate. Instead of intrusting the management to that unfortunate wight, one of whose species is generally to be found on every farm of any size, and who rejoices in the title of "odd man," or, as in some parts of the country, the still more equivocal soubriquet of "shuffler," who is at the beck and call of master, mistress, children, cook and housemaid, who has no regular duties to perform, but is always harder worked, and more scolded, than any other person in the establishment,—there must be appointed to the sole charge a person of experience, and

here the fair sex appear to have the preference, as from their kind and gentle treatment, they are better calculated for the office, though many persons, who are amateurs, employ men to manage their poultry, and their duties are performed in a highly satisfactory manner.

As it will be absolutely necessary to provide some protection from weather for the chickens, especially in such a season as last winter proved to be, a building should be erected of sufficient size. And in this matter, there will be no need to retain the services of a highly talented architect or surveyor; for it may be formed of any rough boarding, or even of still cheaper material, attention being paid principally to the height, which should be ample,—ventilation at the top, and freedom from draughts. To prevent the chickens suffering from cold in severe weather, the sides of the house should be lined inside, to a good height, with the material, known as asphalté felt, which may be procured at the low cost of one penny per square foot, and concerning the efficacy of which, as a repeller of cold, there are numberless testimonials from highly respectable people. The soil must of course be dry, and it should remain in its natural state, without bricks, stone, or other material, excepting moderately fine gravel being laid down. Fattening coops must form part of the furniture, to be tenanted as the stock arrive at the necessary size. Cleanliness must be strictly observed. Various little adjuncts may be introduced, such as some well-rotted manure, to be replaced by fresh every day, wood-ashes and cuttings of turf when they can be procured. Into such a place the farmer might receive the young broods of his labourers, as well as those hatched on his own premises. Though the house would be required chiefly, only through the winter months, it would serve as a fattening house through the summer; for the pursuit must be followed up all the year round, for all parties to derive benefit, and other young stock might be admitted, such as geese and ducks.

Most innovations in agricultural proceedings, till within the last few years, have drawn down the derision and contempt of those for whose benefit they were promulgated; but thanks to a few enterprising spirits, these innovations have been acted upon, and in the majority of cases, found to succeed. A similar result may possibly await this attempt to induce our agriculturalists to give poultry a more prominent position than has hitherto been its lot; but if practice be allowed to take the place of bigoted prejudice, it will be found, that instead of raising a paltry sum to invest in cap strings and bonnet ribbons, the cost of the education of the family may be met from the profits, the condition of the farm servants will be improved, and instead of vice and poverty, an improved state of morality and content will arise. CINCINNATUS.

Alector v. Peacock.

In number 13, page 282, of the "Poultry Chronicle," your correspondent "Alector," whose general *critique* upon the work has frequently appeared in former numbers, "by way of administering a salutary alterative," propounds his individual opinions as to the peacock; and as they most essentially differ from the practical experiences of many others, I think, myself (though no barrister), perhaps the facts of the case must also include "a hearing on the other side of the story;" for, bear in mind, that a dog with a bad name, looking about in vain for friends, is, proverbially, on the high road to the halter; and, really, when perusing the account given by "Alector" of this splendid and truly ornamental bird, I fear the poor pea-fowls, if no one "throws down the gauntlet in their cause," must necessarily be equally unfortunate.

That most other kinds of poultry are more beneficial, by "pecuniary returns," I most willingly allow, but none can be more aristocratic in appearance, or more

suitable in adding beauty to the immediate neighbourhood of a country seat; and even should it be found expedient (from being over-stocked) to use the young birds as "table-fowls," they will (as I have oft-times tested them) bear a very respectable position even so. As an ornamental bird, however, they are chiefly prized, and as such they excel all others—I mean naturally, at full liberty; to mutilate by "pinioning" would tend, indeed, most seriously, to destroy their beauty—for when, with extended tail, they are, as it is termed, "showing," the drooping wings are lowered almost to the ground, and make, in conjunction with the tail, that very extraordinary rustling noise, as of an approaching high wind, that tends not a little to enlist the attention, surprise, and admiration of those who, for the first time, witness the eccentric motions of this self-conceited bird. The ladies (ever possessing, as they do, a keenly-alive sensitiveness for the picturesque, the lovely, and the beautiful) never fail to admire them; the insuperable difficulty would be to test the quality of the flesh, if "kept as pets," as I think, confidently, few of the fair sex could then be found (under these circumstances) willing to sign their "death-warrant." It is not the peacocks' *forte*—"outside show" seems rather their appropriate position; but I must add, on table, the pinky colour of the flesh is always attesting of the bird, the flavour of the well-fed young ones being not unlike that of the wild common pheasant of our woods.

Having thus committed the young dead pea-fowls to the fate of all eatables (after passing through the hands of the cook), let us now see what purposes the highly-favoured old birds are susceptible of by a little training; for, as education is now, very wisely, one of the first features of the day, why not, if it serve our purpose, extend its influences to the "Alector"-decorated peacock?

If the eggs are hatched under the common hen, the pea-fowls will prove as

tractable in their habits as any other kind of domestic fowl; and the writer of this remonstrance had one, for very many years, that was thus raised,—to jot down a few of the peculiarities of this bird may not be uninteresting. He was hatched, and also reared, by a bantam fowl; proved a most beautifully-feathered bird, the "train" alone measuring four feet six inches long, and lived with the most perfect concord and happiness in the midst of (really Lilliput-sized) Sebright bantams, many of which cost their owner nearly four guineas each, and which, had the peacock felt desirous, he could, most undoubtedly, have destroyed at a single blow. I was never alarmed, however, for their safety, for with old and young he socially existed; never proving an aggressor, though seeming to derive the highest possible pleasure when, with wings lowly drooping, and tail widely extended and aloft, he could perseveringly "dodge" some poor, unfortunate hen into a corner of the yard; he would then, with loud screams of exultation, rush onwards suddenly, and "pen her in." He never, however, attempted to really injure any one of them, for they always "broke bounds," when thus singularly incarcerated, either by running through the lower part of the tail, or flying over it. He would sometimes, for several hours, employ himself to entrap a single fowl, and the strategy displayed was most wonderful, as past experience makes (even bantams) wise: some black Polands, and also some other fancy fowls, that were his involuntary companions, shared likewise in this immunity from all harm.

This peacock, on being shown a piece of bread, would immediately ("to order") erect his tail, keeping it extended till the coveted food was forthcoming; the hand might arrange any displaced feathers of the train, without its being lowered; but the bird always seemed to feel great terror of any persons secreting themselves behind him, and was even so "half-reasoning," that if two different parties "tried to trick

him," (at one and the same time), he at once lowered his gaudy plumes—seemed much annoyed—and uttered offended notes of indignity and displeasure. I will add that this bird was not pinioned, but perfectly free to do as he pleased. A light iron fence, six feet high, prevented his access to a most highly cultivated-garden, through which he frequently anxiously and covetously gazed at the numberless flowers and vegetables before him, still he never attempted to fly over, except once, when a lady, who was visiting, suddenly opened her parasol close to him, by which he was very greatly alarmed; he, however, with a little coaxing, quietly returned, doing no damage, and seemed very pleased to get back "to old quarters."

But "Alector" may say, "this is the exception, not the rule." If so, exceptions are not by any means isolated, for a friend of mine is quite "a peacock fancier," though with only the limited accommodation of a really very small court-yard: here are pea-fowls, golden and silver pheasants, the common pheasant, several kinds of fancy fowls, a heron, and the hybrid, between the common pheasant and bantam, all running promiscuously together, apparently the "best of neighbours." Some of the pea-fowl, he thus keeps, are the white ones, some of them the pied, the remainder the common ones; they breed regularly every year, the whites producing white chickens exclusively; the pied not unfrequently rear the common-coloured; the regular-feathered ones always producing offspring like themselves. Chickens and young pheasants (of many kinds) are with them during the season, but they are unmolested by the peafowls, though the heron takes all "suitable opportunities" to ensure their quick passage down the "Red Lane;" so that whilst they are little he is necessarily housed up, "to prevent absence without leave;" but the fowls and pea-fowls rear their young together. My friend's pea-hens generally lay from twelve to sixteen eggs each during the season. The netting fence,

about seven feet high, is never attempted by the pea-fowls, though not even cut-winged. The pheasants, &c. are, however, pinioned, as many were lost before this plan was adopted. When thus tenderly reared, these birds have a proneness to steal into the house during the period of moulting, and will hide themselves anywhere; at this time (however tractable before) they become very shy, and appear to suffer considerably—the production of new feathers being a great tax on the constitution.

But it will be supposed the birds I have described are really "model peacocks, whose education has not been neglected." I admit, in each instance, they have been scrupulously well cared for, and kindly used; still it is my decided supposition that one very frequent cause of wildness is produced by gardeners and other domestics hunting them about, "out of their way," they are naturally birds easily affrighted. The third kind of pea-fowl alluded to by "Alector" is the "Japan peacock," a bird of singular beauty, but difficult to rear. All the varieties are polygamous. I agree with your correspondent that the "whites" have but little, except novelty, to recommend them, but I have frequently seen them with "trains" as long as the other varieties; in some such the "eyes" (on the tail feathers) are a beautiful cream-colour. I think my statement shows that pea-fowls can be raised tame to excess (the wild haunts of shrubberies, contrariwise, naturally engender shyness); in either situation, however, they adorn, in the one instance, the general landscape, and in the other, closer examination only increases their charms. To bring a wildly-reared bird of this kind into confined premises would certainly entail annoyance; I admit, too, their discordant "cry" has engendered "unfavourably censorious reports as to their general character;" for, speaking of worldly annoyances as being omnipresent, it is no uncommon thing to hear, "Ah! there's always a peacock on every wall;" still their beauty is a redeeming trait, and I

feel pretty well assured, should this knotty case be referred to a jury of your readers, (who will kindly use, and well treat them), their after-verdict will not be unfavourable to the cause I have attempted to defend. E. H.

Nugæ Rusticæ.

TRIFLES, ORIGINAL AND SELECT, FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF A DERBYSHIRE YEOMAN.

The Characteristics of a well-bred Dorking Fowl.

A WELL-BRED Dorking fowl may be of any colour. Whilst the strictest unity of hue is imperiously demanded in Spanish birds, and a red feather in the wing would be fatal to any pretensions of pure aristocratic descent; while in the pencilled Hamburgs, of both kinds, the most accurate and well-defined markings on the wing, and freedom from tracing on the hackle feathers are alone tolerated,—the Dorkings may and do rejoice in every variety of colour, from the gaudy plumage of the duck-winged game fowl to sober gray and brown, or the mottled mixture of both. Twenty chickens are now running before me, and unfortunately not three are alike in their feathered markings, although many of them are absolute sisters, and the purity of their blood has been guarded carefully for many years. No cross has been permitted, except such as could be derived from the unrivalled poultry of Capt. Hornby, or from yards presided over by the experience, probity, and judgment of that veteran Dorking breeder, Mr. Baily, of Mount-street, Grosvenor-square. But although of every variety of colour, there are certain especial characteristics which are essential to the Dorking fowl, and without which it cannot hope “to obtain a prize.” What are these? A small head beautifully poised upon a taper neck, which sweeps in a gracefully expanding line to the broad shoulders. The breast must be very full,—round and prominent in the hen, broad and well developed in the

cock; the body square, the legs white, short, and terminating in five long claws. The comb may be “rose,” double, or upright, and single. A spurious fancy has beset some judges, to give prizes only to the single combed; but it is based upon no principle, *is unjust*, and will be repudiated by the owners of the best birds in the kingdom. The birds of “A Derbyshire Yeoman” are single combed, and therefore he writes with no prejudice in favour of the rose, or double combed, but from a strong sense of justice, based upon the knowledge that some of the finest, heaviest, and best birds in England, are double combed. Rose combed Dorkings have taken prizes at Birmingham; at Derby they were unceremoniously passed over; but happily, the decisions were still just, as the single-combed birds were there heavier, handsomer, and in every way more worthy. The dimensions of two of the best Dorking fowls I have ever seen, are as follow:

| | Cock. Inches. | Hen. Inches. |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Length of bill | $\frac{3}{4}$ | $\frac{6}{8}$ |
| Length of neck | $7\frac{1}{4}$ | 6 |
| Length from neck to rump .. | 11 | 9 |
| Length of thigh | $7\frac{1}{4}$ | 9 |
| Length of shank | $5\frac{1}{4}$ | $4\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Girth over wings before legs. | 24 | 20 |
| “ behind legs.. | 21 | $17\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Girth of neck—lowest part .. | 16 | 13 |
| “ of neck by the head .. | $7\frac{1}{4}$ | $6\frac{1}{4}$ |
| “ of back, part of thigh .. | $12\frac{1}{4}$ | 11 |
| “ of shank | $2\frac{1}{4}$ | 2 |
| Breadth across wings | $10\frac{1}{4}$ | $8\frac{1}{4}$ |

The above were “rose” combed, and obtained prizes at Birmingham, and elsewhere.—*By permission of the author, from the “Derby Reporter.”*

WHEN YOUR CHICKENS RETURN from an exhibition, give to each a tablespoonful of castor oil, and some hours afterwards, give them oatmeal mixed with good old ale. Never run them with the others till three days after their return, that you may be sure they have contracted no contagious disorder.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

THE PRECOCIOUS YOUNG BIRD.

MR. EDITOR,—I assure you that myself and family are really delighted with the "Poultry Chronicle," abounding, as it always does, with so many veritable truths serviceable to poultry fanciers. The Wednesday morning's post is always the most anxiously looked forward to in the whole week. This day's number, however (May 31st), is to me really somewhat perplexing—to whom then can we look for reference so readily (or so well) can an explanation of the matter as to the Editor.

In speaking of the white Spanish fowls, I find "W. S.," of Cowes, states "they are the most forward chickens I ever heard of; the one I still have, crowed at a fortnight old." Those of this variety, once possessed by myself, were not nearly so precocious; indeed they proved most sadly "behind-hand," when compared to these "newly imported ones;" and, as I am somewhat prone in these times to discredit the evidence of my own eyesight (and astonishment seeming to pervade the whole family), I quietly handed the "Poultry Chronicle" across the fireplace to my mother. She, poor dear old soul, is now compelled, by the infirmities of age, to use "her glasses," though in unimpaired enjoyment of all her other faculties; she then, by the assistance of her spectacles, reads the passage somewhat differently: to her it thus stands, "that the chicken crowed a fortnight before it was hatched;" and dear old lady (with uplifted hands), is paralyzed in wonderment to find that the march of improvement has thus abruptly and marvelously "stolen on," since she was herself a chicken. I fancy myself that her spectacles (like most old people's) do magnify a little, and that I read this paragraph rightly; but I wish to know whether of the twain is the most correct, and also if it is not quite possible, that in a year or two, the now troublesome employment of rearing chickens may be altogether obviated, if luckily the chickens, now existent at Cowes, should happily prove excelled by their future progeny. Oh! dear Mr. Editor, what truly glorious times they will be, when amateurs can find all the difficulties of chickenhood superseded altogether; which I myself rather think, however, will be about coeval with the period when the present express trains are thrown aside as being universally deemed old-fashioned lumber, and veritable slow coaches."

ONE IN THE RING.

Birmingham.

[We were equally astonished with "One in the Ring," at a chicken crowing at a fortnight old, and felt a little anxious to hear if any of our other contributors had known chicks as forward as those of "W. S."—Ed.]

SPANISH FOWLS.

Many inquiries are made what sort of fowls are best to keep? and before answering the question, another should be asked,—where are they to be kept? If in a farm-yard: Game, Dorkings, or Cochins; but if in an inclosed space, in or near a town, Spanish will not yield the palm to any variety. I have seen some of the best birds reared in a town in a confined yard, where all the other varieties had to be discontinued; for eating or laying they are equal to any, but it must be admitted the eggs are not always so good for the table as some other varieties.

As regards some remarks of your correspondents, as to their being black, there are some varieties blue and dead-black, while an iridescent green-black is the only admitted one; the face must be purely white, and not covered with small feathers, but so fine they resemble hair; and in the quality of the face there is as much difference as there is between sacking and cambric in quality, the cauliflower appearance, as it is termed, often spotted with red, has a very coarse appearance, and birds with this fault are not of much value. With the best birds the white often varies, being blushed with red, which does not seem to be attributable to the health of the bird, although in moulting they lose much of it. The greatest difficulty in the variety is to have the white extend over the eye; not one bird in five hundred can be seen perfect in this respect.

SEREX.

PTARMIGAN FOWLS.

SIR,—When the "Ptarmigans" made their *début* last season, every one was asking, "What are their merits?" but from want of certain facts to go upon, a satisfactory answer was not returned to the query. I now, however, send you the "doings" of four hens of mine, extracted from my egg-book, giving the number of eggs laid by them from the 1st of April to the present day. And I am quite content to leave it to you to decide whether the product, added to their extreme beauty, does not entitle them to a higher rank than that of mere "fancy fowls." I may add, that my experience leads me to place them among the non-sitting varieties. My four hens laid in April 90, and up to this day 89 eggs—total, in 57 days, 179 eggs! Thinking that facts

such as these, which I can vouch for as true, may not be unacceptable to you, I am, your well-wisher,

May 27. ONE OF THE MANIACS.

P.S. I keep Dorkings as well as Ptarmigans, and as I have a regular debtor and creditor account with my fowls, and enter everything expended on their behalf, I can tell their average cost to a fraction, which is as near as may be 1½d. per head a week; but then I must add that I look after them closely myself.

A LETTER.

SIR,—I am no scholar; but, when I was a boy, I went to a Sunday-school, and I have often been sorry I could not send my boys to school. But I think I have now a chance, because I keep a few fowls. I have this year made some pounds by them, and I am a better man than I ever was in my life. I don't owe a shilling,—which is a good deal for a labouring man to say,—and my children are well-fed and well-clothed. I write to thank you for your instruction, and to hope you will keep on, for it is the best move for us we ever had.—Your humble servant,

E. H.

I dare not put my name, because I should be laughed at.

TO "C. C. R." ON SEBRIGHT CHICKS.

MR. EDITOR,—In reply to your correspondent "C. C. R." of Rudgeley (whose letter you forwarded to me for an answer), as "to whether the silver-laced Seabrights vary in colour, at the time they are hatched," the experience of many years' careful attention to this peculiarly attractive variety, tells me *they do vary*; and having bred many of the chief winners at our Poultry Exhibitions, I do not hesitate to assert, that in most instances, the dark chickens make the most perfectly laced birds when full grown; the lighter ones at hatching generally being irregularly "laced" afterwards; some of the dark chicks are apt, however, to be tinged with "yellow ground colour," which is seriously objectionable as "Show Birds."—Yours truly,

EDWARD HEWITT.

Eden Cottage, Spark Brook, Birmingham.

POINTS OF A COCHIN.

COURTEOUS READER,—I am told that your curiosity is greatly excited to know who I am, and where I dwell. If you are an old fancier, this is passing strange, as at the outset I informed you that I was in the pen at Birmingham whence the eggs were purloined, and hence my first com-

plaint. But perhaps you are a new convert to the fancy; if so, I will proceed to enlighten you, as in duty bound. I am very aged, of patriarchal descent, and was formerly in the yard of Mr. Sturgeon; thence transferred to another yard, much to the chagrin of that gentleman, who thought he had put a prohibitory price upon me and my wives when he put £5 per head upon us. Since that time I have been found in the aviaries of gentlemen and ladies in various parts of the country, and suffered quite a martyrdom when the silly rage arose for dull uniformity of colour.

I am, as all true Cochins should be, very broad on the rump, deep from back to breast, very broad behind, and there, as well as upon the thighs, covered with soft, downy feathers in rich profusion. My wings are very short and small, almost hidden *in front* by my breast-feathers, and *behind* by my saddle-feathers. My tail is very short, destitute of sickle-feathers, but nicely rounded by graceful curly feathers; though naturally short in itself, it appears even shorter than it is by being almost buried in the rump-feathers, which are very abundant. My face is red; my head small and narrow. My comb rather small, serrated, but not too deeply; single and even, that is, not bent in and out. My legs are shortish, of a yellow colour, inclining to red or flesh colour on the sides, and are thickly covered with feathers even to the end of the toes. My wives have all these properties in perfection, but neither they nor myself can boast of "spotless hackle," which is quite enough to condemn us in the eyes of many, though we have only just enough colour to form a beautiful contrast to the body colour in the shape of a handsome tippet reaching hardly to the shoulder, without any other than buff or fawn on the body. We cocks weigh from 10½ lbs. to 12½ lbs., our wives 9 lbs. to 10½ lbs.; some few cocks have reached 13 lbs., and one or two 13½ lbs., and a few hens 11 lbs. and upwards.

You may, perchance, have seen me in the yard of Mr. Sturgeon, Moody, Andrews, Capt. Hornby, and various others, for I have travelled much, unfortunately, and have been claimed as of Sturgeon, Andrews, Holt, Fletcher, Gilbert, and Potts's stock, but I am in verity of the first-named gentleman's. I am the progenitor of many of the so-called *strains* in existence; and, on the female side, the credit is equally due to Mr. Moody. Those in Quakerish garb are also descendants of the self-same stock, being at first only accidents, and perpetuated, in some cases, by in-breeding, and in other cases by judicious crossing with other accidental ones from different aviaries. The former have obtained only dull uniformity of colour, at the expense of almost

everything deserving the name of Cochin. The latter are, in some few instances, promising and "looking up," as a little further careful crossing bids fair to bring them up to the mark I have laid down. As I listen, however, as is my wont, to the remarks of the various visitors here, I conclude that characteristics will, in future, be more insisted upon than mere colour; and that, even despised as I have been for my *tippet*, I shall be so admired for my *shape* as to crow yet again, in self-gratulation,

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO-O.

BREEDING FROM THE BRAHMAS.

MR. EDITOR.—As the wheels of time move on, the poultry world will soon be able to decide for itself the great question, whether the Brahma Pootra be a distinct variety of the great Asiatic domestic fowl, or merely a cross between the Dorking and one of the common Asiatic fowls, as the Malay, Cochin China, &c., as many think. At the present stage of the season, perhaps a few observations—the result of my own experience—may be acceptable to some of your readers, and be a means of inducing the breeders of this "*rara avis*" to compare notes now and then, through the medium of the "Poultry Chronicle," if you will be so kind as afford them a corner at your convenience.

1st. I begin with four chickens, hatched from four out of eighteen so-called Brahma eggs, purchased of a constant advertiser in the daily and weekly papers: two are black, clean-legged, ugly things; one nearly white with a few feathers on its legs, and the fourth nothing else but a bad Cochin China. I keep these to remind me of a resolution I made when they were hatched.

2nd. I have six, hatched at the same time from twelve eggs, also purchased of an amateur—good birds—all of a regular plumage and fairly feathered legs.

3rd. I now come to about sixty chickens of almost every age, since the beginning of April, the produce of a cock and two hens, imported directly from America. I here describe them:—They have all the single, erect, and serrated, and not the pea-comb; the plumage of the cock is white, black wings, tips, and tail, neck hackles neatly pencilled, yellow beak and legs, the last well feathered; the hens are the same colour, except that the neck hackles are more darkly pencilled than the cock's; they have laid since March, and are laying now, having only ceased for a day or two each, without manifesting an eager desire to sit; they are thin in condition,—the cock weighs about 11 lbs. and the hens about 9 lbs. each.

Now, as to the question, whether the Brahma be a distinct variety or not, I take for granted, that if "like produce like," it is a fair test of genuineness, and my experience leads me to this conclusion also, that no one can bring such evidence as would satisfy a "Bayly," that he has ever produced by the crossing of two distinct species of fowls such a breed of fowls as continues to reproduce offspring like itself, without reverting more or less, in every hatch, to the original type. Can the mysterious breeder of the laced Bantam do this? I trow not; otherwise so many of every hatch would not have to be consigned to the pot, and it would not be a law in Bantam breeding, that the best specimens are not the best to breed from. Now, if the Brahma were a cross (as some assert) between the Dorking and the Malay, should we not have frequently the clean leg, the fifth toe, the long tail, &c.? and if it were a cross between any other of the larger Asiatic and British fowls, there is no doubt there would be marks in the produce that would guide the practised eye to the detection of the original type in every generation. But if the Brahmas continue to produce chickens, hatch after hatch, resembling the parent birds in every respect, the reasonable conclusion is, that the Brahma is a distinct variety. Now these 60 chickens from the three birds have all come alike from the shell to a shade, the pullets being only a little darker in the neck hackles than the cockerels as they grow up; this is the first mark of distinction between the sexes. Many are now well grown and feathered, and I can observe no trace of a pea-comb; and as the hatches come off now, I never think of looking for a clean or dark-coloured leg, a fifth toe, or a black beak; in short, they come from the egg as regular in character and plumage as the pure-bred Bolton Grays do.

From all this I conclude, that not only is the Brahma a distinct variety, when pure, but the purest of all the large Asiatic fowls; but they have been subjected to severe crosses! Even the Buff Cochin does not throw a dozen chickens alike; and how provoking is it to attempt to breed black or white Cochins—every amateur can tell!!—They are from a cross, if the reader likes. I will not be their champion. I will merely add that I have seen a great number of so-called Brahmas—said publicly to have been imported too—which I know to be not true; their produce may impose upon "C. H. B." (whose unqualified assertions are too numerous to obtain credit), but I think not upon "P. Jones," who seems to know what he is about. The eggs I find to be very productive—the chicks "do not fraternize with Cochins," but traverse the lawn in quest of insects in groups of eight or ten, according to

age, almost every hour of the day. Apologizing for the length of this, I remain

Yours, &c., C. B.

P.S. Should any one dispute my statements, I give you my address, and will be happy to show my stock at any time, for I court, rather than evade, criticism, yet at the same time I do not wish to advertise the fowls.

To Correspondents.

A Correspondent inquires, "If the legs of Cochin China chickens are not well feathered at three months old, do they become so at a more advanced age?" If chickens are hatched with clean legs they will certainly remain so; but in the state of transition between the down and the feathers, the feathering on the legs will sometimes become very poor (not altogether absent), and will become good again as the growing feathers supply the place of the down.

M. B. H. wishes to know if any amateur of the Spanish fowls will kindly tell, whether it does not seem likely that the white in the face is an accident or a blemish, as it is so very difficult to breed it even from first-class parents.

To Amateurs generally.—Can any of our readers or correspondents give us any account of the Russian fowl? One chief distinguishing characteristic is a very conspicuous whisker. We have had a dark brown fowl of the sort, and one of our correspondents has some of a pure white.

W. E. S. C.—The paper by "J. C., of Dorking," in No. 14, will have responded to our correspondent's wish before it was expressed.

A. H., Yorkshire.—It is very difficult to account for the crooked breast, which will occasionally occur in the heavy kinds of fowls,—the Dorking, the Cochin China, the Brahma, and, no doubt, also the Spanish, and other large sorts. If perches are used, they should, most decidedly, be large. Some recommend a flat piece of wood; one of our best judges, Mr. Bailey, of Mount-street, advises the use of the trunk of a young fir-tree sawed in halves; and a platform for roosting (if kept very clean) is good; but none of these appliances will in *all cases* prevent the crooked breast-bone. It is very advisable to give phosphate of lime in some form to fast-growing fowls. We have found late chickens most subject to this kind of weakness.—We would with pleasure give accounts of the prices of fowls realized at sales, but the day of sales seems so much gone by, that it would be but little guide to amateurs to quote prices so exceedingly

low. At Mr. Stevens's, the five-shilling reserve often returns the birds unsold; and in sales where no effort is made to make the collection so far select, birds are frequently sold for prices not worth receiving by persons who can eat them at home.

S. F. G.—We cannot undertake to say whether or no your recipe is correct.

J. P.—A wicker basket, closed all round, and covered at top with canvas, is the best for conveying fowls. It should be three feet high for large birds. The diameter must be regulated by the number it is intended to contain. It should be quite round, and when the birds are put in, the bottom should be covered with soft straw. For two birds we make them twenty inches in diameter, for four birds twenty-six inches.

Sigma, living in the country, and wishing to dispose of his poultry for the market, we beg to mention Mr. J. Fricker, of Leadenhall market. For Rouen Ducks apply to Mr. Baily, of Mount-street, or Mr. Punchard, Blunt's Hall, Haverhill, Suffolk.

J. S. H.—Your fowl is suffering from inter-nal fever, which, if not checked, will kill him. His food, instead of nourishing his body, increases the fever. The castor-oil is right, and may be given again. The food should be bread and milk, till the bird has gained his flesh and health. He might for a change have egg boiled hard and chopped fine. If you have not already done so, we should advise you to try Baily's pills.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

The change in the supply and prices of poultry at Leadenhall-market that has been so long expected at last begins to show itself. It is now necessary to make two quotations of fowls, as small ones become more plentiful, but larger are as scarce as ever.

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----|---------|-------|
| Fowls | 6s. 6d. | to | 8s. 6d. | each. |
| Smaller do. .. | 5s. 0d. | | 5s. 6d. | " |
| Chickens | 2s. 6d. | to | 4s. 0d. | " |
| G. Geese | 5s. 0d. | to | 6s. 6d. | " |
| Ducklings .. . | 3s. 6d. | to | 4s. 0d. | " |
| Leverets | 3s. 6d. | to | 5s. 6d. | " |
| Pigeons | 0s. 10d. | to | 1s. 0d. | " |
| Rabbits, Tame .. | 1s. 7d. | | | " |
| Do. Wild | 0s. 10d. | to | 1s. 0d. | " |
| Quails | 1s. 6d. | to | 1s. 9d. | " |

Plovers' eggs, in bulk, 3s. 6d. per doz.

There is a moderate supply, but the demand is bad for the season of the year.

Advertisements.

BRAHMA FOOTRA EGGS, from the choicest birds of an Amateur, Brahmars of whose breeding have competed successfully at the first shows in the kingdom, viz., the Royal Agricultural, Great Metropolitan, Birmingham, Great Yarmouth, Doncaster, Norwich, Winchester, and Manchester, price £3. 3s. per dozen. Warranted from the best prize and selected birds only. Apply to W. C. G., Post-office, Sandbach, Cheshire.

MR. J. P. HINE, of Thickthorn House, near Ilminster, being about to decline Poultry keeping, has the following Birds for immediate Sale:—Cock and one Hen, Golden-bearded Polands, £1. 15s. Cock and three Hens, Silver Polands (not bearded), £2. Cock and one Hen, Golden-pencilled Hamburg, £1. 1s. Cock and one Hen, Silver ditto, 15s.

EGGS FOR SALE, during the Season, all from First Prize Birds.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Box included. |
| Silver-spangled Polands | 20s. per doz. |
| White-crested Black Polands | 15s. „ |
| Golden-spangled Hamburg | 10s. „ |
| White Aylesbury Ducks | 5s. „ |

Some Golden-spangled Hamburgs for Sale.—Post-office orders payable at Lyndhurst, Hants, to **THOMAS P. EDWARDS**.

PTARMIGAN EGGS FOR SALE for the rest of the Season, from Prize Birds, £1. 1s. per dozen, and 1s. for package.—Apply to **F. BERNAL**, Esq., Fareham, Hants.

MRS. LYDIA C. STOW, of Bredon, will now **DISPOSE** of EGGS from her **PRIZE SPANISH BIRDS**, at three guineas for a dozen, box included.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Dorkings | One Guinea. |
| Buff Cochins China | ditto. |
| Black Cochins China | ditto. |

Post-office orders to be made payable at **Tewkesbury**.

TO AMATEURS.

A **RARE** opportunity now presents itself of **PURCHASING**, at a moderate price, first-rate early-hatched **DORKING, BLACK, SPANISH**, and **BUFF COCHIN** Chickens.—For price, pedigree, &c., apply to **S. H. HAMERTON**, Esq., Kendall, Westmoreland.

EGGS from **FIRST CLASS** and **PRIZE BIRDS**.—**JOHN BAILY** has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochins of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

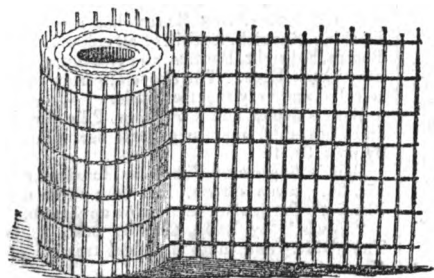
EGGS from splendid imported **BRAHMAS** and Prize **DORKINGS**, 1s. each.—Apply to the **POULTRYMAN**, Abington Rectory, Northampton.

BEDFORDSHIRE POULTRY EXHIBITION.

THE SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION of **POULTRY** will take place at the **CORN EXCHANGE, BEDFORD**, on Tuesday, the 31st of October, and Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2nd of November, 1854.—Forms of Entry and Schedules of Prizes may be obtained on and after the 16th of June, of the Secretaries, **Mr. J. T. R. ALLEN**, Bedford; and **Mr. CHARLES HOWARD**, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

WEST KENT ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF **POULTRY, &c.**, and Miscellaneous Flower Show (open to all England), under most distinguished patronage, will take place in the Market Field, **FARNINGHAM**, on Tuesday, (private view), June 20th, 1854, and following day. Subscription tickets of admission (available on both days), 5s. each. Lists of Prizes and Certificates of Entry for Poultry, &c., are now ready, and may be had on application, post-paid, to the Secretary, **B. THOMAS**. For Schedules of Prizes for Flowers, &c., apply to **Mr. ALFRED LOCKYER**, Hon. Sec., Farningham. The Entries will close on the 5th of June.

By order of the Committee of Management,
BAPTISTE THOMAS, Sec.
Committee Room, Lion Inn,
Farningham.



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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 16.]

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1854.

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Poultry Shows.

Cheltenham Third Annual Summer Exhibition, at the Pittville Spa, June 14th and 15th. Secretaries, the Messrs. Jessop, Brothers, The Aviaries, Cheltenham. Entries are closed.

West Kent Association, at Farningham, Tuesday, June 20th, and following day. Secretary, Baptiste Thomas, Esq. Entries are closed.

Vale of Taunton Deane Horticultural Society, in the Vivary Park, Taunton, Wednesday and Thursday, June 21st and 22nd. Honorary Secretary, John Kingsbury, Esq., 10, Hammetstreet, Taunton. Entries closed June 13th.

Devon and Cornwall Poultry Society, June 27th and 28th. Secretaries, Mr. W. Hunt, Public Library, Plymouth, and C. Hancock, Esq., Emma-place, Stonehouse. Entries closed June 12th.

Bideford Poultry Show. First Meeting, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 27th and 28th. Secretary, John Jones, Esq.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries are closed.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third

Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M'cSwarbreck, Esq. Entries close September 5th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. The Schedule not quite ready.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st

and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st. The Schedule will be ready June 16th.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 28th.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombrian, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

"LIVE and learn," is a proverb which may be put in practice by men at all times and under all circumstances. Our own experience, and the example of others, are daily presenting useful lessons for future guidance. Limited success in our plans, and in those of other persons, are ever giving salutary warning to avoid the course which has conducted to failure, and prosperous results are pointing out the roads which have led to success.

In no matter, of parallel importance, may this value of the experience of life be turned to better account than in the various arrangements for a poultry show. Last year, many shows were so crowded

into the same space of time, that their success was evidently diminished in consequence. There were exhibitions at Winchester, Derby, and Hitchin in one week; the success which attended the Derby show we cannot recollect, not having been present; that at Hitchin, which was, in 1852, as pretty a collection of upwards of 200 pens as any amateur need wish to see, was, in 1853, neither so good nor so well attended; while at Winchester, 13 classes, *if not more*, were entirely unrepresented in the entries! In so many instances, besides those above mentioned, the same clashing of interests occurred from the shows coming nearly at the same period, that we cannot help noticing how much better matters have been managed this year. The season might be said to commence with the Aylesbury Local Show, April 12th, which was followed by those of Newcastle and the Royal Dublin Society,—these were in April. In May, we had the Hexham, the Holmfirth, and the Exeter.

For June, we have the Bath, which took place last week, the Cheltenham, commencing this day (the 14th), the Farningham on the 20th, the Taunton (in an entirely different district) on the 21st, and the Devon and Cornwall on the 27th.

For the remaining months of the year but a small number of exhibitions have at present been appointed; but all which are already arranged display the same good judgment in avoiding a clashing of interests.

Nor is wise consideration in fixing the time the only improvement on which to congratulate the committees. At the Man-

chester show last year, an addition, which we think every amateur would wish to make general, was first introduced, in the form of a stand, with a person whose duty it was to collect the sticks, umbrellas, and parasols belonging to the visitors; those offensive weapons, the active use of which occasions such annoyance to the poor imprisoned birds, and, consequently, no less to the ears of the company. The regulation is introduced by the managers of the Isle of Wight and Southampton shows, and it is to be hoped will become universal.

Another admirable improvement, adopted by several committees, is deferring the commencement of the sale of the birds until all the visitors, anxious to make choice, may have had an opportunity of doing so,—an arrangement which has a double advantage; at the same time that it deprives persons who may possibly have superior knowledge of any of the birds of an unfair advantage, it leaves the staff of the committee at liberty at the busiest time,—the hour of opening.

These are only a few of the instances in which the indefatigable managers of our POULTRY SHOWS have introduced the improvements suggested by their own experience, and the example of others.

Schedule of the Southampton Poultry Show.

THE South Hants Association for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry will hold their Second Annual Exhibition at Southampton, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August, under the patronage of Lady M. McDonald, and several other ladies.

In seven of the different kinds of fowls, that exceedingly useful class of "a single cock" is introduced.

The impartiality displayed in the amounts of the prizes will strike the readers of the Schedule. The gentlemen of the committee have given equal value to the prizes for all the different kinds of fowls down to Bantams, which are rated lower.

PRIZE LIST.

| SPANISH. | | 1st. | 2nd. |
|--|-------|------|------|
| <i>Class.</i> | | | |
| 1. Best Cock and two Hens above a year old .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 2. Ditto, Chickens of 1854 .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 3. Best Cock of any age .. .. | .. .. | £1. | |
| DORKING (Coloured). | | | |
| 4. Best Cock and two Hens, above a year old .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 5. Ditto, Chickens of 1854 .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 6. Best Cock of any age .. .. | .. .. | £1. | |
| DORKING (White). | | | |
| 7. Best Cock and two Hens, above a year old .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 8. Ditto, Chickens of 1854 .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 9. Best Cock of any age .. .. | .. .. | £1. | |
| COCHIN CHINA (Buff, Cinnamon, or Brown). | | | |
| 10. Best Cock and two Hens, above a year old .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 11. Ditto, Chickens of 1854 .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 12. Best Cock of any age .. .. | .. .. | £1. | |
| COCHIN CHINA (Black or White). | | | |
| 13. Best Cock and two Hens, above a year old .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 14. Ditto, Chickens of 1854 .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 15. Best Cock of any age .. .. | .. .. | £1. | |
| BRAHMA POOTRA. | | | |
| 16. Best Cock and two Hens .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 17. Best Cock of any age .. .. | .. .. | £1. | |
| GAME. | | | |
| 18. Best Cock and two Hens .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| 19. Best Cock of any age .. .. | .. .. | £1. | |
| MALAY. | | | |
| 20. Best Cock and two Hens .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |
| HAMBURG (Gold-pencilled). | | | |
| 21. Best Cock and two Hens .. .. | .. .. | £2. | £1. |

| HAMBURG (Silver-pencilled). | |
|---|-------------------------|
| <i>Class.</i> | <i>1st.</i> <i>2nd.</i> |
| 22. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £2. .. £1. |
| HAMBURG (Gold-spangled). | |
| 23. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £2. .. £1. |
| HAMBURG (Silver-spangled). | |
| 24. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £2. .. £1. |
| POLAND (White-crested). | |
| 25. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £2. .. £1. |
| POLAND (Golden). | |
| 26. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £2. .. £1. |
| POLAND (Silver). | |
| 27. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £2. .. £1. |
| ANY DISTINCT BREED. | |
| 28. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £2. .. £1. |
| BANTAMS (Gold-laced). | |
| 29. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. .. 10s. |
| BANTAMS (Silver-laced). | |
| 30. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. .. 10s. |
| BANTAMS (Black). | |
| 31. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. .. 10s. |
| BANTAMS (White). | |
| 32. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. .. 10s. |
| TURKEYS. | |
| 33. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £2. .. £1. |
| GEESE. | |
| 34. Best Gander and two Geese .. | £2. .. £1. |
| DUCKS (Aylesbury). | |
| 35. Best Drake and two Ducks .. | £2. .. £1. |
| DUCKS (Rouen). | |
| 36. Best Drake and two Ducks .. | £2. .. £1. |
| DUCKS (any variety). | |
| 37. Best Drake and two Ducks .. | £2. .. £1. |
| COTTAGER'S PRIZE (Rent not exceeding £8. per annum. Free entry). | |
| 38. Best Cock and two Hens, any breed | £1. .. 10s. |
| 39. One of the main objects of this Society being for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry, a First Prize of £1, and a Second of 10s., will be offered for the best couple of Dead Chickens, bred in 1854. The breed to be | |

Class.

described, whether crossed or otherwise, and to be trussed with head and feet on, fit for market. Entry 1s.

PIGEONS.

40. Best pair of Carriers; Almond Tumblers; Balds, Beards, and Mottled Tumblers; Owls; Nuns; Turbits; Archangels; Jacobines; Fantails; Trumpeters; Pouters or Crop-pers; Barbes; Runts; Dragoons; any other new or distinct variety—Prize of 10s. each.

In addition to the above prizes, a silver cup, value £5. 5s., will be given to the exhibitor of poultry, being the breeder, taking the greatest number of first prizes.

REGULATIONS.

1. That subscribers of 5s. shall be entitled to one card of admission, and subscribers of 10s. to two cards; such cards to be available both days of Exhibition, but not transferable.

2. All entries to be made on the printed forms which are now ready, and may be had by enclosing a stamped-directed envelope to the secretary. The last day of entry is fixed for the 19th of August. Persons entering poultry, and failing to send the same, will be required to pay a fine of 5s. for each pen so left vacant, unless a certificate be lodged with the secretary on or before the day of exhibition, August 30th, proving to the satisfaction of the committee that the non-exhibition was caused by the death of one or more of them by disease or unavoidable injury sufficient to prevent such exhibition.

3. Exhibitors of poultry to pay 3s., and of pigeons, 1s., each pen.

8. Exhibitors must state a price for all specimens that are for sale, as one of the main objects of the exhibition is to afford to breeders an opportunity of improving their collection at a time when they are best enabled to form a correct opinion of the value of the several varieties. Specimens that are not for sale must therefore be distinctly so stated. Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales towards defraying the expenses of the exhibition. All sales must be made through the secretary. No offer will be accepted before 12 o'clock on the first day of exhibition.

9. The exhibition will not be limited to a particular district, and specimens may be sent from any part of the world.

10. Doors open on Wednesday, at 10 o'clock. Admission to non-subscribers, 2s. 6d.; and on Thursdays, at 9 o'clock; admission, 1s.; children under 12, half-price.

11. Competent persons will be employed to take charge of the birds during the exhibition, and all eggs will be broken; but the committee cannot be answerable for any losses that may occur, either from accident or mistake.

12. That stewards be chosen by the committee to assist in conducting the proceedings of each show, and that all matters relating thereto shall be subject to their decision.

13. Dogs, sticks, and umbrellas will not be allowed in the exhibition.

14. The whole of the poultry must be delivered at the place of exhibition before 8 o'clock, P.M., on Monday, the 28th August. The hampers, baskets, &c., must be addressed to the secretary, Southampton, the names of the exhibitors to be attached; the carriage in all cases being previously paid.

JOHN D. BARFORD, Sec.

Southampton, May, 1854.

Chit-Chat.

A CORRESPONDENT residing in Southampton, in a letter about the South Hants Poultry Exhibition, which is to take place in that town in August next, writes, "We have taken a great many hints from the 'Chronicle.' Our show took its rise among the farmers of the Botley Club, and was transferred, for convenience, to Southampton, so that we may truly call ours an agricultural society. We have, in a great degree, taken the schedule of the Royal Agricultural Society for our guide, and we have added some new features. First, the prize for single cocks in the leading varieties; secondly, the prize for cottagers, which I have no doubt will meet your approval; and thirdly, a prize for dead poultry, which is offered principally in consequence of many persons advocating the cross breeds. Last year we had great difficulty in getting our judges to award *any* prize to cross-bred birds, although there was a class especially for them (and the gentlemen we engaged are no mean authority), so we now mean for them to be shown dead in couples, fit for market; and lastly, though not least, we offer a five-guinea cup for the most successful exhibitor and breeder, as we

consider the latter much more entitled to honour than a person who, with a long purse, can purchase the laurels to which the breeder is entitled."

"Our rules have also undergone revision, and several valuable regulations have been copied from the 'Chronicle.'"

MR. STEVENS'S SALE.—On Tuesday, the 6th of June, a number of fowls and chickens were sold at Mr. Stevens's, from the stocks of Captain Snell, Messrs. Cannon, Shackle, Jones, and Hill. The prices at which the birds sold were low: among the best were, a Brahma hen from the Queen's stock, £2; a cockerel, seven months old, £1. 16s. The price of Brahma chickens of the present year ranged from 6s. to 14s. per pair, and that of Cochin chickens was about the same. A number of Dorkings bred from the stock of Mr. Fisher Hobbs, Andalusians from Mr. Taylor's prize birds, and Spanish from the same stock, remained stationary at the starting price, 5s. each lot.

Rules of Poultry Shows.

AMONG the rules and regulations of poultry shows, there are generally four, and sometimes more, which so uniformly occur, that we are glad to leave it to the experienced knowledge of our readers to *know* that they are introduced, and to spare space by their omission in our notices of the schedules of the shows. The rules we refer to are those which relate to empowering the judges, *in all cases*, to withhold undeserved prizes—which request exhibitors to name their fowls with care, and to give *all* the names appertaining thereto—and to avoid false statements respecting the ages of the chickens, —stating that all *mis-statements* will incur the penalty of exclusion from future exhibitions under the management of the same society.

It is so useful to our readers to have the schedules of the poultry shows in the "Poultry Chronicle," rather than to be

dependent on finding up loose sheets of various sizes whenever it is desirable to refer to one of them, that we are anxious to give them ; but, in doing so, we are glad to economise space as much as possible.

Hints to Poultry Show Committees.

WHILST the company are admiring the birds, I may give one hint which I had overlooked ; if the committee hire or borrow the wire pen fronts from any other society or person, they must be careful to ascertain the condition of the wire before, they close their bargain. I know of a case where the wire fronts were hired, and upon their arriving at the intended exhibition, they were found bedaubed with oil, having been dipped in that fluid as a preventive against rust ; no efforts would remove it, it was too late to prepare other fronts, and it had a very damaging effect on the plumage of all the light-coloured birds, especially the buff and white Shanghaes ; and even a still worse on the dress of those ladies who unfortunately came in contact with it ; for however fashionable and becoming large checks may be thought by the male portion of the visitors, I must confess that the wire net pattern printed in oil on a lady's light-coloured shawl or dress, is not calculated to improve either her appearance or temper.

I must now take your readers into the sale office, and describe how things are going on there : first, there will be the salesman prepared with his book to enter your name and address as a purchaser, and to give you a receipt for the cash ; of course a clerk sitting near him hears the number of the pen you claim, and strikes it out of the lists as sold, writes on slip "No. — sold," and hands it with others to the porter to affix to the pens, to prevent unnecessary claimers ; another clerk hears your name and address, and writes it on an address-card, Pen No. —, Mr. —, and address in full, and places the card on the top of the previous purchaser's, ready

to be checked back by the purchase-books during the first leisure time, but so as to have all the purchasers' address-cards quite ready by the close of the show : of course this might be done during the evening, but it is wiser to have an extra clerk than to trust to tired night-work.

I have before recommended that the hampers shall be sold with the birds, and in this case the plan is for the salesman to go round immediately after the close of the show, and to fasten the purchasers' cards on the top of the sellers', comparing them by the numbers ; this is better than tearing off the sellers' cards, because, if it is done, all chance of correcting an accidental error is taken away, but if it is fastened on the top of it, the means of correcting the error remains, and the buyer also has the satisfaction of seeing the seller's card ; on the other hand, if the hamper is not sold with the birds, the purchaser's card must first be tied to the front of the pen (after the show has closed), the old hamper must be carried away, a new one bought, and then the address fastened to it, otherwise some awkward errors will most certainly be made and birds will be missing.

I may here hope that the sales have been large, as the per centage charged ought to produce a handsome sum.

I have made no allusion to the refreshment-room ; it is advisable to have one, where plain things, ale, negus, tea, coffee, sandwiches, biscuits, &c., can be obtained at a moderate cost ; parties from a distance will require something of the kind, otherwise they will be asking for exit and return-tickets, and these should not be given, or they may be misused : if people pay for coming in and find amusement and refreshments inside, they will not require a return-ticket ; and if they go out, let them pay again if they wish to re-enter. Of course this will not apply to subscribers, whose tickets admit for every day the show remains open.

The show must now be supposed to have closed ; and first, all unnecessary people must be cleared out of the room, and proper

guards set at the doors to prevent both improper ingress or egress, and the arrangements for repacking the birds must be coolly and quietly commenced; there must be no hurry or bustle, both of which may be expected, and must be, therefore, guarded against.

In the first place, the secretary must have prepared indexes, say three or four, that is, one each for the devoted committee-men, who, to meet their pledge to the public, that the birds shall be sent off early the day after the show, have determined to sacrifice their comfort and work all night. Shows generally close late in the evening, and woe betide the committee if the birds are not all ready in their hampers for their respective owners by daybreak next morning, and much has to be done to effect this.

The indexes I allude to, should have the exhibitors' names alphabetically arranged, with *all* their pen numbers in a row, viz., Andrews, John, 20, 27, 90, 350. The use of this I will explain shortly.

Packing-needles and a large quantity of twine will be required; be careful to provide plenty of twine, for I know that it is not easy to be found during the night.

There will be a number of packers, say twenty, for each thousand pens required; and it is well to secure the services of some person to keep ready a supply of coffee and food; treat your men well, and they will reward you; admit no stronger liquors in the room, or some one will get too much and be the cause of trouble. Three working committee-men will do the work, but it is well to have one or two extra ones to walk about and look after skulkers.

W. W.

Cochins, as lately exhibited, in comparison with those of former Years.

It is now an almost universally acknowledged fact, that the Cochins of the present day by no means equal the fowls of this variety which were formerly exhibited.

It is undoubtedly true, that there are some most praiseworthy exceptions to the fact as here advanced, but the great majority are very indifferent, possessing none of those traits of character which were (and ought to be) the *sine qua non* of amateurs in selecting their brood-stock.

This has arisen chiefly from the reckless inattention paid by buyers to everything save colour, while the records of our public sales bear the most ample testimony to the fact of the highest prices being obtained for birds of superior colour, but frequently wanting in the more essential points of weight and character. Any practised eye, in passing over the buff Cochins classes at our late principal shows, could not fail to deplore the almost total absence of those heavily-stuffed, well leg-feathered, and squarely-built Cochins, that used to be objects of public admiration; and in their place we find a weedy, stilty, long, clear-legged group of specimens, that handle still more indifferently than even their appearances led us to suppose. It is at once admitted that these new-comers do present the fashionable absence of "hackle markings" (the applications of pumice-stone and scissors having too frequently been made use of to improve (?) the contending birds); but though such "dressed" fowls may satisfy for a short period, the first moulting produces a serious revulsion of feeling towards their former owners, and tends more than anything else could do to weaken public faith in purchasing for the future; thereby, too, bringing "in the long run" its well-deserved punishment on those who have the temerity to adopt it. It is needless to do more than simply mention that weight is certainly a very great desideratum in this variety, but it will not be denied that "plenty of bone, and superiority in the scales," is in no way contingent on clearness of hackle, but every day's experience proves the reverse is almost the undeviating rule. Undoubtedly the most characteristic variety in the Cochins were the old-fashioned partridge-feathered ones, but where are they now? Neglected,

only from the fact of being at length unfashionable, these truly valuable fowls are now superseded by a race not nearly their equals as layers, and, if brought to the spit, their deficiency is most material. It is not intended to assert that the buffs never equal the darker birds, but the most perfectly developed specimens as Cochins (numerically considered) have certainly been among the "partridge-feathered" ones. The day is now beginning to dawn when each variety of poultry must stand or fall by its own individual merits, the fictitious bolsterings of fancy give precedence to the stern realities of utility, and the most valuable for table purposes, for laying, and for incubation, must wrest the laurels from their opponents. It is well it should be so, for these are the considerations that should alone bias us in choosing our favourite variety to breed from; for as, when fowls are used for the legitimate purposes of the table, an ideal value can never be maintained, so is it equally certain, that when an amateur has purchased dearly-bought experience, the impression fixes itself tenaciously on the mind, and does much to prevent unchecked demands on the pocket for the future. In the selection of our brood stock, then, let us pay a little more attention to formation in the parent birds; endeavour to obtain the greatest possible weight in the least possible compass, avoiding all harshness of contour; and then, if we can get perfection of colour combined, I for one shall hail its introduction as an addendum devoutly to be wished for, but never to be considered paramount to far more useful features. If we take Cochins at an early age for the table, they are very excellent eating, if well fed; the old birds are decidedly surpassed by none as winter-layers (which, by the bye, is no trifling acquisition, whether the eggs are retained for our own breakfast-table or disposed of in the market); and the unequalled familiarity of these fowls is such, you can place them to sit just where you please; they never roam far from home, and a fence three feet high prevents all possible truancy.

Such being the case, let all give fair play to good birds, expecting no fictitious prices, but try them exclusively for their utility, and I do not then fear much grumbling at the advice of
E. C.

Chinese Letters.

From TAI-TSING, Canton, to TSING-TAI, Hog Lane, London.

I FEAR, oh! brother thou hast resided with the barbarians till thou hast acquired their deceit and mystery. What meanest thou about the fowls thou hast sent? Thou mayest deceive the people among whom thou livest, but not those who, like us, see with the eyes of wisdom. I wrote to thee some moons since for some fowls of the breeds most in repute among the barbarians. Thou hast sent me two with different names, but our people, and they are wise, say they are the same. Their bosoms and tails are black, their backs and necks are red; it is true one is larger than the other, and that the larger has on each foot an extra toe. The smaller one is more quarrelsome than the other, and, like the barbarians of the country whence he cometh, seemeth to delight in fighting. Thou callest the one "Dorking," the other "Game," surely they are the same. Write me, oh! brother, and deceive me not; cleanse thy bosom of all deceit, and bear in mind the precepts on truth of our divine Confucius.—Fail not.

Thy brother,

TAI-TSING.

From TSING-TAI, Hog Lane, London, to TAI-TSING, Canton.

THE people among whom I live, oh! brother, are not barbarians, but lacking the light of our wisdom, they are easily deceived. I have not imposed on thee in the fowls I sent thee, they are rightly named. It is the nature of the smaller one to fight, and the larger size, and the extra claw of the other mark the differ-

ence between them. Let thy knowledge enlighten thee, and learn to reason correctly, even from small things; the Gods of the Celestial Empire made everything, and nothing is imperfect or superfluous. Leave, oh! brother, such foolish discoveries to the benighted people among whom I dwell. Learn from this.

Thou knowest that for many seasons the outside ships that come for our tea (may the crop be good), have sought with greediness our fowls, thou knowest their beauty, their virtues; the voice of the cock is like the fearful noise our mandarins and warriors make to affright their enemies when they go into battle, and yet they are peaceable, and, like the Celestial inhabitants of our beloved country, they are content to remain at home, and to leave quarrels for the unenlightened. Even now, when I reflect on the delights of my own home, I see in our garden a bird of golden plumage, of stately carriage, and large, upright, vermilion comb; I hear his voice like the thunder of an army, and I see the hens of yellow tint rejoicing with him. These people think themselves wise, and lately I was invited to see some fowls, said to be from the Celestial Empire; oh! brother, I saw grey birds, with puny voices; they had combs like several small combs joined together with the cement of Poo Loo, unlike any one I ever saw; they had deep breasts, that in the rice-fields, when they are muddy, would, from the sinking of the legs, touch the ground. They were not our fowls. They were not at home, but wandering over many enclosures. I was angry, and I became eloquent, I said, "Oh! strangers, these are not our fowls, they differ in comb, shape, colour, and habit." One of the outside people swore and said they were. I found he was a bad and foolish man, and did not answer him. Dost thou not see, oh! my brother, these ignorant men would persuade me they know more of the fowls of our happy country than we do? They are wrong and obstinate—thou knowest it; so are those

that tell thee the fowls I have sent thee are the same breed, they resemble each other but they differ.

Thou callest the "Game" and "Dorking" the same, because they are alike in colour of feathers and legs, thou forgettest the difference in size and claw; so these ignorant people cast aside difference in comb, colour, and habit, and declare these foreign fowls are ours because there is some similarity of shape.

Be wise, oh! brother of my heart, and be not led away by empty men. If thou canst not reason better than these outside people, then thou mightst as well have been born here as in the flowery Celestial Empire.

Thy brother,
TSING-TAI.

Farm-yard Poultry.

ANY person who neglects fair and legitimate means for profitably increasing the business he is engaged in, because the source from which such increase springs is small, commits a serious error. Now this error is very commonly committed in farming stock, as applied to poultry, throughout most countries: there are few (probably no) farms which do not possess poultry; that is, various descriptions of small and inferior birds, which rarely attain size, and have not the quality of good layers to compensate. Taking an average of farms, large and small, throughout the country, the number of breeding birds on each may be calculated at fifty, or more. The usual practice is to allow these birds to breed in and in; occasionally a Hamburg hen is added, as an "excellent layer," and her small progeny, bred from some inferior cock bird, are kept with the others. On *more carefully*-managed farms, occasionally a large cock bird, of no particular breed, is added; but this is the utmost, and the consequence is apparent in the general appearance and smallness of farm-yard poultry.

The farmer himself seldom attends to this branch of, what ought to be, his profit, however alive he may be, and most farmers now are, to the necessity of improving the breed of all his farm stock; the poultry are left to the farmer's wife, and she rarely has opportunities of travelling beyond the market town, where her information, on matters of considerable interest to her (for the £ s. d. part generally falls to her), is not likely to be increased.

The mere fact of poultry being kept as a part of farming stock is at once an admission of its necessity. To the man who is content to cultivate his land, and keep the class of live stock as in by-gone days, little can be said,—but a suggestion to the improving farmer may not be cast away, when the enormous amount of poultry consumed, and *imported from abroad*, is taken into consideration.

First, then, ascertain what is required, and how to procure it,—assume that a farm-yard contains fifty breeding fowls, and that they are chiefly required for rearing chickens (in such a number there will always be sufficient eggs for selling), and that size is the chief object. A selection of ten Brahma, or Cochin hens, thirty-five Dorking hens, and five Dorking cocks would answer every purpose required.

In selecting the Brahma, or Cochin, birds, pullets should be taken; these birds will commence laying in November and keep on through the winter, when eggs command a high price. When sufficient eggs and half-bred chickens have been obtained from these birds, they should all be fattened and killed (unless any show some decidedly excellent qualities), and a fresh supply purchased the next autumn. Pullets, fattened at about a year old, command good prices as “fowls,”—the *whole* of the half-bred progeny should be killed, however promising they may appear, and the stock kept up from the produce of the pure Dorking birds. As the Brahma, or Cochin, pullets would be selected only for

table purposes, it would not be necessary to study those points of excellence required for a show-yard, and so long as the birds possessed the merits of size and general form, whether they had or had not feathered legs or coarse combs, would be quite secondary.

In regard to the Dorkings, or chief breeding stock, a little more particularity might be displayed, and the speckled or grey varieties would be found larger and (as applied to northern counties) harder than the cuckoo or the white. It is erroneous to suppose that the Dorking fowl degenerates at a distance from Surrey; the cause of its degeneracy is found in Surrey, as elsewhere, want of ordinary care and constant breeding in. The recent demand for Dorking fowls has arisen not so much from their being fancy fowls, as from their acknowledged and tried utility; great aptitude to lay on flesh, and useful qualities as layers and sitters. In regard to the male birds, five will not be found too many (although they might suffice for a larger number of hens), when accidents are considered; these five birds should be obtained from a totally different stock to that from which the hens are procured; and by following this rule at the outset, and taking care to introduce two fresh cockerels during the autumnal moult of every year, there will not be any fear of evil; but should any appearance of degeneracy show itself, a remedy would be found in procuring a total change of male blood every five or six years. The farmer will bear in mind that by a little care in the management of his Dorking stock, he will be tolerably sure to obtain some birds which, if exhibited at the nearest local show, will obtain him such a prize or commendation as will enable him to dispose of them at a considerable profit; for although the prices which have been recently paid for birds are not likely to be paid again, the fact that the “old Dorking” has itself been in such request, is a proof that a good *animal* will always command a good price, and it may be confidently

anticipated that the demand for really useful stock birds will annually increase.

There is now no difficulty in procuring good birds at a moderate price; the number of amateurs who have surplus stock to dispose of every autumn is sufficient to enable any farmer to choose for himself as easily as he would his flock of sheep. And although many a person would find it hard to sell and kill the whole existing stock of mongrels, there can be no doubt, the surest and most expeditious course would be to make a clean sweep at once,—should this be impossible, by obtaining fewer birds and keeping only the pure-bred stock, one year would allow the yard to be thoroughly weeded.

In regard to food, it must be remembered that while the yard and rick-yard afford a very great assistance to the stock, no animal is worth keeping unless it is well kept, and that fowls, to be profitable, must be properly fed and cared for. In most farm-yards they have no pure water to drink, but resort to the pond, forming a receptacle for the drainage of the yard; pure water is life, health, and, above all, *size* to the fowl, and should be provided in all cases. The usual roosting-place for poultry is the cart-house (a very dirty and slovenly arrangement), or some shed, and the frequent result is that the proceeds of the brood enter the fox instead of the pocket. A good lock-up house is necessary with low perches,—low perches are essential, especially with Dorkings; roosting on a tree, the bird makes a considerable flight before it reaches the ground, whereas in a confined space it comes down perpendicularly and injures both feet and legs. By strewing the floor of the fowl-house with sifted ashes or sand, and having this removed at least once a week (I speak for the farmer, not the amateur and his more carefully-tended house), a very valuable manure is obtained.

To sum up, procure good stock, irrespective of minute points of excellence.

Never breed in.

Never breed from mongrels.

Feed well, with plenty of pure water, and believe that poultry are a part of farming stock.

W. S.

Marks in the Almond Tumbler,

By which to ascertain the Colours of young Birds in the Nest.

If the beak has no mark on it, but is quite white, the bird will be an almond.

If the beak is white, and has a little patch of black somewhere about it, this will probably be a splash; but should it be an almond, it will most likely have a great deal of black about it.

If the beak be crossed on the point with a black stripe or cross, rather inclining to blue, this bird will be a black and not a kite.

If with a deep-blue mark, it will be a blue, which colour is very objectionable, and if the pair should throw this colour more than once, they should be parted; and were they mine, I should part them the first time.

If with a black mark, rather inclining to, or having a faint tinge of red, it will be a kite, and most likely a rich one.

If with a slatey-coloured mark, it will be a dun.

If with a straw colour, a yellow.

If with a deeper straw colour, inclining to red, an agate. And if with a deep-red, it will be a red, or red mottled bird.

By minute attention to these marks, the fancier will seldom fail in his prediction of the colour, long before any signs of feathers are visible.

OF THE DUNG OF PIGEONS.—The dung is so valuable, that if it is preserved genuine, and as little straw or other rubbish as possible suffered to get amongst it, tanners and others will give five shillings per sack for it, and will fetch it whenever they are informed there is any ready for them. It is used by the tanners to separate the hair from the hides; being of an extremely hot nature, and answering their purpose better than most other

things they make use of. It is also an excellent manure for cold, wet, clayey land, and if it could be procured in any quantity, the farmers of such sorts of land would give almost any price for it.

The above extracts are given, by permission, from a work on the "Almond Tumbler," by Mr. J. Matthew Eaton, (now included in his general work on pigeons).

Holmfirth Spring Poultry Show.

THE idea of a spring poultry show, on the Holmfirth Feast Monday, originated with the leading members of the Pig and Poultry Association, and was a praiseworthy effort to place within the reach of the working men of the district a source of innocent and rational recreation at this festive season, which does the promoters of the show much credit; and though in a pecuniary point of view they are likely to be losers to some inconsiderable extent, yet the committee, we believe, are well satisfied to make up the loss, as they have been the means of collecting together some of the very best specimens of poultry that have ever yet been exhibited in Yorkshire at this season of the year. Though this pleasing sight was not appreciated to the extent they anticipated by the working classes, yet as a first experiment the attendance towards the close of the day was far from discouraging, and such, indeed, as we trust will induce the committee to make the experiment another year.

The show went off with great satisfaction to all parties who witnessed it, and we doubt not that if conducted with spirit these spring exhibitions will ultimately rank among the chief of the kind in the kingdom.

The judges were—for poultry, Messrs. William Smith, Kent-house, Halifax; Thomas Pearson, York-square, Leeds; and T. J. Wigney, George Hotel, Huddersfield; for pigeons, rabbits, and eggs, Mr. Henry Brook, Bridge-mill. Their decisions appeared to give the greatest satisfaction.

LIST OF PRIZES AWARDED.

POULTRY.

CLASS 1. (Spanish)—Best cock and two hens, £1; second do. 10s. 1st, John M. Thompson, Dewsbury; 2nd, John S. Henry, Woodlands, Crompsall, Manchester; commended, Matthew Ridgway, Dewsbury.

CLASS 2. (Spanish)—Best six chickens of 1854, 7s. 6d.; second do. 5s. 1st, Rev. George Hustler, Appleton, Tadcaster; 2nd, M. H. Broadhead, Stubbins.

CLASS 3. (Dorking)—Best cock and two hens (coloured), 10s., John Dransfield, Penistone.

CLASS 6. (Cochin China)—Best cock and two hens (cinnamon and buff), £1; second do., 10s. 1st, Rev. George Hustler; 2nd, J. Richardson, 43, Clarence-street, York.

CLASS 8. (Cochin China)—Best cock and two hens (white), 10s.; second do. 5s. 1st and 2nd, C. S. Floyd, Sands.

CLASS 9. (Cochin China)—Best cock and two hens (black), 10s.; second do, 5s.; 1st and 2nd, C. S. Floyd.

CLASS 10. (Cochin China)—Best six chickens of 1854 (any variety), 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st and 2nd, Rev. George Hustler; commended, C. S. Floyd.

CLASS 11. (Brahma Pootra)—Best cock and two hens, 10s.; second do. 5s. 1st, Rev. George Hustler; 2nd, C. S. Floyd.

CLASS 12. (Malay)—Best cock and two hens, 10s., Alfred Beaumont, Steps, Honley.

CLASS 13. (Game Fowl)—Best cock and two hens (white and piles), 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, Henry Brooke, Bridge Mill; 2nd, Alfred Rushworth, Buxton Road, Huddersfield.

CLASS 14. (Game Fowl)—Best cock and two hens (black breasted and other reds), 10s.; second do. 5s. 1st, Henry Brooks; 2nd, H. Exton, Paddock, Huddersfield.

CLASS 15. (Game Fowl)—Best cock and two hens (black and brassy-winged, except greys), 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, Wm. Drake Lockwood, 2nd, Alfred Beaumont.

CLASS 16. (Game Fowl)—Best cock and two hens (duckwings and other greys and blues), 10s., Alfred Beaumont.

CLASS 17. (Game Fowl)—Best six chickens of 1854 (any variety), 6s.; second do., 3s. 1st, Joe Barber, Hollinbrigg; 2nd, Henry Brooke.

CLASS 18. (Golden-pencilled Hamburgs)—Best cock and two hens, 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, J. Richardson; 2nd, C. S. Floyd.

CLASS 19. (Silver-pencilled Hamburgs)—

Best cock and two hens, 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, James Dixon, Bradford; 2nd, Thomas Brierly, Holme.

CLASS 20. (*Golden-spangled Hamburgs*)—Best cock and two hens, 10s.; second do. 5s. 1st, George Brooke, dyer, Huddersfield; 2nd, James Dixon.

CLASS 21. (*Silver-spangled Hamburgs*)—Best cock and two hens, 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st and 2nd, James Dixon; commended, Henry Carter, Uppertong.

CLASS 22. (*Hamburgs*)—Best six chickens of 1854 (any of the above-named varieties), 6s.; second do., 3s. 1st, Joe Barber; 2nd, M. H. Broadhead, Stubbin.

CLASS 23. (*Poland Fowl*)—Best cock and two hens (black and white crest), 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, Thomas Battie, Brownhill Mill; 2nd, Alfred Rushworth.

CLASS 24. (*Poland Fowl*)—Best cock and two hens (golden) 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, Joseph Conyers, jun., 24, Bore-lane, Leeds; 2nd, Joshua Lockwood, Denby Dale.

CLASS 26. (*Poland Fowl*)—Best cock and two hens (white) 10s.; second do. 5s. 1st and 2nd, Alfred Rushworth.

CLASS 27. (*Poland Fowl*)—Best six chickens of 1854 (any variety), 6s.; second do., 3s. 1st, Thomas Battye; 2nd, Alfred Rushworth.

CLASS 28. (*Cuckoo Fowl*)—Best cock and two hens, 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, Joseph Whitaker, Denby Dale; 2nd, Thomas Beardsell, Hagg.

CLASS 29. (*Any breed or cross*)—Best cock and two hens, 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, Alfred Rushworth; 2nd, C. S. Floyd.

CLASS 30. (*Any breed or cross*)—Best cock, 6s.; second do. 3s. 1st, James Brooke; 2nd, C. S. Floyd.

CLASS 31. (*Any breed or cross*)—Best hen, 6s.; second do. 3s. 1st, W. Fenton Kenny, Saville Lodge, Halifax; 2nd, J. Richardson.

CLASS 32. (*Any breed or cross*)—Best six chickens of 1854, 6s.; second do. 3s. 1st and 2nd, C. S. Floyd.

CLASS 33. (*Bantams*)—Best gold-laced (one cock and two hens), 6s.; second do., 3s. 1st, John S. Henry; 2nd, George Brooke.

CLASS 35. (*Bantams*)—Best white, 6s.; second do., 3s. 1st, James Dixon; 2nd, Joe Barber.

CLASS 36. (*Bantams*)—Best black, 6s.; second do., 3s. 1st, Joseph Conyers, jun.; 2nd, Matthew Ridgway; commended, Henry Brooke.

CLASS 38. (*Geese*)—Best gander and one goose, 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, Joseph Barber, Hinch-

liff Mill; 2nd, James Howard, Wood-hey-laith, Holme.

CLASS 39. (*Geese*)—Best three goslings, 6s.; second do., 3s. 1st and 2nd, James Howard.

CLASS 40. (*Ducks*)—Best drake and two ducks (white Aylesbury), 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, James Batley, Lippel Bank; 2nd, George Thewlis, jun., Rock House, Scholes.

CLASS 41. (*Ducks*)—Best drake and two ducks (Rouen), 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, James Dixon; 2nd, C. S. Floyd.

CLASS 42. (*Ducks*)—Best drake and two ducks (Muscovy), 10s., C. S. Floyd.

CLASS 43. (*Ducks*)—Best drake and two ducks (any other variety), 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, James Dixon; 2nd, Joe Barber.

CLASS 44. (*Ducks*)—Best four ducklings (any variety), 6s.; second do., 3s. 1st, James Dixon; 2nd, G. H. Hinchliff, The Nabb; commended, Jonathan Battye, Jackson-bridge.

CLASS 45. (*Turkeys*)—Best cock and two hens, 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, C. S. Floyd; 2nd, Joe Barber.

CLASS 46. (*Turkeys*)—Best cock, 6s.; second do., 3s. 1st, Joseph Conyers, jun.; 2nd, C. S. Floyd.

CLASS 47. (*Guinea Fowls*)—Best pair, 5s. 1st, Henry Carter, Uppertong; 2nd, William Hoyle, Hill.

PIGEONS.—Best pair of carriers, 2s. 6d., Richard Battye, Newtown. Best pair of almond tumblers, 2s., Henry Carter. Best pair of nuns, 2s., Alfred Rushworth. Best pair of turbits, 2s., Henry Beldon, 99, Fitzgerald-street, Bradford. Best pair of Jacobins, 2s., Henry Beldon. Best pair of fantails, 2s., Alfred Beaumont, Steps, Honley. Best pair of trumpeters, 2s., Alfred Rushworth. Best pair of pouters or croppers, 2s., Richard Battye, Holmfirth. Best pair of turtle doves, 2s., Robert A. Floyd, Sands. Best pair of blue rocks, 2s., Joe Barber. Best pair of common pigeons, 2s., Joe Barber.

RABBITS.—Best pair of fancy rabbits, 2s. 6d., Robert A. Floyd. Best pair of common rabbits, 2s. 6d. Robert A. Floyd.

EGGS.—Best twelve hen eggs, 2s. 6d.; second do., 1s. 6d.; 1st, Alfred Rushworth; 2nd, Richard Tolson, Holmfirth; commended, C. S. Floyd. Best twelve duck eggs, 2s. 6d.; second do., 1s. 6d.; 1st, Henry Carter; 2nd, Joe Barber; commended, John Harpin, Birks House.

A gala was got up in the evening, under the management of Mr. George Robinson and other gentlemen in the neighbourhood, the committee consenting to the use of the

marquee for the purpose. The greatest order prevailed, and a happy evening was spent—the young gentlemen in the neighbourhood offering their services as partners in the several dances to the young buxom blooming girls of the surrounding townships.—*From the "Huddersfield Chronicle."*

The Bath Poultry Show.

THE show of poultry held in the city of Bath on the 7th, 8th, and 9th instant, gave the best possible refutation to the assertion that "The taste for poultry-keeping has now a downward tendency." It is not so; the fact being that public taste, tired of the follies of past years, is adopting the test of utility, by seeking to procure those varieties that produce the most substantial benefits with the least expensive outlay. The show was better attended than any of its predecessors (if, perchance, we except those at Birmingham), whilst the numerous attendance of the aristocracy proved their general desire to benefit the industrious rural population. At one time there were more than 300 carriages awaiting at the doors the return of the company assembled. Indeed, to Bath it was a "highday and a holiday," every train adding its unusual numbers to those already on the ground. No trifling difficulty was found in obtaining admission, and very many, from the impossibility of "getting in," were deprived of their anticipated pleasure. The influx of visitors was so far beyond anticipation, that it was remarked by one of the acting committee, that before the space of *two hours* had elapsed from the time of opening, "*thrice* the number of individuals had entered that were expected by them in the whole three days."

It is gratifying to find that the very liberal manner in which all things were conducted met with so satisfactory a proof of public estimation.

The judges selected for the occasion were G. J. Andrews, Esq., of Dorchester;

W. Symonds, Esq., of Weymouth; and Edward Hewett, Esq., of Birmingham. Very rarely have the various principal classes been so closely contested; it is, therefore, very gratifying to find that the committee were highly pleased with their exertions.

The pens were very superior, every one locking separately, and thus the escape or loss of a single head of poultry was impossible. The attention paid to the poultry was all the most anxious "amateur exhibitor" could desire; indeed, "expense was deemed not important, if the fowls could be benefited." The turkeys and geese, in particular, that are generally the most uncomfortable-looking of any of the classes, here seemed "quite at home," and were busily engaged most of their time in pecking the green sward that formed the bottom of their allotted pens. The Spanish class was excellent, and tested the merits of fowls that at most public exhibitions could "have walked away crowing;" here, however, the case was essentially different, every prize was severely contested, as was also the case in all the Dorking classes. The display of first-class birds in the grey variety was unusually excellent; they are fast rivetting themselves upon public favour, and very deservedly, as poultry for farm-purposes. The white Dorkings were shown much superior in size to those of former days; and both in the adult and chicken classes, their manifest improvement shows that proper attention is not misplaced. The class for mature buff Cochins was deficient (as the generality of shows now are) as to quality, though the entries were numerous. It is evident this deterioration has ensued as the *inevitable* result of breeding "for colour only." In vain did we look for creditable descendants of the far-famed "Patriarch," or "Jerry;" they were as different from those now exhibited, in character, as it is possible to conceive; the causes are well known, and the attention due to form being for the future considered, we do not doubt but that as cre-

ditable fowls as those of former years may be very speedily reproduced. The Cochins of former days proved themselves the best possible "winter-layers," whilst their peculiarly domestic habits endeared them to all who tried them. The first-prize partridge birds were very superior, and did much to restore good opinion to this (we know not why) sadly neglected class. The chickens of this variety, too, were excellent; but here a pen was exhibited that certainly "lost all chance," though very superior fowls, from the circumstance that four chickens were shown instead of three. Exhibitors have only themselves to blame for "errors of entry," and a little attention on their part would prevent very many disappointments. The white Cochins were more than usually good; but the green legs told sadly to the disfavour of many otherwise meritorious birds. The black Cochins mustered in but small numbers, and, as is generally the case, deficient in quality. In Bramahs there were only three entries in the adult class: one prize was withheld. In the game classes, many exhibitors seemed to consider the matching of their pens quite unessential; hence their defeat; whilst other pens betrayed but too plainly the admixture of *Malay* blood, probably *purposely* infused at some former period to increase their muscular superiority in the cockpit; but in the exhibition-pen it very properly disqualifies. There were, nevertheless, some excellent birds, both duck-wings and black-breasted reds, shown in high condition. The Malays were, as a class, proclaimed "highly meritorious," and certainly they were superior fowls. The golden-pencilled Hamburgs were shown in bad condition, and did not maintain their general repute; at this season, however, they are apt "to grow fady." In the spangled varieties were several cocks of the "henny" feather, which were unsuccessful with their more favoured rivals. The Polands were not so good as usual. In the Bantams the rivalry was strong; the winning pens, therefore, were un-

usually meritorious. The Aylesbury ducks were good, the Rouens indifferent. The geese and turkeys were excellent,—the black Norfolks taking away the highest premium. The pigeons were of excellent quality, and the prizes were severely contested.

In remarking on this exhibition, it is but justice to give the highest praise to the acting committee. The firing of cannon, however, in "close quarters" with confined poultry is not at all desirable. It alarms and irritates them, rendering them restless; and we noticed several that from fear alone seemed greatly exhausted. Upon the whole, no poultry show could be more properly conducted; and the recent exhibition will no doubt exercise a very powerful influence by greatly augmenting the entries for future years. The present pecuniary returns will also, most likely, another season, secure even a more liberal prize list, as the promoters have assured us that "their chief (indeed only) desire is to cultivate a taste for the improvement of the different breeds of domestic poultry." Most heartily, then, do we congratulate them on their well-earned successes. We append a list of the prizes.

E. H.

PRIZE LIST.

Class 1.—SPANISH. Pen 5, 1st prize: Mr. H. D. Davies, Spring-grove House, Hounslow. Age, not known.—Pen 13, 2nd prize: Mr. Joseph G. Rake, Bristol. Age, one year.—Pen 8, 3rd prize: Mr. W. Plummer, Brislington, near Bristol. Age, cock about fourteen months, hens twenty-one months.—Pen 10, commended: Mr. Matthew W. Rellett, 24, Nelson-street, Birmingham. Age, hens 1852, cock 1853.

Class 2.—SPANISH CHICKENS. Pen 24, 1st prize: Mr. William Plummer, Brislington, near Bristol. Hatched January 17, 1854.—Pen 25, 2nd prize: Mr. William Plummer, Brislington, near Bristol. Hatched February 25, 1854.

Class 3.—DORKING—COLOURED.—Pen 26, 1st prize: Mrs. Elizabeth George, Rookery, Chaldon, Croydon, Surrey. Age, about twelve months.—Pen 27, 2nd prize: Mr. H. D. Davies, Spring-grove House, Hounslow, Middlesex. Age, not known.—Pen 30, 3rd prize: Mr. W. G. H. Breavington, Vicarage Farm, Hounslow, Middle-

sex. Age, thirteen months.—Pen 33, highly commended: Mr. Edward Pope, Great Toller, Dorset. Age, one year and upwards.—Pen 42, commended: Mr. Henry Blandford, Sandbridge, Melksham, Wilts. Age, cock three years, hens two years.

Class 4.—DORKING CHICKENS—COLOURED.—Pen 80, 1st prize: Miss Steele Perkins, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham. Age, Jan. 3, 1854.—Pen 63, second prize: Mr. H. D. Davies, Spring-grove House, Hounslow, Middlesex. Age, hatched Jan. 14, 1854.—Pen 64, highly commended: Mr. H. D. Davies, Spring-grove House, Hounslow, Middlesex. Age, hatched Jan. 14, 1854.—Pen 66, commended: Mr. John R. Rodbard, Aldwick-court, Wrington, Somerset. Age, March 1, 1854.

Class 5.—DORKING—WHITE.—Pen 85, 1st prize: Mr. Charles Edwards, Brislington, Bristol. Age, over one year.—Pen 82, 2nd prize: Mr. Joseph Cliff, Dorking, Surrey. Age, about two years and two months.—Pen 89, 3rd prize: Mr. Joseph Jennens, Moseley, near Birmingham. Aged.

Class 6.—DORKING CHICKENS—WHITE.—Pen 94, 1st prize: Mr. George Vivian, Claverton Manor, near Bath. Age, twelve weeks and five days.—Pen 91, second prize: Mrs. John Longman, Lyde Farm, Yeovil, Somerset. Age, four months.

Class 7.—COCHIN CHINA—BUFF OR CINNAMON.—Pen 124, 1st prize: Mr. Cyrus Clark, Street, near Glastonbury. Age, various.—Pen 120, second prize: Mr. John Fairlie, Chevely-park, Cambridgeshire. Age, cock about one year, hens various.—Pen 116, third prize: Mr. James Crane, jun., Tolpuddle, Dorset. Age, two years and six months.—Pen 112, commended: Mrs. Henry Fookes, Whitchurch, Blandford, Dorset. Age, cock and hen twelve months, hen twenty-three months.

Class 8.—COCHIN CHINA CHICKENS—BUFF OR CINNAMON.—Pen 147, 1st prize: Mr. John R. Rodbard, Aldwick-court, Wrington, Somerset. Hatched January 16, 1854.—Pen 179, second prize: Mr. John Dorrell, Wellington-road, Slough, Bucks. Hatched January 2, 1854.—Pen 175, highly commended: Mr. Henry Lucas Bean, Ashcott, Glastonbury. Age, cockerel and pullets Feb. 22, 1854.—Pen 141, commended: Mr. William Thomas Squire, Barton-place, near Mildenhall, Suffolk. Age, twenty-two weeks.—Pen 145, commended: Mr. John R. Rodbard, Aldwick-court, Wrington, Somerset. Hatched March 1, 1854.

Class 9.—COCHIN CHINA—BROWN, PARTRIDGE, OR GROUSE.—Pen 185, 1st prize: Rev. Grenville F. Hodson, Banwell, Somerset. Age, thirteen months.—Pen 189, Second prize:

Mr. John Fairlie, Cheveley-park, Cambridgeshire. Age, various, above one year.—Pen 192, third prize: Mr. J. F. Chater, Haverhill, Suffolk. Age, one year.

Class 10.—COCHIN CHINA CHICKENS—BROWN, PARTRIDGE, OR GROUSE.—Pen 195, 1st prize: Mr. James Garrod, Cheveley, Cambridgeshire. Age, fourteen weeks and four days.—Pen 196, second prize: Capt. W. H. Snell, St. Swithin's-lane, London. Age, cockerel Jan. 8, 1854, pullet Feb. 15, 1854, pullet Feb. 27, 1854.—Pen 194, disqualified, from an excess in the number of birds: Rev. Grenville F. Hodson, Banwell, Somerset. Age, four months and one week.

Class 11.—COCHIN CHINA—WHITE.—Pen 203, 1st prize: Mr. Cyrus Clark, Street, near Glastonbury. Age, one hen unknown, cock and hen sixteen months.—Pen 199, second prize: Mrs. Sarah Rebecca Herbert, Powich, Worcestershire. Age, cock hatched in 1850, hens in 1852.—Pen 197, third prize: Rev. G. H. H. Hutchinson, Charlton, Malmesbury, Wilts. Age, cock, Young Prince, eleven months, hen eighteen months, hen ten months.

Class 12.—COCHIN CHINA CHICKENS—WHITE.—Pen 215, first prize: Mr. James Turner, Northbrook, Exeter. Age, March 23, 1854.—Pen 216, second prize: Mr. James Buckley, Pennyfai-house, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire. Age, cock and pullet first week in March, pullet Feb. 21.

Class 13.—COCHIN CHINA—BLACK.—Pen 219, 1st prize: Mr. John Fairlie, Cheveley-park, Cambridgeshire. Age, above one year.—Pen 218, second prize: Rev. G. H. H. Hutchinson, Charlton, Malmesbury, Wilts. Age, cock, the Black Prince, nine months, hen eleven months, hen nine months.—3rd prize withheld.

Class 14.—BRAHMA POOTRA.—Pen 225, 1st prize: Mr. John Fairlie, Cheveley-park, Cambridgeshire. Age, above one year.—Pen 224, 2nd prize: Mr. John Fairlie, Cheveley-park, Cambridgeshire. Age, above one year.—3rd prize withheld.

Class 15.—GAME—WHITE AND PILES.—Pen 227, 1st prize: Rev. Thomas Lyon Fellowes, Beighton Rectory, Aile, Norfolk. Age, hatched 1852.—Pen 226, 2nd prize: Mr. John R. Rodbard, Aldwick-court, Wrington, Somerset. Age, cock ten months, hens fourteen months.

Class 16.—GAME—BLACK-BREASTED AND OTHER REDS.—Pen 237, 1st prize: Mr. John R. Rodbard, Aldwick-court, Wrington, Somerset. Age, two years.—Pen 244, 2nd prize: Mr. Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol. Age, over one year.

Class 17.—GAME—DUCKWINGS AND OTHER GREYS AND BLUES.—Pen 254, 1st prize: Rev.

C. T. James, Ermington, near Ivybridge, Devon. Age, cock two years six months and eleven days, hens fifteen months and four days.—Pen 259, 2nd prize: Mr. William Manfield, Dorchester, Dorset. Age, about ten months.—Pen 255, highly commended: Mr. John R. Rodbard, Aldwick-court, Wrington, near Bristol, Somerset. Age, two years.

Class 18.—GAME—BLACK AND BRASSEY-WINGED, EXCEPT GREYS.—Pen 263, 1st prize: Mr. Henry Shield, Taunton, Somerset. Age, cock and hen one year, hen three years.—Pen 264, 2nd prize: Mr. Nathan N. Dyer, Manor-house, Bredon, near Tewkesbury, Worcester. Age, twenty-two months.

Class 19.—MALAY.—Pen 271, 1st prize: Mr. William Manfield, Dorchester, Dorset. Age, eleven months and one week.—Pen 276, 2nd prize: Mr. James Oldham, Long Eaton, Derby. Age, one year; the class highly meritorious.

Class 20.—HAMBURG.—GOLDEN-PENCILLED.—Pen 279, 1st prize: Mr. Robert Fookes, Milton Abbas, near Blandford, Dorset. Age, twelve months.—Pen 278, 2nd prize: Mr. Robert Fookes, Milton Abbas, near Blandford, Dorset. Age, cock and one hen two years, one hen one year.

Class 21.—HAMBURG.—SILVER-PENCILLED.—Pen 289, 1st prize: Mr. Thomas M'Cann, Graham House, Malvern. Aged.—Pen 296, 2nd prize: Mr. Cyrus Clark, Street, near Glastonbury. Age, unknown.

Class 22.—HAMBURG.—GOLDEN-SPANGLED.—Pen 306, 1st prize: Mrs. Henry Fookes, Blandford, Dorset. Age, cock two years, hens one year.—Pen 310, 2nd prize: Mr. Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol. Age, over one year.

Class 23.—HAMBURG.—SILVER-SPANGLED.—Pen 318, 1st prize: Mr. Joseph Symonds, Gorwell, near Dorchester, Dorset. Age, May, 1853.—Pen 325, 2nd prize: Dr. Rogers, Honiton, Devon. Age, eleven months.—Pen 323, Highly commended: Mr. Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol. Age, over one year.

Class 24.—BLACK POLAND WITH WHITE CRESTS.—Pen 333, 1st prize: Mr. Austen Williams, Reading, Berks. Age, one year and four months.—Pen 334, 2nd prize: Mr. Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol. Age, over one year.

Class 25.—POLANDS.—GOLDEN-SPANGLED.—Pen 342, 1st prize: Mr. R. H. Bush, Ashton Lodge, near Bath. Age, unknown.—Pen 337 A, 2nd prize: Mr. Cyrus Clark, Street, near Glastonbury. Age, unknown.

Class 26.—POLANDS.—SILVER-SPANGLED.—Pen 347, 1st prize: Mr. Cyrus Clark, Street, near Glastonbury. Age, unknown.—Pen 348, 2nd

prize: Mr. Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol. Age, over one year.

Class 27.—SPECIAL PRIZES.—Pen 361, prize: Mr. William Manfield, Dorchester, Dorset. Rumpless, age, cock and hen two years, hen one year.—Pen 366, prize: Mr. John Taylor, Jun., Spring Grove, Shepherd's Bush, Middlesex. Andalusian, age, various.

Class 28.—SPECIAL PRIZES.—Pen 367, prize: Rev. G. H. H. Hutchinson, Charlton, Malmesbury, Wilts. Black Cochins China. Age, nine weeks.—Pen 371, prize: Mr. Parkins Jones, High-street, Fulham, Middlesex. Brahma Pootra chickens, age, March 5, 1854.

Class 29.—BANTAMS.—GOLD-LACED.—Pen 377, 1st prize: Mr. Henry D. Palmer, Southtown, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. Age, various.—Pen 378, 2nd prize: Mr. Henry, D. Palmer, Southtown, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. Age, ten months.—Pen 376, commended: Mr. George W. Boothby, Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire. Age, one year.

Class 30.—BANTAMS.—SILVER-LACED.—Pen 388, 1st prize: Mr. George W. Boothby, Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire. Age, one year.—Pen 391, 2nd prize: Rev. Grenville F. Hodson, Banwell, Somerset. Age, one year.

Class 31.—BANTAMS.—WHITE.—Pen 395, 1st prize: Rev. Grenville F. Hodson, Banwell, Somerset. Age, three years.—Pen 396, 2nd prize: Rev. Grenville F. Hodson, Banwell, Somerset. Age, cock and one hen one year, hen two years.

Class 32.—BANTAMS.—BLACK.—Pen 400, 1st prize: Mr. Charles Ballance, 5, Mount-terrace, Taunton. Age, cock two years, hens thirteen months.—Pen 403, 2nd prize: Messrs. W. Connett & Co., Upholsterers, 270 High-street, Exeter. Age, three years and six months.

Class 33.—DUCKS.—WHITE AYLESBURY.—Pen 406, 1st prize: Mr. W. G. H. Breavington, Vicarage Farm, Hounslow, Middlesex. Age, fifteen months.—Pen 410, 2nd prize: General Slade, Monty's Court, Taunton. Age, nine months.—Pen 408, highly commended: Mr. W. G. H. Breavington, Vicarage Farm, Hounslow, Middlesex. Age, three months.—Pen 411, commended: Mr. John Margesson, Aylesbury, Bucks. Age, eight months.—Pen 421, commended: Mr. Cyrus Clark, Street, near Glastonbury. Age, three months and one week.

Class 34.—DUCKS.—ROUEN.—Pen 423, 1st prize: Mr. John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, Cambridgeshire. Age, about one year.—Pen 422, 2nd prize: Mr. Charles Ballance, 5, Mount-terrace, Taunton. Age, fourteen and a half months.

Class 35.—DUCKS.—ANY OTHER VARIETY.—Pen 427, 1st prize: Mr. George Botham, Wexham Court, near Slough, Bucks. Buenos Ayres Ducks, age, one year.—Pen 430, 2nd prize: Mr.

John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, Cambridgeshire. White Muscovy Ducks, age, about one year.

Class 36.—**GEESE.**—Pen 434, 1st prize: Mr. John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, Cambridgeshire. Grey and White Geese, age, about one year.—Pen 433, 2nd prize: Mr. John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, Cambridgeshire. White Geese, age, about one year.

Class 37.—**TURKEYS.**—Pen 439, 1st prize: Miss Julia Milward, Newton St. Loe, Somerset. French, age, cock, June 3, 1851, hens, June 9, 1853.—Pen 441, 2nd prize: Mr. John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, Cambridgeshire. Cambridgeshire Turkeys, age, about one year. The class highly meritorious.

PIGEONS.

Class 38.—**CARRIERS.**—Pen 446, prize: Mr. Joseph G. Rake, Bristol. Age, three years.

Class 39.—**BARBS.**—Pen 449, prize: Mr. C. R. Titterton, 6, Snow-hill, Birmingham. Age, unknown.

Class 40.—**POUTERS.**—Pen 453, prize: Mr. C. R. Titterton, 6, Snow-hill, Birmingham. White Pouters. Age, about two years.

Class 42.—**FANTAILS.**—Pen 463, prize: Miss Selina H. Northcote, Upton Pynes, Exeter, Devon. Age, unknown.—Pen 465, commended: Mr. Herbert Henry Swift, North Lydiard, near Purton, Wiltshire. Age, unknown.—Pen 466, commended: Mr. Thomas James Cottle, Pulteney Villa, Cheltenham. Age, uncertain.

Class 43.—**JACOBINS.**—Pen 473, prize: Mr. Henry Child, Junior, Sherborne-road, Birmingham. Age, not known.

Class 44.—**TURBITS.**—Pen 477, prize: Mr. Charles Bluett, Taunton, Somerset. Age unknown, but young.

Class 45.—**NUNS.**—Pen 481, prize: Miss Selina H. Northcote, Upton Pynes, Exeter, Devon. Age, eleven months.

Class 46.—**ARCHANGELS.**—Pen 486, prize: Mr. Joseph G. Rake, Bristol. Age, two years.

Class 47.—**TRUMPETERS.**—Pen 490, prize: Rev. G. F. Hodson, Banwell, Somerset. Age, unknown.—Pen 493, commended: Dr. Rogers, Honiton, Devon. Age, unknown.

Class 48.—**ALMOND TUMBLERS.**—Pen 497, prize: Dr. Rogers, Honiton, Devon. Age, unknown.

Class 49.—**VARIETY OF TUMBLERS.**—Pen 501, prize: Mr. Henry Child, Jun., Sherborne-road, Birmingham. Tumblers, age not known.

Class 50.—**OWLS.**—Pen 506, prize: Mr. Charles Bluett, Taunton, Somerset. Age, about twelve months.

Class 51.—**DRAGONS.**—Pen 508, prize: Mr. C. R. Titterton, 6, Snow-hill, Birmingham. Age, unknown.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

MY COCHIN CHINAS.

SIR,—Seeing a letter headed as above in one of the April numbers of your very interesting journal has induced me to send you my experience as a beginner. Last spring I caught the mania for hatching Cochin China eggs, and tried eight. One little chick, a pullet hatched May 19, was the produce. In October I bought a buff pullet, and about Christmas the cockerel, a fine fellow, not a young one, was put to them.

The one I hatched began laying December 1st, laid 48 eggs in 56 days, then became broody. I put her on 14 common fowls' eggs; February 18th she brought off 12 chicks and reared 11, which I turned into cash, a month ago, at a very good price.

March 24th, again began laying, and laid 31 eggs without intermission, then showed a desire to sit. May 19th, hatched 12 out of 13 of her own eggs; they are now a fortnight old, bright-eyed, healthy little creatures. The buff pullet commenced laying December 5th, laid 115 eggs in 125 days. April 10th, she sat on 14 eggs and hatched 13 fine chicks. Unfortunately, a cat carried one away; 12 are living, a month old. She has left them and laid to-day.

I have two others, one a half Spanish, reared and fed with them. She began laying December 27th, a double-yolked egg, sparingly till February 5th, only 13 eggs. She has since laid 93, making in all 106, and shows no desire to incubate. The other, a mixture of the Dorking and silver spangled, commenced laying November 28th, and laid 103 eggs to May 18th, when she became broody.

I have no particular method of feeding except regularity, and pay attention to cleanliness. My yard is about 40 feet by 30, with a small house for their accommodation.

I, like "Gus," am much interested in others' experience, and shall be pleased to receive my monthly part for May to-morrow. I don't relish paying the postage for it weekly.—I remain, Sir, yours,
MARY C. A.

CURE FOR WORMS IN FOWLS.

HAVING a hen suffering exceedingly, and thinking it possible, from her emaciated appearance, she might be troubled with worms, I boiled about an ounce of the plant kousoo, mixed the decoction obtained with oatmeal, and gave it her to eat. A few hours afterwards, a number of worms about two inches long were voided, and

the bird rallied. I believe the same effects would have followed had the oil of the male fern been administered (mixed into a pill with oatmeal): about half a drachm of the oil would be sufficient.

Both koussou and male fern oil are certain remedies for worms in children, and the great cost alone prevents their general adoption. Milk of brimstone is an excellent remedy for worms in children, and would probably get rid of them from fowls.

The hen I allude to was unable to stand, and when taken out of the basket tumbled over, and was almost a skeleton. C. P., Boston.

PUFFING THE BRAHMAS.

SIR,—Who cares what correspondents with your paper say of the fowls they call Brahmas?—shall not the public please themselves and possess what birds they choose? When individuals repeatedly volunteer their advice to the world, they should at least be indirectly interested, not known dealers or puffers of eggs by advertisements. A fancier of poultry can form his own opinion; if in favour of any particular colour, he may make purchases, but if to the contrary, depend upon it he will not.

But how have the merits of the Brahmas been established when absurd prices have been required for the eggs, and when the prices of chickens have prevented their appearing at table? Till they have, and even then, let there be no comparison, unless by persons capable of forming an opinion of fowls in situations favourable to each class, and estimating justly their several points and distinctions.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
NON CACOETHES SCRIBENDI.

[It is true the Brahmas have not yet with us been sufficiently tested for forming an opinion on their merits; but is not the exchange of experience among amateurs the best means of coming to a decision?—Ed.]

TWIN BIRDS.

SIR,—Could you or any of your numerous correspondents inform me of any instance of *two* perfect chickens being hatched from *one* egg, not connected with each other in any way?

I have lately known an instance where *five* perfect canaries were hatched from *four* eggs, and all are still living and doing well.

By so doing, you will oblige a constant subscriber.

GALLUS.

[The account of two ducklings from one egg, given by our correspondent "Edward," in No. 3 of the "Poultry Chronicle," was from personal

knowledge of the fact. We have often *heard* of twin chicks (apart and perfect) on authority which we could not doubt, but never positively met with an example.—Ed.]

CONFUSION OF GOLD AND SILVER HAMBURGS.

SIR,—I see by the prize list for the Taunton Show, that the gold and silver pencilled Hamburgs are put into one class, and the gold and silver spangled are similarly favoured, whilst separate prizes are offered for Cochins of different colours; and I find that this example has been followed in the prize list for another show in the west of England. What hope can an exhibitor of Hamburgs have of justice being done to his pens under such an arrangement? And of what value will a prize be as conferring character on his birds? Next season we shall see, in your excellent publication, Mr. A. advertising for sale eggs from silver-pencilled birds which gained the prize from Mr. B.'s golden-pencilled, and silver-spangled chickens will be lauded as superior in respect of their victory at Taunton over golden-spangled. Nothing can be more distinct than these classes, and hitherto this distinction has been recognized. To attempt now to *club* them together seems to be retrograding rather than advancing in poultry knowledge.

To the multitude, variety is the great charm and attraction, and I very much doubt whether it is prudent to snub the elegant and beautiful Hamburg. At all events, very few breeders will subject their birds to this amalgamation, and I fancy that the judges will be sorely puzzled to decide between gold and silver included in one class.

Brialington.

D. B.

COCHINS AS MOTHERS.

SIR,—I noticed in your "Chronicle" of May 24th, a correspondent informs you that his Shanghae hens, though excellent mothers during the first three weeks, regularly forsake the chickens at that time. Were this a fact of general occurrence, it would deservedly deprive the Shanghae of its high and well-earned reputation as a mother. The Shanghae has doubtless many enemies, but I feel assured they must be amongst those who have not allowed them sufficient pre-eminence in the poultry-yard, and therefore have failed to award them the meed of praise in this respect they so justly deserve.

On January 2nd of this year, one of my Shanghae hens came off with a brood of thirteen

fine, hardy chickens. The hen, most assiduous as a mother, left them at the end of ten weeks, having for some time previously laid ten.

I set another Shanghae hen on some Aylesbury ducks' eggs, which were hatched April 18th, twelve in number. Three days afterwards, I placed eleven more ducks of the same age under her care. When considered of a sufficient age, they were allowed free liberty to roam at large, and took advantage of this by frequenting the water-meadows near my house, with the hen as a constant companion, who would patiently stand by the water-side through the live-long day watching the enjoyment of her nurslings, bringing them home at regular hours to be fed, and again escorting them to the stream. Falling off in condition, from such close attention, I shut her from them at the end of five weeks, to her great annoyance and disquietude.

Another of my Shanghae hens reared a large brood of silver-spangled Hamburg chickens, and I must say, in reply to those who doubt the ability of the Shanghae to rear chickens so active in their habits as the Hamburgs, that she was an admirable mother; so far from being inactive, she invariably selected the best grass-run for them, especially one in a plantation of young trees, some little distance from the yard. Upwards of six weeks from the time of their hatching, she commenced laying again, taking the chickens with her into the laying-house every morning, and when on the nest, usually having more than one comfortably seated on her back, the rest patiently standing near. Even now that the chickens are more than three months hold, she has not entirely forsaken them, although she became broody, and is now sitting on some of her own eggs. The chickens are permitted to be in the same yard with herself, and frequently gather round the nest where she sits, and when she comes off at feeding hours, she calls them to her and picks out the daintiest morsels for their eating.

If you consider these facts worth insertion, they are at your service.

I beg to remain very truly yours,
AMICUS GALLI.

CROWING COCKEREL.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I perceive by the "Poultry Chronicle" of to-day, that "One in the Ring" asks for an explanation respecting the precocious white Spanish chicken. I can, in some measure, corroborate "W. S." A short time since, I, with a friend, visited a gentleman's poultry-yard at Cowes, and while looking at some Dorking chickens, my attention was arrested by a white cock chicken, then not quite

feathered, having an unusually large comb, and the carriage and importance of an adult bird. On inquiry, the poultry-keeper informed me that it was a white Spanish chicken, and added, "Perhaps you will not believe me when I tell you that he crowed at a fortnight old." I must confess that myself and friend were rather incredulous, and asked his present age. "Just six weeks" was the answer: and in a very short time after we had the satisfaction of hearing him crow twice, and that in a most distinct manner, and he displayed other unmistakable actions, such as I never before witnessed in a bird of less than double his age, that we both came to the conclusion that he was indeed a precocious bird.

Southampton.

H.

WHITE SPANISH FOWLS.

"ONE in a Ring" questions the accuracy of a statement by "W. S.," that a chicken of the above variety crowed at "a fortnight old." If "One in a Ring," or you, Mr. Editor, also a sceptic, or any friend who may happen to be near the address given the "Chronicle" (with "W. S.'s" name), "W. S." will be very pleased to show, not only the bird which crowed at fourteen days old, but another also which crowed at eighteen days old; and even if they decline crowing for such unbelievers, "W. S." doubts unbelief remaining, when the birds have been seen.

[In considering the Editor "also a sceptic," our correspondent has mistaken our meaning, which was simply a wish to know if amateurs had met with *many* such forward chickens, but certainly without a doubt of his statement, accompanied as it was by his card.—Ed.]

TREATMENT FOR A SICK FOWL.

DEAR SIR.—A Shanghae cock of mine commenced, three weeks ago, with diarrhoea; I gave him the usual medicine, but without effect, except that it was stopped, for short intervals. A week ago I determined to give him a good clearing out, which I did with castor-oil. I then, on the fourth day, put him into a hot bath; purging has ceased, but his evacuations are almost like water. The bird is daily losing flesh, his plumage is good, appetite the same, but he has inordinate thirst. Food constantly changed, and no stimulants used. Water, very good, from a slate roof into a cistern, which has a filter.

I believe this case is not at all a singular one, but I have never seen it described, or a remedy offered. Perhaps some of your correspondents would give an opinion. What I desire is to know

what the disease is. My opinion is, that it is some kind of internal fever. But I am entirely ignorant as to the cause, or mode of treatment.

Faithfully yours,
HENRICUS.

[Although our correspondent's letter was answered in the "Answers to Correspondents," we insert it in hopes some of our readers may kindly favour us with their experience also.—Ed.]

AMERICAN CURE FOR ROUP IN FOWLS.

—When the fowl is first taken with roup (no matter how bad the head is swollen), remove it to a dry room in the barn, and give a desert-spoonful of alum-water, twice a day, as strong as can be made, and wash its head in it. If they rattle badly in the throat, make a swab by tying a little tow on a small stick, and swab their throats out with the same mixture. I have cured fowls in two days that were nearly blind with swelled heads, and never have known it to fail in one single instance, if taken in season.—J. P. CHILDS, Rhode Island.

If well fed, and kept perfectly clean, fowls will seldom be sick; and as to old age, they never ought to be kept more than two or three years, for they get to be good for little as layers, and no teeth can face them as food.—*Cobbett's Cottage Economy.*

To Correspondents.

To *W. S.*—In the alternative you give us of inserting the article in the "Chronicle" or the "fire," we prefer the former. It is on a subject of great interest and utility.

C. S. V.—We do not think it could possibly hurt the hen to sit again early in June after hatching in March.

An Exhibitor.—We shall be much obliged if he will enclose his card, as his letter has reached us without it.

Subscriber from the first.—Your food is not good enough to feed Bantams. Rice is only an apology for food on which to rear chickens. Give them egg, boiled hard, and chopped fine. Roast mutton chopped very fine. Bread soaked in new milk. Oatmeal mixed with warm water, and

given warm if the weather be cold. Cochins leave their chickens earlier than others, because they begin to lay, and then neglect, if they do not ill-treat their broods; but under ordinary circumstances, and in a place where there is plenty of grass, so that the coop can be moved every day, the hen should be under the rip at least six weeks. In cold weather, as for instance January and February, the longer she is under the better, for the chickens' sake. In hot weather she may be at liberty at the end of three weeks or a month.

C. S. V.—Your chickens would appear to die of chill. The weather is bad for Bantams, and you must counteract it by generous feeding, such as we have recommended above. In very cold weather, as soon as they appear to droop, they should be fed with stale bread, soaked in strong old ale.

One who reads you with pleasure.—We believe the Brahma question is open to little further discussion, but that the birds must stand or fall by their own merits. We have seen the hen (it was one fowl only) to which our correspondent refers: it bore little resemblance to those imported from America.

An Admirer of Mediterranean Fowls writes, "W. S. thinks his white Andalusian very forward for crowing at a fortnight old! so it is, but not singular; several Mediterranean fowls, including Minorcas, Andalusians, and Anconas, not uncommonly crow under three weeks. I do not know that there is any advantage in a cock crowing early, but it is a fact, that some do so." We do not conceive that our correspondent, referred to in the P. S., intended "rude imputations," or they would certainly not have been inserted.

G. F. T.—Mr. Bailey, of Mount-street, one of our highest authorities in the Spanish fowl, says in his useful and compact little work on poultry, "the face of the Spanish cock begins to show white at about four months old." Of course, the owners of these much-admired birds are pleased to find early indication of the white. The author of the "Poultry Yard" must have made a mistake in confusing the Cochins China fowl with the Kulm and Malay, and no doubt noticed the error, as it does not occur in the edition we have. It is the white Poland fowl with *black tuft*, which he mentions as having "passed away." The experience of breeders generally pronounces the Spanish non-sitters and bad sitters, and nurses when they do chance to undertake the office. The only one we ever saw tried, was placed on twelve spangled Poland fowls' eggs, which had been bought at a high price from the Messrs. Baker, of Chelsea: she spoiled eleven; the remaining one produced a beautiful chick, which she killed by neglect in a few days.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

The supply has been good during the past week, and the trade dull. The tendency of the market is downward in price.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|----|---------|----------|
| Large Fowls | .. 7s. 0d. | to | 8s. 6d. | each. |
| Smaller do. | .. 4s. 6d. | to | 6s. 0d. | .. |
| Chickens | .. 3s. 0d. | to | 4s. 0d. | .. |
| Goslings | .. 5s. 0d. | to | 6s. 0d. | .. |
| Ducklings | .. 3s. 6d. | to | 4s. 3d. | .. |
| Rabbits | .. 1s. 6d. | to | 1s. 9d. | .. |
| Do. Wild | .. 0s. 10d. | to | 1s. 0d. | .. |
| Pigeons | .. 0s. 10d. | to | 1s. 0d. | .. |
| Quails | .. 1s. 9d. | to | 2s. 0d. | .. |
| Leverets | .. 3s. 6d. | to | 5s. 0d. | .. |
| Flowers' eggs, in bulk, | 5s. | to | 5s. 6d. | per doz. |

Advertisements.

Now publishing, Part I. (containing Seven Numbers) of

THE HORTICULTURAL JOURNAL and Farm and Garden Advertiser. Price 15d. By post, 6d. extra. This work is devoted exclusively to the use of practical and amateur gardeners. All who have a garden, and are fond of flowers, should read it. A special column for the ladies. Reports of Shows, &c. &c. No. 9, on Saturday last, price 2d., stamped 3d. Published by F. DILLON, at the Office, 14, York-street, Covent-garden, London, and sold by Booksellers, Newsmen, and at all the Railway Stations throughout the kingdom.

PIGEONS.—A TREATISE on the Art of Breeding and Managing Fancy PIGEONS. Also, how to breed the Antwerp, or most subtle, cunning, sharpest-flying Pigeon for Homeing. Carefully compiled from the best authors, containing the whole of the Works of Moore, 1735; Mayor, 1765; Girtin; Boys, Esq'r's., Notes. With Observations and Reflections, by J. M. Eaton, with seven elegantly-engraved coloured Portraits (large as life) by Wolstenholme. Published by and to be obtained of the author, JOHN MATTHEWS EATON, 7, Islington-green, London, price 10s., post free. Money Orders payable 86, Upper-street, Islington.

CHICKENS OF 1854.

JOHN FAIRLIE, Esq., Cheveley-park, New-market, will be prepared, after the 30th June, to DISPOSE of the CHICKENS from his well-known Prize Brahmas, Cochins, Dorkings, Scotch Bakes, Turkeys, Geese, and Ducks.

MRS. LYDIA C. STOW, of Bredon, will now DISPOSE of EGGS from her PRIZE SPANISH BIRDS, at three guineas for a dozen, box included.

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| Dorkings | .. . . . | One Guinea. |
| Buff Cochin China | .. . . . | ditto. |
| Black Cochin China | .. . . . | ditto. |

Post-office orders to be made payable at Tewkesbury.

PTARMIGAN EGGS for SALE for the rest of the Season, from Prize Birds, £1. 1s. per dozen, and 1s. for package.—Apply to F. BARNAL, Esq., Fareham, Hants.

EGGs from FIRST CLASS and PRIZE BIRDS.—JOHN BAILY has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

CHARLES BAINBRIDGE has for SALE, EGGS from Prize and Selected Birds in every approved variety; and parties favouring him with their orders may rely upon them being well and promptly executed. The following first-class birds for Sale, viz.: Spanish, Black Polish, and Silver Pencilled Hamburgs.—May be viewed at any time, at his residence, Oakfield Lodge, Sparkbrook, Birmingham: Shops, 47 and 48, Market Hall, Birmingham.

June 7th, 1854.

DORKINGS.—Two fine Hens for disposal. One pair of Ptarmigan, at a reasonable price; three Rouen Ducks; also two Ginger Bantam Pullets, and a Gold-laced Cock, for Sale or Exchange.—Address T. P., Middleton Stoney, Bicester.

BROWN-BREADED RED GAME FOWLS.

J. NICHOLS, Amptbill, Beds, has for SALE, a COCKEREL and FOUR PULLETS, aged ten months, bred from Prize Stock, in fine feather and condition. Price 30s.

FANCY POULTRY AND EGGS.

DUFF and Cinnamon Cochins, 3s. and 5s. each; one year old ditto, £1 per pair; Eggs, 5s. per setting; White Cochins, 7s. 6d. and 10s. each; one year old ditto, very fine, £2; Eggs, 10s. 6d.; pair of Black Cochins, 25s.; Eggs, 10s. 6d.; pair of pure White-faced Black Spanish, 30s.; Eggs, 5s.; Malay Eggs, 6s.; pure bred White Ptarmigan Eggs, 30s.; pair of Silver Polish Fowl (1st and 2nd Prize at Hitchin and Leeds), 2 guineas; Gold Poland Hen, 1 guinea; pair of beautiful White Polands, 1 guinea; White Silky Fowl Chicks, 15s. per pair; Eggs, 6s.; pair of Brahma Pootra Fowls, 5 guineas; ditto, 3 guineas; Eggs, 10s. 6d.; pair of handsome White Dorkings, rose-combed, 1 guinea; Eggs, 7s. 6d.; Grey Dorkings, 10s. 6d. per pair; Eggs, 3s. 6d.; Silver-pencilled Hamburg Eggs, 3s. 6d. per setting.

Several very fine Brahma Pootra, Spanish, Blue Polish, Buff, White, and Black Cochins, 10s. 6d., 15s., and 21s. each; pair of handsome Duckwing Game Fowl, 15s.; Eggs from extra fine Buff Cochins Hens, crossed by Brahma Cocks, 5s. per setting.—Post Office Orders payable to **GEORGE BOOTHBY**, Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire.

DIGEONS, FOWLS, and EGGS, of every description, for SALE, or EXCHANGED for any sorts of live Stock, Carriers, Pouters, Toys, &c. &c. Fowls and Eggs, all First Prize, Black Spanish, White do., Blue Andalusians, Gold Polands, Black, White, and Buff Cochins, Ptarmigans, Bantams, Brahmas, &c. &c. packed to travel any distance.—Apply to **Wm. Woodhouse**, 15, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road, London.

FIRST PRIZE GREY GAME FOWLS.

AN AMATEUR, who is about leaving his present residence, has for DISPOSAL a splendid set of the above-mentioned Birds (Cock and three Hens), winners of the FIRST PRIZES at Birmingham, 1853, and at the Metropolitan Exhibition, 1854. The cock bird is the model of perfection; the hens also vie with each other in symmetry and beauty. Also for SALE, a PURE BLACK Shanghae Cockerel, of great merit, hatched March last.—Apply to Messrs. **FAIRHEAD and SON**, Seed-growers, Braintree, Essex.

FOR SALE, BLACK POLANDS, White Crested Cock and Hen, first prize birds at Birmingham and Cheltenham, 1852.—Apply to **HENRY BUTLER**, Stone Chair, near Halifax.

FANCY POULTRY.—PERIODICAL SALE.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will SELL by AUCTION, at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on TUESDAY, June 20, at Twelve o'clock precisely, very purely-bred COCHIN AND BRAHMA FOWLS AND CHICKENS, from the renowned yards of Dr. Gwynne, Messrs. Sparham, Gilbert, Johnson, of Farnham, Fisher, &c., and some Prize coloured DORKINGS, from the Rev. F. Thursby; upwards of 200 Lots, many of the birds being very choice, and well deserving the attention of Breeders of first-class stock.—May be viewed on the morning of Sale, and Catalogues had by enclosing a stamped-directed envelope to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent-garden.

BEDFORDSHIRE POULTRY EXHIBITION.

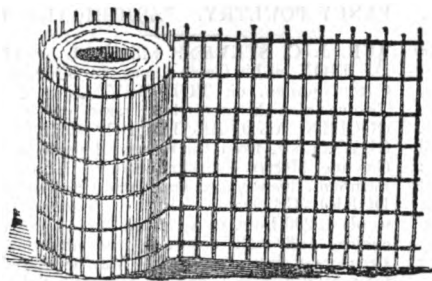
THE SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION of POULTRY will take place at the CORN EXCHANGE, BEDFORD, on Tuesday, the 31st of October, and Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2nd of November, 1854.—Forms of Entry and Schedules of Prizes may be obtained on and after the 16th of June, of the Secretaries, Mr. J. T. R. ALLEN, Bedford; and Mr. CHARLES HOWARD, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

WEST KENT ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF POULTRY, &c., and Miscellaneous Flower Show (open to all England), under most distinguished patronage, will take place in the Market Field, FARNINGHAM, on Tuesday, (private view), June 20th, 1854, and following day. Subscription tickets of admission (available on both days), 5s. each. Lists of Prizes and Certificates of Entry for Poultry, &c., are now ready, and may be had on application, post-paid, to the Secretary, **B. THOMAS**. For Schedules of Prizes for Flowers, &c., apply to Mr. ALFRED LOCKYER, Hon. Sec., Farningham. The Entries will close on the 5th of June.

By order of the Committee of Management,
BAPTISTE THOMAS, Sec.
Committee Room, Lion Inn,
Farningham.

POULTRY SHOW, BIDEFORD, DEVON, will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 27th and 28th June instant.

JOHN JONES, Secretary.
Bideford, June 5th, 1854.



WILLIAM DRAY AND CO.'S PATENT WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot.

Ordinary Wire Netting, from 2½d. per yard, 2 feet wide.

Address **WILLIAM DRAY and Co.,** Agricultural Implement Manufacturers, Swan-lane, Upper Thames-street, London.

THE SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION of the **SOUTH HANTS POULTRY ASSOCIATION** will be held at **SOUTH-AMPTON**, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August, 1854. Prize Lists are now ready, and may be had by enclosing a stamped envelope to

J. D. BRADFORD, Secretary, Southampton.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Pre-serving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage-free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

To be had in any quantity at **GEORGE EATON & Co.'s Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory,** 6 and 7, Crooked-lane, London.

FOR POULTRY-HOUSES.

LIGHT, CHEAP, & DURABLE ROOFING.

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons. Price **ONE PENNY** per **SQUARE FOOT.** Croggon's Patent **NON-CONDUCTING FELT** for covering Steam-boilers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and testimonials sent by post, on application to **CROGGON & CO., 2, Dowgate-hill, London,** who also supply **SHIP SHEATHING FELT,** and **INODOROUS FELT,** for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

HARROWGATE POULTRY SHOW, 1854.
Open to All England.

THE SOCIETY will hold its first Show in the **CHELTHENHAM GROUNDS, Low Harrowgate,** on the 5th and 6th of July. Entries close on Wednesday, the 21st of June.

Prize Lists and Forms of Entry may be obtained, by sending a directed stamped envelope, to **Mr. JAMES PULLAN, jun.,** Secretary to the Poultry Society, Harrowgate.

SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY-HOUSE, £4, consisting of house 4 feet square and 6 feet high, and roofed run for fowls 9 feet by 4 feet. Drawings of several sent free. The above are portable, and can be taken down or put up by any ordinary labourer. Wire work from 6 to 15 inches wide, 6½d. per square yard, to enclose poultry, &c.—**R. RICHARDSON, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, near King's-cross.** N.B. Maker of garden summer-houses, and iron and wood houses for emigrants; drawings of 21 Emigrants' houses, and 28 Summer-houses, sent free.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.
Six Lines..... 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 13s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.; payable in advance by post-office order to **GEORGE CLEMENTS, No. 1, York-street, Covent-garden,** to whom Orders and Advertisements may be addressed.—Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday.

Wholesale Agents, G. ROUTLEDGE & Co., Farringdon-street.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 17.]

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

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Poultry Shows.

West Kent Association, at Farningham, Tuesday, June 20th, and following day. Secretary, Baptiste Thomas, Esq. Entries are closed.

Vale of Taunton Deane Horticultural Society, in the Vivary Park, Taunton, Wednesday and Thursday, June 21st and 22nd. Honorary Secretary, John Kingsbury, Esq., 10, Hammet-street, Taunton. Entries are closed.

Devon and Cornwall Poultry Society, June 27th and 28th. Secretaries, Mr. W. Hunt, Public Library, Plymouth, and C. Hancock, Esq., Emma-place, Stonehouse. Entries are closed.

Bideford Poultry Show. First Meeting, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 27th and 28th. Secretary, John Jones, Esq.

Harrogate First Exhibition, Wednesday and Thursday, the 5th and 6th of July, in the Royal Cheltenham Grounds, Low Harrogate. Secretary, Mr. James Pullan, Promenade-square. Entries close, Wednesday, June 21st.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries are closed.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties: Third

Annual Exhibition, 25th, 26th, and 27th of July. Secretary, J. S. Brand, Esq. The Schedule not quite ready.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Yeovil, September 20th. Secretary, John Clyde, Esq.

Daventry Exhibition, in connexion with the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society (limited to the county). Secretaries, Messrs. Freeman & Sons, Northampton.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M'cSwarbreck, Esq. Entries close September 5th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place

October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. The Schedule not quite ready.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st. The Schedule will be ready June 16th.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 28th.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombraun, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

EVERYTHING on earth, it is said, is regulated by the laws of harmony, and all should be able to detect a glaring contrast in colour. We are led to make this remark from observing, at recent poultry shows, that meritorious birds are of necessity passed over by the judges, on account of the flagrant deviations from this admitted rule of harmonious selection. Contrast may be desirable in a picture, but uniformity is essential in a pen of poultry.

The rules by which the different classes are judged are now tolerably well understood by those exhibitors who will take the pains either to study them or to observe the decisions of the judges. It is not required in three birds that one should be a servile copy of the other, but they should be similar, and the cock should, to any moderately practised eye, be evidently of the same breed. We have frequently impressed on our readers the importance of attention to this point, but, as some of our correspondence would seem to show we have not done so sufficiently, we have, at the request of two eminent judges, made it the subject of our first article this week. A disappointed exhibitor writes that his birds were disqualified because it was said the cock was cinnamon and the hens buff, and yet he says the class was for "buff and cinnamon." It is true both shades are eligible to compete, but the pen must be composed of one only. Every collection, whether of three or more birds, should be such as would start the purchaser with a pure breed, and give hopes of producing birds resembling themselves, but this result will be at least doubtful if the parents do not match.

However unacquainted amateurs may be with the nicer points of distinction in poultry, no one can be unable to match colours. There may sometimes be difficulty about the cocks, and we therefore propose, at times, while the exhibitions are going on, to repeat the instructions we have already given on this head. We thereby hope to prevent disappointment to exhibitors, and to lessen the troubles of the judges after their decisions have been made known.

Schedule of the Thirsk Poultry Show.

THE first annual exhibition of the Thirsk Poultry Society, will (as mentioned in our List of Poultry Shows last week) take place in the Castle-yard, on the 20th and 21st of September. The show is projected under high auspices, and, as chairman of the committee, we notice the name of the Rev. Robert Pulleine, one which will be familiar to amateurs, from this gentleman's having frequently acted as judge at our poultry shows. The show is to be held in conjunction with that of the Floral and Horticultural Society, and the prizes offered are—

PRIZE LIST.

| SPANISH. | | 1st. | 2nd. |
|---|------|------|------|
| <i>Class.</i> | | | |
| 1. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. | |
| 2. Best Cock and two Pullets .. | 15s. | 5s. | |
| DORKING (Coloured). | | | |
| 3. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. | |
| 4. Best Cock and two Pullets .. | 15s. | 5s. | |
| DORKING (White). | | | |
| 5. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 5s. | |
| COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon and Buff). | | | |
| 6. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. | |
| 7. Best Cock and two Pullets .. | 15s. | 5s. | |
| COCHIN CHINA (Brown and Partridge Feathered). | | | |
| 8. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. | |
| 9. Best Cock and two Pullets .. | 15s. | 5s. | |
| COCHIN CHINA (White). | | | |
| 10. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1. | 10s. | |
| 11. Best Cock and two Pullets .. | 15s. | 5s. | |
| <i>The following five Classes of any Age.</i> | | | |
| MALAY. | | | |
| 12. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | 5s. | |
| GAME FOWL (Black-breasted and other Reds). | | | |
| 13. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | | |
| GAME FOWL (White and Piles). | | | |
| 14. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | | |
| GAME FOWL (Duckwings and other Greys and Blues). | | | |
| 15. Best Cock and two Hens .. | 15s. | | |

GAME FOWL (Black and Brassy Winged, Class. except Greys). 1st. 2nd.

16. Best Cock and two Hens .. 15s.

HAMBURG (Golden-spangled).

17. Best Cock and two Hens .. 15s.

18. Best Cock and two Pullets .. 10s.

HAMBURG (Silver-spangled).

19. Best Cock and two Hens .. 15s.

20. Best Cock and two Pullets .. 10s.

HAMBURG (Golden-pencilled).

21. Best Cock and two Hens .. 15s.

22. Best Cock and two Pullets .. 10s.

HAMBURG (Silver-pencilled).

23. Best Cock and two Hens .. 15s.

24. Best Cock and two Pullets .. 10s.

POLANDS (Golden).

25. Best Cock and two Hens .. 15s.

26. Best Cock and two Pullets .. 10s.

POLANDS (Silver).

27. Best Cock and two Hens .. 15s.

28. Best Cock and two Pullets .. 10s.

POLANDS (Black with White Crests).

29. Best Cock and two Hens .. 15s.

30. Best Cock and two Pullets .. 10s.

FOR ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.

31. Best Cock and two Hens .. £1.

N.B. Brahma Pootras, Ptarmigan and Andalusian Fowls, &c. &c., to be entered in this class. Should several pens be of particular merit, the judges will be empowered to award additional prizes.

BANTAMS (Laced).

32. Best Cock and two Hens .. 10s. .. 5s.

BANTAMS (Any other Variety).

33. Best Cock and two Hens .. 10s. .. 5s.

GEESE.

34. Best Gander and two Geese .. 15s. .. 5s.

DUCKS (Aylesbury).

35. Best Drake and two Ducks .. 10s. .. 5s.

DUCKS (Rouen).

36. Best Drake and two Ducks .. 10s. .. 5s.

DUCKS (any other variety).

37. Best Drake and two Ducks .. 10s. .. 5s.

TURKEYS.

38. Best Cock and one Hen .. £1. .. 10s.

GUINEA FOWL.

| <i>Class.</i> | | <i>1st.</i> | <i>2nd.</i> |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| 39. For the best pair | | 5s. | |

PIGEONS.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|----|-----|
| 40. For the best six of any breed.. | 10s. | .. | 5s. |
|-------------------------------------|------|----|-----|

41. EXTRA STOCK.

REGULATIONS.

5. Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales, towards defraying the expenses of the exhibition. All sales must be made through the Secretary. If specimens are claimed by two or more persons at the same time, the highest bidder will be the purchaser, and the surplus go to the Society's funds. No sales can be effected before two o'clock on the first day of exhibition.

* * Hampers will be considered as belonging to the birds and sold with them.

6. The whole of the specimens must be in the place of exhibition by eight o'clock on the morning of the exhibition. Exhibitors at a distance, or who cannot send their lots in the morning by that time, must forward them the previous evening, carriage paid, addressed to the Secretary. Each pen of birds must be sent in a separate hamper.

7. Fowls entered in a wrong class or with clipped, drawn, or otherwise trimmed plumage, will be excluded from taking prizes.

10. The entries must be made with the Secretary on or before the 5th of September, on a form supplied by him for the purpose, with a schedule of prizes and regulations, on a receipt of a stamped directed envelope. The entrance fees must be paid when the entry is made, or the pens cannot be entered for competition. No alteration can be made in the certificates after they have been received by the Secretary.

11. Exhibitors to pay 2s. per pen entry. Cottagers of a rental not exceeding £8 a year, 1s. per pen.

12. Subscribers or donors of 10s. will be entitled to exhibit two pens free of entrance fee; of one pound and upwards, four pens; and for every additional pen, an entrance fee of 2s. must be paid.

13. The committee wish to assure exhibitors that every care and attention will be taken of their stock, and good and wholesome food given to them whilst in their possession; but that they will not be answerable for any losses that may occur from accident or mistake. No dogs, sticks, or umbrellas, will be allowed in the place of exhibition.

14. On the first day, the exhibition will be opened to subscribers or donors of 2s. 6d. and

upwards, at twelve o'clock. The public will be admitted at one o'clock at 1s. each; and from three o'clock till six o'clock, at 6d. each. Admission on the second day of exhibition, 1s. each. The exhibition will close on the first day, at 6 p.m., and on the second day, at 2 p.m.

15. All birds will be returned as soon as possible after the show.

16. Persons entering poultry, and failing to send the same, will be required to pay 2s. 6d. for each pen so left vacant.

17. Exhibitors in Class 40, are required to provide their own cages.

By order of the Committee,
CHARLES M'C. SWARBRECK,
Secretary.

N.B. A Sale by Auction for Poultry will be held on the Show ground, on the second day immediately after the closing of the exhibition. Any persons desirous of disposing of their Stock are requested to give notice to the Secretary, seven days before the opening of the exhibition, stating the description and number of birds for sale.

The Floral and Horticultural Show will take place on the first day only.

Schedule of the Reading Show.

An exhibition of Poultry will take place at Reading, in conjunction with the Reading Cattle Show, on Wednesday and Thursday, November 29 and 30. For the convenience of lady visitors, more especially, there will be an entrance distinct from that to the cattle show. The day on which the entries close (October 28) is named on the title-page of the Schedule.

PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH, Mature birds.

| <i>Class.</i> | | <i>1st.</i> | <i>2nd.</i> |
|------------------------------|----|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 | 10s. .. | 10s. |
| 2. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 | 10s. .. | 10s. |

DORKING (Coloured), Mature birds.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---------|------|
| 3. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 | 10s. .. | 10s. |
| 4. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 | 10s. .. | 10s. |

DORKING (White), Mature birds.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---------|------|
| 5. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 | 10s. .. | 10s. |
| 6. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 | 10s. .. | 10s. |

**COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon and Buff),
Mature birds.**

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Class.</i> | <i>1st.</i> | <i>2nd.</i> |
| 7. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 8. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

**COCHIN CHINA (Brown and Partridge),
Mature birds.**

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 9. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 10. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

COCHIN CHINA (White), Mature birds.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 11. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 12. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

**BRAHMA POOTRA.
Cock and two Pullets, Chickens
of 1854**

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|------|
| 13. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
|-----------|----------|------|

MALAY, any age.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 14. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|

**GAME FOWL (White, Piles, Duckwings, and
Greys), Mature birds.**

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 15. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 16. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

**GAME FOWLS (Black, Black-breasted, and other
Reds), Mature birds.**

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 17. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 18. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

GOLDEN-PENCILLED HAMBURG, Mature birds.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 19. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 20. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

GOLDEN-SPANGLED HAMBURG, Mature birds.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 21. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 22. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG, Mature birds.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 23. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 24. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

SILVER-SPANGLED HAMBURGS, Mature birds.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 25. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 26. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

**POLAND FOWL (Black, white Crests), Mature
birds.**

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 27. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 28. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

POLAND FOWL (Golden), Mature birds.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 29. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 30. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

POLAND FOWL (Silver), Mature birds.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 31. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |
| 32. Ditto Chickens of 1854 .. | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

**BANTAMS (Gold-laced).
Class. *1st.* .. *2nd.***

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----|
| 33. Best Cock and two Hens .. | £0 10s.. | 5s. |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----|

**BANTAMS (Silver-laced).
34. Best Cock and two Hens ..**

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| £0 10s.. | 5s. |
|----------|-----|

**BANTAMS (White).
35. Best Cock and two Hens ..**

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| £0 10s.. | 5s. |
|----------|-----|

**BANTAMS (Black).
36. Best Cock and two Hens ..**

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| £0 10s.. | 5s. |
|----------|-----|

**GEESSE.
37. Best Gander and two Geese**

- | | |
|---------|------|
| £1 0s.. | 10s. |
|---------|------|

**DUCKS (White Aylesbury).
38. Best Drake and two Ducks**

- | | |
|---------|------|
| £1 0s.. | 10s. |
|---------|------|

**DUCKS (Rouen).
39. Best Drake and two Ducks**

- | | |
|---------|------|
| £1 0s.. | 10s. |
|---------|------|

**TURKEYS, Mature birds.
40. Best Turkey Cock and two
Hens**

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|------|
| £1 10s.. | 10s. | |
| 41. Ditto, Birds hatched in 1854 | £1 10s.. | 10s. |

From those of the regulations which are too generally introduced to need repetition, we give the following extracts. "Chickens of 1854 cannot be shown as mature birds."

"It is at the option of the owners to place on their pens 'Not for Sale.'" "Ten per cent. will be deducted from the sales."

The remainder of the regulations are :—

8. Specimens may be sent from any part of the United Kingdom.

9. The certificates of entry and prize list will be ready on the 28th September, and may be had on application to the Hon. Secretary, on forwarding two penny postage stamps.

10. No entries can be received unless they are made on the forms of certificate issued for that purpose. The entries close on Saturday, 28th October.

11. Exhibitors to pay 3s. for each pen, when the entry is made, except for Classes 33, 34, 35, and 36, in which the entrance will be 1s. 6d. for each pen.

12. All Eggs laid during the exhibition will be destroyed.

13. All Poultry must be in the Show Yard on Tuesday, the 28th November, by Nine o'clock, but specimens will also be received during the whole of Monday, the 27th of November. The baskets, hampers, &c., must be addressed to the Hon. Secretary (*the carriage in all cases being previously paid by the Exhibitor*).

14. No specimens can be removed until after three o'clock on the second day of the Exhibition, after which time, Poultry will be returned without delay.

The ANNUAL DINNER will take place on Wednesday, the 29th of November, being the first day of the Exhibition.

The Prize Lists of Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs, may be had on application to

Hon. Sec. MR. RUPERT CLARKE,
Solicitor, Reading.

Schedule of the Bideford Show.

THE first meeting will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 27th and 28th of June. Being pressed for space, we extract the following items from the regulations. Fees for pens, &c., 2s. 6d., for all fowls except Polands, barn-door fowls, bantams, and ducks, for which it is 1s. 6d.; for pigeons, 1s. Entries closed June 10th. Subscribers of 5s. can exhibit free. The specimens must be at the exhibition on Monday, June the 26th. *All prizes and the amount of sales will be paid during the second day, on application to the Secretary.*

First and second prizes of 20s. and 10s. are offered for a cock and two hens of Spanish, coloured Dorking, white Dorking, Cochin China (buff or cinnamon), Cochins (brown or partridge), and game. One prize of 10s. for a pen of four chickens of any kind. Two prizes of 15s. and 5s. for golden Hamburg (pencilled and spangled mixed), silver ditto, gold and silver Polands, and for turkeys and geese. Prizes of 10s. and 5s. for white-crested Polands, barn-door fowls, bantams (any colour), and ducks. Prizes of 2s. 6d. for each kind of pigeons.

The schedule adds, prizes may be given to white Cochins, 10s. Best pen not classed, 10s.

Admission fees:—Tuesday, twelve till two o'clock, 2s.; from two till five, 1s.

Wednesday, ten till one, 1s.; from one till five, 6d.

John Jones, Esq., is the Secretary.

Notes by "Alector."

THE common duck occupies a similar position to the dunghill fowl. I cannot, however, but think, that if taken in hand and cultivated, some good, useful, and handsome varieties might be established. I have often seen very fine specimens of a bluish grey and a brownish yellow, which, provided that they bred true to colour, would prove desirable additions. Then, again, why should top-knots be considered as ornamental to some fowls, and discreditable to all ducks? It went to my heart once, when judge at a poultry show, to pass over a pen of fine yellow ducks with perfectly white cotton globes on their heads; but the cowardly thought prevailed in my mind of "What will Mrs. Grundy say?" and so I left them unnoticed and unrewarded. Would that a leviathan grower in the duck line would try and do something in this matter.

As everything in nature is intended to serve some purpose, I should like to be informed for what object does the mallard disguise himself in female apparel at this season of the year? Sometimes in June he moults into a quiet domino dress, and, but for his voice, would hardly be distinguished from his mate. Scarcely is the change effected when he begins to cast it off again, and in the month of August he "moves every inch" a mallard. Has this transmutation of plumage anything to do with affording facilities for concealment during the breeding season? If so, it would go to prove that there is something in the theory of our farm-yards being originally supplied from the wild stock. By the way, is the wild duck polygamous, or, like ourselves, more than contented with one wife?

And here I would recommend no one to keep ducks, who has not the means of separating them from his fowls. When fed together, the latter are much in the predicament of the stork when he was invited by the fox to take his dinner off a platter. Like Amine, the ghoul, fowls

pick grain by grain, but a duck does his work like a navvy, by the shovelful. Their appetite being very great, they require a large range to enable them to pick up a fair proportion of their own keep, and if this space cannot be afforded, they will generally be found an unprofitable investment. The following is an experiment that I once practised upon the aldermanic properties of one of the species. An old one-eyed drake was a great favourite of mine, and, more fortunate than some people, my attachment was reciprocated, though I fear that the reciprocity, as is sometimes the case, was founded on "cup-board love;" for his affection always seemed to depend upon the state of his crop; if that was full, all the notice that he vouchsafed to give me was a nonchalant wink of the under eye-lid, much in the same way as your intimate friend half cuts you with a cool nod, if he happens to be sauntering down St. James's with a "real live lord;" on the contrary, if hungry (and he was a decided disciple of Torricelli's axiom, "that Nature abhors a vacuum"), I no sooner entered the farm-yard, than he used quietly to make up to me in a circuitous, unostentatious kind of way, in order to conceal, I presume, his object from his congeners, and looking up into my face with a begging spaniel's expression, and a low sharp quack, old Cyclops, as I called him, used to say, as plainly as ever duck spoke, "Come, old fellow, give us a snail." On the occasion to which I refer, I determined to test his powers to the utmost. Nineteen snails, of all sorts, sizes, and sexes, did he with almost unabated avidity devour; but the twentieth, which would have been a serious undertaking under any circumstances, proved a stopper on this occasion; at first he gently took up the victim, one of the large brown garden kind, "as if" (in accordance with honest old Isaac Walton's injunction about frog baits) "he loved him;" then he held him softly in his bill, as though he expected, or rather hoped, that the snail would find his own

way down. Recovering from his delusion, he summoned up his failing powers in an ineffectual attempt to bolt him; then, like a boa, he lubricated him in some water, but to no purpose, his powers of deglutition were almost gone; the prey dropped from his beak, he looked at it, turned away, came back, moved on, returned, went off; shall I go on? No. Like Gaveston, Spencer, Rochester, and others, I fear he was a favourite whose character would not bear strict investigation. He was, "not to put too fine a point upon it," a mallard of lax morals in his domestic character as a husband and father. For a long time I was puzzled to account for his absence for some hours together; but one day, catching a glimpse of him going under the gate of a farm-yard some distance from home, I took the liberty of following him; to my surprise, I found that, not content with a full complement of wives at home, he was in the almost daily practice of invading the domestic happiness of some one or other of his neighbours, insomuch, that not a drake within half a mile but had been called upon to do battle, but in vain, *pro aquis et fociis*. As this is the only instance I ever knew of a common drake quitting his home without being driven off by one of his own sex, I have thought the fact worth mentioning. Poor Cyclops's end was as untimely as merited. Returning from one of his excursions, he fell into a rut in the lane, and before he could extricate himself he was converted into a pan-cake by a passing cart-wheel, "to the great grief (or joy) of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance," as the newspaper obituarious remark.

As regards rearing ducklings, I would simply recommend that they be kept from the water for at least a fortnight in fine, and a month in cold weather. If more than one brood is out at the same time, the old birds should be cooped, as a duck's bite is almost certain death. If you wish to rear ducks for breeding purposes, do not hatch them under a hen. Many

persons always clip the tails of ducklings as soon as hatched. It may be a beneficial operation, and can certainly do no harm.

There are three kinds of duck that perch, of which I shall proceed to describe the Musk, the only one on which I feel myself qualified to speak. The Pintail and Wood duck, with many other varieties, I must leave to abler hands. Speaking as a man rather than an ornithologist, I must pronounce the Musk duck to be a beast. Where there is an absence of water, it might be worth while to keep them, as they are as little of aquatic birds as anything with webbed feet can well be. They do not lay so well as the common duck, and their eggs are smaller. Instead of being white, or green, or pale blue, or blackish, they are buff coloured, and, as well as I can remember (for it is long since I kept them), they seem to be affected with an outbreak of measles in the form of minute specks. Their colour is in general black, or black and white, though I have seen them pure white. They seldom utter any other sound than a low hiss, and are so lazy that it requires some strong excitement to induce them to quack. They are a type of quaint old Fuller's dog, who was so indolent, that he used to support himself against a wall when he exerted himself to bark. I do not know or care whence the Musk duck comes or goes, as he is of little use whether alive or dead. In the latter case, he tastes very strong unless killed at an early age. As they will cross with the common duck, it may be worth while to breed for the table; but the produce must be killed young, which course would anticipate the advantage to be derived from the addition to the size. Whether the cross is productive, I cannot say, as, though I have had them, I never attempted to perpetuate the breed.

Here ends my gossip about ducks.

The dinner's waiting, I am tired,
Says reader, "So am I."

Hints to Poultry Show Committees.

LEAVING the workers and their appliances, I must now look to the things to be operated upon; of course the feeders will have attended to the animal wants of the birds during the latter part of the day, and will be ready to take an active part in the packing, by opening the pens and placing the birds in the hampers ready to be fastened up.

The first thing to be done is for all the baskets to be drawn out of concealment and placed in front of the pens; next, every card must be turned, in order to show the owner's return address; then the secretary, or a committee-man, must cast a careful eye over each card, and see that it has an address, for notwithstanding the very clear instructions generally sent with the address cards to exhibitors, many parties will neglect them and send in their hampers without any return address; this of course will have to be done if found omitted, the salesman at the same time will go his round with his purchasers' addresses arranged numerically, and get them fastened on. Now all is ready, and all fall to work with good will: a feeder or some person practically acquainted with the proper mode of handling birds, takes them out of the pen, a packer holding the lid of the hamper so as to secure it against the certain attempts to escape (particularly made by the Hamburg and the game birds); another packer stands by ready to assist the feeder, by holding the pen-door and preventing escape thence. The birds being safely placed in the hamper, the two packers *immediately* sew down the lid, and the address-card if requisite. Two other packers stand ready for the next pen, and if they are good workmen, three pairs of packers will keep one pen-emptier busy, and just give him time to stretch his back occasionally. The committee-men may, if willing, be actively engaged in packing, but I think their time may be more profitably employed in seeing that others work,

for amongst so many, there are certain to be some bad characters; after working three hours, let all rest for half-an-hour (not more) and have refreshment, then work for the same period again. All the birds being at length in their hampers, secured and directed, some one must see that the birds are secured, not by looking, but by testing, or their equanimity will most certainly be disturbed by a sort of resurrection unlooked for, and proclaimed by a crow equally uncalled for, and of all places to catch a stray bird in, none is more difficult than a poultry show-room.

The next move is to get the lots belonging to each owner into a separate pile by itself, and now the indexes come into use: one committee-man takes, say the A, B, C, and turning to his book, sees that Mr. Andrews will want 5, 20, 27, 90, 350; he sends his porters for them and gets them altogether in one heap, so that when Mr. A. comes his birds are already waiting; no searching and seeking, but ready waiting for him, and not as too often that he has to wait for them. Some exhibitors will have large lots, twenty-five or thirty packages, and the care and relief the plan I hint will give can only be appreciated when tried.

The committee will have had time to carry out these arrangements by 6 A.M., and the next step I recommend is for them to engage carts or vans, and send off to the railway stations all the birds that have to go by the different lines. It is no use asking the railway companies to send for the birds—they may or may not, or may send when the committee are most busy with the birds near home; take my advice, secure some carters beforehand, and as early as possible get off all birds to be sent by rail, especially those to a distance. Having your birds in lots, it will be easy to make up separate loads for various lines and towns, and the railway people will be less likely to missend any hampers. All the purchased birds should be sent off amongst the first lots, for they will not be in the index, and moreover you owe their new owners a good turn.

I before mentioned that many parties would not pay all the carriage charges on their birds: the secretary will, if he has followed my hints, have written for repayment; if the sum has not been remitted, keep that man's birds until he sends the amount, or until the railway company will pay it, and put it to the charge "paid over;" if once you part with the birds, your chance of repayment is gone. Many, alas, many styled gentlemen, turn a very deaf ear to applications for repayment; but now that the "Poultry Chronicle" is so widely circulated through the country, societies will have a protection against these and all other defaulters and evil-doers, for I trust that you will not hesitate to make public all cases of fraud or dishonourable conduct connected with poultry exhibitions, for unless their integrity of principle and purity of action are upheld with a very strong hand, they will become a nuisance instead of a benefit, and, that too speedily—must succumb to the evils which have ruined that truly British sport, horse racing.

I believe that the stock of "Hints" which you so kindly invited me to lay before your readers, is now nearly exhausted, and fear that many of your friends will think I have occupied too large a space; but should there be any one who requires an explanation or a hint, I shall be happy to supply it through your columns, and in conclusion, must "hint" that the surest way to secure the present and future prosperity of any poultry exhibition, is, to pay the prize premiums and judges' expenses the day of the show, and all the claims as soon after as possible; and whatever promises are made to exhibitors, to the public, or to purchasers, must be kept at whatever inconvenience, labour, or cost, it may be to the committee; and that whereas the close attention to these last golden rules, sooner or later, will secure the prosperity of a show, so the evading or neglect of any one will speedily cause the downfall of the most "PROMISING" society.

W. W.

The Poultry Maid.

CHAPTER II.—HONESTY AND FIDELITY.

HAVING in the first chapter on this subject, in No. 13 of the "Poultry Chronicle," strongly recommended the amateur to try the plan of entrusting the care of his poultry to an industrious, careful, conscientious little girl, I now intend to address two or three chapters to young girls who may be appointed to this task, and, in so doing, I begin with honesty and fidelity, as qualities of the greatest importance in persons of any calling in life, and in servants in any situation, but more especially in those to whom the charge of living things is confided.

When I speak of honesty, I mean it to be understood in its most extended sense of trustworthiness, at all times and under all circumstances. No doubt it will have been ascertained, in the first instance, that a girl thus taken is honest, in the more confined sense of the word, of not helping herself to what does not belong to her: I will suppose that she has entered the family with a good character, comes of honest parents, and would no more think of taking corn and eggs belonging to her employer, than she would of taking his money if it were left in her way. But that undeviating honesty,—that thorough integrity which have their foundation in religion and good principle, must be her constant guide, not only in keeping her hands from picking and stealing, but in influencing her to a constant endeavour to do her duty by her charge when she is entirely unwatched by the eye of man, and to take care that neither her master's property nor his good name shall ever suffer through her carelessness.

Most amateurs of the present day, who possess poultry of choice kinds, sell the produce in the shape of eggs and chickens. Now, whether the eggs are sold or hatched at home, the carelessness of those who have charge of the fowls, and whose duty it is to collect the eggs, may produce mistakes

and mischances which will prove excessively annoying to the person who has sold them, as well as to the buyer. It will readily be guessed how vexatious it must be to an amateur, and also to those to whom he has sold eggs, if his Spanish fowls produce chickens with feathered legs, if chicks from his Cochins sport crested heads or Dorking toes, or if his Brahma Pootra fowls throw Partridge Cochin chickens. Yet all these incongruous and most mortifying results may arise from temporary carelessness on the part of a girl, whose duty it is to take care of the fowls and to collect and mark the eggs.

Lovers of choice kinds of poultry are very glad to purchase eggs from other amateurs at prices varying from sixpence to seven shillings each. When we buy eggs at a price like this, we naturally bestow on them the greatest possible care. We place them under a hen which we think will do her duty well, and watch them with the greatest interest. If the eggs produce a parcel of mongrel chickens, our vexation against the person from whom we bought the eggs is proportioned to our disappointment.

Mischances of this sort are sure to arise, if the person who has charge of the fowls be not very careful. If, therefore, a poultry maid is guided by integrity, she will, in her own department, guard her master's good name, as well as his property, and never allow an egg to be marked as coming of one particular stock unless she feels quite sure about it.

These are certain simple rules which must always be attended to by persons who watch over two or three different kinds of fowls. In feeding and other points, it is most likely that you who undertake the charge of poultry will receive instructions; but in watchful care *much must depend on you*. You will know all that happens among the poultry much better than their owner can: on your careful watchfulness will, therefore, depend, in a great measure, the prosperity of the stock.

1st. Collect the eggs with care, and mind that no accidental mixing together of the eggs can confuse you and them, until the name is fairly written on each.

2nd. If two kinds of fowls are kept, be very trustworthy in watching that two of different sorts do not get together. If a hen by chance escape, and get into an enclosure occupied by another kind of fowl, do not simply put her back, but keep her apart; it is possible her eggs may not be useful for setting for some weeks (some persons name a longer time), but let that rest with the owner; only be sure to name the accident, although you may get a scolding.

3rd. It is a good plan to date the eggs as they are collected, that none may be set which are too stale. E. W.

Poultry united with Cattle Shows.

"THE Times," speaking of the Bath and West of England show, says:—"The poultry, above 2,000 in number, were the most popular; on the two grand days, while 7,000 persons visited the cattle and implement yard, there were no less than 18,000 visitors to the poultry-yard. The meeting is described as the best the society ever had."

It will thus be seen that for one person interested in the cattle and implements, there were two and a half who came to see the poultry. This will, we think, account for the show being the best on the records of the society.

The Tail Movement.

IN *THE* SPANGLED HAMBURGS.

HOWEVER arbitrary the rules of fashion may be, we cannot admit that they should pervert the order of nature. Cochin China fowls were the pets of the day, but we cannot, for a moment, allow that the absence of tail, which was one of their characteristics, would be desirable in any other breed. We have always thought an ample tail and well-defined sickle

feathers were among the chief ornaments of a cock, and two of the great marks of his sex. Yet, just now, a movement is being made to rob the Silver-spangled Hamburg of this appendage, and to require that he should have a hen-tail. This belongs only to the Sebright Bantam. It was a troublesome thing to produce, and is just as much so to perpetuate. During the last two years, birds have been exhibited of marvellous beauty in the Silver-spangled Hamburg classes. They at once captivated the judges and the public, and their career was a continuous triumph. But one day they were in a light pen, and the judges shook their heads, and, although they admitted they were very handsome, they had doubts of their purity; on examination, they were more laced than spangled, the cock had a hen tail, and they were disqualified. A cross with the Silver-laced Bantams was manifest. If the advocates for these tails in the cocks should carry the day, then farewell to one of the prettiest fowls we have. If the hen tail must be got at any price, it must be done by crossing with the Sebright. With the sickle feathers, hackle, saddle, and spangling will disappear, and our beautiful moss or mooney will become an anomalous mixture.

If in the exercise of our fancy we can add to the beauty of our pets, let us do so; but do not let us indulge our vagaries at the expense of those marks or characteristics which, while they point out the sex, are at the same time the chief ornaments of it. SYLVANUS.

White Fowls for Exhibition.

THE day before the show take the birds and well wash in luke-warm water their legs and feet, and also cleanse the beak. Wash lightly over the back and soiled parts of the wings with a moistened sponge once or twice, and then place the birds upon a thick layer of clean straw, in any spare place free from draughts. The birds the next morning will look very fresh and clean. T. P.

The Cheltenham Poultry Show.

PERHAPS there are few localities better calculated to repay the visitor for a long journey, uniting the pleasure of an excursion with the gratification of his own peculiar fancy in *assisting* at a poultry show, than the celebrated mineral spa of Cheltenham; almost surrounded by high hills, there is a genial mildness in the air which renders it very agreeable, especially this year, and the place and the neighbourhood are both pleasant and beautiful. The view from the top of the building of the Pittville Spa would alone repay the trouble of a journey of many miles.

The exhibition took place in the large room, which was lengthened for the occasion by a tent at each end: it was held on Wednesday and Thursday, the 14th and 15th instant, on both which days the exertions made by the secretaries, the Messrs. Jessop, of Cheltenham, for the pleasure and convenience of the company and for the comfort and safety of the birds, cannot be spoken of too highly. During the two days of the show, many hours of each of which we spent there, we never found these gentlemen absent from their post, or failing to attend to their arduous duties with courtesy and promptitude.

The catalogue contained upwards of five hundred entries (including pigeons); in spite of the absence of regular pens, the arrangements were very good, and the show included numerous birds of first-class merit.

We are sorry to be obliged to say, the decisions of the judges did not give general satisfaction.

The buff Cochins showed little improvement on those lately exhibited: we miss the short-legged, square-built fowls, which promised a valuable addition to our poultry yards, and have in place plenty of clear buff feathers. This was especially noticeable in the chicken class, which is our chief reason for reverting to the subject, because we had hoped that our Cochin breeders would have given some attention

to the requirements of the dinner-table, in rearing a kind of fowl which unites so many useful qualities. The dark Cochin class was excellent and the fowls were sent in capital order. The white also were good, especially the first and second prize-birds.

The Dorking and Spanish classes were very superior representatives of two capital breeds. It is seldom we have seen so many good birds, at this season, in such fine plumage. In both classes the first prizes were awarded to H. D. Davies, Esq. of Hounslow. His birds were very beautiful, and in excellent condition.

Among the game fowl there were some very pretty birds, and the pen of Malays, No. 251, which took a second prize only (the first being withheld), were young birds of great promise. There were some exceedingly pretty Hamburg fowls, both in their own classes, and in class 25, for chickens. The Bantams were not numerous, but were good. Pen 348, belonging to Mr. Hewitt, of Birmingham, were very pretty and beautiful in carriage. In the class for various fowls of distinct breeds were the handsome Rangoon fowls, which were first shown at Birmingham last year, and a pen of black Hamburg, very brisk, pretty-looking fowls, which were accidentally omitted in the catalogue; they belonged to Mr. Joseph Jordan, Waterfall-cottage, Birmingham. The Aylesbury ducks were good.

The pens for the Turkeys and Geese—wire-work enclosures on the ground—were large and commodious. The cards to designate the prizes were printed in large letters in different colours, red for the first prize, blue for the second, and green for the third, thus making the grade of the prize visible from a distance. All the arrangements appeared to have received complete and judicious consideration, and the feeding of the birds was most abundant and very good.

Before we left, a little after nine o'clock on Thursday evening, a large number of the birds were packed and despatched.

Everything was managed with an entire absence of bustle and confusion, the secretaries often giving aid to the *work*, as well as to the superintendence, and all was so well done, that even an outcry among the cocks was of rare occurrence. We can only hope most heartily that the Cheltenham show will receive the support which it so well deserves, and that the encouragement which it gets will be on the same liberal scale as its own prize list.

Near one of the entrances was placed a tempting stand, with the first-class prizes, tastefully arranged; the silver cups and pretty articles of silver plate, among which the prize-takers might make their selection.

AWARD OF PRIZES.

JUDGES.—E. Bond, Esq., Leeds; and J. Nutt, Esq., London.

Class 1.—COCHIN CHINA.—CINNAMON OR BUFF.—Pen 29, 1st prize: J. A. Devenish, Weymouth, 21 months.—Pen 38, 2nd prize: John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, Newmarket, above 1 year.—Pen 2, 3rd prize: F. C. Staggal, Weymouth, cock 1 year, hens 2 years.—Commended: Pen 37, Mrs. L. C. Stow, Bredon, near Tewkesbury; Pen 41, John Heape, 36, Ludgate-hill, Birmingham, cock 12 months, hens 13 months; Pen 32, Rev. J. Allen, D.D., Englefield Green, Surrey, cock 1st Jan., hens March, 1853; Pen 23, J. Cattell, 53, Worcester-street, cock 15 months, hens 3 years; Pen 39, John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, Newmarket, above 1 year, hens only.

Class 2.—COCHIN CHINA CHICKENS.—CINNAMON, BUFF, OR PARTRIDGE.—Pen 79, 1st prize: Miss Alcock, Newport, Salop, January, 1854.—Pen 47, 2nd prize: J. R. Rodbard, Aldwick Court, Langford, near Bristol, January 15th, 1854.—Pen 86, 3rd prize: Mrs. L. C. Stow, Bredon, March.—Highly commended: Pen 71, Mrs. T. Moilliet, Studley, Warwickshire, 3rd of March, and of February; Pen 72, C. Bainbridge, Oakfield Lodge, Sparkbrook, near Birmingham, age not entered.—Commended: Pen 50, J. R. Rodbard, March 1st; Pen 76, James Cattell, 53, Worcester-street, Birmingham, 3 months; Pen 85, W. B. Mapplebeck, Bull Ring, Birmingham, 11 weeks; Pen 87, John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, Newmarket (Buff), February.

Class 3.—COCHIN CHINA.—PARTRIDGE, OR DARK.—Pen 112, 1st prize: John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, Newmarket, above 1 year.—Pen

102, 2nd prize: Thomas Bridges, Croydon, Surrey, cock 16 months, one hen 2½ years.—Pen 98, 3rd prize: Rev. G. F. Hodson, cock 13 months, hens 11 months.—Highly commended: Pen 106, J. Harlow, Moseley, near Birmingham.—Commended: Pen 103, G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, unknown; Pen 107, T. Smith, Stableford, Bridgnorth, cock 1 year, hens 2 years.

Class 4.—COCHIN CHINA.—WHITE.—Pen 120, 1st prize: Mrs. S. R. Herbert, Powick, cock 3 years 8 months, hens April, 1852.—Pen 126, 2nd prize: S. Allen, M. D., Englefield, Green, Surrey, cock 1852, hens 1853.—Pen 122, 3rd prize: Mrs. G. H. Hutchinson, Charlton, Wilts, cock 1 year, 1 hen 1½ year, 1 hen 1 year and 11 months.

Class 5.—COCHIN CHINA CHICKEN.—WHITE. 1st prize: not awarded.—Pen 141, 2nd prize: Rev. S. Allen, D.D., Englefield Green, Surrey, cockerel 15th, pullets April, 1852.—Pen 140, 3rd prize: Miss C. Alcock, Newport, Salop, cockerel and pullet 13th Feb., two pullets 24th March.

Class 6.—COCHIN CHINA.—BLACK.—Pen 159, 1st prize: John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, above 1 year.—Pen 146, 2nd prize: Exhibitor: V. W. Blake, 6, Old-square, Birmingham, cock 16 months, hens 13 months.—Pen 154, 3rd prize: G. H. Hutchinson, Charlton, near Malsbury, Wilts, 9 months.—Commended: Pen 156, W. B. Mapplebeck, Birmingham, age not entered; Pen 160, C. Nelson, The Lozells, near Birmingham, cock 14 months, hens aged.

Class 7.—COCHIN CHINA CHICKEN.—BLACK.—Pen 164, 1st prize: James Cattell, 53, Worcester-street, Birmingham, cockerel and pullet 3 months, two pullets 5 months.—Pen 165, 2nd prize: Thomas Smith, Stableford, near Bridgnorth, 3 months.—Pen 167, 3rd prize: John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, Newmarket, March, 1854.

Class 8.—DORKING.—Cock and Two Hens.—Pen 175, 1st prize: W. H. Davies, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, about 2 years.—Pen 189, 2nd prize: Mrs. L. C. Stow, Bredon, 1853.—Pen 188, 3rd prize: Mrs. L. C. Stow, Bredon, 1853.—Highly commended: Pen 179, T. Wittington, Jun., Wooton Warren, near Henley-in-Arden, cock 1 year, hen 1 year, hen 3 years.—Commended: Pen 170, Rev. G. F. Hodson, Banwell, Somerset (white) cock, 14 months, 1 hen 2 years, hen 7 months; Pen 172, G. Botham, Wexham Court, Slough, 1 year; Pen 191, Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol, exceed 1 year; Pen 169, Exhibitor, T. J. Bembridge, Penrose Villa, Heavitree, Exeter, age unknown; Pen 190, John Fairlie, Cheveley Park, above 1 year.

Class 9.—SPANISH.—Pen 197, 1st prize: H. D. Davies, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, about 2 years.—Pen 211, 2nd prize: Mrs. L.

C. Stow, Bredon, June, 1853.—Pen 196, 3rd prize: J. B. Winder, Suffolk-street, Birmingham, cock 12 months, hens 2 years.—Highly commended: Pen 198, E. Symons, 84, Dale End, Birmingham, 2 years, 1 hen 3 years; Pen 199, H. D. Davies, Hounslow, about 2 years; Pen 207, William Plummer, Brislington, near Bristol, cock 11 months, hens 22 months.—Commended: Pen 195, G. Botham, Wexham Court, Slough, cock 1 year, hens 2 years; Pen 212, Mrs. L. C. Stow; Pen 214, C. Nelson, The Lozells, Birmingham, cock 2 years, 1 hen ditto, 1 hen March, 1853.

Class 10.—BRAHMA POOTRA.—Pen 221, 1st prize: E. Symons, 84, Dale End, Birmingham (Silver Grey), 1 year.—Pen 218, 2nd prize: Dr. Gwynne, Sandbach, Cheshire, about 1 year.—Pen 232, 3rd prize: J. W. Fox, Skinner-street, City, London, 2 years.

Class 11.—GAME.—Pen 234, 1st prize: John R. Rodbard, Aldwick Court, near Bristol (black-breasted, red), 2 years.—Pen 238, 2nd prize: Edward Farmer, Greet Brook, near Birmingham (red-breasted), cock 30 months, hens 15 months.—Pen 235, 3rd prize: G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston (red), unknown.—Highly commended: Pen 237, Edward Farmer, Greet Spark Brook, near Birmingham (black breast), cock, 2 hens 1 year; Pen 241, C. W. Castree, Longford, near Gloucester, 18 months.—Commended: Pen 236, James Monsey, Cooper, Norwich, 2 years; Pen 244, C. Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol (black-breasted, red), exceed 1 year; Pen 245, Joseph Jennens, Moseley, near Birmingham (black game) cock 3 years, hens 17 months.

Class 12.—MALAY.—1st prize: not awarded.—Pen 251, 2nd prize: James Leighton, Cheltenham, cock, 10 months, hens 7 months.—3rd prize: not awarded.

Class 13.—POLANDS, BLACK WITH WHITE CREST.—Pen 255, 1st prize: G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, not known.—Pen 257, 2nd prize: G. C. Adkins, not known.—Pen 260, 3rd prize: Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol, exceed 1 year.

Class 14.—GOLD-SPANGLED POLANDS.—Pen 263, 1st prize: R. H. Bush, Litfield House, Clifton, unknown.—Pen 268, 2nd prize: C. Rawson, The Hurst, 1852.—Pen 266, 3rd prize: S. C. Baker, Half Moon Passage, Gracechurch-street, London, cock 18 months, hens 1 year.

Class 15.—SILVER-SPANGLED POLANDS.—Pen 271, 1st prize: G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, not known.—Pen 278, 2nd prize: C. Rawson, The Hurst, cock 1852, hens 1853.—Pen 277, 3rd prize: C. Rawson, the Hurst, cock 1851, hens 1852.—Pen 273, commended, Rev. J. Gandy, Old Cleeve, Taunton, 1852.

Class 16.—HAMBURGS.—GOLD-SPANGLED.—

Pen 286, 1st prize: C. Rawson, The Hurst, Walton-on-Thames, 1852, 1 hen 1853.—Pen 279, 2nd prize: G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, not known.—Pen 283, 3rd prize: Joseph Jordan, Wheeler-street, Birmingham, cock 1 year, hen 2 years, hen aged.

Class 17.—HAMBURGS.—SILVER-SPANGLED.—Pen 296, 1st prize: Joseph Jordan, Wheeler-street, Birmingham, aged.—Pen 305, 2nd prize: C. Rawson, The Hurst, Walton-on-Thames, cock and 1 hen 1852, 1 hen 1853.—Pen 288, 3rd prize: Miss Cripps, Preston Vicarage, near Cirencester.—Pen 294, commended, H. Wiggins, Edgbaston, 1 year.

Class 18.—HAMBURGS.—GOLD-PENCILLED.—Pen 309, 1st prize: C. Rawson, The Hurst, cock 1852, hens 1853.—Pen 307, 2nd prize: Thomas Whittington, Jun., near Henley-in-Arden, cock and hen 1 year, 1 hen 3 years.—Pen 310, 3rd prize: Miss K. Jessop, Cheltenham, 2 years, 1 hen 1 year.

Class 19.—HAMBURGS.—SILVER-PENCILLED.—Pen 315, 1st prize: Joseph Jordan, Wheeler-street, Birmingham, aged.—Pen 323, 2nd prize: Thomas Whittington, near Henley-in-Arden, cock and 1 hen.—Pen 317, 3rd prize: Thomas M'Cann, Graham House, Malvern, cock 1 year, hens 1 year.

Class 20.—BLACK BANTAMS.—Cock and Two Hens.—Pen 326, 1st prize: James Monsey, Cooper, Norwich, 18 months.—Pen 329, 2nd prize: Miss Kate Jessop, Cheltenham, 1 year.

Class 21.—WHITE BANTAMS.—Pen 330, 1st prize: Rev. G. F. Hodson, Banwell, Somerset, 3 years.—Pen 331, 2nd prize: G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, not known.—Highly commended: Pen 332, Rev. J. Gandy, March 21st, 1854; Pen 333, James Monsey, Cooper, Norwich, 18 months; Pen 334, Lady Codrington, Dodington, 1 year.

Class 22.—GOLD-LACED BANTAMS.—Pen 336, 1st prize: Henry D. Palmer, Great Yarmouth, various.—Pen 340, 2nd prize: Henry D. Palmer, Great Yarmouth, 10 months.—Commended: Pen 337, G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, age unknown; Pen 343, C. Rawson, The Hurst, 1852.

Class 23.—BANTAMS.—SILVER-LACED.—1st prize: not awarded.—Pen 352, 2nd prize: G. W. Boothby, Louth, Lincolnshire, 1 year.

Class 24.—THOROUGH-BRED.—Any variety not named in the Schedule. Three Prizes of £1 each.—Pen 375, John Fairlie, Cheveley Park (Scotch Dummies, or Bakties), above 1 year; Pen 379, Mrs. Jessop, Saint James's-square, Cheltenham (Indian Game), 12 months; Pen 365, Mrs. Hyett, Painswick (China Silk Fowls), cock and 1 hen 1853, 1 hen 1852.

Class 25.—CHICKENS.—Hatched since 1st

January, 1854, any distinct breed for useful purposes Cochín China excepted).—Three prizes of £1 each.—Pen 404, W. Plummer, Brislington, Bristol (Spanish), cockerel and 1 pullet, 5 months, 2, 14 weeks.—Pen 389, Thomas Whittington, jun., Henley in Arden (Coloured Dorkings), March.—Pen 400, James A. Devenish, Weymouth (Brahma Pootra), 3 months.—Pen 384, highly commended, John R. Rodbard, Langford, near Bristol (Gray Dorkings), 1st March.—Commended: Pen 383, Parkins Jones, Fulham (Brahma Pootra), 14 weeks.—Pen 410, Thomas H. Fox, 44, Skinner-street, Snow-hill, London, cock, 16 weeks, pullets 13, 15, and 16 weeks.

Class 26.—TURKEYS.—Pen 414, 1st prize: Charles Edwards, Brislington, Bristol, exceed 1 year.—Pen 412, 2nd prize: John Fairlie, Cheveley-park, Cambridgeshire, 1 year.

Class 27.—GUINEA FOWL.—Pen 416, 1st prize: John R. Rodbard, 2 years.—Pen 419, 2nd prize: Miss Jessop, St. James's-square, Cheltenham, 1 year.

PIGEONS.

Class 28.—CARRIERS (Pairs).—Pen 420, 1st prize: Exhibitor, G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, unknown.—Pen 425, 2nd prize: T. J. Cottle, Cheltenham, cock 2 years, hen 10 months.—Highly commended: Pen 421, G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, unknown; Pen 422, Joseph Rake, Bristol, 3 years.

Class 29.—RUNTS (Pairs).—Pen 431, 1st prize: C. Rawson, The Hurst, Walton-on-Thames, 1852.—Pen 429, 2nd prize: J. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, unknown.—Pen 428, commended, J. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, unknown.

Class 30.—POUTERS OR CROPPERS.—Pen 433, 1st prize: C. R. Gitterton, Snow-hill, Birmingham (White), 2 years.—Pen 437, 2nd prize: T. J. Cottle, Cheltenham, cock and hen, 2 years.

Class 31.—BLACK FANTAILS.—Pen 440, 1st prize: G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, unknown.—Pen 441, 2nd prize: G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, unknown.—Pen 442, highly commended, Joseph Jennens, Moseley, near Birmingham, not entered.—Commended: Pen 439, H. H. Swift, North Lydiard, Wilts, unknown; Pen 443, C. Rawson, The Hurst, Walton-on-Thames, 1852.

Class 32.—WHITE FANTAILS.—Pen 447, 1st prize: Selina M. Northcote, Upton Pyne, near Exeter, unknown.—Pen 444, 2nd prize: E. Symons, Dale End, Birmingham, not entered.—Highly commended: Pen 445, G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, not known; Pen 448, Joseph Jennens, Moseley; Pen 449, Thomas J. Cottle, Cheltenham, 1 year; Pen 450, C. Rawson, The Hurst, 1852.

Class 33.—JACOBIANS.—Pen 453, 1st prize: G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, not known.—Pen 458, 2nd

prize: C. Rawson, The Hurst, 1852.—Highly commended: Pen 456, W. B. Mapplebeck, Bull Ring, Birmingham, not known; Pen 457, T. J. Cottle, Cheltenham, 1 year.

Class 34.—ALMOND TUMBLERS.—Pen 461, 1st prize: G. C. Adkins, not known.—Pen 464, 2nd prize: T. J. Cottle, Cheltenham, cock and 2 hens, 1 year.—Pen 463, highly commended, T. J. Cottle, Cheltenham, cock, 3 years, hens, 2 years.—Pen 459, commended: G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston, not known.

Class 35.—ANY OTHER VARIETIES.—Pen 473, C. Bluett, Taunton (Blue Turbits), unknown.—Pen 490, C. Rawson (Frill Backs), 1852.—Pen 480, S. C. Baker, 3, Half-moon-passage, Gracechurch-street, London (Black Barbs).—Commended: Pen 476, C. Bluett, Taunton (Trumpeters), unknown.—Pen 454, Charles Bluett, Taunton, not known.—Pen 488, C. Rawson, The Hurst (Ermine Saxons), 1852.

The whole class of Pigeons were considered by the judges as meritorious.

Class 36.—GEESE.—Gander and Goose.—Pen 495, 1st prize: C. Rawson, The Hurst, 1852.—Pen 496, 2nd prize: C. Rawson, The Hurst, 1853.

Class 37.—DUCKS.—AYLESBURY.—Pen 500, 1st prize: W. H. Green, Walton-street, Aylesbury, 10 weeks.—Pen 502, 2nd prize: J. Liverton, Fairfield-house, 23rd March, 1854.—Pen 503, highly commended, J. Liverton, Fairfield-house, 23rd March, 1854.—Pen 509, commended, Mrs. L. C. Stow, Bredon, 1853.

Class 38.—DUCKS.—ROUEN.—Drake and Duck.—Pen 518, 1st prize: Honourable Mrs. Howard, Malmesbury.—Pen 521, 2nd prize: E. W. Haslewood, Bridgnorth, 1 year.—Commended: Pen 524, John Fairlie, Cheveley-park, Newmarket, 13 weeks.—Pen 525, John Fairlie, Cheveley-park, Newmarket, 13 weeks.

Class 39.—ANY OTHER VARIETY.—Drake and Duck.—Pen 533, H. Churchill, King's Head, Gloucester.—Pen 536, Miss Steele Perkins (Lambador Ducks).

Singular Detection of a Gang of Poultry Thieves.

In many prior numbers of the "Poultry Chronicle" I have tried to direct, as far as possible, public attention to the urgent wants and necessities of our poorer labouring agriculturists. I am rejoiced to find my efforts have not been altogether thrown away; the seed thus promiscuously scattered "broad-cast" on the surface, has,

from natural causes, brought forth its produce, sometimes abundantly, at others in scanty proportions: still with thankfulness I own, but little has proved altogether fruitless;—public sympathy has been here and there openly enlisted, and in many other localities, I am informed, much good will eventually ensue—such then are my reasons for again pursuing the like mode of enforcing my opinions, by the simple narration of true anecdotes.

They not unfrequently attach themselves with greater tenacity to the minds of the unreflective, and possibly may fix the first stray thoughts of some to the movement, and even entice their assistance in their own localities, who to mere argument would “turn the deaf ear,” or walk heedlessly away. My object is to obtain the gift of especial prizes to cottagers, at our public poultry shows. Now, therefore, to my narrative.

In the autumn of the year 1840, the writer of this article was invited, by one of the greatest land-owners and game preservers within very many miles of this district, to pass a week or nine days with him at his manor (which comprised the right of sporting over more than eight thousand acres), abounding with game to excess, and which, by game-keepers and “under-watchers,” was so strictly and rigorously preserved, that even occasional aggression was rare, and general poaching quite out of the question. The not least efficient preventive against poaching was, however, the maintenance of three purely-bred blood-hounds, whose services (when muzzled) were always at once called into requisition, if intruders left the slightest trace whatever of their exploits, as the expenses (though enormous) were never considered, so that the safety of the game could be insured; the only motive of the owner was, the desire of being able (at any time in the season) to give “a Battue” to whatever friends he thought fit to invite.

I must not digress here, however, to detail all the incredible feats of discrimina-

tion of these most extraordinary dogs, as, to many of your readers, they would indeed appear beyond the bounds of possibility; nevertheless, I must to one, of which I myself was an eye-witness, very briefly allude. Early one morning, blood and feathers scattered about proclaimed to the watchers the fact that the poachers had been busy during the night in a certain plantation of spruce firs, although no reports of guns had attracted their attention. The news being brought to our breakfast-table, it was at once suggested that we should have a “hunt, instead of partridge-shooting;” for, said our instantly excited host, “we are as sure of them as if we’d got them.” These dogs were kept (each chained separately) around the hall, and though excessively savage at such times, they seemed very quiet and sociable when loosed, which never, under any pretence, took place till they were “muzzled.” On this occasion the two largest were selected, and followed the keepers “to heel” towards the covert; here arrived, they were *not* taken to the exact spot, but, with some little formality, told to “hold on.”

They thus had been only a very few minutes “laid to,” before the deep, hollow baying of the elder dog rung heavily through the wood, joined almost instantly by that of the younger one; shortly all was silent, except the distant crackling of the underwood; a most excitable and interesting scene now presented itself—side by side they issued from the covert, and away they went abreast, at a pace that soon left us far behind. I had been at the onset admonished that “the event would certainly come to an *issue*” at a village on the estate not far distant; I therefore instantly hied me thither, and (from the poachers having visited another copse in their route homewards) I did manage to get there just before “the capture,” as the dogs and their followers on horseback had traversed more than four miles. Still, at a racing pace, they came onwards down the public road, when suddenly the

foremost dog turned abruptly for a cottage door, and instantly jumped heavily against it, again and again, as did also his fellow, but being well closed and fastened, it withstood the united shock of both, though it jarred excessively. It was now that the two half-reasoning animals (from their *own* apparent self-reflection only, for decidedly there was not as yet any party arrived to *command* them) ran wildly round the habitation, as though to ascertain correctly whether there was any other way of access thereto; or, otherwise, if the pursued had quitted by the back-grounds; but equally foiled in both, the pair of "sleuth-hounds" now returned to the front, and as if self-satisfied they had thus driven "their quarry to its lair," with one deep, hollow bay (that told most fearfully, thrillingly, and forbodingly on even the innocent, how much more so then upon the guilty inmates), *both* instantaneously dashed headlong through the glass and lead-work of the casement window. Before any assistance had arrived, they had, by main strength alone (for they could not bite, being muzzled, though they anxiously attempted to rip off their tethers with their fore-feet), brought the whole matter to a close. They had forced one (of several men) from his chair—he lay under the table, at which all had been sitting, the dogs vainly endeavouring to seize him by the throat, and his face absolutely covered with their saliva. One of the gamekeepers now entered by the window (through the opening the dogs had made); the doors being by him unfastened, and the dogs properly secured, all four men were searched, and in the jacket pocket of the *selected* one the pheasants were found. Hidden in a secluded corner was an air-cane, the air-receptacle being still partially charged, at once accounting for the keepers not *hearing* anything of them in the night; and in the pockets of two of the others were several heads of common poultry, stolen since the previous evening from a neighbouring farm-house. For the poultry

theft (being all well-known offenders) they were tried, convicted, and (as they had committed a burglary to obtain them) sentenced to transportation.

This was by no means a solitary case of these dogs' utility, as not unfrequently the police authorities solicited their assistance in cases altogether independent of their owner—in one such case the mother of an illegitimate child was taken after she had abandoned her offspring, and travelled nearly thirteen miles, the dogs forcing her to the ground, in the kitchen of a roadside alehouse. Friends of the bloodhounds always followed on horseback to prevent their injury, also to guard the guilty from accident (from "slipping their muzzles"), which did unfortunately happen once, from the leather straps round one dog's mouth suddenly giving way; the assailed on this occasion saved himself by turning on his face, and though his strong barragon jacket was literally torn to shreds, he escaped comparatively unhurt, except by fear. It proved, however, not "a lesson thrown away," for from that hour he became a reformed man.

At that time these dogs became a very terror to evil-doers in the surrounding country, as when once placed upon their track, apprehension was almost inevitable; for even if the culprit gained access to a vehicle, if its wheel-marks could then be traced, the dogs would again take up the scent where the party alighted. They might have long continued thus useful had not an over-wily individual, some years after, boasted he had obtained "a receipt to mislead them." This proved strictly correct; what he used I know not, but certain it is that once allowing any of this liquid to fall on the ground, the dogs, on coming to the spot, even in their wildest career, would instantly stop, and roll themselves; neither would threats nor inducements get them to proceed; the instant they were released from absolute coercion they would return and roll as before. This becoming known generally among the surrounding poachers, they pretty universally

adopted it, always with the like success; the consequence was, the last time I saw "the poor old dog" (whose successful efforts I have thus feebly endeavoured to faithfully narrate), his "lodgings" were a well-worn-out herring cask, placed in a dirty corner of a warehouse-yard belonging to a friend of his former master. My heart sank within me when I saw "the very wreck" of what this poor old fellow once was, and as I thought on the events of long past days, unreflectingly I drew towards him (his ferocity seemed "a by-gone"), I therefore patted him on the head; he looked up musingly into my face, and raised his fore-paw against me, as if in recognition. Reader! I must confess I pitied him, and he (though nearly eighteen years old) has, from that hour, possessed at another home a very comfortable (and I feel assured far more happy) accommodation.

With the following apology for the irrelevancy of my present anecdote, I will now conclude;—from my visits to this estate several other circumstances, the most intimately connected with poultry-keeping, came under my observation;—also not a few of the utterly neglected and uncared-for condition of many of the country poor—these I trust to introduce, in some future number, to the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle;" and though fully aware my present narrative could scarcely, even by Hibernian argument, be deemed as pertaining to "domestic poultry" (though at the same time it does slightly lean to the historical defeat of those "night-prowlers" who are not by any means the true friends of poultry amateurs), I trust its errors may be overlooked—that to some few, at least, it may be interesting,—whilst at the same time perchance it may be also instructive.

E. C.

[We must hope this interesting instance of canine instinct is essentially a record of the past.—ED.]

It has been said there is no part of the globe, excepting the ice-bound arctic regions, destitute of pigeons.

Colombiary.

NO. VI.—THE POUTER PIGEON.

THE common English Pouter pigeons are very interesting birds, they are merry, active, and engaging, though their large crops, when fully distended, give them rather a droll appearance; when at liberty they are continually on the move, cooing, clapping their wings, and flying from place to place; they are good breeders, if not bred in and in, a practice which cannot be too much guarded against; their young are large, and their flesh good; their plumage is generally blue-pied—though frequently of other colours. The fancy English Pouters are undoubtedly bred from this stock, by careful selection, by pairing birds not related, and the frequent introduction of fresh blood, by which means a finer race has been established. Their points of excellence being the same, one description will suffice for both, except that the fancy birds are larger.

These properties may be considered under the five following heads:—First. Length, of the body, from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail; and of the leg, from the knee-joint to the end of the toe-nail.

Second. The crop, which should be very round and well blown up to the beak.

Third. Shape: broad across the shoulders, the body tapering off, wedge-shaped to the tail; back, hollow; girth or waist, small; the legs moderately stout, and clothed with small feathers, like tight pantaloons.

Fourth. Carriage, which should be upright, with the crop properly blown out, not slack nor stiff winded; prancing nicely on their toes, without jumping; and not raising the rump feathers when playing; spreading the tail like a fan, and keeping their legs moderately close.

Fifth. Feather, by which the markings of their plumage is meant, whether blue,

black, red, or yellow-pied; they should have a large white crescent on the fore-part of the crop, and a dark bib under the bill; this white must not run round behind the head; from seven to ten tip flight feathers in each pinion should be white, as also the covert feathers of the same number, and a small rose or crescent on the fore-part of the shoulder; the thighs, legs, and vent also white; the rest of the body should be dark, without any white.

Blue-pied appears to be the most natural colour, black, red, and yellow, each the more valuable than the preceding, on account of the greater trouble of procuring good birds of those colours; and on account of the great difficulty of procuring red and yellow-pied Pouters with dark tails, they are allowed to have white, but on close inspection these will frequently be found to be of a pale strawberry, or mealy colour. Owing to their large crops, long legs, and high feeding, they are generally very bad nurses, consequently, the young are raised by placing their eggs under other pigeons that are good nurses, such as Dragoons, which are kept on purpose, care being taken that these have laid very nearly at the same time. The Pouters must, however, be supplied with a pair of eggs to sit on, and a young one at hatching time, a few days old, to feed off their soft meat; otherwise they are apt to fall ill, or the hen be weakened by laying again too soon. Their nest-places, etc. should be lofty, that they may not contract a habit of stooping, and kept exceedingly clean. The birds it is recommended to keep separate during winter, and to make them as tame and familiar as possible. A register of their pedigree should be carefully attended to, whereby related birds may not be mated together; for, to have Pouters in perfection requires a great deal of attention and careful management, which will account for their high price.

The Dutch Pouter is also a merry, active bird, playing erect, continually clapping his wings and jumping at his

mate. His legs are thin, and frequently bare of feathers, or only tufted on the toes; his colour is various, his crop good, but he is not much prized in this country, though the English Pouter is thought to be descended from him, with a slight admixture of Horseman blood.

The old German Pouters are very large pigeons, and scarce, even in their native country, measuring twenty-two inches in length, from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail, and three feet six inches, from point to point of the expanded wings, their tail and pinion-feathers being very long; the beak is stout and rather short; the legs stout and short, and feet featherless; the crops are large and well made, but from the shortness of their legs they cannot carry themselves erect. They are sometimes turn-crowned; in colour they are marked like a bald-headed Tumbler, though occasionally quite white. They are not good breeders, on account of their great size; they often break their eggs, or trample their young to death, consequently they require raising under other nurses. There are many other varieties of Pouters (Kropftauben) in Germany; one other that I must mention is a moderate-sized, thick-set bird, with turned crown, feather-footed, and half-erect carriage; the crop is not quite so globular as in some others, and their plumage blue and white. But their peculiarity consists in their manner of flying; rising a considerable height in the air, with distended crop, they allow themselves to fall or descend almost to the ground, again rising and performing the same feat repeatedly.

B. P. B.

Bessel's Green, near Seven Oaks, Kent.

The Gipsy's Hen.

A few evenings ago I sallied forth to enjoy a stroll along the green lanes and fields after my daily toil. The evening was delightful, and so was the music from the birds in the trees and hedges. It was equally delightful to see the children

gambolling along in wild glee and gathering the bashful buttercups and the starry daisies, until, to quote Eliza Cook, "wearied with prattle, they loitered home in twos and threes laden with their flowery spoils, to lie and dream all night of worlds made of flowers." Continuing my walk amidst a most delightful perfume from the flowers of the thorn, the bean-fields, and the clover, and enjoying the beauty of the scene around, with the setting sun's golden light thrown upon the buds just breaking "into emerald greenness," I came upon a gipsy's encampment. A heap of faggots was blazing on the ground, and over it was suspended the kettle. The gipsies were some of them engaged in preparing the evening meal, whilst the children were gathered around their father, who was amusing them by playing some well-known airs upon his violin.

Down by yon hazel copse, at evening, blazed
The gipsy's faggot—there we stood and gazed;
Gazed on her sun-burnt face with silent awe,
Her tattered mantle, and her hood of straw,
Her moving lips, her caldron brimming o'er;
The drowsy brood that on her back she bore,
Imps, in the barn with mousing owlet bred,
From rifled roost at nightly revel fed.

ROGERS.

I entered into conversation with them, and examined the camp, when I discovered, in one corner of a cart, a hen sitting upon a seat of eggs, and some of her chickens were hatched. On inquiry, I found that, though they frequently travelled many miles during the setting period, they had generally good luck with their hatches. The fowls were healthy, and supplied the gipsies with abundance of eggs, owing, doubtless, to their *extensive pasturage*, and the multitude of insects found in the shady lanes. My visit to the camp afforded me another proof of the retentive vitality in eggs, and satisfied me that some gipsies are courteous—cleanly in their tents, and poultry *producers* as well as *consumers*, and therefore they do not *always* have recourse to the neighbouring roasts for their revels.—C. P., Boston.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

BLACK HAMBURG FOWLS.

SIR,—If your facetious correspondent "Alector" will again look into "Johnson and Wingfield's Poultry Book," with which he is "conversant," he will there find a better description of the Black Hamburg Fowl, with all its points and beauties, than I have leisure to furnish; and from it will gather that they are "a distinct variety" and "a good kind." The iridescence and gloss of the plumage of the cock is really worth seeing. The Black Hamburg is rather larger, and *incomparably hardier* than either of the other varieties, and they are everlasting layers of eggs; certainly considerably larger than those of the other sorts. If I am not mistaken, they must be approved of when known.—Your obedient servant,
T. M. G.

TWIN-CHICKENS.

SIR,—I have frequently heard the question asked, and as often seen it in print, whether two living chicks were ever produced from one egg? but not till this season have had positive proof of the fact.

I have been told the thing was not *impossible*: but if perchance hatched, the chicks were invariably deformed, or so weak, that they soon perished.

I placed eight large-sized Cochinchina eggs under a hen, which had taken to her nest some days, and as no other birds could intrude themselves, no other eggs were laid during her incubation.

On the twentieth day, on lifting her from the nest for feeding (my usual practice), I discovered that five of the eggs were pecked, which on her return I removed, carefully replacing them under her when settled on the nest. The next morning, on examining the state of affairs, I found one egg not hatched, and bad, and, to my astonishment, eight lively chickens. It did not require much time to discover the twins; they were much smaller than the others, and though now more than three weeks old, are still strong, but maintain their dwarfish appearance.

If you think the occurrence worth noticing in the "Chronicle," by so doing you will oblige me. You will at least favour me by referring to the subject, as it is at least an uncommon circumstance.
E. YOUNG.

ON THE DRY BATH, AND GYPSUM.

SIR,—I have read with interest the remarks of several of your correspondents on the dry bath for fowls, which I have for a long time considered of as much consequence to them as the wet bath is to man.

I am more pleased with the recommendation to mix a little flour of sulphur with ashes, than giving malt-comb or barley-dust for the bath: but as the awn of the barley stimulates and warms the legs of young chickens, a little of it also might be added to the ashes.

I ought sooner to have thanked your correspondent "Tom" for his valuable remarks, page 142, on Gypsum, as a substance for strewing on the floor of a fowl-house, but he has not satisfied me. He says in substance, that the sulphate of ammonia would probably be repulsive to fowls, and that they would not touch it. If so, it cannot harm them; and I believe, that if accidentally they did take a little, it would not injure them more than a dose of ammonia does injury to a man.

Burnt gypsum (plaster of Paris) would be most injurious, but I don't see why we may not mix a little pounded gypsum with the food of poultry.

W. S.

Tenacity of Life in a Fowl.

A CORRESPONDENT residing near Yonkers, Westchester County, communicates the following remarkable fact, which our readers may rely upon as correct. During a heavy snow-storm in March last, he missed one of his hens, and after looking in vain for her, gave her up as lost. On the *thirty-fourth* day after the occurrence, his attention was attracted by a slight scratching noise inside a wooden spout which conducted the outer air to his furnace in the cellar, and upon taking off one of the boards, he found his hen inside—alive, but in so exhausted a state, that he was unable to restore her, although she lived for three days longer.

She was a fine black hen, a cross between a Shanghai and Poland, about two years old. During all these thirty-four days it was impossible she could have received any food or water, and there was a strong current of the coldest air constantly rushing past her.

Our correspondent regrets exceedingly he cannot report her now alive, after such an effort to retain the vital principle. Has any one ever heard of such tenacity of life in a chicken?

To Correspondents.

P. J. writes, "Your reporter has led you into a slight error with reference to the sale at Mr. Stevens's last mentioned by you. The Brahma chickens, although catalogued in pairs, were sold singly at the prices mentioned; as they were very young, and of course not the best of the stock from which they were taken, the owner was satisfied with the return."

T. M. G.—We hope the little article called "The Tail Movement," which want of space obliged us to set aside last week, will give the desired information; if not, we shall be happy to hear from our correspondent again. At the show mentioned, the Bath, the prizes were withheld from the henny-feathered Hamburg cocks, by Messrs. Andrews, Symmonds, and Hewitt, names of no mean weight to add to that of our valued contributor "Sylvanus."

R. B.—We had much pleasure in forwarding the letter.

J. L., of Macclesfield, writes, "Two of my neighbours have had hens shot and poisoned, being caught trespassing in gardens; can any of your subscribers give information as regards the shooting and poisoning of hens, cats, dogs, &c., and likewise about the annoyance of noisy Cochin cocks, they not being trespassers?" As the pound is the appointed means of redress in the case of animals which trespass, would not the value of hens shot or poisoned be recoverable? We should fancy a neighbour could no more interfere respecting a noisy fowl, except by remonstrance, than he could *oblige* us to quiet a cross child.

Mrs. H. S. has an Andalusian cock, which crowed under three weeks old.

R. G.—We agree with our correspondent that "very little is known of the diseases of fowls." If an experimental hospital could, as he suggests, be established under the care of a veterinary surgeon, or human doctor, it would, no doubt, be valuable to amateurs; but would it answer to the proprietor? If any one who could bring knowledge and observation to the task would undertake it, we should feel great pleasure in publishing the results from time to time.

To *M. B. H.*—We are sorry to say “*W. W.*’s capital and useful course of papers is concluded; but if our correspondent should be at a loss on any point not touched on in the “*Hints*,” we feel sure he would kindly answer any question for *M. B. H.*’s information.

H. F.—On the Sebright next week.

A Notice wishes to know if there is to be a show at Newmarket? It has not been announced.

G. G. purchased a Cochin cock two years since that exhibited precisely the same symptoms as that belonging to “*Henricus*.” He tried many remedies, but all were unsuccessful. After death he made a *post-mortem* examination of the bird, and found large tumours on the inside of the passage of the entrails and near the vent, which he thinks arose from feeding on meal and greaves.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE market has been subject to fluctuation this week. The absence of the Court from London, Ascot Races, and bad weather, checked the demand for some days. The supply is moderate, and trade better than it has been, still, however, below the average.

| | | | | |
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MATTHEW RIDGWAY, Dewsbury, has for SALE, one Black Bantam Cock and two Hens, one Golden Sebright Bantam Cock and two Hens, one Silver-spangled Hamburg Cock and two Hens, one White-faced Spanish Cock and two Hens, one Hen-feathered Silver-spangled Cock and two Hens.

The above include several *bonâ fide* Prize Birds, and are to be disposed of to make room for this season’s chickens.

Any of the above will be sold on equitable terms. For price, &c., apply as above.

Mr. R. will dispose of eggs from his best stock as under during the season:

Buff Cochins, Silver-spangled Hamburgs, Golden Sebright Bantams, 10s. per setting of thirteen; Black Bantams, 21s. per setting. Package included.

A FEW SETTINGS of Speckled DORKING EGGS, from birds bred from the same stock as the chickens which took the first prize in their class, at the recent Bath and West of England Poultry Exhibition, and were highly commended also, may be had at one sovereign per dozen, package included, on application to THOS. BROMWICH, jun., Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham.

Also a few Eggs of the Labrador Black Ducks, the same breed as those which took the first prize in Class 39, at Cheltenham, June 14th, and have taken four other prizes. Price 10s. 6d., package included.—Apply as above.

DORKING, SURREY.—**TAMERLANE BOWEN**, Dealer in Dorking Fowls for Breeders, has recently made extensive purchases in Spring Chickens of the best breed that this favoured locality produces; and those who may feel desirous to be supplied with what is really good, have only to address a few lines to the above dealer, with a remittance, or a respectable reference, and every care and attention shall be paid to the order.

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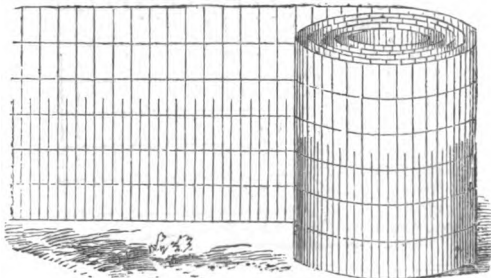
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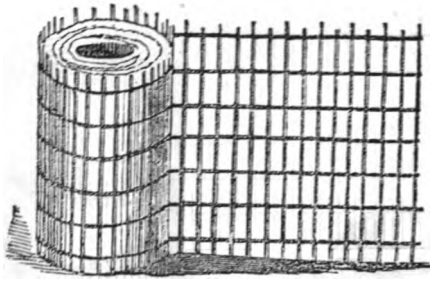
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WANTED a pair of Grey or Speckled DORKINGS, pure bred, silver hackle, and of good weight, the cock about 10 lbs., hen about 8 lbs., either together or separate, for which a fair price would be given.—Address H. Y., Post-office, Hereford.

WEST KENT ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF POULTRY, &c., and Miscellaneous Flower Show (open to all England), under most distinguished patronage, will take place in the Market Field, FARNINGHAM, on Tuesday, (private view), June 20th, 1854, and following day. Subscription tickets of admission (available on both days), 5s. each. Lists of Prizes and Certificates of Entry for Poultry, &c., are now ready, and may be had on application, post-paid, to the Secretary, B. THOMAS. For Schedules of Prizes for Flowers, &c., apply to Mr. ALFRED LOCKYER, Hon. Sec., Farningham. The Entries will close on the 5th of June.

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To be had in any quantity at **GEORGE EATON & Co.'s** Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory, 6 and 7, Crooked-lane, London.

FOR SALE, very cheap, in consequence of the owner going abroad, three pair of Ptarmigans, one year old, £4 the pair; and about thirty chickens, five to eight weeks old, at 10s. each. A few eggs at 1s. each. A Dorking Cock and three Hens, second prize, Dorchester and Surrey Gardens, £3; and Chickens bred from them, including four Pullets, hatched February 5th, 10s. each.—Apply, enclosing a stamp, to **F. Bernal, Esq.,** Fareham, Hants.

SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY-HOUSE, £4, consisting of house 4 feet square and 6 feet high, and roofed run for fowls 9 feet by 4 feet. Drawings of several sent free. The above are portable, and can be taken down or put up by any ordinary labourer. Wire work from 6 to 15 inches wide, 6½d. per square yard, to enclose poultry, &c.—**R. RICHARDSON, 21, Tonbridge-place, New-road, near King's-cross. N.B.** Maker of garden summer-houses, and iron and wood houses for emigrants; drawings of 21 Emigrants' houses, and 28 Summer-houses, sent free.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 18.]

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

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Poultry Shows.

Devon and Cornwall Poultry Society, June 27th and 28th. Secretaries, Mr. W. Hunt, Public Library, Plymouth, and C. Hancock, Esq., Emma-place, Stonehouse. Entries are closed.

Bideford Poultry Show. First Meeting, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 27th and 28th. Secretary, John Jones, Esq.

Harrogate First Exhibition, Wednesday and Thursday, the 5th and 6th of July, in the Royal Cheltenham Grounds, Low Harrogate. Secretary, Mr. James Pullan, Promenade-square. Entries close, Wednesday, June 21st.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries are closed.

Great Yarmouth and Eastern Counties. With-drawn.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland's Show, at Armagh, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 9th and 10th of August. Secretary, Thomas Harkness, Esq., Upper Sackville-street, Dublin. Entries close July 19th.

Cleveland Agricultural Society's Show, including Poultry, Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th of August. Secretary, Mr. Thomas Rarrington. Entries close Saturday, August 5th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Yeovil, September 20th. Secretary, John Clyde, Esq.

Daventry Exhibition, in connexion with the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society (limited to the county), September 21st. Secretaries, Messrs. Freeman & Sons, Northampton.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M'C. Swarbreck, Esq. Entries close September 5th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddi-

man, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. The Schedule not quite ready.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. Wm. Thurnall, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st. The Schedule will be ready June 16th.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 28th.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

THE Report of the Managers of the American National Poultry Society (whose exhibition occurred last February) has just been published in New York. Although the Show took place under some disadvantages, it was successful beyond the expectation of its projectors.

"Just at the time," says the Report, "when it became necessary that the final arrangements for the exhibition should be completed, that magnificent structure, the Metropolitan Hall, fell a prey to the de-

vouring element, fire, and the executive committee were at a loss to know where to look for a place suited to the holding of the exhibition. The comparative destitution of the city of all buildings of a character calculated to accommodate the crowds of visitors that may ever be expected to flock to any exhibition suited to the entertainment of the masses, would probably have compelled them to abandon the exhibition entirely, had not Mr. Barnum promptly yielded to their solicitations, and placed the American Museum building at their disposal. An arrangement was soon entered into with Mr. B., whereby he agreed to pay all the expenses of the show, the outlay for feed, care, &c., as well as that for advertising, and the whole amount for premiums, some 500 dollars, and take as an equivalent the receipts from visitors, giving them, in addition to a look at the poultry, a free pass to the innumerable attractions of the Museum. The managers are glad to announce that the operation did not prove disadvantageous to Mr. B."

Notwithstanding that the notice given to breeders and fanciers was short, and the weather so bad as to keep back both fowls and visitors in great numbers, the collection was so large that the managers found it necessary at the meeting "to suggest that, at the future exhibitions of the Society, no exhibitor be allowed to enter more than one coop of any variety of fowls, unless differing in age or feather; for, while they would not object to exhibitors disposing of their stock at the fairs of the Society, they wish to discourage the prostitution of the exhibition-room to the pur-

poses of a common market-place, to which end the entry of a number of coops of one variety is decidedly conducive."

Some interesting discussion took place on poultry nomenclature, which, if followed up, cannot but lead to useful results. Some persons present suggested that fowls of all the large Asiatic breeds should go by the name of Shanghaes; but a communication, which was read, from Dr. G. W. Lawrence, proposed the adoption of the name *Gallus Giganteus*, and that they should be further divided according to colour. Whether this generalization was intended to include Malays was not specified. A proposal was submitted to the meeting, "that all full-crested fowls should be known by the name of Polands."

It appears evident from the Report, that at this exhibition a much larger number of judges was employed than is usual at our poultry shows; four distinct classes of judges are named as having officiated at New York, each class apparently consisting of many persons. The advantage of a sufficient number of judges is unquestionable; the disadvantages are, the difficulty of finding so many with sufficient knowledge who are not themselves exhibitors, and the expense to the poultry shows. If any of our numerous American correspondents will kindly inform us, and, through our pages, their British fellow-amateurs, how these difficulties are got over with them, we shall be very much obliged.

Schedule of the Harrogate Show.

As we could not find space for the insertion of this schedule before the day on which

the entries closed, we will only give the leading particulars. Three prizes are offered for each of the usual classes, of 15s., 10s., and 5s., respectively, and 7s. 6d. for a pen of four chickens of each kind. The Brahma Pootra fowls appear to be favourites in the district, as they rank only second in the schedule, being placed before the Dorking and Cochin China classes. The classes are much the same as those at most shows, with the addition of Eider ducks, rabbits, and guinea-pigs.

The names of all the gentlemen of the committee are published in the schedule.

Five per cent. only will be deducted from the sales.

12. The Poultry must be in the Show-yard on Wednesday, the 5th of July, at Eight o'clock, a.m. The baskets to be addressed to "Mr. JAMES PULLAN, Cheltenham Grounds, Harrogate," the carriage in all cases being previously paid by the Exhibitor.

13. Subscribers of 5s. per annum will be entitled to exhibit poultry; no subscriber can enter more than two pens in any one class, or more than three pens in the whole for 5s., but two additional pens may be exhibited for every additional 5s.

14. Non-subscribers, 1s. each entry. Subscribers of 5s. per annum will be entitled to one card of admission to the private view, on Wednesday the 5th July, and the following day; and an additional card for every 5s. Subscribers admitted to the private view on Wednesday, at One o'clock, Non-subscribers on the payment of 2s. 6d.; and on Thursday at Nine o'clock, Non-subscribers 1s. each.

15. Dogs, sticks, and umbrellas will not be allowed in the exhibition.

16. The prizes will be paid in the committee-room "George Hotel."

Schedule of the Daventry Show.

THE Daventry Show, which will be held on the 21st of September, is limited to the county of Northampton.

Members of the Society exhibit free; any person, living in the county, may exhibit on payment of 2s. 6d. for each pen.

Members will have the privilege of nominating one cottager to exhibit.

The fowls must all be in the Show Yard by Eight o'clock in the morning.

In addition to the foregoing Prize List, there will be Sweepstakes in the different Classes, and any person wishing to enter, can see the list at Messrs. FREEMAN and SON'S, Market-square, Northampton, who will also give any information that may be required.

PRIZE LIST.

The pens are to contain a cock and two hens, both fowls and chickens.

| Class. | 1st. | 2nd. |
|---|------|------|
| 1. COLOURED DORKING FOWLS (any age) | 15s. | 10s. |
| 2. Ditto Ditto (chickens) | 15s. | 10s. |
| 3. WHITE DORKING (any age) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 4. COCHIN CHINA (any age) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 5. Ditto Ditto (chickens) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 6. GAME FOWL | 10s. | 5s. |
| 7. Ditto Ditto (chickens) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 8. GOLDEN HAMBURG (any age) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 9. SILVER HAMBURG (any age) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 10. ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED (any age) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 11. MIXED BREED best suited for a Farm. | 10s. | 5s. |

In Class 2, "for Coloured Dorking chickens," a third prize of 5s. is added.

Schedule of the Bedfordshire Show.

The Bedfordshire second annual exhibition will take place in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October 31st, and November 1st and 2nd. The classes which are given make no distinction of age; there are no classes expressly for chickens.

PRIZE LIST.

Each pen is to contain Cock and two Hens.

| Class. | 1st. | 2nd. |
|---|------|------|
| 1. SPANISH | £1. | 10s. |
| 2. DORKING (White) | £1. | 10s. |
| 3. DORKING (Coloured) | £1. | 10s. |
| 4. COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon and Buff) | £1. | 10s. |
| 5. COCHIN CHINA (Brown and Partridge Feathered) | £1. | 10s. |
| 6. COCHIN CHINA (White) | £1. | 10s. |
| 7. BRAHMA POOTRA | £1. | 10s. |
| 8. MALAY | £1. | 10s. |
| 9. GAME (Black-breasted and other Reds) | £1. | 10s. |
| 10. GAME (White and Piles) | £1. | 10s. |
| 11. GAME (other varieties) | £1. | 10s. |
| 12. POLAND (Golden) | £1. | 10s. |
| 13. POLAND (Silver) | £1. | 10s. |
| 14. POLAND (Any other variety or colour) | £1. | 10s. |
| 15. HAMBURG (Golden-pencilled) | £1. | 10s. |
| 16. HAMBURG (Silver-pencilled) | £1. | 10s. |
| 17. HAMBURG (Golden-spangled) | £1. | 10s. |
| 18. HAMBURG (Silver-spangled) | £1. | 10s. |
| 19. BANTAMS (Gold-laced) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 20. BANTAMS (Silver-laced) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 21. BANTAMS (Black) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 22. BANTAMS (White) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 23. BANTAMS (Any other variety or colour) | 10s. | 5s. |
| 24. For any other distinct breed of poultry | £1. | 10s. |

| Class. | 1st. | 2nd. |
|--|------|------|
| 25. MIXED BREEDS (the Cross to be stated) | 15s. | 10s. |
| 26. DUCKS (White Aylesbury), Drake and two Ducks | £1. | 10s. |
| 27. DUCKS (Rouen) | £1. | 10s. |
| 28. DUCKS (any other variety) | £1. | 10s. |
| 29. GEESE, Gander and two Geese | £1. | 10s. |
| 30. TURKEYS, Cock and two Hens | £1. | 10s. |

EXTRACTS FROM THE REGULATIONS.

The entries close on the 16th October.

The poultry to be in the place of exhibition on the 30th October, and the baskets addressed to the "Secretaries, Corn Exchange, Bedford;" the carriage in all cases being previously paid by the exhibitor.

Subscribers of 10s. 6d. per annum will be entitled to two tickets of admission to the private view; and subscribers to a larger amount to tickets in the same proportion; every subscriber will be entitled to free admission during the other days of the exhibition.

Exhibitors to pay 3s. per pen for fowls, and 4s. per pen for geese and turkeys.

Subscribers will have the privilege of nominating one cottager to exhibit; the charge for pens to such nominee will be reduced one-half.

The committee will superintend the receiving, feeding, and penning the specimens, and will take proper care of them during the time they are in their possession, but will not make themselves responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.

Exhibitors will not under any pretence be allowed to enter the place of exhibition until after the prizes have been awarded.

With all letters requiring a reply, a postage-stamp must be sent, and all parties requiring a prize list and certificates of entry, to be transmitted by post, must enclose two postage stamps.

There will be a private view at one o'clock, on Tuesday, October 31st, after the prizes have been awarded. Charge for admission to non-subscribers, 2s. 6d.: and on Wednesday and Thursday, 1s. each.

Subscriptions may be paid to either of the secretaries, or to Mr. THOMPSON, Bookseller, High-street, Bedford.

WM. THURNALL,
J. T. R. ALLEN,
CHAS. HOWARD, } Honorary Secretaries.

On the Game Fowl.

BY "COCKSPUR."

ALLOW me first, Mr. Editor, to thank you for the excellent fare you have given us in your "Chronicle," and to wish you a long and prosperous existence. It has been said that the "poultry mania" would soon die away. The "mania," Sir, may die away, but when the love of simple and pleasing pursuits has been once engendered, the legitimate indulgence in these does not so soon "die away" as may be by some imagined. Objects of nature, whether they be flowers, birds, or insects, when once they have drawn our attention towards them, generally retain it for years. But why, Sir, should it be wished by any one, that the love of poultry should die away? It is a pursuit calculated to give useful and profitable results, both in a money point of view and in a personal one; it is a pursuit in which father, wife, and children, can all participate; it does not lead a father from his family, and to ladies who have not the ties of a household to engage them, it offers an interesting occupation, while to those who have such duties, it affords a pleasing recreation.

In the hope, Sir, that I may add some not uninteresting reminiscences of the game cock, his breeding, his qualities, and his past glories, I have ventured to forward you these memorials of an age gone by; believing at the same time that they may show us what ought to be our criterion in giving judgment on a game fowl, as well as indicate how we ought to proceed in our breeding of others.

The days have now gone by, or nearly so, when the study of producing a good game cock—with all the requisite qualities for a successful competitor in the pit—was deemed a necessary qualification for a sporting gentleman. It so happened that my early life was spent amongst gentlemen who had received an education in such a school, and who imparted to me their love of these birds, and some of their experience

in producing them, without, however, the great desire of seeing their prowess tested by deadly combat.

It was not uncommon then, in the district in which I lived, for county to fight against county,—that is, certain gentlemen in one county to compete against certain gentlemen in another county,—in what was termed a long main. These long mains continued for a week, at the rate of about ten or twelve battles each day, for a stake varying from ten to twenty pounds a battle, and from one hundred to five hundred the main. These took place independent of the four, eight, or sixteen cock mains, that prevailed during the season, when the birds were fresh or in good feather. The game cock might then be said to have been in his greatest perfection; for everything was done that care, attention, and science, could prompt, to produce birds of the greatest courage, activity, and vigour.

I have often felt that the importance of good crossing, and the evils of breeding in and in, were known to the old cock-fighters, and carefully studied long before they became appreciated by the breeders of cattle. Nor can I help thinking, but that some of our earliest and best breeders of short-horns took a few hints from their cock-breeding friends, and incorporated these into their beef and mutton. For some years past the game cock has become rather a scarce bird throughout England; at least such as are purely bred and exhibiting the best points of this fowl. Certainly more than half of these that are exhibited at our poultry shows give proofs, unmistakable to "an accustomed eye," of the Malay strain, or "Indian blood," equally base alloys to our true English gladiator. There are of course great exceptions to this; amongst which may be placed the celebrated "Derby" breed, one sufficiently known to require no further notice here.

Few persons who have not themselves been engaged in it know how difficult a thing it is to keep up all the perfections

required in the game cock. As has been before remarked, it requires several qualities to be obtained to produce a bird that will be a successful combatant in the pit. He must have high and never-failing courage, great activity, and be of such a build as to insure the utmost strength with the least lumber, as each bird is matched by weight; and all these results are to be obtained from judicious breeding.

It is surprising what different qualities are displayed in the pit by different birds. Some showing the most indomitable courage, but being slow in their fighting; others exhibiting wonderful activity, but when hard pressed, showing the "white feather;" while others possess such strength of beak and ferocity of disposition, that when once they get a hold of their opponent, they retain it with a bull-dog tenacity.

The gentleman from whose experience I am now more particularly speaking, used to say, he could tell each bird of any particular cross by his mode of fighting. He used to give each of his crosses a name, by which he designated all the cocks of that strain. He had the "Port-Royals" named after the celebrated scholastics of that place. These nearly always expired in the pit, when vanquished, with a crow; however hard beaten, they crowed to the last,—the death-rattle with them was still the note of defiance. They were rich black reds, with yellow legs, and won their master hundreds of pounds. Another tribe was the "Bonapartes," celebrated for the tenacity of their hold and their rapid fighting. A battle with them never lasted longer than a few minutes. If their enemy did not soon conquer them, they never left off "hitting" him until he was vanquished. They were gingers, and rather tall birds, fine close feather, and which was so hard, that the wings when moved rattled like whalebone.

It may be worth observing, that some have thought a want of true bottom occurs oftener amongst rapid fighters than in those of a contrary character, though it cannot be said that the tamest courage is not com-

patible with the highest "mettle." It may be gathered from these facts, that any race, however good originally, if bred down from father to son, mother to daughter, will deteriorate, not only losing their physical development, but also their energy and courage. I may here mention some of the rules which were considered important in crossing. Never breed two old birds together; this produces slowness of motion and looseness of feather. When you incorporate new blood, choose similarity of feather to the race you are breeding from. Put a stag to an old hen rather than an old cock to a young hen; it is somewhat singular, but we believe true, that the produce of the latter do not equal those of the former. Such certainly was the belief of my cock-fighting friends. You may put a mother to her son, and the progeny will be good; but do not cross again. The best blood crossed after this has a tendency "to run." The first cross, or that of mother and son, is one of the best crosses that can be made, and develops the best qualities of both sides of the house. Father and daughter will not answer equally well. Be more careful of your *female* side if possible than your male. "I have always bred my best cocks from the hen," was a saying I can remember as long as I can remember anything, as being an axiom with him from whose experience I have learned my chief cock-breeding knowledge. He believed this principle to hold good from the human race downwards, an opinion in which he is not singular.

(To be continued.)

On Turkey Breeding.

BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR.

EVERY turkey breeder is not aware of it, but it is a fact, that of either sex, one old turkey is worth two yearlings for rearing young ones. A turkey does not arrive at its full growth and maturity till the next fall after two years old, and of conse-

quence, to its full strength and vigour for breeding in the best possible manner. The continual repetition of keeping young gobblers and pullets for breeding, as some people do, reduces the size of their young until they arrive at scarcely half the weight they should do. Besides this, the young of these immature birds are exceedingly tender, and much more difficult to raise than those of old birds. We have tried this thing thoroughly, and are convinced of the difference. Were we to choose our birds for the best breeding, both cocks and hens should not be less than three years old, and then the cock should be from a different stock from the hens. We think turkeys bear breeding from close affinities less successfully than any other fowl—at least we have found it so—and we would never breed a cock to hens which were closely related if it could be helped.

Another thing, we prefer to let every hen sit upon her own eggs, and with the first laying of the season. She hatches them better than a barn-door hen, and is the most natural and satisfactory mother. We have most repeatedly set the first laying of eggs under the common hen, and turned the turkey out for a second clutch of eggs, on which she sat herself. But these second chickens are apt to be weaker than the first, and so late as not to obtain a fair growth before cold weather sets in,—in fact, not worth half price. The turkey is a "natural" bird in all its habits, domesticated from a wild state, and yet retaining the constitutional propensities of its original race; therefore the young should be reared in their proper season, when the varieties of food they are partial to are the most abundant. Every young turkey should be out of the shell by the middle of June; at the latest, which gives them full time to get up to good size by "Thanksgiving," and fat and juicy by Christmas.

IN Pennant's time, the feathers from Somersetshire were esteemed the best; those from Ireland the worst.—*Martin*.

Farm-Yard Poultry.

NO. II.

A NOTE at page 331 of the "Poultry Chronicle" furnishes important information to every farmer or other poultry keeper: 15,269,601 eggs *imported from abroad* were taken for home consumption in the United Kingdom during the *month* ending 5th May, 1854. This single item will be sufficient to enable persons (unaccustomed to the consideration of the vast amount of poultry and eggs annually imported) to appreciate the question of rearing poultry in the United Kingdom, and supplying our markets from home instead of foreign produce.

As before stated, it must be admitted that for general and economical poultry breeding, no class has such great advantages as the occupiers of our farms; and while it is a fact that in many inferior and confined poultry-yards, even in cities, excellent fowls are now annually bred to a considerable extent, the opportunities open to the farmer are neglected, and a very large amount of individual gain is thrown away.

There are few counties, now, which do not possess a Poultry Association, established with a view of "encouraging and improving the breed of fowls;" and it will be a duty of the members of the committee of such societies to endeavour, each in his individual locality, to forward the objects of the association in the improvement of the general poultry-yards around them, as well as in the encouragement of a well-meant rivalry amongst amateurs.

Many members of the committees are (or ought to be) landlords, and a little judicious advice from an *experienced* landlord, with a good example, is rarely lost upon an improving tenant. But the landlord has other duties to perform than giving advice gratis; it is his duty to see that the farm buildings on his estate are suited to the requirements of his farms,

and to point out, and, so far as it is his province, remedy, those defects which from time to time appear in the smallest as in the largest matters connected with the well-being of his tenantry.

The chief points relating to this branch of farm-yard economy to which his attention should be turned are, the house for the fowls, and the supply of water: as to the first, it is not necessary that the erection should be expensive,—four sides and a roof are all that is required; the sides may be of brick or wood, as found most convenient; the roof, if slated or tiled, should be close boarded, that the heat may not penetrate. Nests are so much a matter of opinion, that this is a point which may be advantageously left to the farmer's wife, who, if she knows no better, may try bottomless wooden boxes, placed side by side on the ground, the one side of each box which is placed next the other being made of such a height as to prevent the hens annoying one another while laying; the whole to be covered, for cleanliness, with a slanting board, placed at such a height that each box may be removed to clean out the nest. The floor of the house should be of any material easily scraped clean; quick lime and coal ashes mixed and put on hot bind well, and if coated with tar when dry will be found to stand well; bricks are probably better than any other material.

The perches should be of a moderate size; a fir pole, three or four inches in diameter, cut in half, is recommended by a very high authority. These perches should be placed so far apart that fowls on one cannot reach the other, and none should be placed higher than two feet from the ground, for the reasons assigned before (p. 359). Although the perches should be placed low, it does not follow that the house should be a low one; on the contrary, increased height allows impure air to rise to the upper portion, and permits ventilation without inconveniencing the birds by a draught of air being made on a level with their roosting-places. In erect-

ing a poultry-house, the more simple and convenient arrangement would be, to have the laying compartment separate from that for roosting; but as much of detail must necessarily be left to the individual and locality, it will be needless to enter at further length on the requirements of the house itself.

As to the second point,—the supply of water,—a more serious consideration presents itself, and one not affecting merely the poultry on a farm, but all other live stock. It is a fact, that on almost all unimproved homesteads the yard pond forms the sole watering-place for all the live stock: nothing can be more disgusting than this yard pond, filled by the soak of the land and the drainage of the manure, with every impurity conducted into it; it becomes, in summer especially, a pestilential reservoir, and its exhalations can but have a prejudicial effect on the health of those living in its vicinity, while the fact of live stock being compelled to drink from it is a reproach alike to the landlord and the tenant.

The fact, and it is one, that live stock have done so with comparative impunity for years, is no argument for continuing an evil which must be admitted, and none can say that the loss of many a valuable animal, and the ill health of many a member of the farmer's family, could not be traced to drinking the water, or inhaling the atmosphere of the putrid pond.

Of what possible use is this pond in the yard?—None. As every farm-house should have pure water for drinking purposes, nothing would be easier than that a trough should be so placed that a supply of water could be easily furnished from the pump to the live stock. And when the poultry feeder finds that his stock depends for water on his own labours, he will soon devise some plan to save unnecessary trouble. Should it be necessary to use pans for containing water, those that are shallow and glazed inside, as a dairy pan, set in the ground and raised about six inches by an incline, will be found to answer well.

Let the yard pond be filled in, and its space be occupied by more useful material, and have the pond for the ducks and geese (of which more hereafter) in such a situation that it may be kept from impure drainage.

In a matter of this character it would be unjust to omit mentioning the very great interest that many ladies have taken in encouraging the successful breeding of poultry; to those who are interested in land, or rural parishes, there could be no more agreeable feeling than that they had been instrumental in advancing, in their spheres, the interests of their tenantry or parishioners. Cottagers especially might be their care, and both landholders and tenants should feel it their duty to bear in mind—

That the consumption of eggs and fowls in the United Kingdom is of great amount.

That this amount could be, and should be, entirely produced in the United Kingdom.

That to produce it, attention and care are alone required.

W. S.

On the Gizzard, and the Food and Condiments for Fowls.

SIR,—It is generally believed that poultry require to be supplied with gravel, and known that they swallow small stones; may I ask of you, or some one of your correspondents, to inform me of any publication which explains of what use these stones are? The fowl cannot digest them, indeed they are found entire in the gizzard when a fowl is killed. Your correspondent "Cymon" surely does not wish it to be understood, that the gizzard grinds the food as a mill does, when he quotes, in page 148, "the mill-like motion."

How then do the stones act? My impression is, that they irritate or excite the gizzard, and cause it to secrete a juice which dissolves the food taken by a fowl. In the same way, birds which live on fish have their gizzards so excited by the bones they swallow, as to give out a juice or

acid which dissolves the bones. As I reside in a district of country where gravel is scarce, I wish to be informed if I should give a large proportion of hard food to my poultry, to make up in some degree for the deficiency of gravel.

I have given groats (oats without the husk) this season with success; they are easily swallowed by chickens, and are a warming, nourishing, wholesome food, giving some exercise to the gizzard. The oat with the husk is too large for chickens, and the husk has little or no nourishment for grown fowls; indeed, when the crow gathers oats, it vomits the husk in small balls, after having separated it from the kernel: you are no doubt aware of this, but if wished, I can send a specimen.

Wheat is in general too expensive to be given to poultry, and barley is inferior to groats, having a larger proportion of starch, which we know requires a greater heat than that of the stomach to render it soluble, therefore it should be boiled for food, and then must be classed with soft food, and does not act sufficiently on the gizzard; the same remarks are applicable to rice, which has also a large proportion of starch.

Your correspondent "T. P.," page 336, gives a bill of fare for young chickens; I think his bill contains too much barley, as it does not form so much flesh, bone, and feathers, as other seeds; he omits milk, curd, and maggots, the latter being, I consider, the sheet anchor of chicken-rearers; he also omits condiments, viz., pepper, cresses, onions, ale, sugar, lettuce, linseed, hemp-seed, phosphate of lime, chalk, &c. If chickens are hatched in cold weather (or sooner than they would have been in a wild, natural state), or if hens are expected to lay more eggs than they would have done in an undomesticated state, they must have more than normal food, viz., condiments. W. S.

P.S.—Would small homeopathic doses of Spanish flies, or arbor vitæ, so act on the ovary of a hen in good condition, as to induce her to lay eggs out of her usual season?

Rose-Combed Dorkings.

A LOVER, a breeder, sometimes a judge, and perhaps an intended exhibitor of Dorkings, has a complaint.

If a soldier is suffocated by his stock, if peripatetic orchestral organ frighten a horse, if coals rise in price, if a school-master over-flog a boy, or if scavengers neglect their duty, one of the enlightened public flies to "The Times." Now, what that paper is to the public on general matters, you are to those who are interested in poultry.

Their name is Legion.

It has often been matter of surprise to me, that competent persons are found to act as judges at poultry shows. The very little experience I have had has confirmed me in the opinion, the post offers little pleasure, *no profit*, and numberless annoyances. I would not then find fault with them, and I am the more disposed to be lenient, because I sometimes "don the ermine" myself.

But as Bumble eloquently and savingly observes, "Beadles are but men, Mrs. Corney;" I therefore approach them with all respect, to enter my protest against the unmerited neglect, I had almost said contempt, thrown upon the Rose-combed Dorkings at the shows. Some people have been bold enough to say they are not pure. These people are wrong. It is capable of proof, even now, that two of the prize pens at Birmingham, 1852, when there were distinct classes for combs, were from the same birds, and yet carried two prizes, one for single, the other for double combs. My impression is, and I am open to proof, that the rose or double-combed birds will in most instances be found the largest. The same parents constantly throw both, and they are therefore entitled to the same favour at the hands of those with whom rests honour or insignificance.

SURREY.

The Sebright;

alias

THE GOLD AND SILVER LACED BANTAM.

A FEW remarks may not be uninteresting to the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle" upon this beautiful bird. It is one whose value and real perfectness is scarcely yet known to the public. I will draw my descriptions as nearly as I can from my own recollections, and also from gleanings from a friend of mine—Mr. Hobbs—who was with the late Sir John Sebright, Bart. (of this neighbourhood) upwards of forty-five years, and who was very assiduous in assisting him in all his perfections.

Sir John was liked by his tenants, beloved by the poor, and was to all very charitable: in evidence of which we have alms-houses and institutions, founded by him, for charitable purposes. Notwithstanding all this, he was a determined man—one of the old baronial school. In whatever he determined to do he seldom or never failed—and if he did, it was not for want of perseverance. I am informed that many years back his whole attention was devoted entirely to the improvement of sheep. I have myself seen in his park Spanish and South-downs together (not white-faced Spanish); I have no doubt there are many farmers at the present day who remember his celebrity for judgment in sheep. At one time he attempted to obtain a tortoise-shell tom-cat, but in that he failed; they always turned out of the feminine kind, though he strictly kept to the tabby and sandy. At another time, for his amusement, he had a beautiful black dog (the character and likeness of which, painted by Charles Hamilton, Esq. now hangs up at Beechwood Hall); he taught him many conjuring and amusing tricks at cards: poor animal! it was his master's will that they should die together. I must not omit his great care and encouragement of the pigeon. He was a very great fancier, and I am given to understand that he was the first importer of the

Archangel. I remember he had two sorts,—copper-coloured, black wings, and black, copper-coloured wings: however, I leave that to "B. P. B.," Mr. Eaton, and others; your horticultural friends can, I dare say, give you a better account of the Beechwood or Sebright melon than I, as I fear I should trouble you with any further comments not relative to that most beautiful of birds the Sebright Bantam.

The Cochin and Dorking for weight and quietness—the Sebright for haughty carriage and diminutive beauty.

I remember a friend of mine having lost the prize at the "Sebright private show" only by weight; the little hen, five minutes after she was weighed, laid an egg,—had she laid five or six minutes sooner, it would have obtained the £10 prize.

Well, Mr. Editor, my right-hand friend and I will now begin and give you a brief narrative of what happened while he was with the late Sir J. Sebright. I need not tell you how to judge upon a Bantam, or its qualities, as most of your readers know. The last object Sir John aimed at was to improve the Bantam to a clear, blue-legged, pencilled bird, with proud, erect carriage. To effect this, he, about forty-five years ago, obtained a buff-coloured Bantam hen, at Norwich; she was very small indeed, with clear slate-coloured legs; on the same journey he purchased a cockerel, rather inclining to red in colour, destitute of sickle feathers, with a hen-like hackle, and also (at Watford) a small hen, resembling a golden Hamburg. After this, by drafting for five or six years he gained the very pencilled-feather he so anxiously sought after, by in and in breeding for about twenty years. He afterwards had a white cockerel from the Zoological Gardens, by which he made his silvers.

If any one were to take a trip to Boxmoor, or Markyate-street, in the month of August, and stroll around the present Sir Thomas Sebright's park or lodges (before he drafts his birds in September and October), and were to see his magnificent

birds—the most perfect of the class in England—he would not regret the day's journey. Sir Thomas is very liberal, and would not, I believe, object to any person looking round his walks who might apply to Mr. Spary.

Mr. Editor, I hope you will excuse all imperfections in my notes, and that your correspondent will continue his correspondence respecting the reformation of poultry shows.
H. F.

Report of West Kent Show.

THE task of chronicling the events of the day in relation to any particular pursuit is not always a pleasant one. It is necessary, above all, to be truthful, and this often involves the necessity of recording opinions which the writer would rather leave unknown, but which must, of necessity, appear in a faithful record. There are, however, some reports where all is "*couleur de rose*," and we are happy to have to do with such a one now.

The second annual exhibition of poultry of the West Kent Association was held in the market-field, Farningham, on Tuesday and Wednesday last, the 20th and 21st June. Most persons have heard of this lovely spot, a garden even in the "garden of England." The field in which the show was held is in a valley sheltered on every side by surrounding hills, and bordered by a stream in which the "speckled trout" might be seen disporting in the sunshine. The bridge by which the exhibition was reached was tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens, flags were flying, and the enlivening strains of the band of the Royal Artillery proved to the visitors, as they came in, that the good "men of Kent" were not neglecting anything to add to their enjoyment, or to give them hearty welcome.

As this Society does not publish a prize list, we will give the names of the principal prize-takers, commenting on such classes as demand especial notice as we go on.

There were seven classes of Cochins of various colours, and if we except the white, they were (especially the chickens) very meritorious, and would seem to promise, that breeders in 1854 will remove the reproach of 1853.

Class 1.—Prize: T. Rider, Esq., Broughton Park, Staplehurst.

Class 1.*—Prize: Parkin Jones, Fulham.

Class 2.—Prize: William Dray, Farningham.

Class 2.*—Prize: Thomas Bridges, Croydon.

Class 4.—1st Prize: W. R. Morris, Deptford.—2nd prize: T. Rider, Esq., Staplehurst.

That this class was excellent, may be gained from the fact that the following well-known names were among the unsuccessfuls:—Rawson, Steggall, Fairlie, and Bryan.

In coloured Dorkings, Mrs. Colonel Austen, of Seven Oaks, exhibited for a cottager, and, we are glad to say, took first prize. Another was taken by Mr. Breavington, of Hounslow.

The white Dorkings were far above the average, and the prize was awarded to Mr. J. Clift, of Dorking.

There was a close competition for the best pen of Dorking chickens of any colour, and here Mr. T. Rider was again conqueror, with his coloured birds, but hard pressed by Mr. Clift, with white. All the birds exhibited were good.

In the different Spanish classes, one first prize was taken by Mr. William Dray; two first prizes by Mr. Norman, of Bull's Fields, Plumstead; and a second by Mr. Wood, of Down.

Those in the different classes of Hamburgs were awarded to Messrs. Briggs, of Seven Oaks, Page, of Sutton-at-Hone, Bidwell, of Guildford, Fairhead, of Cressing, and Rawson, of The Hurst, Walton-on-Thames.

The first honours in Polands were carried off by Messrs. Parkin Jones, of Fulham (2), Baker, of London, Dray, of

Farningham; the second, by Mr. Rawson, of The Hurst. None of these call for any particular notice, but more must be said of the next class, which competed for a gold medal, offered for the best pen of chickens of the breed most valuable for the table. This was awarded to a very superior pen of Dorking chickens, the property of Mr. T. Rider, of Staplehurst. A pen of Cochins, the property of Mr. Russell, sen., of Horton Kirby, was unusually meritorious; and had not the clause been introduced which spoke of their merits as fowls for the table, it is at least doubtful whether they would not have successfully disputed the gold medal. The judge pronounced the whole class "most highly meritorious." The Game fowls were badly matched; the prize was taken by Mr. Fairhead, of Cressing.

The first prize for Sebright Bantams was taken by Mr. Beard, of Darenth; the second by Mr. John Clinton, Maidstone.

The black Bantams were very good; both prizes were taken by William and Thomas Dray, Farningham.

The Aylesbury ducks were excellent; Mr. Breavington took two prizes, and Mr. Rawson, one. The prize for Rouen ducks was withheld, and those for any other variety were given, first, to the Rev. Mr. Kittoe, for Buenos Ayrean; the second, to Mr. Dray, for wild. A third class, for ducklings hatched since Christmas, brought laurels to a pen belonging to Mr. Fremlin, of Hollingbourne.

The prize for geese went to Mr. Rawson, of The Hurst. Seven pens, each containing six birds, were entered for the gosling class. They were unusually good, and this will be readily understood when we say the victors, belonging to Mr. Gray, weighed in average condition 75lbs., and were successful against such competitors as Messrs. Fairlie, Rawson, and Breavington.

In the various class, first prizes were given to Mr. Parkin Jones, for six Brahma Pootra chickens; to Mr. Camroux, for a remarkably good Dorking cock; and to

Mr. Dray, for five Spanish cocks; a second to the same gentleman, for a pen of Spangled Poland. Miss Watts, of Monk Barns, Hampstead, sent some curious Turkish fowls, which, we think, are likely to become favourites when better known.

Nearly three hundred pens entered the lists.

It was a well-conducted, and we had almost said, a happy meeting. Every one and everything wore an air of enjoyment. A flower show of no ordinary merit, together with an exhibition of fruit, added their attractions, and the whole was evidently appreciated by the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood, and by the numerous other visitors. The best thanks of all are due to Messrs. Dray, and James Russell, sen., who, by their popularity, would seem to be the "men of Ross" of the place, for their untiring exertions and constant endeavours to please.

For ourselves, when the day drew to a close, we reluctantly sought the railway station, and while we thought of the sweet spot, the trout-stream, and the enjoyments of the day, we vowed, all things permitting,

"When there's a show at Farningham,
We will be there to see."

Messrs. Andrews and Baily were appointed judges; but in the unavoidable absence of the latter, Mr. Andrews acted alone, to the satisfaction of all.

The Poultry Exhibition at Taunton.

THE town of Taunton, Somersetshire, was well filled on the 21st and 22nd inst., by parties anxious to witness the competition between some of the most practised poultry-breeders and exhibitors in the United Kingdom. Perhaps never has so superior a collection been brought together, the favoured locality for poultry causing the competition to be very severe.

The natural beauties of the surrounding scenery, and the still more apt character of the spot chosen for the exhibition com-

bined, caused the Vivary Park to be filled to overflowing. The results were highly successful; and we look forward to future years as bringing round one of the most popular poultry meetings in the western counties. The careful arrangement for the welfare and comfort of the poultry by the managing committee, are worthy of general adoption; and were such always the case, the complaints now so frequent, of fowls "never being well after they return from such and such a show," would be very few and far between.

All the fashion of the surrounding neighbourhood supported the brilliancy of the scene (after the flying showers of the morning had ceased), and each arriving train added its quota to the resident gentry. The band of the Yeomanry Cavalry enlivened the whole, and was very judiciously placed at a distance from the poultry, by which a somewhat universal objection was obviated, the fowls appearing "quite comfortable, and at home;" to procure which, the efforts of a committee should never relax, as it tends to inspire individual confidence, and gives a feeling of satisfaction to the casual observer, who uninterestedly looks only on externals, but who is ever ready to appreciate the appearance of quiet ease and comfort displayed by poultry in confinement when well attended.

In the Spanish class, the rivalry was excellent; the cock in the first prize pen being all that could be desired. It was bred by Mrs. Lydia Stowe, and sold at one of her sales when a chicken. It has now arrived at maturity, and was shown in the highest possible condition without the slightest tampering that by some at prior shows has been attempted, but which, with proper care, always defeats its end.

The hens in the second prize pen were very superior, and "claimed," to the infinite mortification of the owner, as soon as the sale-office opened. The "Commended" birds were shown in very indifferent condition, a serious bar (in close competition) to their owners' success. It is always well

for exhibitors to allow an occasional rest to poultry that are frequently brought into public competition, as they cannot bear constant excitement without serious deterioration. The principle of two different kinds of Dorkings competing in the same class is very objectionable, as it cannot produce fair competition. We may here too digress, to say the same of the Hamburgs and the Polands, the only objectionable feature we witnessed in the arrangements. In the Dorkings, the first prize fowls (coloured) were very good, the cock most especially; and the white ones, that claimed the second premium, were far better than usual. In the Cochins (the white ones excepted), a most manifest improvement was very apparent, for both the partridge and buff varieties were very closely approaching the really characteristic formation that enlisted public favour so strongly a few years since; an estimation that has given way, no doubt, from the utter negligence lately displayed by parties in breeding "only for colour." Here, however, we had colour and shape combined, traits of character that were constantly the theme of admiration among the amateurs present.

The Malays were superior and well-known birds; but shown in the worst possible condition. The Game were all we could hope for or expect (even from their oft successful proprietor), their condition faultless, and consequently they engaged no little share of public favour. The Hamburgs were, as a whole, excellent, and shown in good feather; here, however, the "old mistake," of sending four birds instead of three, "disqualified" a pen otherwise very meritorious. The Silver-spangled pen, exhibited by Dr. Rogers, of Honiton, were extraordinarily beautiful and perfect specimens, and obtained much public commendation. The Black Polands were not by any means first-rate; the Silver Polands were good, but mostly quite out of condition. In the extra class, the White Spanish were excellent; the Andalusian very good, and an extra

prize was awarded to a most commendable pen of Brahmans. The Bantams were numerous and good, the Turkeys were excellent, though, in the class, only two pens competed. In Ducks, the Rouens were decidedly inferior, the Aylesburys very good, and the prizes well struggled for.

In the pigeon classes, the competition was very far beyond the average,—indeed it proved itself one of the most interesting traits of the whole exhibition; the conviction of all the exhibitors was, that “never before had such a collection been seen in the western counties;” every class being well represented. In the extra stock, a pen of young black Spanish, from the same yard with the first prize birds, were well deserving of the “high commendation” they obtained.

The committee of the show secured the services, as judge, of Edward Hewitt, Esq., of Sparkbrook, Birmingham, a circumstance on which they were frequently congratulated, as though the competition was so severe, the committee had not one dissentient from his awards, even the disappointed concurring in the justice of the decisions. We give the prize list in full, and will only add our high commendation of the quiet, orderly, and systematic manner in which the fowls were repacked, and forwarded, *the evening the show closed*, to their various destinations,—without accident, injury, or mistake.

AWARD OF PRIZES.

JUDG. — Edward Hewitt, Esq., Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

HON. SEC. — Mr. John Kingsbury.

Class 1.—SPANISH.—1st prize: No. 4, Daniel Parsley, Rock Cottage, Stapleton-road, Bristol.—2nd prize: No. 7, John Marshall, Belmont, Taunton.—Commended: No. 5, William Plummer, Brislington, Bristol.

Class 2.—DORRING.—1st prize: No. 9, T. J. Bremridge, Fenrose Villa, Heavitree, Exeter.—2nd prize: No. 11, Rev. G. F. Hodson, Banwell, Somerset.

Class 3.—COCHIN CHINA.—BROWN, OR PARTRIDGE.—1st prize: No. 15, Rev. G. F. Hodson.—2nd prize: No. 16, Rev. G. F. Hodson.

Class 4.—COCHIN CHINA.—BUFF, LEMON, CINNAMON.—1st prize: No. 20, W. L. Channing, Heavitree, Exeter.—2nd prize: No. 22, W. L. Channing.

Class 5.—COCHIN CHINA.—WHITE OR BLACK.—1st prize: No. 34, F. J. Coleridge, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.—2nd prize: Withheld.

Class 6.—MALAY.—1st prize: No. 38, Charles Ballance, Taunton.—2nd prize: No. 42, Charles Ballance.—Commended: No. 39, Charles Ballance.

Class 7.—GAME.—BLACK, BRASSY-WINGED, BLACK BREAST, AND OTHER REDS.—1st prize: No. 44, J. R. Rodbard, Aldwick Court, Bristol.—2nd prize: No. 47, R. R. Sewell, Bridgwater.—Commended: No. 51, Henry Shield, Taunton.—Commended: No. 52, Henry Shield.

Class 8.—GAME.—WHITE, PILES, GRAYS, BLUES.—1st prize: No. 54, J. R. Rodbard.—2nd prize: No. 55, William Buncombe, Taunton.

Class 9.—HAMBURG.—GOLD OR SILVER-PENCILED.—1st prize: No. 61, Miss F. Pattison, Feniton Court, Honiton.—2nd prize: No. 70, T. Michelmore, jun., Berry, Totnes.

Class 10.—HAMBURG.—GOLD OR SILVER-SPANGLED.—1st prize: No. 72, Dr. Rogers, Honiton.—2nd prize: No. 78, Walter Hugo, Albert Villa, Mount Radford.—Commended: No. 77, Charles Edwards, Brislington, Bristol.

Class 11.—POLAND.—BLACK, WITH WHITE CRESTS.—1st prize: No. 79a, John Buncombe, Wellington.—2nd prize: No. 79, Charles Edwards.

Class 12.—POLAND.—GOLD OR SILVER.—1st prize: No. 83, J. H. Gandy, Old Cleeve, Somerset.—2nd prize: No. 80, Cyrus Clark, Street, Glastonbury.—Commended: No. 81, Charles Edwards.

Class 13.—ANY OTHER PURE BREED.—1st prize: No. 86, W. L. Channing, White Spanish.—2nd prize: No. 89, John Taylor, Cressy House, Shepherd's Bush, Blue Andalusians.—Extra 2nd prize: No. 91, John Marshall, Belmont, Taunton, Brahma Pootras.

Class 14.—HYBRIDS.—1st prize: Withheld.—2nd prize: No. 93, John D. Penny, Taunton.

Class 15.—BANTAMS.—SILVER-LACED.—1st prize: No. 96, Rev. G. F. Hodson, Banwell.—2nd prize: No. 95, Messrs. Connett and Co., High-street, Exeter.

Class 16.—BANTAMS.—GOLD-LACED.—1st prize: No. 98, Messrs. Connett and Co., High-street, Exeter.—2nd prize: No. 97, Rev. G. F. Hodson.

Class 17.—BANTAMS.—BLACK.—1st prize: No. 104, Rev. G. F. Hodson.—**2nd prize:** No. 105a, Messrs. Connatt and Co., Exeter.

Class 18.—BANTAMS.—WHITE.—1st prize: No. 108, Rev. G. F. Hodson.—**2nd prize:** No. 109, Rev. G. F. Hodson.

Class 19.—TURKEYS.—1st prize: No. 113, Charles Edwards.—**2nd prize:** No. 112, Miss King, Pyrland Hall, near Taunton.

Class 20.—GEESE.—1st prize: withheld.—**2nd prize:** No. 114, T. D. Stephens, Trull.

Class 21.—DUCKS.—AYLESBURY.—1st prize: No. 119, B. J. Ford, Exeter.—**2nd prize,** No. 117, Cyrus Clark.

Class 22.—DUCKS.—ROUEN.—1st prize, No. 120, Charles Ballance.—**2nd prize,** No. 121, Charles Ballance.—**Commended:** No. 122, Rev. C. Smith, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton.

Class 23.—ANY VARIETY OF DUCKS.—(Buenos Ayres).—1st prize, No. 125, John Marshall.—**2nd prize:** No. 124, John Marshall.

Class 24.—CARRIERS.—1st prize: No. 127, Samuel Summerhayes, Taunton.

Class 25.—TUMBLERS.—1st prize: No. 131, Dr. Rogers, Honiton.

Class 26.—RUNTS.—1st prize: No. 134, Rev. E. Coleridge, Buckerell Vicarage, Honiton.

Class 27.—FANTAILS.—1st prize: No. 138, Miss Selina Northcott, Upton Pyne, Devon.—**Commended:** No. 139, John Marshall.

Class 28.—POUTERS.—1st prize: No. 142, Miss Selina Northcott, Upton Pyne, Devon.—**Commended:** No. 144, Thomas Bartlett, Taunton.

Class 29.—BARBES.—1st prize: No. 148, Charles Bluett, Taunton.—**Commended:** No. 147, Rev. G. F. Hodson.

Class 30.—JACOBINS.—1st prize: No. 151, Dr. Rogers, Honiton.—**Commended:** No. 149, W. L. Channing.

Class 31.—TRUMPETERS.—1st prize: No. 156, Thomas Twose, Bridgwater.—**Commended:** No. 154, W. L. Channing.—**Commended:** No. 157, Dr. Rogers, Honiton.—**Commended:** No. 158, S. Summerhayes, Taunton.

Class 32.—OWLS.—1st prize: No. 60, W. L. Channing.—**Commended** No. 164, Thomas Michelmore, jun.

Class 33.—NUNS.—1st prize: No. 168, Master A. J. Mackey, Fair-hill, Exeter.

Class 34.—TURBITS.—1st prize: No. 174, Charles Bluett, Taunton.

Class 35.—ANY OTHER VARIETY PIGEON.—1st prize: No. 180, Dr. Rogers, Honiton, magpies.

EXTRA STOCK.—Commended: No. 185, Daniel Paisley, Rock Cottage, Stapleton-road, Bristol, Spanish chickens.—**Commended:** No. 191, Rev. J. H. Gandy, Old Cleeve, Washford, Cochins China chickens.

Woolton Poultry Exhibition.

AN Exhibition of Poultry took place here last week, in conjunction with the Floral and Horticultural Show. There was but a small number of pens, but we are told it was a very pretty little show.

POULTRY—PRIZE AWARDS.

SPANISH.—1st, Mr. William Strettle; **2nd,** Mrs. Cooke. Ditto, Andalusian.—**Extra prize,** Mr. John Wood, Prescot.

DORKING.—1st and 2nd, Mr. William Cople, Prescot.

COCHIN.—1st, Captain Hornby; **2nd,** Mrs. Lorimer.

GAME.—1st, G. W. Moss, Esq.; **2nd,** Captain Hornby.

GOLDEN-PENCILLED HAMBURG.—Mr. Wm. Cople. Silver-pencilled.—Mr. William Cople, Prescot.

POLAND.—Mr. Thomas Beesley. BLACK BANTAMS.—G. W. Moss, Esq. White ditto.—G. W. Moss, Esq. Gold-laced ditto.—G. W. Moss, Esq. Silver-laced.—G. W. Moss, Esq.

ROUEN DUCKS.—Henry Worrall, Esq. AYLESBURY.—Henry Worrall, Esq. CALL DUCKS.—Extra prize, Henry Worrall, Esq.

PIGEONS.—Mr. Richard Holmes. TURKEYS.—Extra prize, Edward Johnson, Esq.

Show Fowls.—Cochin Chinas.

BUFF—Cock.—Bold upright carriage; golden hackle and saddle; slant from the head to the middle of the back, and then rise to the tail; buff breast, without mixture. Tail, deep chestnut, if possible—a little black in it not necessarily fatal to success. Legs, yellow, and well feathered. Comb, perfectly upright, and well serrated.

Hens.—Buff or lemon, or nankin. Head, small and intelligent. Eye, bright. Face, red. Comb, small, upright, and full of well-defined serrations; above all, perfectly straight. Colour, uniform, but if a small dark necklace is perceptible it is not fatal. Bodies very deep from the back to the thigh. Tail small, round at the point. Fluff very heavy and silky. Legs, yellow,

and well feathered. Wing, carried close, and the flight-joint well doubled under. Neck, short. Legs, short as possible.

In exhibiting these birds never remove a feather. Startling qualities will cover small defects, but if the tail of the cock, or the hackle of the hen have been tampered with, success is impossible if the judges have occasion to look at them closely.

Gold and silver Polands.—Cock—Prominent breast, stately carriage. Blue legs. Wing, well laced with metallic black. Hackle, black and gold. Breast, spangled. Topknot, black and gold. No white in tail.

Hens.—Upright carriage. Full breast. Ample tail. Bodies, correctly spangled all over. Wings, well laced, each feather tipped at the end with metallic black. Topknot, ample, composed of round-topped feathers, and each feather laced or bordered, or mixed with black. Legs, blue.—Silver differ only in the foundation colour. If there be any white in the topknot it should be entirely of that colour, but any mixture of it must be fatal if competing with birds having topknots such as we have described.—*By permission, from Mr. Bailey's new edition of his work on "Fowls," now in the press.*

Nugæ Rusticæ.

TRIFLES, ORIGINAL AND SELECT, FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF A DERBYSHIRE YEOMAN.

The Hatching and Management of Chickens.

THERE is no production of Nature, however humble, that is not capable of diffusing some kind of instruction or gladness to the heart of one who studies it in a spirit of reverence and love. To triflers anything may be frivolous; Sir Joseph Banks may have been ridiculed for his hot pursuit after "the Emperor," when the imperial majesty proved to be a gaudy butterfly,—but the jester was unable to comprehend the wonders which, to a reflecting mind, were present in the structure and garniture of that beautiful insect. Beneath the

lens of a microscope, there comes forth upon its tiny wing a robe of feathers as rich and lustrous as that which clothes the peacock's tail, or excites our admiration in the broad floating plumes of the bird of paradise (*Paradise apoda*). Nature's smallest things are full of greatness to great minds. The empty buffoon may jeer at "small" pursuits; to him they are small, for his mind is incapable of comprehending their greatness, or appreciating their worth. The entomologist filling up his leisure moments in the capture of a butterfly, whose shape, colours, and organization are replete with beauty and productive of instruction and delight; or a "Derbyshire Yeoman" finding, after severe labours, a solace and enjoyment in the management of his poultry, are fit subjects for the sneer and rebuke of the individual who employs whole hours in the more manly task of passing tobacco-smoke through his mouth and nostrils:—tastes differ, the smoke which nauseates the fair denizens of the drawing-room is congenial to fops, and the very delight of two-footed puppies. The accomplishment of a chimney has become the symbol and sign of a dignified manhood, while such lesser things as the one to which my memorandum refers are deemed proper subjects for a sneer or a lampoon,—still, tastes differ. If the Grecian architect could perceive enough of beauty in the egg to make it form the chief ornament of his roof-mouldings, so can a rustic mind perceive in it a perpetual wonder. It seems a standing miracle, that in this white "oval" box, there should be a kind of thickened jelly,—partly clear, partly yellow,—which upon the mere application of heat, without the addition of any recognizable thing, should become a living creature, capable of moving, seeing, and feeling; and wherewithal clothed with a robe, each atom of which is replete with structural and mechanical wonders.

But I forget that my pen was taken up to record some practical suggestions by which this "thing of beauty" can be produced and reared, rather than to expatiate

upon its loveliness. Well, never having, through a long experience, lost two percent. of chickens after they have been hatched, whilst some of my friends and neighbours have this very season lost full eighty per cent., I am impressed with the belief that the simple business of hatching and rearing chickens is not thoroughly understood. What is worth doing at all is worth doing well. I shall record my own practice, without arrogating for it anything new or original,—it is, I believe, the practice of the best breeders of poultry. Select a place for the nest, free from the intrusion of other fowls; let it be on the ground; if in a slight concavity upon the plain earth, so much the better; a sod of grass, slightly moistened, forms a sufficient nest. Let the eggs be newly laid, and not too many in number. In the winter, five are ample for a Game fowl, and seven for a Dorking or Shanghae hen. In the spring time, or summer (the proper season for rearing chickens) these numbers may be increased respectively to nine and eleven. Many persons will regard these numbers as too few, and will relate successful hatches of thirteen and fifteen; but I value nine strong, healthful chickens at more than thirteen weakly ones; and moreover, taking one season with another, I have found that more chickens are hatched from the lesser than from the larger number of eggs. Upon the freshness of the eggs, and the continuous application of a full amount of heat, largely depend the vigour of the chick; that heat is abstracted by contact from the body of the hen, and is primarily obtained by her from the food she takes, through a vital chemistry which it is not necessary to explain. The more heat required for the eggs the more food for the hen, and a more exhaustive drain is demanded from her digestive and breathing functions. If these become impaired, less heat is obtained at the close of the incubation, when it is imperiously demanded by the chick, brought wet and shivering into this naughty world. But even prior to this, the chick will incur great peril from

its inability, through weakness, to break through the membranes and the shell of the egg, which process, especially if it required to be aided by art, is very exhaustive to the chick, and, after which, it always requires the warmth and repose of its mother's breast. The health of the hen suffers much from a large brood, from the great abstraction of body heat which she has undergone; and though she may rear fifteen young ones, these chickens (except they are hatched in the very depth of summer) will never be so large and strong as nine would be; first, because they cannot be kept so warm in the cold spring nights of our climate, and because the hen cannot procure for them so great an abundance of insects, or other varieties of food, as she could for the lesser number. No supply from the hand of the master, however abundant, can fully compensate for the absence of these minute delicacies, which, under the guidance of some invisible finger, she is constantly discovering for her little ones, and thus perpetually reminding us of Him who, in illustration of his love to men, proclaimed, "Behold the fowls of the air, they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"—*By permission of the Author.*

A Random Record.

It is very seldom, Mr. Editor, that I can get a few minutes to spare from attention to my little stock, to write an account of my sayings and doings, for your amusement and that of your readers; but now a cessation has occurred in a wet spell, which has diminished the aggregate weight of many of my broods, I have fed all the future recipients of prizes in seven different classes (not to mention the chicken classes), and I sit down to relate to your readers how I and my daughters went in search of a distinct race of fowls, which I am sure neither you nor they ever saw.

One of my neighbours came to tell me, one day, how he had heard of some fowls exceeding anything he had ever known in England before; and my daughters were not backward with their importunities that I would take a day and go and see them—they must go too, of course. "They cannot be more beautiful than my Se-brights," said one, "nor more brilliant than my Game-birds," added the other. "Don't talk of the poor tame-coloured things!" cried my neighbour. "Did you ever see the blue in a Jay's wing? What think you of that for the colour of a fowl?" Before my daughters could stop him, my neighbour was gone.

The day for the excursion was as fair as amateur could wish. The sun shed his bright rays like liquid happiness upon the earth, and the leaves upon the trees formed a brilliant amalgamation of every conceivable shade. The girls had a donkey-chaise, and I had my feet—let me tell you, Mr. Editor, a donkey is not to be despised, when we cannot get the rail. I bred Meg myself, and a nice-going beast she is, except now and then when she *will* go home and the girls want to go out, then they are obliged to let her have her own way. Well, we started on that brilliant day, to see those brilliant fowls;—dear me, what *is* that noise upon the grass plot?—the hen, under the coop, is standing upon one of her chickens; I must set it free. * * *

The chick is liberated and not much the worse. The degree of compression which these little things can bear is truly wonderful; a hen sets her foot in the very centre of a chicken, the chick squalls out lustily—we should do the same in the same position. The hen says, "Crook, crook, crook,—took, took, took;" which means, "My dear little chicken, what *can* be the matter with you," and all the while she never thinks of looking down to see what her own feet are doing. However, the chicken is not killed this time; so, after this little episode, I return to where I left off. Let me see—the donkey was the last thing. Well, the donkey went very well

this day, and the girls were anxious enough to make her go, for, to tell you the truth, we all belong a little to the class of "maniacs," which you and your correspondents so often rather laugh at, but belong to all the while, and we did not think a little about these sky-blue fowls. But, oh! the difficulties of authorship! The maid has brought in a chick in the last agonies, with, "If you please, Sir, here is one of the Queen's chickens does not feel herself very well." Poor chicken! I can do nothing for it. Attention to sick chickens is, as one of your contributors once observed, the only painful part of an amateur's duty—and how little we *can* do for them; perhaps, the only thing is to make them comfortable for the short time they have to suffer.

To return to my narrative, it was a glorious walk and drive. In one smooth, grassy platform, where we soon lost sight of the lane by which we had entered it, the sun cast shadows among the trees, which made a study for an artist of each one of them; the peculiar yellow green of the oak's young foliage was just beginning to change to the summer tint, and the sky wore that appearance which it has in hot weather only; and which painters in water-colours make with a mixture of cobalt, carmine, and the smallest possible touch of gamboge. Meg went very well, the girls were so delighted, they almost forgot to think about the sky-blue fowls and * * * *

I had written so far, when our maid burst into our sitting-room. "Oh, Sir! me and the gardener have been watching that hen you borrowed to hatch the three guinea eggs. She's a eating all the chickens as they come out of the shall!!!"

Mr. Editor and gentle readers, what can I do? Under the circumstances, you must forgive me if I leave it to my neighbour to describe the sky-blue fowls,—for authorship and attending to my poultry, both are really past my powers.

PAUL PRY.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

BRAHMA CHICKENS.

A LADY, whose poultry-yard I have visited, had several Brahmas, all the usual grey colour (except one, which was tinged slightly with reddish brown). In 1853 she bred many chickens, all like their parents; in 1854 she has also bred many chickens, all like their parents, with the usual markings and varieties of black and white. One hen was sent to my yard to run with a Brahma cock I have; the produce of these two are black and white, with the usual markings, like their parents.

If "like producing like" is an argument in favour of the distinctiveness of the Brahma, this would be fair evidence. I do not profess to have formed any other opinion than that the Brahma is either distinct from the Cochin or a distinct variety of Cochin, and I do not much think it signifies which,—my own experience is only of one season. May not the Brahma be to the coloured Cochins what the Silver Hamburgs are to the Golden—a most pleasing and distinct variety?

In reply to an inquiry from "Gallus," I may mention, that the Brahmas hen above mentioned laid an apparently double-yolked egg; it was set, and produced two perfectly-formed chicks, which lived for twenty-four hours, when one died, and the hen trod the other to death;—they were never strong.

COTTAGERS' PRIZES.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—On one topic much advocated in your amusing journal, I must "agree to differ" from many of your correspondents, viz., the propriety of encouraging poultry-keeping by cottagers,—be it understood that by "cottagers" I mean *hired farm labourers*, and not the independent occupiers of a cottage and a few acres of land.

Few persons require to be told that the idea of keeping poultry purely for profit, when nearly all the necessary food has to be purchased, is most fallacious; and although a few fowls, for some months of the year, with a good run round a cottage in the country, may obtain a subsistence without aid, and make a trifling return in eggs, still chickens cannot be brought to prize-taking, or high-priced perfection, without an expense being incurred too great for a cottager to risk in a business so completely speculative (supposing he possessed good birds of a distinct variety);

and the higgler's usual price, 2s. 6d. or 3s. per couple for ordinary chickens, will scarcely pay him for his trouble in rearing them, leaving purchased food out of the question. But the prime objection to the keeping of live stock by farm labourers is the inducement to pilfer to which it subjects them.

What can be more exposed on all sides than the farmer's produce? The barnsman surrounded with heaps of tempting corn, and a lot of hungry chickens at home, may at any time fill his pockets without being detected, and think nothing of such a trifle; so with the carter with his horse-corn, &c.; and I need not sketch here the result of an evil habit once commenced.

What I have written will no doubt excite the ire of many of your contributors and readers, who will probably stigmatize me as illiberal and narrow-minded; but in answer I would say, "the labourer is worthy of his hire;" pay him generously in proportion to his work, and discountenance all uncertain perquisites,—even place restrictions on pig-feeding,—for do we not daily pray, "lead us not into temptation?"

As an amateur, I find the system of supplying cottagers with my own poultry answer admirably, viz., where fowls can be kept without injury to the garden, sending food, and paying the wife or children for taking care of them, collecting eggs, &c., and if chickens are bred, so much per head for each; they take the greatest possible interest in them, especially since the "mania" has been raging, and all are pleased to have charge of something choice.

I will only add, that I freely accord to others the same liberty of opinion that I claim for myself, and with many apologies for having trespasssed at such a length on your kindness, remain, yours truly, R. G.

FOWLS' FOOD.

MR. EDITOR.—You will say I am giving your correspondents nuts to crack, and that unwise men can ask more questions than wise ones can answer; but will any of your correspondents, either "Tom," or "J. C. B." (see p. 142 and 199), tell us the effect of bad food on poultry? All who buy corn and meal get it very bad sometimes. Now, all say the ergot in rye has a peculiar effect on the living system. How would mite-infested corn and meal act? or would it have any particular effect? In what manner does musty corn and meal affect the fowls? Will any of your numerous correspondents belonging to the farming interest tell a London ignoramus how to know good wheat, barley, oats, and meal of different kinds, and greatly oblige,
A NEW CORRESPONDENT?

ON EXPERIMENTS IN HATCHING.

SIR,—In your publication of the 17th ultimo, one of your correspondents, under the signature of "Live and Learn," wishes to know the experience of others respecting the possibility of discerning the sex of chickens from the position of the air cell at the blunt end of the eggs. Having been positively assured that the sex could be ascertained, notwithstanding the doubt thrown upon such rule in Mr. Richardson's work, I took some pains to ascertain the fact last year, and for this purpose examined the eggs in six different sittings; in some cases the results were pretty much in accordance with the expected result, but in others far wide of the mark; I found, therefore, that it was impossible to come to a satisfactory conclusion on the subject unless I selected eggs which indicated one sex alone, as in case those which indicated both sexes might, as in the experiment of "Live and Learn," result in a correct number of each,—yet there was no proof that the different sexes came out of the identical eggs marked for the purpose. I therefore selected, out of a large number of eggs, seven which had the air cell decidedly to one side of the blunt end, and which consequently should have produced *female* chicks. I reared four birds only out of the lot, and, to my astonishment, they all proved to be *cockereels*. This was such a knock-on-the-head to my hopes that I should be able to limit the number of the masculine gender in my little broods, that I have not examined any of my sittings of eggs this year; but I would advise "Live and Learn" to try the same plan, and select either eggs which indicate hens or cocks (and not those of both kinds), and I have no doubt the result will confirm the opinion expressed in Mr. Richardson's work.—
Yours respectfully, SELIM.

BLACK HAMBURG FOWLS.

MR. EDITOR.—I fancy from the addendum to "Alector's" very useful remarks, which appeared in the "Chronicle" of the 31st instant, that his black Hamburg grapes are a very "pleasantly tart" variety. I saw a pen of the so-called Black Hamburg fowls, exhibited at Bath as extra stock, and if it can only be proved that they are indeed a distinct variety, they certainly are, as regards size, a great improvement on the rest of the species. I fancy, however, they had not the white ear-lobe, so distinguishing a mark of pure blood, but on this point probably "T.M.G." will have the kindness to enlighten me. I would also reiterate "Alector's" question,—"How long has he had them, and whence did he get them?" Has he had them in his possession

sufficiently long to prove that they are not common barn-door fowls metamorphosed into *black* birds by a process similar to that which London bird-fanciers practise towards dirty sparrows, when they wish to convert them into gaudy bullfinches? Of course, "T.M.G." will not refuse to give us satisfactory answers to these questions, as if, by so doing, he can clearly prove his birds to be a distinct variety, he may not only, as "Alector" assures him, expect to realize a small fortune, but he will have the satisfaction of knowing that he has earned the gratitude of his brother-fanciers, as well as that of

A. LICTOR.

DISAPPOINTMENT IN BREEDING.

SIR,—Will you or any of your readers be kind enough to explain the following, to me, inexplicable difficulty? I purchased last July of our squire four good Dorking chickens, three pullets, and one cock, who let me have them cheap, owing to defects in the fifth toe, and I thought of raising some good birds this year. In the last week of December the pullets began to lay, and have laid until the present time, with the exception of wanting to sit once each, from which they were put off. I keep them in a yard twelve feet by six, with plenty of gravel, ashes, clean water and vegetables, and different sorts of grain, with a little meat occasionally. In February I set my first hen, a large Cochin, on eleven eggs, from these birds, and had no chickens. I attributed my bad luck to the severe frost, but have since set eight more hens, and have had but six chickens from all of them. I have always set them on a small number of eggs to ensure better broods.

I have had other eggs, hatch well but cannot get any chickens from these, and have now given it up as a hopeless case.

I never have heard the Dorkings recommended as good layers, but I never found them surpassed, and I have kept Cochins, Hamburgs, and Game.

I remain yours respectfully,

A COTTAGER.

[We would advise "A Cottager" to change the cock immediately, and try the result.]

WHEN old hens have done moulting, or when pullets are about five or six months old, a little hemp or sun-flower seed is said to promote laying. It must however be used charily, and as a rule I object to the use of stimulants. Peppercorns and cayenne are worse than useless, and are as bad for hens as drams for women. If

a bird is indifferent, get rid of it, but do not make bad worse by inflicting permanent evils for the sake of temporary and questionable advantages.—*Poultry Pentalogue.*

To Correspondents.

To An Exhibitor.—We shall be much obliged if an Exhibitor will let us have his name.

C. H. B.—Up to the present time we have been unable to make room for the letter on the Brahmas, and we have now kept it so long that we fear it would be out of date. We believe, in fact, little more can be said upon this oft-discussed subject, which would be interesting to poultry fanciers, until we can have a simple relation of facts and experiences.

To Game Cock.—We were much obliged for the mention of the Poultry show. If our correspondent takes an interest in it, will he oblige us with the schedule?

Barley Meal wishes to know "what is a fair weight for Cochon chickens at three months, and what at five months old." This year we have no Cochon chickens as much as three months old. Former years we remember thinking well of four pounds weight for chickens at three months. Will some of our correspondents kindly give "Barley Meal" the result of their experience.

Selim.—We are much obliged for your flattering opinion and kind wishes. We believe the "Poultry Chronicle," has "supplied a want in the poultry world." It will give us great pleasure to receive your "remarks on poultry matters."

G. G. writes, "Would some of your subscribers give me, in your columns, a correct description of the Duckwing Game?"

The Almond Tumbler and the Emu Fowl, next week.

J. L., in a letter which we regret to have quite overlooked for some time, writes, "A neighbour of mine has some of the finest Minorcas in this part of the country; one of them frequently lays a perfect egg early in the morning, and another shelled egg in the evening. This latter was always eaten up, and now the whole stock eat every egg. They are well fed thrice a day. Can any of your numerous subscribers pen down an effectual cure without injuring the poultry? From what experience I have had, I have found the non-sitters, viz., Dutch, Spanish, and Minorcas, the worst at egg eating." We believe the only cure to be to watch the fowls so closely that they have no opportunity of eating the eggs until the propensity is forgotten. A good judge has

recommended leaving plenty of stone eggs in their way.

J. J. N.—We are much obliged for the Schedule of the Armagh Exhibition.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

We have little variation to note since last week. The trade has been better than at any previous time this season, and an increased quantity of poultry has met with a ready sale. Senders to market will, during the hot weather, do well to remember the instructions given more than once in the "Poultry Chronicle." The poultry must be well fasted before it is killed, and must not be packed till quite cold. It should, if possible, be laid in a cool place for some hours before it is sent away. In warm weather small lots of very fresh poultry will often make more than the average market price, while that which is heated will not sell at all.

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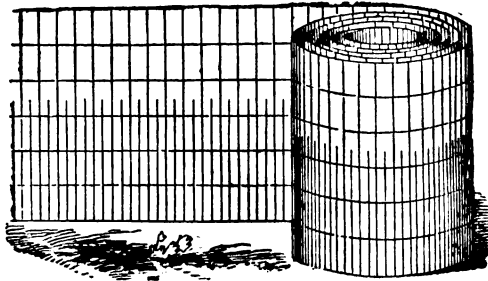
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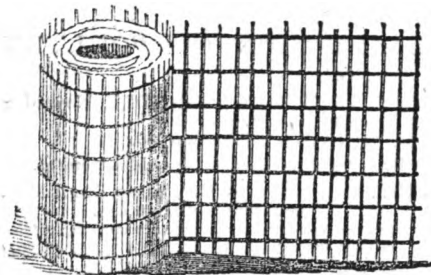
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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 19.]

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1854.

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Poultry Shows.

Harrogate First Exhibition, Wednesday and Thursday, the 5th and 6th of July, in the Royal Cheltenham Grounds, Low Harrogate. Secretary, Mr. James Pullan, Promenade-square.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries are closed.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland's Show, at Armagh, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 9th and 10th of August. Secretary, Thomas Harkness, Esq., Upper Sackville-street, Dublin. Entries close July 19th.

Wellington, Somerset. Thursday and Friday, 3rd and 4th of August. Honorary Secretary, R. Corner, Esq. Entries close July 21st.

Cleveland Agricultural Society's Show, including Poultry, Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th of August. Secretary, Mr. Thomas Parrington. Entries close, Saturday, August 5th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secre-

tary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

Yeovil, September 20th. Secretary, John Clyde, Esq.

Daventry Exhibition, in connexion with the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society (limited to the county), September 21st. Secretaries, Messrs. Freeman & Sons, Northampton.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M'C. Swarbreck, Esq. Entries close September 5th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. The Schedule not quite ready.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. Wm. Thurnall, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 28th.

Norfolk and Eastern Counties' Association, at Norwich, in November. Honorary Secretary, R. Hansel, Esq. Schedule will be ready shortly.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombrain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

NOVELTY is but a term of comparison, and the love of poultry, now considered a new pursuit, has existed for ages. When we have visited all the shows, and can learnedly descant on feather or shape, we have not seen all, nor have we mastered the subject, for it has played its part in providing food for man for thousands of years. Thus, in the daily provisions for Solomon's temple, we find "fatted fowls" enumerated. Greek and Latin writers speak of it frequently, and many give minute descriptions of the different breeds, and scan claws and combs with as much precision as a modern exhibitor. Addison speaks of live fowls. Boileau, in his satires, quotes them on the table. The numerous books recently written on the subject have caused search for authorities, and good

writers have been found in all ages and languages.

The present thirst for knowledge may therefore be fairly termed a revival, and we are only continuing that which some of the most learned of past ages have not thought beneath their notice.

It is not in the nature of man to be content with partial knowledge of anything, and few unassisted can master a subject. Unstable enthusiasm will make some discoveries, will publish them, and then engage in a new pursuit; but cool every-day observation will note these and put them together, and will, from them, derive a complete mastery of all it desires. Generally speaking, the pursuit of knowledge is attended with difficulties, and it is a pleasing task to soften, or to overcome them. We believe our Letter-Box calculated to do this, and we hail with pleasure the increasing numbers of its contributors and the augmentation of its interest. It forms a school for incipient amateurs, and a textbook in which all can read. We believe and hope, that much of the learning acquired through it will bear its fruit hereafter in prizes.

Schedule of the Cleveland Agricultural Society.

THE twenty-first annual show of this society is appointed to be held at Middleborough, on Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th of August, and is to include poultry. It is under the patronage of the Earl of Zetland: the president is Thomas Hustler, Esq. The exhibition is for short-horned cattle, long-wooled sheep, brood mares, poultry, and implements, in all which departments competition is open to the United Kingdom. There is also a sche-

dule of premiums, the competition for which is confined to the district of Cleveland: it includes cattle, pigs, horses, and farm produce. We give the prize list for poultry.

| | |
|--|--------|
| 1.—Spanish Cock and two Hens .. | £1 0 0 |
| 2.—Three Spanish Chickens .. | 1 0 0 |
| 3.—Dorking Cock and two Hens .. | 1 0 0 |
| 4.—Three Dorking Chickens .. | 1 0 0 |
| 5.—Cochin China Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| 6.—Three Cochin China Chickens .. | 1 0 0 |
| 7.—Malay Cock and two Hens .. | 1 0 0 |
| 8.—Three Malay Chickens .. | 1 0 0 |
| 9.—Game Cock and two Hens .. | 1 0 0 |
| 10.—Three Game Chickens .. | 1 0 0 |
| 11.—Golden Pheasant Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| 12.—Three Golden Pheasant Chickens | 1 0 0 |
| 13.—Silver Pheasant Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| 14.—Three Silver Pheasant Chickens.. | 1 0 0 |
| 15.—Chittprat* or Corsican Cock and two Hens.. .. . | 1 0 0 |
| 16.—Poland, any variety, with or without ruffs, Cock and two Hens | 1 0 0 |
| 17.—Cock and two Hens of any breed or cross not eligible to compete in any of the above classes .. | 1 0 0 |
| 18.—Three Chickens of do. .. | 1 0 0 |
| 19.—Bantam Cock and Hen of any dis- tinct breed | 1 0 0 |
| 20.—Gander and Goose | 1 0 0 |
| 21.—Young Goose | 0 10 0 |
| 22.—Turkey Cock and Hen | 1 0 0 |
| 23.—Young Turkey | 0 10 0 |
| 24.—Drake and two Ducks of any dis- tinct breed | 1 0 0 |
| 25.—Couple of young Ducks | 0 10 0 |
| 26.—Cage of three couples of Fancy Pigeons, each couple of a distinct variety | 1 0 0 |
| 27.—Couple of Fancy Rabbits | 0 10 0 |

All chickens must be hatched after the 1st of January, 1854.

* Are Chittpratrs called Corsicans in this locality?

REGULATIONS.

No stock can be admitted for exhibition, unless a written certificate of entry has been received by the Secretary, on or before Saturday, the 5th day of August next. For the convenience of the public, the secretary will attend and receive entries at the Cock Inn, Guisborough, on Tuesday, the 1st; at the Black Lion, Stockton, on Wednesday, the 2nd; at the Golden Lion, Stokesley, on Thursday, the 3rd; and at the Globe Inn,

Middlesborough, on Friday, the 4th day of August; from 4 to 6 p. m. each day. Entries sent by the post must be accompanied by a remittance, where any entrance-money is payable.

Exhibitors of poultry must state the price of the lots entered.

Entrance-money, at the rate of 2s. in the pound on the amount of premium entered for, will be charged to non-members of the society.

Tickets of admission, for stock into the show ground may be obtained from the Secretary, near the entrance, at 7 o'clock on the morning of the 18th, or at the Station Hotel, the evening previous, no stock will be admitted without a ticket.

All subscribing members of 10s. and upwards will be admitted free to the show ground, at 9 o'clock a. m., each day, and receive, gratis, a list of entries, on production of a receipt for their annual subscription to this society, due the 1st of January last.

The public will be admitted at 9 o'clock each day, on payment of 1s. each. Catalogues of entries, 6d. each.

Implement and poultry must be in the show yard by 9 o'clock on the morning of Thursday, the 17th of August.

Only one attendant will be allowed to enter the show ground free, with each animal or lot, according to entry.

The Secretary will attend at Stokesley, on the 9th; Guisborough, on the 12th; and Middlesborough, on the 16th days of September next, to pay the premiums and other demands upon the Society.

THOMAS PARRINGTON, Sec.

Lazenby, near Redcar,

May 8th, 1854.

It is earnestly requested that all parties connected with the agriculture of Cleveland, or otherwise interested in the prosperity of the district, will become annual subscribers to the above society—thus enlarging its means, and enabling the committee to increase its usefulness.

Schedule of the Armagh Exhibition.

THE Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland also includes premiums to poultry in its arrangements. The Exhibition of Stock, horses, swine, poultry, dairy produce, flax, and implements (open for general competition) will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, the 9th and 10th of August. The poultry

will be admitted from One to Six o'clock on the Tuesday before the show.

Very favourable arrangements have been made with various railways and steam-boat companies, for the carriage of stock, &c. The Companies of the Ulster and Ballymena, the Dublin and Drogheda, the Dublin and Belfast junction, the Dundalk and Inniskillen, have agreed to convey stock to and from the show free; the County Down Railway, the same, excepting horses; the Great Southern and Western, and the Great Midland, will charge going, but make no charge on the return, provided the articles have not changed hands. The City of Dublin Steam-boat-Company will carry to and from Dublin and Belfast free by their boat (once a week); and the Belfast Steam-boat Companies will charge half freight each way.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Sec.

1. Dorking Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old £1 10s.
2. Couple of Dorking Pullets £0 10s.
3. Spanish Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old £1 10s.
4. Couple of Spanish Pullets £0 10s.
5. Polish Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old £1 10s.
6. Couple of Polish Pullets £0 10s.
7. Malay Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old £1 10s.
8. Couple of Malay Pullets £0 10s.
9. Speckled Hamburg Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old £1 10s.
10. Couple of speckled Hamburg Pullets £0 10s.
11. Cochin China Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old £1 10s.
12. Couple of Cochin China Pullets £0 10s.

TURKEYS.

13. Turkey Cock and Hen, not exceeding three years old £1 10s.
14. Couple of Turkey Poults £0 10s.

GEESE.

15. Couple of Geese £1 10s.
- Second best ditto £0 10s.

DUCKS.

16. Aylesbury Drake and two Ducks, not exceeding three years old £1 10s.
- Second best ditto £0 10s.

17. Drake and two Ducks of any other breed, not exceeding three years old £1 10s.
- Second best ditto £0 10s.

CAPONS.

18. Lot of Capon Fowl of any breed, not less than ten £4 0s.
- Second best ditto £2 0s.
19. Best lot of Capon Turkeys, not less than ten £4 0s.
- Second best ditto £2 0s.

For the best lot of Poultry .. The Medal.

Schedule of the South-East Hants Poultry Show.

THIS show will be held, in conjunction with the South-East Hants Agricultural and Cattle Show, at Fareham, on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

PRIZE LIST.

- | <i>Class.</i> | <i>1st.</i> | <i>2nd.</i> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| 1. COCHIN.—Cock and two Hens, | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 2. Four Chickens, Cock and three Pullets | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 3. DORKING.—Cock and two Hens, | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 4. Four Chickens, Cock and three Pullets | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 5. SPANISH.—Cock and two Hens, | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 6. Four Chickens, Cock and three Pullets | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 7. POLAND and HAMBURG.—Cock and two Hens | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 8. Four Chickens, Cock and three Pullets | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 9. GAME FOWLS.—Cock and two Hens | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 10. FOWLS OF ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.—Cock and two Hens, | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 11. TURKEYS.—Cock and two Hens, | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 12. GEESE.—Gander and two Geese, | £1 .. | 10s. |
| 13. DUCKS.—Drake and two Ducks, | £1 .. | 10s. |

RULES.

Pens will be provided, and the Poultry must be sent to the place of Exhibition not later than Ten o'clock in the morning of the Exhibition, which will be held at Fareham, on Tuesday, the 19th of September.

All entries must be sent in to the Secretaries on or before the 1st day of September next.

Admission to the Poultry Show, to Non-Subscribers, Sixpence each.

Subscriptions to the Poultry Show, for one or two entries, 5s. ; four entries, 10s. ; and in proportion for a larger number.

Cottagers will be allowed to exhibit Poultry, *bonâ fide* their own, without any Subscription, upon application for the proper Certificates, before the time above specified.

G. S. NEWMAN, Treasurer.
GEORGE CREED, } Hon. Secs.
JAMES JAMES, }

With regard to Class 7, we can only say, in all friendly courtesy, Committees of Poultry Shows should have mercy on the judges, and, through them, on amateurs who benefit or suffer by their decisions. Who can award a first prize to POLANDS AND HAMBURGS? Cannot the Committee (who have followed the straightforward plan of giving their names in the schedule) reconsider this class?

My Experience ;

OR, THE PERILS OF THE POULTRY SHOW.

BEFORE experience has taught the contrary, it is the impression of every one, that to send birds to a poultry show is a very simple affair, involving no loss, beyond the trifling entrance fees and carriage expenses. Whenever the great hazard and loss are spoken of, people stare with astonishment, and commence by blaming railway companies, for the inference is at once drawn, that the sole risk is in the transit to and fro. This is the very least of all the evils. If the parcel be properly labelled, it is very rare that it fails to reach its destination. My own case is perhaps a *favourable* type of the amount of risk incurred by exhibiting poultry, and therefore may be instructive to those who keep

fowls for the love of them, although valueless to speculators and mere exhibitors.

My attention to poultry has not sprung out of the recent "mania," but had its rise in my childhood (now, alas! near forty summers ago), and has, with a love for all animals, grown with my growth, and strengthened with my strength; and although an exhibitor upon three occasions only, my poultry have been attended to with much care, with rigid caution against the introduction of impure blood, and by careful attention to improved strains. Such of the fowls as have fallen under their notice have elicited the admiration of Capt. Hornby, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Bond, and other judges of poultry. I merely mention these facts, as a slight evidence that I am not ignorant of what constitutes excellence in poultry, and that, therefore, I should not hazard more than would any prudent person, in sending fowls to an exhibition. In other words, that the previous feeding, the present health, and the proper packing and hours of transit would be all duly considered; and that, therefore, "*my experience*" will be instructive to the class for whom it is intended, namely, those who love beauty for its own sake, who strive after excellence, independent of meretricious attractions, and who, like myself, would far rather lose "a prize" than a good bird, which has day after day ministered delight, by its plumage, its symmetry, and its superior size. As stated before, my experience has been limited to three shows, namely, the Royal Agricultural Society's Show at Gloucester, in 1853; the show at Derby in the same year; and Mr. Jessopp's exhibition at Cheltenham, during the current month. From these three trials I have drawn the following inferences, namely:

1st. Birds suffer severely from the exhibition, unless great care be taken.

2nd. The best birds do not always gain the prize; and

3rd. That different judges have different standards of merit in judging of poultry;

and that it being known who of the more prominent judges of the present day is about to officiate, it may be predicated what character of fowl in each class will gain the prize.

Into the proofs of the latter induction I shall not have space to enter, but a brief history of "my experience" in the three shows will prove the two first inductions, to the satisfaction of Bacon himself, the great father of inductive philosophy.

Well ; my birds were sent to Gloucester, under the care of a servant of another gentleman, who was also an exhibitor. These chickens were of one hatch, had never been separated, had never quarrelled, and had been cooped together frequently. When I saw them in the pen, immediately after the exhibition was opened to the public, one pullet was partially insensible (comatose) from a deep wound at the back of the head, and her hackle feathers were saturated with blood ; the others were so dull, inanimate, and stupid, that they could not be induced to keep on their legs. They were, however, "commended" by the judges, and the prizes were justly given to superior birds. These fowls returned to me in a worse condition than when they left home ; but with the exception of the wounded one, they soon became healthful, animated, and useful.

To the Derby exhibition, I and mine sent three pens of adult Dorking fowls, and one pen of chickens : of these adult birds, one pen was formed of a set of magnificent birds, which were marked for sale at ten guineas ; and the third pen, which was formed of fowls snatched haphazard from the farm-yard, in which they were placed because of their comparative inferiority, and because some of them were destitute of the fifth claw on one or both of their feet, was priced at *five pounds*. The first pen did not gain even a "commendation ;" the third pen, despite of the claw-defective foot, gained a prize, and as a consequence, was immediately claimed for the lesser sum specified. They were competitors in the same class.

The *prize birds* weighed conjointly nineteen pounds. The birds which were not deemed worthy of "commendation," in competition with the above, had each five well-developed claws on a perfectly white foot, and weighed conjointly twenty-four pounds—their individual weights being as follows :—

| | | | | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Cock | ... | ... | ... | 8½ lbs. |
| Hen | ... | ... | ... | 8 lbs. |
| Hen | ... | ... | ... | 7½ lbs. |

The only respect in which the "prize pen" could be deemed better than this was, that the birds were somewhat more uniform in colour.

The chickens which were sent gained a first prize, but not without (as I heard) some discussion as to whether they had been crossed by the Cochin China fowl. At that time no Cochin China fowl had ever been in my possession—there are no fowls within half a mile of me, and my home is surrounded by a wall nine feet high. All these fowls returned from the show in a condition equal to that in which they left home. A stronger illustration of the *lottery* character of the prize award came before me at the same place and at the same time, in the circumstance, that the pen of geese to which the *first prize* was awarded consisted of two ganders and one goose instead of one gander and two geese, as the rules of the show demanded. These geese came into my possession. The very *instant* the hamper-lid was raised, my man, who had not seen them before, exclaimed, "Why, Sir, here are two ganders and one goose." "Oh ! that's impossible ; they are the prize geese from Derby—the judges could not make such a mistake," I replied. "Pardon me, Sir—if they couldn't, they have," was the impertinent rejoinder ; modified, however, by a knowing smile, and a respectful tone. He was right. These "prize" ganders have perpetuated their race in a truly masculine manner—and although, as a schoolboy, I read from Juvenal the following verse :—

"Did Marcus say '*twas fact*, then fact it is ;
No *proof* so valid as *that word* of his."

Yet still I cannot bow to authority with a slavishness sufficient to unsex these respectable birds, and to call either one or both of them, with the judges at the Derby show, a great goose.

On Monday, the 12th instant, I sent a pen of fine chickens to the show at Cheltenham, for the 14th and 15th of June; they weighed upwards of 22 lbs. on leaving home, and large sums had been refused for them, under the expectation that they would take a prize at Lincoln. Alas! "Hope told a flattering tale;" at Cheltenham they did not, as far as one can learn from "The Poultry Chronicle," even obtain "a commendation." It is quite possible that they did not merit "*commendation*;" but I regret excessively that they met with a very severe "*condemnation*," in the fact, that although the show closed on Thursday, they did not reach home, a distance of 97 miles of direct railway, until the following Tuesday,—and alas! "what a sight for one who loved so well!"—when they *did* arrive, not a single bird had strength enough to stand—all of them stunk pestiferously—*one died in a few hours*, another followed its example in a few days, and the remaining two are still in a most precarious condition. Each fowl had lost nearly one pound in weight, and livid combs, and closed eyes, dark legs, drooping wings, and stained and damaged feathers, proclaimed with piteous power the perils of a poultry show.

As a further illustration of the "lottery" character of the prize award, I may add, that as the "amateur" judges (Messrs. Bond and Nutt) awarded the prize to the Gander pen at Derby, so, by way of equalizing their judgments, and readjusting their blunders, I learn from the "Gloucester Journal," that now, at Cheltenham, they disqualified a pen of very beautiful birds, belonging to T. F. Addison, Esq., of Gloucester, because, in their estimation, it consisted of two *cocks* and one hen, although, when these fowls left their owner, and also when they re-

turned to him, two of them revelled in the charms and functions of pullethood, even laying eggs on their return, and one only had the slightest pretensions to the masculine gender.

Such unsexing freaks in two shows out of three in which I have been interested, make one fear, lest the days of Hermaprodite may have returned, and that "*amateur*" judges, like the nymph Salmacis,* may know of some divinities to whom they can apply for a transmutation, which may have a very serious result upon the perpetuation of poultry. But would it not be wiser, on the part of poultry committees, to dispel all sinful surmises about "*dealer*" judges, and to secure the services of honourable men, whoever they might be, whose *experience*, *skill*, and *judgment*, would preserve them from such mischievous blunders as those which I have detailed, and thus lessen, to a great extent, the perils of the poultry show? J. H.

Mickleover.

The Emu Fowl.

I HAVE not seen noticed in the pages of the "Poultry Chronicle" a variety of fowl, which, if it cannot demand our admiration for its beauty, at least deserves our attention as being one of the most extraordinary of the many wonderful varieties which the late poultry mania has brought to light; I mean the fowl to which fanciers have given the name of the "Emu Fowl." Of this variety, I believe, only a few exist in England, and therefore, to some of your readers it may not be uninteresting to hear something about them. Were it not that I believe they are generally recognized as a distinct breed, my own experience, as far as it goes, would rather lead me to believe that they are only a sort of class of freaks of Nature—if Nature can be said to have any rule in the production of her monstrosities.

* See Ovid, Met. 4, v. 347. Hygin, fab. 271.

In one of the exhibitions in Baker-street, which I attended last year, I remember seeing one solitary specimen of this variety, and at the last Birmingham Show there was a pen of them exhibited, I think, by Mr. Baily, of Mount-street; but excepting these, and the one specimen in my own yard, of which I mean to speak, I do not remember ever to have seen any. These creatures are covered all over with a sort of silk, of a light dusty or very light red colour, and have no feathers except in their wings, where they have a few things that look like worn-out quills. They have no tails, are not good flyers, are clean-legged, and the hens (my experience does not extend to cocks) weigh about 5lbs. They have not the black skin of the common Silk fowl.

And now I will give you an account of the way in which the specimen of which I write came into my possession. In the spring of 1851, I had given me six Cochin Chinese eggs, from a yard where none other than Cochin China fowls were kept, excepting, perhaps, one or two common hens; but, however, there were only Cochin cocks, and the eggs which were given me were laid by Cochin hens. I took the six home with me, and succeeded in hatching three chicks. Two turned out very handsome Cochin cocks, the smallest of whom weighed 10lbs. last summer; and the third egg turned out, to all appearance, a thorough-bred Emu hen, and, in fact, I have no hesitation in saying she is as like those exhibited in Birmingham as one hen can be like another. I kept her (and, indeed, have her now), and from her eggs hatched several chicks, by one of these cocks that had been hatched from the original six eggs, thinking that if there was some taint of Emu in the blood of my friend's fowls, this cross might perhaps produce some more of these silky Emu fowls: but such has never been the case. They were always the sort of brute you would imagine would be the consequence of a cross between an Emu hen and a Cochin cock: but, at the same time, my Emu hen, whilst differing entirely in ap-

pearance from her brothers, and, in fact, all her relatives, as far as I know them, possesses all the moral and domestic traits of a Cochin,—the same gentle tractability of temper, the same proneness to sitting, the same fecundity in laying eggs.

Hoping you will excuse me for intruding my little experiences upon you (though, at the same time, I believe them to possess some little interest in this particular, at least), I am yours truly,

LIVE AND LEARN.

P.S.—I see no one seems disposed to enlighten me on the question of the sexes of eggs.

[To the last we much fear *no one can*. At Birmingham, last year, a pen of Emu fowls was shown by D. J. Fleetwood, of Birmingham. There have been several instances of this kind of sport in Cochin Chinas. It was mentioned at the Baker-street Show, that the owner of the Emu hen, Mr. Franklin, of Bexley-heath, met with her by chance, and could not procure her a mate.—Ed.]

Colombiary.

NO. X.—THE ALMOND AND SHORT-FACED TUMBLERS.

It is with considerable caution that I approach these peculiar pets of the fancy, for, as most gentlemen have some point in this hobby which they consider paramount, it is impossible to enter into a full description of these beautiful little pigeons in the small compass of this paragraph. I shall, therefore, make a few general remarks on the points, properties, and management of these birds, and recommend those who desire a fuller description, to peruse Mr. J. M. Eaton's "Treatise on the Almond Tumbler."

The Almond Tumblers were obtained by careful breeding, selecting, and crossing colours from the commoner kind of Tumblers, and after a long series of years, by drafting and breeding in and in, as much as it was prudent, have they been

brought to the state of perfection in which they are now to be seen. I am inclined to think the name of "Almond" originated in their ground-colour being formerly that of the well-known "Almond (nut)"; though they are now bred of a much brighter colour.

The colour of the Almond Tumbler is a mixture of yellow, red, black and white, well broken and intermixed; but short-faced Tumblers are of various colours and markings, as black, white, yellow, red, kite, and dun, silver or blue, either whole coloured, mottled with white, bald-headed, bearded, or magpie.

Their points of excellence may be enumerated under the five following properties of head, beak, eye, shape, and feather:—

The head must be round, broad and high, rising abruptly from the beak; and the fuller and more projecting the forehead, the more it is valued. The beak should be short, small, straight, and tapering, measuring, from the eye to the end of the quick of the beak, from five-eighths to three-quarters of an inch in length,—the shorter the better; nor must the nostrils be large, but only slightly developed.

How much better would it be if all pigeon-fanciers would adopt this standard of measuring to the end of the quick; then there would be no inducement to pare the Tumblers' beaks, nor yet to coax the bill of a Carrier, or the toe-nail of a Pouter, to an ugly and unnatural development of horn; length or shortness are respectively considered beauties, but these deformities can hardly be considered as such.

The eye should be prominent, round, bright, and of a clear pearl colour, without streak or mud-marks, and also free from sere.

In shape, the neck should be short and thin; the head carried rather backwards; the neck slightly bending; the chest full, and well thrown out; the back short; the body round, and as small as possible; the flight and tail short; their feet small, and the bird standing on its toes, the ball

of the foot often slightly raised from the ground.

Feather is considered the last property; not but that good plumage adds great beauty to the bird, and much enhances the value of an otherwise good specimen. The more an Almond has of bright yellow, and the clearer and more decided the black, so much the more is it admired. Yellow, black, and white are the primary colours, and the more these are intermixed the more they are prized. Blue is considered very objectionable. Mottled Tumblers are those of any colour where the flight and tail are dark and the bodies spotted with white feathers. Of the markings of Baldheads, Beards, and Magpies, I will write more fully in my next, when I speak of flying Tumblers.

In and in breeding (that is, coupling relations) is of considerable use in reducing their size and making them fine and delicate; but caution is required not to carry this process too far, or they will become so weakly and degenerate, that scarcely any offspring will be raised—and these few worthless. The finer and more delicate they are, the more they are admired; consequently, they exist in an artificial state. From their weakness, they are rarely allowed to enjoy their liberty, though on account of their high breeding and good living, they breed freely, but are very apt to leave their young and go to nest again before the squabs are capable of keeping themselves warm. To prevent these dying, they are shifted to a pair of feeders that have hatched later, so as to secure them more attention and a fresh supply of soft meat (a pap on which the old pigeons feed the young at first). These feeders must, however, be small pigeons with small beaks, or the nurslings may be injured, or have their tender beaks twisted or broken in feeding (I don't know if it has ever been tried, but I fancy the Collard Turtle-doves would make good nurses for these tiny pets). If the young Tumblers are very fine, or the weather cold, it may be necessary to shift them several times; thus,

several pairs may be shifted in rotation, the Almonds themselves taking an elder pair of some of their companions.

Their loft should be kept scrupulously clean. They are fond of bathing; their water must be kept clean and sweet, and their food be of the best quality. Each pair should be provided with a separate breeding-pen, so constructed that it can be closed at pleasure, either to keep in a troublesome gent, or to prevent others annoying a weakly one. Earthen pans should be provided for nests, placed on a shelf in the pen, and short straw or fine heath twigs for building materials. When the young are sufficiently old, they should be placed on the floor of the pen to prevent their disturbing the old ones when sitting again, or injuring themselves by falling down. A registry should be kept of all births and marriages, and many other particulars. A great deal of care and attention is necessary to insure success. No one will, therefore, wonder at the high prices paid for good birds.

B. P. BRENT.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I was somewhat surprised at seeing in the "Poultry Chronicle," for June 7th, a wish expressed by Mr. J. M. Eaton, to the effect that Splashed birds should be shown in the Almond class, his reason being that Splashed Short-faced are Almond bred birds, and are preferred by some breeders as more likely to breed Almonds. Notwithstanding all due deference to Mr. Eaton's superior knowledge of the breeding of this beautiful pet of the fancy, I must dissent from him in this respect. An Almond I consider strictly a feather variety; but Short-faced are of various colours, most of which, are occasionally used for breeding Almonds. I think it would be equally inconsistent to award a prize to a Splashed in the Almond class, as it would be to a Kite, a Dun, or any other colour. As well might a Sebright fancier require a first prize for a deeply-laced cock and faintly-laced hens in preference to an evenly-laced pen of birds, on

the plea of the greater probability of their producing better chickens; or the tulip-grower might argue his right to pre-eminence as having the best shaped breeder in preference to a less accurately shaped fancy flower.

I think, also, that as all pigeons have ten flight-feathers, the standard should include the whole ten and not nine. I know no reason why the last should be overlooked more than the first; why not omit one on each side of the tail? Surely, one would be equally just with the other. Mr. J. M. E. will, I have no doubt, excuse the remarks of a brother-fancier; I believe he was led to express this wish from being a head and beak fancier, and not a feather fancier.

B. P. BRENT.

Bessels Green, near Seven Oaks.

Devon and Cornwall Poultry Show.

This exhibition, which took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 27th and 28th of June, was held at Antony, Cornwall, in conjunction with a Fête, Bazaar, and other entertainments, for the benefit of the funds of the Plymouth, Devonport, and Torpoint Mechanics' Institutions, and although the weather proved unpropitious, the scene was beautiful and animated in the extreme.

The estate of Antony includes nearly the whole of the parish of that name, and belongs to W. H. Pole Carew, Esq., the present representative of one of the oldest families in Cornwall. It is situated within a mile of Torpoint, on the right or west bank of the Tamar, at the point where the estuary of the Lynher opens into that river; the estate, therefore, has the advantage of being bounded on two sides, the east and north, by water. The grounds of Antony occupy the north-east portion, which is the most romantic part; a forest of stately trees here fringing the banks of the Tamar and the Lynher. This forest extends back from the rivers to a considerable distance, and is divided by the high road running

from Torpoint to Antony-passage and Saltash, which offers one of the most attractive walks in the locality. To the west of the road, embosomed in the wood, stands the mansion of the Carew family. It is a spacious, quadrangular-shaped house, built of a greyish stone, from a celebrated Cornish mine. Its situation is admirable; on three sides there is a growth of noble trees, and in front, where it faces the north-west, the view is more open. Immediately before the house are extensive terrace-walks, with gardens adorned with urns, &c., and the scene from this promenade, where one of the bands was stationed, made it, on the occasion of the Show, much frequented. From this terrace a flight of steps, at the east end, leads down to the great lawn, bordered by trees, of which several individuals were as fine as the eye could wish to rest upon. These were the grounds, which, together with the adjacent woods, were thrown open to the public by the owner with so much kindness and liberality.

The number of pens amounted to upwards of 219, and in point of perfection the exhibition was said to be the finest, although not probably the largest, ever held in the West of England, which is due to the indefatigable manner in which the secretary, Mr. W. Hunt, has carried out the arrangements, assisted by Mr. S. Parkhouse, R. E. Moore, Esq., and Mr. W. Greenwood. The success of their united efforts was most complete, and they, the judges, and the public had the satisfaction to see several of the classes represented in a manner unapproached at former exhibitions. Amongst the most perfect may be named the class of Black Polands with white tops, and the Golden-spangled Hamburgs. The Red Game and the White Game were very excellent. The White Shanghae chickens were admirable, and the Pigeons it would be impossible to excel. There was, in the shape of a curiosity, a couple of rumpless birds, shown by Capt. Russell. The White Aylesbury Ducks were very good; Mr. W. N. Rowe, of Newton Abbot,

showed three, which were considered the best, but were disqualified on account of certain marks found upon them. A lot shown by Mrs. J. B. Ford, of Exeter, were disqualified for the same reason. The following is the—

PRIZE LIST.

JUDGES for Fowls and Pigeons—The Rev. W. W. Wingfield, Gulval, Penzance, Cornwall; Mr. W. L. Channing, Heavitree, Exeter;—and also for Pigeons, D. Matthews, Esq. Plymouth.

Class 1.—COLOURED DORKING.—No. of entries, 7.—1st prize, Mr. Charles Harward, Hayne House, Plymtree, Collumpton, Devon. 2nd prize, Mr. Thomas Bremridge, Penrose-villa, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon.

Class 1 A.—COLOURED DORKING (Chicken of 1854).—No. of entries, 3.—1st prize, Mr. John R. Rodbard, Aldwick Court, Langford, near Bristol, Somerset. 2nd prize, Mr. Charles Harward, Hayne House, Plymtree, Collumpton, Devon.

Class 2.—WHITE DORKING.—3 entries.—No first prize. 2nd prize, Mr. Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol.

Class 2 A.—WHITE DORKING (Chicken of 1854).—Mr. Francis J. Coleridge, The Cottage, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.

Class 3.—SPANISH.—8 entries.—1st prize, Mr. William Wevill Rowe, Milton Abbott, Tavistock, Devon. 2nd prize, Mr. William Joseph Square, 14, Portland-square, Plymouth, Devon.

Class 4.—BUFF OR CINNAMON SHANGHAE—9 entries.—1st prize, Mr. S. C. Parkhouse, Bedford-street, Plymouth. 2nd prize, Mr. S. C. Parkhouse, Bedford-street, Plymouth. 3rd prize, Mr. S. C. Parkhouse, Bedford-street, Plymouth. Commended, Mr. W. J. Lawrence, Rosemorran, Penzance, Cornwall.

Class 4 A.—BUFF OR CINNAMON SHANGHAE (Chicken of 1854).—18 entries.—1st prize, Mr. Edward Burton, Tregolls Cottage, Truro, Cornwall. 2nd prize, Mr. William Joseph Square, 14, Portland-square, Plymouth, Devon. Highly commended, Mr. John R. Rodbard, Aldwick Court, Langford, near Bristol, Somerset.

Class 5.—BROWN OR PARTRIDGE SHANGHAE.—6 entries.—1st prize, Mr. William Eastlake, Mannamead, Plymouth. 2nd prize, Mr. G. C. Adkins, West House, Edgbaston, near Birmingham. Highly commended, Mrs. B. J. Ford, Exeter.

Class 5 A.—BROWN OR PARTRIDGE SHANGHAE (Chicken of 1854).—3 entries.—No prize awarded.

Class 6 A.—WHITE SHANGHAE (Chicken of

1854)—2 entries—1st prize, Mr. James Turner, Northbrook, near Exeter, Devon.

Class 8.—**RED GAME** (any named variety).—10 entries.—1st prize, Mr. J. Harvey, 32, Notte-street, Plymouth, Devon. 2nd prize, Mr. W. J. Little, Anderton, near Devonport.—Highly commended, Mr. G. C. Adkins, West House, Edgbaston, near Birmingham.

Class 9.—**GREY GAME** (any named variety).—8 entries.—1st prize, Mr. John Bickford, Tideford, St. Germans, Cornwall. 2nd prize, Mr. W. J. Little, Anderton, near Devonport. Mr. William Greenwood, 34, Fore-street, Devonport, Devon, the best pen, but disqualified because the cock's leg had been broken.

Class 10.—**GAME OF ANY OTHER NAMED VARIETY**.—3 entries. No merit.

Class 11.—**SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG**.—11 entries.—1st prize, Mr. W. Wevill Rowe, Milton Abbot, Tavistock, Devon. 2nd prize, Mr. Thomas Michelmore, junr., Berry, Totnes, Devon. Highly commended, Mr. William Kent, jun., No. 14, Queen-street, Plymouth, Devon.

Class 12.—**GOLD PENCILLED HAMBURG**.—4 entries.—1st prize, Mr. Wm. Wevill Rowe, Milton Abbot, Tavstock, Devon. 2nd prize, Miss F. Latteson, Feniton Court, Honiton, Devon. Highly commended, Mr. T. N. Miller, Truro, Cornwall.

Class 13.—**SILVER-SPANGLED HAMBURG**.—5 entries. 1st prize, Mr. Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol. 2nd prize, Mr. W. Robert Gee, Steartfield, Paignton, Devon. Commended, Mr. Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol.

Class 14.—**GOLD-SPANGLED HAMBURG**.—3 entries.—1st prize, Mr. G. C. Adkins, West House, Edgbaston, near Birmingham. 2nd prize, Mr. Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol.

Class 15.—**WHITE OR BUFF POLAND**.—1 entry.—1st prize, Mr. W. J. Lawrence, Rose-morran, Penzance, Cornwall. White Poland.

Class 16.—**POLANDS, BLACK (WHITE TOPS)**.—4 entries.—1st prize, Mr. Charles Edwards, Brislington, near Bristol. 2nd prize, Mr. G. C. Adkins, West House, Edgbaston, near Birmingham.

Class 17.—**GOLD POLAND**.—3 entries.—1st prize, Mr. Edmund Carlyon, Solicitor, St. Austell, Cornwall. 2nd prize, Mr. Stephen Towan, 13, Buckwell-street, Plymouth, Devon.

Class 18.—**SILVER POLAND**.—4 entries.—1st prize, Mr. G. C. Adkins, West House, Edgbaston, near Birmingham. 2nd prize, Mr. James Turner, Northbrook, near Exeter, Devon.

Class 19.—**WHITE BANTAM**.—4 entries.—Mr. G. C. Adkins, West House, Edgbaston, near Birmingham. 2nd prize, Messrs. W. Connett and Co., 270, High-street, Exeter.

Class 20.—**BLACK BANTAM**.—2 entries.—1st

prize, Messrs. W. Connett and Co., High-street, Exeter.

Class 21.—**GOLD-LACED BANTAM**.—3 entries.—2nd prize, Messrs. W. Connett and Co., High-street, Exeter.

Class 22.—**SILVER-LACED BANTAM**.—1 entry.—2nd prize, Messrs. W. Connett and Co., 270, High-street, Exeter.

Class 23.—**TURKEYS**.—No merit.

Class 24.—**GEESE**.—1 entry.—1st prize, Mr. W. Wevill Rowe, Milton Abbott, Tavistock, Devon.

Class 25.—**WHITE AYLESBURY DUCKS**.—6 entries.—1st prize, Mr. R. E. Moore, Penny-comequick, Plymouth.

Class 26.—**ROUEN DUCKS**.—2 entries.—1st prize, Mr. Edward Burton, Tregolls Cottage, Truro, Cornwall. 2nd prize, Mr. William Wevill Rowe, Milton Abbott, Tavistock, Devon.

Class 27.—**DUCKS OF ANY OTHER VARIETY**.—No merit.

PIGEONS.

Class 28.—**CARRIERS**.—9 entries. Prizes (2), Mr. John Chalker, Catherine-street, Plymouth. Highly Commended, Mr. W. Joseph Square, 14, Portland-square, Plymouth, Devon.

Class 29.—**ALMOND TUMBLERS**.—3 entries. Prize, Mr. G. C. Adkins, West House, Edgbaston, near Birmingham.

Class 30.—**FANTAILS**.—7 entries. Prize, Mr. E. Burton.

Class 31.—**JACOBINS**.—Prize, Mr. W. C. Hodge, Crescent, Plymouth. Commended, Mr. C. Bluett, Taunton, Somerset.

Class 32.—**POUTERS**.—4 entries. No prize.

Class 33.—**TRUMPETERS**.—5 entries. Prize, Mr. Edward Burton.

Class 34.—Any specimens not named in the foregoing List.—39 entries. Prize, Mr. C. Bluett, Taunton; a Turbit Pigeon. Prize, Mr. G. C. Adkins; a Runt Pigeon. Prize, Mr. G. C. Adkins; an Archangel Pigeon. Prize, Mrs. Kent, 11, Caroline-place, Stonehouse; Malay chicken, 12 weeks old.

Rabbits.—Extra Class.—5 entries. Prize, Mr. Menheniott, Tavistock; Lop-eared Rabbits. Commended, Master George Mitchell Rowe, Milton Abbott, Tavistock, Devon; Lop-eared Rabbits.

Exhibition of Pigs and Poultry at Thorne, June 14th.

ENCOURAGED by the success of 1853, the promoters of the Thorne Pig and Poultry Association this year not only ex-

tended the boundary of their circuit to twenty miles around, but also presented an extremely liberal prize list; one, indeed, worthy of the object sought to be attained. The time of holding the show was judiciously brought forward to the second day of the fair—a day usually set apart as a general holiday—thus inducing an increased attendance of company. The result confirmed the policy of the alterations, and the exhibition proved highly successful. The weather was exceedingly favourable, and the attendance of company large. Members and subscribers were admitted free, and while from visitors about £3 was last year received, on the present occasion the amount exceeded £13. W. M. Darley, Esq. again kindly allowed the use of hiscroft, which proved admirably adapted for the purpose. In the exhibition of poultry more particularly a great improvement had taken place upon the previous show, whilst many pens would have done honour to exhibitions of far higher pretensions. Mr. Jewison obtained the first prize for Spanish, while that for Cochín China fowls was taken by three short-legged and compact birds belonging to Mr. George Sykes, of Rawcliffe. Mr. Hopper, of Doncaster, exhibited a beautiful pen of Dorkings; and the prize Game birds belonging to Mr. Tate and Mr. Auckland, of Doncaster, were deservedly admired. The golden-spangled Hamburgs were exceedingly good, and Mr. Richardson's prize pen would find few equals at any show. Of Bantams, those belonging to Mr. Henry Moore were decidedly the best shown. Amongst the pens deserving of more especial notice, we may mention the young geese of Mr. William Hinchcliffe, of Thorne Moors; the rabbits of Master Moore; the pigeons of Mr. A. Spink, Gooles, Mr. Jewison, Mr. Thomas Stennitt, Mr. Watson, Mr. Priestley, and Mr. Swaby; and the black Hamburgs of Mr. George Lea, of Rawcliffe. The show of pigs attracted much attention, and amongst them were several remarkably fine animals.

The especial thanks of the society and its friends are due to Mr. R. S. Jewison, the Honorary Secretary, to whose untiring energy and zeal the exhibition owed most of its success. The judges were Mr. Askron, of Levels, and Mr. Casson, of Hull, for pigs; and Mr. G. Hatfield, of Doncaster, and Mr. Casson, for poultry.

These local shows, often owing their very existence to the energy and public spirit of a very small number of persons, cannot fail to become extensively useful.

Norfolk Agricultural Association.

THIS Society held an exhibition (including poultry) at Norwich on Friday, June the 23rd. There were about a hundred pens of birds, the company was good, and the weather delightful. It was a good, although a small, show, there having been scarcely a bad pen in the yard.

AWARD OF PRIZES.

SPANISH FOWLS.—1st, Rev. P. Gurdon; 2nd, Mr. M. Biddell. CHICKENS.—Major Cockburn.

DORKING FOWLS, *Grey, Speckled, or White*.—1st, Rev. P. Gurdon; 2nd, Mr. J. Fairlie. Commended, Rev. P. Gurdon. CHICKENS.—1st, Mr. J. Fairlie.

COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—1st, Mr. J. Fairlie; 2nd, Mr. J. Fairlie. Commended, Rev. J. Bulwer, Dr. Ranking. CHICKENS.—1st, Mr. J. Fairlie. Highly commended, Dr. Ranking. Commended, Rev. C. Gilbert, Mr. W. C. Reynolds, Major Cockburn.

GOLDEN HAMBURG FOWLS.—Rev. T. L. Fellowes. CHICKENS.—Rev. C. Gilbert.

SILVER HAMBURG FOWLS.—1st, Major Cockburn, W. R. M. Haggard, Esq. CHICKENS.—Rev. T. L. Fellowes.

GAME FOWL.—1st, Mr. W. Groom. Commended, Rev. T. L. Fellowes. CHICKENS.—1st, Mr. W. Groom. Commended, Mr. W. Groom.

CHICKENS of any of the before-named breeds, being the produce of the Exhibitors' own Hens, and their rearing.—Mr. J. Fairlie.

TURKEYS.—1st, Mr. J. Fairlie; 2nd, Mr. J. Fairlie. Commended, J. H. Gurney, Esq. POULTS.—J. H. Gurney, Esq.

GEESE.—1st, Mr. J. Fairlie; 2nd, Mr. J. Fairlie. Commended, J. H. Gurney, Esq.
GREEN GESE.—W. R. M. Haggard, Esq. Commended, Mr. J. Fairlie.

AYLESBURY DUCKS.—1st, Rev. J. Bulwer. 2nd, Mr. W. C. Reynolds. DUCKLINGS.—Rev. T. L. Fellowes.

ROUEN DUCKS.—Mr. N. G. Barthropp. DUCKLINGS.—Rev. P. Gurdon.

PIGEONS, for table or market.—No entries.

Bideford Poultry Show.

THIS exhibition took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 27th and 28th of June, in a long building near the Custom-house, the property of Mr. Buck, member for the county. The building, from its great length and peculiarities of construction, was singularly well adapted for the arrangement of the pens, the admission of light and air, and promenading space for visitors. Over head, the room or shed (we scarcely know which will convey the best idea) was decorated with evergreens and flowers, as was the entrance to the room itself, and more particularly the entrance to the ground in which the building is situated.

To those who had not witnessed the large exhibitions, this collection of nearly 300 of the finest birds of their kinds in this and other neighbourhoods was a very interesting, if not an imposing, spectacle. Though placed in so strange a situation, and before so many people, these cocks and hens did as thorough-bred cocks and hens ought, appeared quite at their ease, and made themselves quite at home, the cocks strutted and crew, &c., the hens laid eggs—the chorus of crowing at times was deafening, the vigorous voices of the other kinds being intermingled with that of the Cochin China. First in order, and not far from first in appearance, were the fowls of the Spanish breed, whose handsome forms, glossy black plumage, large combs and wattles, with the singular white appendage attached to the cheek, made them objects of particular observation. The Dorking breed came next, of which

there were some first-rate specimens shown by Mr. Branwell, solicitor, of Holsworthy, who won in this, as well as in the former class, both the first and second prizes. The same gentleman also won an extra prize for a white Cochin cock. Dorking, in Surrey, has been long famous for its five-toed breed of fowls, which otherwise appears to differ little from the common barn door fowls, except in being larger and finer birds. The genuine breed has white plumage; those presented at this show were coloured, there being none of the white Dorkings panned. Of that favourite breed, the Cochin China, there was a large number presented; the honour of the first prize for the cinnamon or buff variety fell to Mr. Charles Hole, of Bideford, and the second to Mr. James Partridge, of Barnstaple. They were noble specimens of their class.

The show of ducks was very good, more particularly the white Aylesburies, a beautiful pen of which arrived too late for entry, the property of the Hon. G. Howard, of Swindon. A pen of Peruvians, shown by Mr. Wood, of Beaford, attracted attention, as did some curious geese, shown by Mr. Horlock, Barnstaple. The show of birds, in the estimation of competent judges, was creditable beyond expectation, taking into consideration its being the *first held in North Devon*, and our present isolated condition. This latter circumstance will no longer exist another year; the opening of the North Devon Railway and the extension will have fairly placed us before “all England.” The exhibition during the first day was numerous and fashionably attended, and it was especially gratifying to observe the interest taken in the show by the farmers and their families—parties who above all others are most interested in its success. On Tuesday evening the mayor, committee, judges, and some friends dined together at the “New Inn.”

The arduous duties of judges were, on this occasion, ably filled by Mr. W. Connett, of High-street, Exeter, the Rev. F. Thomas,

of Parkham, Devon, and the Rev. R. R. Wright, of Marham-church, Cornwall.

This movement originated, we understand, with Arthur Ley, Esq., the mayor of Bideford.

Nor must we omit to notice with special commendation the untiring and efficient services of Mr. John Jones, secretary to the society. The contributions of the subscribers and the receipts at the exhibition place the finances of the society in a very satisfactory state; a great many sales were effected at remunerative prices.

It is superfluous to comment on the great importance attached to the improvement of domestic fowls, and to these exhibitions as promotive of that object. Morally, socially, and nationally, this fowl-breeding movement—mania almost in some—is of no mean importance. Instead of breeding for the brutal purposes of gambling, a more elevating and humane object is now proposed, and that which may prove a pride and pastime to the rich may be turned to most profitable account by the poor. The following statement will show of what importance it is nationally:—“Without expenditure of any thing but what would otherwise go to waste, ten millions of common fowls might be constantly kept in Great Britain and Ireland. These might produce twelve millions of chickens and fowls for the table, at the average of fifteen pence each, in the whole £750,000 sterling. They would afford also for the table, twenty-four millions of eggs, worth, at one half-penny each, £50,000 sterling. Thus the annual produce of our common fowls alone, might raise provisions to the value of £800,000, from a capital stock of the same value, without expense of labour or food that does not otherwise go to waste. The facts on which this statement is founded are absolutely undeniable.” There are then good and substantial reasons for wishing the utmost success to the Bideford Society for promoting the improvement of Domestic Poultry.

The prizes ranged from 2s. 6d. to £1.

AWARD OF PRIZES.

SPANISH.—1st and 2nd prizes, Mr. Richard Branwell, Holsworthy; Mrs. Keats, cock bird, commended; Mr. W. W. Hewitt, cock bird only, commended.

DORKING (Coloured).—1st and 2nd prizes, Mr. Richard Branwell, Honsworthy; Mr. A. B. Wren, cock, commended; Mr. R. Turner, cock, commended. (All the birds in this class were very good, but some were badly penned.)

DORKING (White).—None penned.

COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon or Buff).—1st prize, Mr. Charles Hole, Bideford. 2nd prize, Mr. James Partridge, Barnstaple.

COCHIN CHINA (Brown or Partridge).—1st prize, Mr. George Mill, Northam. 2nd prize, Rev. Edward Reynolds, Appledore; Mr. T. D. Gregory, cock, commended.

CHICKEN OF 1854.—Fourteen pens entered and shown.—1st prize, Rev. J. B. Clyde, Bradbury (Dorkings); Mr. Rd. Branwell's highly commended (Dorkings); Mr. Rd. Branwell's highly commended (Buff Cochins); Mr. James Partridge's commended (Buff Cochins); Mr. A. B. Wren's commended (Dorkings).

GAME FOWLS.—1st prize, Mr. G. C. Turner, Holsworthy. 2nd prize, Mr. W. D. Braginton, Torrington; Mr. W. Turner, Bideford, cock bird, highly commended; Mr. John Short, cock bird, commended.

HAMBURG (Golden-pencilled and Spangled). 1st prize, no merit. 2nd prize, Mr. C. T. Le Gallias, Barnstaple.

HAMBURG (Silver-pencilled and Spangled).—1st prize, no merit. 2nd prize, Mr. E. U. Vidal, Abbotsham.

POLANDS (Black and White Crested).—1st prize, no merit. 2nd prize, Mr. W. W. Hewett, Abbotsham. Mr. A. B. Wren, extra prize.

POLANDS (Gold and Silver).—1st prize, no merit. 2nd prize, Mr. Henry Parsons, Bideford.

BARN DOOR.—1st prize, no merit. 2nd prize, Mr. Wm. Turner, Bideford.

BANTAMS.—No prizes awarded, the birds presented not being purely bred.

TURKEYS.—Only one pen, the cock bird belonging to Mr. Wm. Turner, commended.

GESE.—1st prize, no merit. 2nd prize, Mr. J. B. Torr, Westleigh. Mr. K. W. Horlock; Barnstaple, extra prize.

DUCKS (White Aylesbury).—1st prize, Mr. E. U. Vidal, Abbotsham. 2nd prize, Mr. K. W. Horlock, Barnstaple.

DUCKS (any sort).—1st prize, Mr. Arthur Ley, Bideford. 2nd prize, Rev. C. Wood, Beaford.

PIGEONS.—ALMOND TUMBLERS, Mr. John Tinson, Barnstaple. FANTAILS, Mr. Henry Parsons, Bideford.

COCHIN CHINA (White).—The prize awarded to Mr. Branwell.

BEST PEN (not classed).—Mr. J. B. Torr. Westleigh.—*Abridged from the N. Devon Journ.*

Farningham Poultry Show.

AWARDS OF PRIZES TO PIGEONS.

Judges.—Mr. Wolstenholme & Mr. J. M. Eaton.

Pouters or Croppers (No award).—Carriers, 1st prize, A. Wickham, Rochester. 2nd prize, W. Woodhouse, London.—Dragons, 1st prize, B. P. Brent, Bessels-green. 2nd prize, Wm. Woodhouse, London.—Tumblers, 2nd prize, A. Wickham, Rochester.—Bald-heads, 1st prize, Harrison Weir, Peckham. 2nd prize, Arthur Wickham, Delce.—Beards, highly commended, H. Child, jun., Birmingham.—Jacobines, 1st prize, C. Rawson, The Hurst. 2nd prize, H. Childs, Birmingham.—Fantails, 1st prize, C. Rawson, The Hurst. 2nd prize, H. Childs, Birmingham.—Large Spanish Runts, 2nd prize, S. C. and C. N. Baker.—Varieties, Ermine Saxons, 1st prize, C. Rawson, The Hurst.

RABBITS.

1st prize, Fawn Buck, for length of ears, Nathaniel Norman, Plumstead.

2nd prize, Yellow and White Doe, N. Norman, Plumstead.

Poultry in France.

THE organization of the general agricultural competition finished yesterday, and the several juries made their awards. This exhibition numbers more than five hundred entries, amongst which may be noticed nearly all the French and Foreign Bovine, Ovine, and Porcine, races. The *birds of the farm-yard* formed fifty very curious lots.

All the animals and the agricultural instruments were decorated with much taste. In order that this exhibition should be equal to similar ones in England, an elegant fountain was constructed, and masses of flowers decorated the place.

The flowers, the verdure of the trees, the voices of the animals (query, the crowing of the cocks) and the noise of the steam-engines at work, gave to this great exhibition, held in the Champ de Mars, a peculiar interest.—*Journal des Debats.*

Notes by "Alector."

TURKEYS and Guinea fowl, like swans and peafowl, are not exactly fitted for confined spaces and mere poultry yards; but I hope that some of the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," who have not yet tried them, may be induced by me to do so, provided they have suitable accommodation.

Turkeys have a bad name with many, both by reason of the supposed tenderness of the chick, and the appetite of the adult bird. A little watchful care in the first instance, and a moderately spacious range in the second, will go far to qualify these drawbacks. For three parts of the year, old turkeys require very little food to be provided for them; the hedge rows, stubble fields, and plantations, furnishing them with an ample supply of grain, berries, seeds, and insects. In fact, making due allowance for the difference in size, they require no more food to be given to them than pheasants. When, however, they depend entirely upon the hen-wife's corn-bin, they are sure to prove unprofitable stock.

Turkeys do not arrive at their full perfection for four or five years. It is best to procure an adult breeding stock at once, and if the cock and hens are not related, there will be no occasion for fresh blood for many years to come. And here I may mention, for the consolation of those who may be lamenting the death of a turkey-cock during the breeding season, that the loss, if loss it be, is easily got over. The eggs of a common hen have proved fertile six weeks after her widowhood, but those of a turkey have produced posthumous offspring eight months after the decease of the head of the family. In the case of cottagers and persons who cannot keep a large stock, a single hen will be sufficient, provided that some neighbour has a male bird. Turkey hens generally steal their nests, but do not readily forsake them, unless scared, even though the eggs be removed as soon as laid. They are also,

when broody, easily induced to sit wherever the owner may choose to prepare their nests, so the inconvenience attendant on their laying out is lessened. Care, however, must be taken that they are not frightened or disturbed, as they are timid birds. A large hen will easily cover fifteen of her own eggs, which are small for the size of the parent, and are white with rusty brown spots and streaks. At the end of the first week, four or five common hen's eggs should be added, and the whole clutch will be hatched together. Any surplus turkey eggs can be entrusted at the same time to a respectable common hen, and their produce added to the turkey's brood. A good-sized fowl (and none but large ones should be selected, on account of their greater vital warmth) can cover from five to nine eggs, and on an emergency, if the weather be warm, might be trusted with the chickens. As the chick is long-legged, so should the hen be, and therefore Malays are perhaps the very best for the purpose. The object in mixing the eggs of fowls with those of turkeys is in order that the chicks of the former should induce their foster-brethren to pick up their food, a natural act indeed, but one which young turkeys are unaccountably slow in performing. In fact, the entire secret of rearing them consists in inducing and coaxing them to eat. With a dish of meat before them, they will sulk and starve, and can only be recovered by cramming; yet if a pellet be offered on the finger it will be greedily taken. The history of a young turkey is simply an endless series of quarrels with its bread and butter. They require nourishment almost hourly during the day (and at this season of the year the days are at their longest) for the first six weeks of their lives, and as soon as they have got over "shooting the red," they are safe, at least with ordinary care. Their diet should consist of meal of oats or barley mixed with milk, hard-boiled eggs, shreds of meat, fat, lard, &c., with young leaves of the dock, nettle, onion, and clyder. These should be fre-

quently varied, given in small quantities at a time, and always fresh. This constant attendance is not so irksome as may be supposed, but is rather a source of amusement and occupation to those, who, like the keepers of lodge and turnpike gates, are tied to their residences. Should the owner of the birds be wise enough to promise some intelligent cottager a shilling a head for all that are reared, I think he might safely reckon upon ten out of every twelve poults. Thus, for about 15s., of which one-third is the price of the food consumed, the owner would have ten good poults, which another 15s. would convert into edibles of the value of £3, taking them at the low average of 6s. a head. So much for profit.

There are several varieties of turkeys, of which, however, I shall only enumerate the following:—The Cambridge is a dark blue-black in general, but there are many sub-varieties of a brown, grey, and copper-colour. The hue is, in my opinion, immaterial, except, perhaps, for exhibiting; though the beautiful white kind is very delicate. The Norfolk Turkey is smaller than the Cambridge, but more hardy; its plumage is black, tipped occasionally with a rusty brown. The American, which, from many recent importations, is not now uncommon, is the hardiest, and though not, perhaps, the largest, yet is the best and certainly the handsomest of all. The whites may, with many, be deemed the most beautiful, but, in my opinion, nothing can well surpass the singular brilliancy and metallic lustre of their black plumage. The *quality* of their feathering is analogous to that of Game fowl. They are better able to shift for themselves than the other sorts; and being good foragers, it may reasonably be surmised that they are great travellers. Yankee like, they have no definite notions of space, and consequently require a considerable range.

Upon a farm a few breeding turkeys cannot do much harm, and the young birds have not much opportunity of doing mischief, unless to the later potato crops; but

were they kept to any extent it would be almost necessary to herd them with a boy and dog, they are such cormorants. I do not know of any denizen of the poultry yard that possesses the beauty of expression of countenance to the degree that the Turkey mother does. Watch her on being released from the coop, and conducting her young' brood abroad; she does her office without the fussiness of the common hen, and with all the dignity of a high-bred dame, yet her eye is full of maternal pride and happiness. Appearances, however, are proverbially deceitful, and unless the chicks are strong, or the range very confined, it would be just as wise in the reader to send his nursery out for an airing in charge of Mountjoy or the Warwickshire Antelope, as to trust to a turkey's discretion in not out-walking her family; arithmetic having formed no part of her education, she omits to count her chicks, even after they are hatched, and as long as one can stick by her, on she goes over hedge and ditch, through copse and beanfield, until her treasures are dispersed abroad as effectually as those of Louis Philippe.

I have sometimes wondered why the genuine wild American Turkey has never been turned out in some of the wilder districts of Great Britain. In the more cultivated portions, where properties are generally of a smaller extent, a tamer variety would be more suitable. I know a case where they are so far in half-wild state that they never come under a roof, and when required for the table are generally procurable only by a gun, but still they are fed daily, and remain in the neighbourhood of the house, the woods surrounding which are almost exclusively of pine, and do not afford much food. In cases where acorns and beech mast are plentiful, I think they would thrive well, and would only require a little supply of corn in the winter, as pheasants do.

I had intended to introduce the Guinea Fowl in this paper, but find that I must defer my say about him to another time.

I have omitted, in my calculation of profits, to allow for the expense of fattening, which is rather a tedious process, and consequently an expensive one. Poults will require about a month, which will add another fifteen shillings to their cost, making forty-five shillings for the ten birds. Hens will not require more than six weeks at the outside, or cocks than eight. As regards size, the largest two that I ever knew, weighed, one twenty-three and the other twenty-eight pounds, but these have been greatly exceeded.

Nugæ Rusticæ.

TRIFLES, ORIGINAL AND SELECT, FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF A DERBYSHIRE YEOMAN.

The Cochin China Fowl.

A BROTHER member of mine in the Royal Agricultural Society, and a most active member of its council, states somewhat complainingly, that Mr. Punchard has made more money from a few Cochin China hens, than he (Fisher Hobbs) has been able to do from a choice flock of six hundred ewes. Very likely. "There is nothing new under the sun." A lucky Dutchman once sold a tulip for a dozen sheep, eight fat swine, four fat oxen, two hogsheads of wine, a suit of clothes, and a silver drinking-cup. Nay, more — five thousand florins was a common price for the rarest kinds of tulips, such as "Semper Augustus" and "Admiral Liefken;" and even so late as 1835, Dr. Mackay informs us, that a tulip root was sold in London for £35 sterling. Such is the infatuation which sometimes besets the public mind. Forty guineas for a Cochin China cock is not, therefore, an unparalleled folly, for so long as a feather-bed is in request, a dead fowl will be a better thing than a rotten tulip; and the "poultry mania" of 1853 not so hazardous a speculation as that which beset the Dutchman in 1636. A three-thousand florin tulip root was once munched with great relish, by a

hungry sailor in Amsterdam, who mistook the bulb for an onion, and quietly pocketed it, whilst talking to its infatuated owner. We opine that a Cochin China Fowl could not have been pocketed so easily, although the nether garments of a Dutchman are always very capacious.

But can this popular "fancy" continue? Will the Cochin China, or Shanghai fowl, sustain its reputed pre-eminence over the "natives" of these islands? A gallant naval captain uttered the following prophecy in 1852:—

"Yes, Sturgeon's breed may be forgot,
And Punchard's called a worthless lot,
And Andrew's fame be less;
But still in Poulterers' shops so neat,
In Leadenhall-market or Mount-street,
The Dorking breed shall long compete
With triumph and success."

And, alas! the prophecy is well-nigh fulfilled. Cardinal Wolsey fell not more rapidly from the favour of "my king," nor the dashing Devereux, the proud and lordly Essex, from the heart and smiles of "The Maiden Queen," than has the short-tailed buff Cochin, from the admiration and esteem of John Bull. It was really painful to watch the indifference with which this popular favourite of yesterday was treated at Birmingham.

"But yesterday a king
And armed with such to strive,
And now thou art a nameless thing
So abject, yet alive."

It is too bad. The Hallelujahs of yesterday were more deserved than is the contemptuous indifference of to-day. Granted (for a moment) that they are tough when on the table—granted that they are ugly in the yard—granted that they eat like an alderman, and *crow* continuously and disagreeably; yet the fact remains that they are hardy, and lay eggs in considerable quantities. They lay, too, at a time when eggs are worth something, and when other fowls find it quite as much as they can accomplish to supply the materials of warmth and growth to their own bodies, without furnishing eggs for the breakfast-tables of their liege lords.

These fowls have, moreover, an excellent quality, which we should be glad to see copied by some bipeds without feathers. *They stay at home, and attend to their own business.* So little of the wandering, gossiping propensity do they possess, that they are invaluable to the citizen in confined quarters. The smallest fence will suffice to keep them from trespassing: a wire net, three feet high, is a sufficient indication to them of the rights of property, for which they have a most conscientious respect.

They arrive at maturity early, frequently laying eggs when only five months old; and, from their frequent desire to incubate, are most useful to the farmer who wishes to bring chickens into the market at an early date. They will also improve the general race of farm-yard poultry by judicious crosses. A pullet from a cross between the Cochin China hen and a Dorking cock possesses, in a large degree, the special qualities of each bird. It grows rapidly, and to a large size. The yellow legs of the Cochin, so suggestive, when on the table, of oil-cake-beef, and other gross compounds, are often displaced by the white foot of the Dorking, and moreover the flesh is almost as juicy and as good as the last-named bird; while, when alive, it produces more eggs than the Dorking, of equal size, and of a richer colour. Although the thermometer stands at 18 degrees below freezing-point, a hen of this breed, with no especial advantages of warmth or shelter, with no "greaves," fat, or animal food, is supplying us five times a week with an egg of good size (six to the avoirdupoise pound), as beautiful in colour as those of her dam from the Celestial Empire, and rich in flavour as the eggs which her great great paternal grandmother deposited upon the sunny slopes of Dorking, in Surrey. She performs this duty, too, in a true Wellingtonian spirit, coming off her nest with quiet dignity, making no grand cackle about the glory of an achievement, which might well inspire the lazy hens around her with envy, if not with admira-

tion. Therefore, the introduction of these fowls from "The Flowery land" is a national benefit, for the farmer who keeps Shanghai hens and Dorking cocks will always have large fowls, and a supply of handsome eggs for the market. But let him not think to perpetuate the race by breeding from the offspring of this cross. Better to sell their eggs at forty for a shilling, for the patriotic purpose of pelting a political renegade, than place them under a hen to be warmed into a bundle of bones, muscles, and feathers, into a walking, eating creature, that would require the genius of Adam himself to supply it with an appropriate name. For as sure as the young mongrels would chirp, so surely would they reverse the excellent properties of their parents, and, by a rapid process of degeneration, *their* offspring would grow up more ravenous than a distorted Cochin, and almost as eggless as an Ornithorhynchus, or a Kangaroo.— *By permission of the Author, from the "Derby Reporter."*

The Editor's Letter-Box.

WORKS ON POULTRY.

MR. EDITOR.—In No. 12 of the "Poultry Chronicle," a subscriber asks for an opinion as to the best written and published work upon domestic fowls at the present time, and "Alector," in No. 14, replies to him.

Thinking that it may be useful to record in your pages a list of published works on poultry, I place at the service of the subscribers to your Work, and of the inquirer in particular, the following titles of works of that description, so far as they are known to me. If there are others which have escaped my notice, some better-informed subscriber will perhaps be kind enough to supply the omission in some future number of your publication, in order that the list may be perfected.

"The Poultry-Book. By Wingfield and Johnson, 4to., with coloured Representations of the most celebrated Prize Birds, drawn from life by Harrison Weir. Published in Six Numbers, at 2s. 6d. each, and now completed. 1854."

"The Illustrated Book of Domestic Poultry. Edited by Martin Doyle; the Figures drawn from nature by C. H. Weigall; engraved and printed in oil colours by W. Dickes & Co. 1854. Published in Numbers, at 1s. each, and now completed."

"Poultry; their Breeding, Rearing, Diseases, and General Management. By Walter B. Dickson. New edition, incorporating the Treatise of Bonnington Mowbray; with corrections and large additions by Mrs. Loudon. With Illustrations by Harvey. 1853. 4s. 6d."

"Ornamental and Domestic Poultry. By the Rev. E. S. Dixon."

"The Poultry-Yard; comprising the Management of all kinds of Fowls (including the Cochin China). By W. C. L. Martia; with Illustrations. 1853."

"Profitable Poultry; their Management in Health and Disease. With Illustrations by Harrison Weir. By W. G. Tegetmeier. 1853. 1s."

"Domestic Fowl and Ornamental Poultry. By H. D. Richardson; being one of his 'Rural Handbooks.' 1s."

"The Rearing and Management of Poultry; being No. 2 of 'Groombridge's Farm and Garden Essays.' 4d."

"The Poultry Pentologue. By Furneaux. 8d."

"The Poultry-Maid; forming part of 'Houlston and Stoneman's Industrial Library.' "

"The Dorking Fowl; Hints for its Management and Feeding for the Table. By J. Baily."

"Fowls: a plain and familiar Treatise on the principal Breeds; with which is reprinted, the third edition of 'The Dorking Fowl.' By John Baily. 1852. 2s."

"The Poultry-keeper's Guide. By J. M. Moffatt. 6d."

"Domestic Animals; containing Instructions for the Rearing, Breeding, Feeding, and Management of Poultry, &c. Published by Cradock and Co., London. 1845."

"Essay on Roup among Fowls. By C. Ferguson. 1853. 1s."

I do not presume to recommend any one of these works in particular. Some of them are really excellent and useful; and valuable information may perhaps, in some particulars, be obtained from the most humble of them. My object is to enable a selection to be made from the list by any person desirous of information on poultry matters, and if by its publication in the "Chronicle" I have facilitated the search, my trouble will not have been in vain.

I at the same time avail myself of the oppor-

tunity to allude to a hope expressed by Mr. Tegetmeier, on the 10th August, 1853, in the preface to his purely practical, and therefore really useful, work on "Profitable Poultry," that with the co-operation of some of the leading morbid anatomists of the day, a *distinct work on the Diseases of Birds* would in a short time be issued. The want of such a work cannot be doubted, when we perceive the numerous inquiries made for advice by the helpless owners of diseased fowls through the columns of the "Poultry Chronicle" and the "Cottage Gardener." The hundreds and thousands of fowls which die annually (as well as those which suffer) under disease are an actual loss to the country as an article of food, and much of this might be prevented if their owners were enabled to prescribe for and treat them.

With respect to the "Poultry Chronicle," I look upon it as an agreeable and very valuable boon to the keepers of poultry, and to those who in any manner take an interest in that popular subject. By the voluntary contributions of breeders and amateurs, the experience of the few may be generally diffused to the many, and incidents, both interesting and curious, which are frequently occurring in a poultry-yard, thereby be circulated and made known for the amusement and benefit of all. I trust, therefore, that the labours of you, Mr. Editor, will in this manner be lightened; and with this hint to your readers for extended contributions, I cease at present from troubling you further.

South Shields, June 21, 1854.

T. S.

POULTRY PRIZES.

MR. EDITOR,—I take occasion to refer to your report, in the current number of the "Chronicle," of the Taunton Show. Seeing that special mention is there made of a prize having been awarded to a very good pen of Brahmas, I am authorized by J. Marshall, Esq. to inform you that the pen was composed partly of chickens bred from eggs purchased of me, and made up with some which I bred and sold to him when young; so that out of four prizes awarded to Brahma Chickens this season my birds have taken three. I take the liberty of enclosing the note I received from J. Marshall, Esq.

Permit me to say, in reference to the West Kent Show, that the pen of Turkish fowls should have received a prize before the so-called "Fine Dorking Cock;" he was a very fine, handsome bird, but I have yet to learn that *heavily feathered legs* and *vermillion ear-lobes* are characteristics of excellence in the Dorking breed; the feathers on the legs had been very cleverly ex-

tracted, but the holes left by the quills were not filled up. As a *cross-bred* bird, I should have pronounced him perfection.

You are at liberty to make what use you like of this, as it was a common subject of remark.—Yours truly, P. JONES.

[Another correspondent, writing about the same Show, says,—"I showed a pure-bred Game cock, in beautiful plumage, and his comb not cut; he was frightened, and hung his tail down, so the judge said he was a half-bred jungle fowl. I do not yet know who the judges were." We believe doubt and dissatisfaction among exhibitors will be of frequent occurrence until amateurs can prevail on the committees of shows,—even small local shows,—to engage a sufficient number of efficient judges. The judging at the poultry shows is a subject which greatly requires consideration and discussion among poultry fanciers.—Ed.]

ONE OF THE BENEFITS RESULTING FROM POULTRY SHOWS.

DEAR SIR,—In this day's "Times" is an advertisement, giving an account of the monies received for the relief of the wives and families of the soldiers who have gone to fight our battles. Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Duchess of Kent head the list of subscriptions; then comes no less a sum than £1,024. 3s. 9½d. received, *net profit*, at the Bazaar held in the grounds during the Bath Poultry Show. Can any one say that the number of visitors to poultry shows is on the decline, or can it be questioned whether such exhibitions be productive of good? What a vast number must have visited the Bath Poultry Show! But the most gratifying thing is, it proves that those who go to poultry shows are persons whose hearts are in their right places. After this, I say continue to have poultry shows, and let amateurs send such birds as will not give cause for their being discontinued.—I am yours truly, P. G.
June 26, 1854.

COTTAGERS' PRIZES.

A COMMUNICATION from your correspondent "R. G." occupies a portion of this week's "Poultry Chronicle," in which he states, he "agrees to differ" from the opinions of some correspondents, together with myself, on the subject of "Cottagers' Prizes." I am, however, glad to find his distinctions and his differences are almost synonymous,—at least, that he himself advocates, in the aggregate, the very self-same opinions I have so frequently endeavoured to promote. Still, there is one point on which

we do differ. "R. G." states (whilst quoting from my former contributions) that "what he has written will no doubt excite the ire of many of your contributors and readers," &c. I assure him, contrariwise, that my feelings are in this case those rather of sorrow than of anger. I regret to find any party decry, wholesale, the humble "barnsman," or equally honest labourer. I do not by theory, but by proof, assert, that honesty is not by any means dependant on caste,—it is not necessarily contingent on high position; nor is its opposite (peculation) the distinctive characteristic of the poor. Give the youth of humble parents an early, really religious, and virtuous education, and we shall soon find (when adult) that he is calculated to fill a situation where "a farmer's produce may be exposed on all sides; the barnsman may be surrounded with tempting heaps of corn, and the carter may have confided to his care horse-provender," without peculation or ill result. If the human mind is bent on evil, it matters not in the scale of society how high, or how low, we cast our views, for the results assimilate; the only difference (and a most unjust one) being, that not unfrequently, by a depraved public taste, the delinquencies of a poor man are visited with the highest punishment, or exposed with severity, whilst the like conduct on the part of those who are not in humble circumstances is willingly glossed over, and almost wholly overlooked.

In reference to the production of eggs over chickens as a matter of pecuniary gain, and the rearing of amateurs' stock by cottagers, I find we cordially agree; on the other point we as distinctly differ: and whilst I feel myself in no disposition to rashly impute unworthiness to any one, I cannot but think, that much of the ill consequences dreaded by your correspondent, "R. G." would be at once dissipated if those means, within the power of the affluent, to which I have now alluded, are willingly put into energetic operation. E. C.

THE water-plungings of sea-fowl and fresh-water birds, is a sign of rain approaching,—especially so in the case of the swan and his cousin the duck,—from the presages of which latter bird we find the origin of the classical simile, "like a duck in a thunder storm." Virgil, it will be perceived, represents them as continually plunging in the water half sportively, half in earnest, as if they were anxious to wash themselves and be clean, when they knew they did not need either.

To Correspondents.

F. T. has been robbed, this week, of eight fine Dorking cockerels and seven Brahma Pootras. They were from four to six months old. He is anxious to have the circumstance mentioned as a warning to others. "It is very provoking," our correspondent adds, "for some of them were entered for Lincoln."

A Pouter.—It is never our wish to neglect any interesting class of birds, especially the pigeons; and we certainly would not willingly have omitted the pigeon prizes at the Farningham show, but, by some accident, we only received the printed prize list on Thursday the 29th. We were not at the show, and we believe, the gentleman who favoured us with the report was *not* in possession of the awards to the pigeons.—We are at all times greatly obliged to our kind correspondents for good papers on pigeons.

A Manchester Subscriber.—We have never found any bad effects from giving hens egg-shell *well broken up.*—We scarcely understand what our correspondent means by getting the plumage of his birds satisfactory; if he refers to a healthy gloss and brilliancy of plumage, we believe health only can give it. We are much obliged for the suggestion, and will think of it when we can do so.

W. B. Tegetmeier, Esq.—In a letter which we have received from this gentleman, he expresses some surprise and annoyance at the opinion and suggestions of our correspondent "R. G." (p. 393), and at our concurrence in them, as he, Mr. T., has devoted much attention to the diseases of fowls. We beg to apologize for having allowed the last-named circumstance, for the time, to escape our memory. Not having seen Mr. Tegetmeier's name often lately, we did not know whether he still pursued his researches; but supposing we had known and recollected these facts, we do not consider that the attention of one gentleman devoted to the subject would greatly qualify our correspondent "R. G.'s" assertion,—that "very little is known of the diseases of fowls."

Non-Exhibitor.—Our correspondent must not accuse us of favouring the pea-comb in the Brahmas from the circumstance of the greatest number of our contributors and correspondents thinking well of that form. We continue, as at first, to give free scope to all opinions where they are courteously expressed. With regard to the sales, we refer "Non-Exhibitor" to past numbers.

W. B. T.—We are not at liberty to give the information requested.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE market is still but moderately supplied, and the demand is quite equal to the arrivals. Everything still tells us it has been a season of scarcity, and that the unusually high price has drained the country so much, that anything like an over-stocked market is for the present improbable.

| | | | | |
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Advertisements.

On Monday next, a New Edition, greatly enlarged, price 1s. plain, 1s. 6d. coloured, cloth.

PROFITABLE POULTRY, their Management in Health and Disease. By W. B. TEGETMEIER, author of a Series of Papers on the Diseases of Poultry, in the "Cottage Gardener," &c. &c.

"There is more good sense and sound practical knowledge in this modest shilling's-worth than in many a more voluminous treatise, and it is only necessary to say that the illustrations are by HARRISON WEIR."—"Fraser's Mag.," Dec. 1853.

London: DARTON and Co., Holborn Hill.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS, an Anatomical Refutation of their Claims to be considered as a Distinct Breed, will be found in the New Edition of Mr. TEGETMEIER'S "Profitable Poultry."—London: DARTON and Co., Holborn Hill.

WHITE DORKINGS.—One Hen, remarkably fine, and two Young Pullets of this breed for SALE. Also one pair of Ptarmigans, two Black Bantam Pullets, very small, one Silver-laced Bantam Cock, and one pair of White Russian Fowls.—Address P. T. "Poultry Chronicle" Office, 1, York-street, Covent-garden, London.

WHITE COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.

FOR SALE, some Chickens of the above breed; they are PERFECT in symmetry, and possess short, heavily feathered legs.—Address, W. R. ROSE, Esq., Lydiard Millicent, near Swindon, Wilts.

PIGEONS, FOWLS, and EGGS, SOLD or EXCHANGED. Dorkings, Brahmas, White-faced Spanish, Polands, Cochins, Ptarmigans, Bantams, &c.; Carriers, Pouters, Dragons, Blue Beards, Antwerps, direct from Antwerp; La Société Birds, for homeing long distances, Toy Pigeons, &c. Stock of Hutches, and seven leoparded Rabbits for sale or exchange.—Apply W. WOODHOUSE, 15, Mansfield-street, Kingsland-road, London.—N.B. Wanted fifty dozen common Pigeons for shooting. One dozen will be taken.

GAME CHICKENS. ROUEN DUCKS.

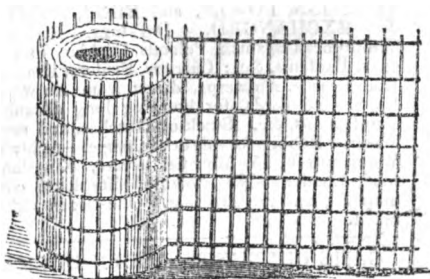
MR. T. W. PEARSE, Bromham-road, Bedford, has for SALE, several purely-bred, healthy BLACK and BROWN RED GAME CHICKENS, from three to five months old, price 3s. 6d. and 5s. each, according to age and purity of feather shown. Also, a few remarkably fine ROUEN DUCKS, by the same Parents as the Ducks that took the first prize at Liverpool.

TO BE SOLD cheap, a few very large Grey Cambridgeshire TURKEYS.—Apply to ROBERT ATKINSON, Singleton Park, near Kendal.

BRAHMA POOTRA CHICKENS.—To be SOLD, a bargain, in one lot, for want of space. Five Chickens, a good match for exhibition, bred from three Prize Hens, well-feathered; also, five first-class Cochins, hatched March and April.—Can be seen by appointment.—Apply B. P., Post Office, Winchfield, Hants. Letters to enclose a stamp.

AYLESBURY DUCKS.—Twelve first prizes last year, first prize at Bath and first prize Farningham; this season also, first prize for Ducklings at Farningham.—A few for Sale at 15s. and £1. 1s. each. Also Six DORKING CHICKENS, second prize pen at Farningham, two guineas each.—Post-office Orders payable to WILLIAM BREAVENTON, Sutton, near Hounslow, Middlesex. Baskets, 3s. 6d. each.

WELLINGTON, SALOP, HORTICULTURAL and POULTRY SHOW will take place on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, the 6th and 7th days of September next, when the usual prizes will be awarded to Cottagers and others, for the best Fruit, Vegetables, Flowers, and Poultry.—Full particulars will be published in future Numbers, and further information may be obtained from Mr. THOMAS WILLIAM JONES, Secretary, Church-street, Wellington, Salop.



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 and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits,
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 Baskies, Turkeys, Geese, and Ducks.

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 wide, 3d., and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100
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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 20.]

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

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Poultry Shows.

Harrogate First Exhibition, Wednesday and Thursday, the 5th and 6th of July, in the Royal Cheltenham Grounds, Low Harrogate. Secretary, Mr. James Pullan, Promenade-square.

Royal Agricultural Society of England. Annual County Meeting, at Lincoln, in the week commencing Monday, the 17th of July. Secretary, J. Hudson, Esq., London. Entries are closed.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close July 19th.

Wellington, Somerset. Thursday and Friday, 3rd and 4th of August. Honorary Secretary, R. Corner, Esq. Entries close July 21st.

Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland's Show, at Armagh, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 9th and 10th of August. Secretary, Thomas Harkness, Esq., Upper Sackville-street, Dublin. Entries close July 19th.

Cleveland Agricultural Society's Show, including Poultry, Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th of August. Secretary, Mr. Thomas Parrington. Entries close, Saturday, August 5th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secre-

tary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

South East Hants, at Fareham, Tuesday, September 19th. Secretary, G. Creed, Esq., and J. James, Esq. Entries close September 1st.

Yeovil, September 20th. Secretary, John Clyde, Esq.

Daventry Exhibition, in connexion with the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society (limited to the county), September 21st. Secretaries, Messrs. Freeman & Sons, Northampton.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M'C. Swarbreck, Esq. Entries close September 5th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. The Schedule not quite ready.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st

and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. Wm. Thurnall, Mr. J. T. R. Alton, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

Cambridgeshire, at Cambridge, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of November. The Schedule will be ready July 20.

Norwich and Eastern Counties, at Norwich, Wednesday and Thursday, the 15th and 16th of November. Secretary, C. Oury, Esq. Entries close October 31st.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 28th.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombrain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council-rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Ile of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Burn, Hampstead."

CHAPTERS and dissertations enough to swell into folio volumes have been written upon the usefulness of rearing poultry of all kinds, and have failed to exhaust the subject. Able pens have been placed in requisition to prove that a positive national benefit should and must accrue from this homely and home-improving mode of producing an increase of provisions, vast in quantity and varied in quality. The different methods in which poultry-keeping may benefit us are almost as numerous as the varieties which we possess, and, among

them, the creation of an innocent recreation is deserving of a prominent position.

How many monotonous existences have been made cheerful by the poultry fancy! How many acquaintanceships, commenced in a fellow-feeling in this pursuit, have become cemented into lasting friendships! and how many homes have been rendered more attractive by the addition of a poultry-yard, on account of the interesting occupation which it creates, unconnected with profit and produce.

While we have poultry shows to go to for a little quiet dissipation, while emulation and sympathy unite to render a visit to a neighbour's poultry-yard attractive, and while our own at home furnishes daily and hourly objects of interest, the amateur's life can never be a dull one; a gleam of sunshine, a shower of rain, a warm wind or a cold one, assume an interest which they never possessed before. There is always something going on; a house must be built, a boundary line altered, a defective fence (which served very well for the old fowls) made good against the inroads or eruptions of young chickens; or, at the present time, Cochin China barriers must be raised to keep in Brahma Pootras. Then, if anything particularly interesting occur, an account of it must be written for the "Poultry Chronicle;" or if in reading that "exceedingly entertaining little journal" we differ from a fellow-amateur in America, Ireland, or Scotland,—in the north or in the south,—in the east or in the west,—we must write to ask questions, compare notes, or pick bones.

Within the last ten years the poultry

amateur was solitary in his fancy. If a friend were beguiled into his hen-run, he would look round with indifference, remark that Black Spanish fowls were certainly better-looking than those which might usually be seen running about in the gutters, inquire if they were good to eat, and show an evident wish to walk away.

Good luck, say we, to the poultry fancy, even as an amusement only. If one home in every parish be made more pleasant to its owners, if one family in each be made more united in the love of one pursuit, if one dull life in each be changed into a cheerful one, the great poultry movement may boast a double triumph. Mankind requires amusement for the mind as well as food for the body, and in both particulars we are benefited by the agitation of the poultry question.

Schedule of the Wellington Show.

AN exhibition of poultry and pigeons, open to all England, will be held at Wellington, Somerset, on Thursday and Friday, the 3rd and 4th of August. It is in aid of the funds for the erection of National School-rooms in Wellington, and will be held in the grounds of the Rev. W. W. Pulman, at Drake's Place. The band of the Royal Marines will be in attendance during the first day, and there will be a magnificent display of fireworks in the evening.

PRIZE LIST.

| <i>Class.</i> | | <i>1st.</i> | <i>2nd.</i> |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | SPANISH. | | |
| 1. | Cock and two Hens .. | 30s. | 10s. |
| 2. | Pen of four Chickens, 1854 .. | 10s. | |
| | DORKING. | | |
| 3. | Cock and two Hens .. | 30s. | 10s. |
| 4. | Pen of four Chickens, 1854 .. | 10s. | |

| <i>Class.</i> | | <i>1st.</i> | <i>2nd.</i> |
|---------------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| | COCHIN CHINA (Brown or Partridge). | | |
| 5. | Cock and two Hens .. | 30s. | 10s. |
| | COCHIN CHINA (Buff, Lemon, or Cinnamon). | | |
| 6. | Cock and two Hens .. | 30s. | 10s. |
| | COCHIN CHINA (White or Black). | | |
| 7. | Cock and two Hens .. | 30s. | 10s. |
| | COCHIN CHINA (any variety). | | |
| 8. | Pen of four Chickens, 1854 .. | 10s. | |
| | MALAY. | | |
| 9. | Cock and two Hens .. | 30s. | 10s. |
| 10. | Pen of four Chickens, 1854 .. | 10s. | |
| | GAME (Black, Brassy-winged, Black-breasted, and other Reds). | | |
| 11. | Cock and two Hens .. | 30s. | 10s. |
| | GAME (Whites, Piles, Greys, and Blues). | | |
| 12. | Cock and two Hens .. | 30s. | 10s. |
| | GAME (any variety). | | |
| 13. | Pen of four Chickens, 1854 .. | 10s. | |
| | HAMBURG (Gold and Silver-pencilled, Gold and Silver-spangled). | | |
| 14, 15, 16, 17. | Cock and two Hens, each .. | 20s. | 10s. |
| | POLANDS (Gold, Silver, and Black). | | |
| 18, 19, 20. | Cock and two Hens, each .. | 20s. | 10s. |
| | ANY OTHER PURE BREED. | | |
| 21. | Cock and two Hens .. | 20s. | 10s. |
| | BANTAMS (Gold-laced, Silver-laced, Black and White). | | |
| 22, 23, 24, and 25. | Cock and two Hens, each .. | 10s. | 5s. |
| | TURKEYS. | | |
| 26. | Cock and two Hens .. | 20s. | 10s. |
| | GEESE. | | |
| 27. | Gander and one Goose .. | 20s. | 10s. |
| | DUCKS, AYLESBURY (White). | | |
| 28. | Drake and two Ducks .. | 20s. | 10s. |
| | ROURN. | | |
| 29. | Drake and two Ducks .. | 20s. | 10s. |
| | ANY OTHER VARIETY. | | |
| 30. | Drake and two Ducks .. | 20s. | 10s. |

PIGEONS.

31 to 42. Pair of Carriers, pair of Tumblers, pair of Runts, pair of Fantails, pair of Pouters, pair of Barbets, pair of Jacobins, pair of Trumpeters, pair of Owls, pair of Nuns, pair of Turbits, Any other Variety.—10s. each pair.

Arrangements are being made with the several Railway Companies to convey Birds to and from the Exhibition gratis.

CONDITIONS AND REGULATIONS.

1. All Exhibitors will be required to pay 3s. for each entry, in the Classes giving first prizes of 30s.; 2s. 6d. in the Classes giving first prizes of 20s.; and 1s. 6d. in the Classes giving first prizes of 10s.; to aid in defraying the expenses of pens, food, &c. The amount to be paid to the Honorary Secretary, at the time of entry.

2. All entries are requested to be made to the Honorary Secretary on or before Friday, the 21st of July, on the enclosed certificate, and no entry can be made after that day.

3. Exhibitors will be required to affix a price at which they will sell their specimens; but "not to be sold" may be used instead.

4. Five per cent. will be deducted towards the expenses of the Exhibition. No offer will be accepted until three o'clock on the first day of Exhibition, and should there be more than one application for the same pen, at the same time, the highest offer will be taken.

10. Persons exhibiting as dealers to affix prices, and pay an entrance fee of 3s. for each pen not exceeding six specimens; such specimens to be entered and paid for, in accordance with Rule 2.

11. It is particularly requested that no birds be sent unless in a perfectly healthy condition. All specimens must be sold in pens and not divided.

14. All the specimens intended for Exhibition must be at the place of Exhibition on Wednesday, the 2nd of August, or they will not be admitted. Baskets, hampers, &c., to be addressed to the Honorary Secretary; and the carriage in every case to be previously paid by the exhibitor.

15. All eggs laid will be destroyed.

16. All letters addressed to the Honorary Secretary, requiring a reply, to contain a fully directed stamped envelope.

17. All prizes and the amount of sales will be paid at any hour during the second day, on application to the Honorary Secretary.

18. The greatest possible attention will be paid to ensure the health, safety, and comfort of the birds, by the engagement of experienced feeders, and the provision of food, but the committee will not be responsible for any unavoidable accident or misfortune.

19. The Show will close on the second day at four o'clock, and all the birds will be despatched to their destination on the same evening.

RICHARD CORNER, Hon. Sec.
South-street, Wellington, Somerset.

Poultry Judges in America.

Islington, near London,
June 29th, 1854.

IN reply to your very polite request of yesterday, I will endeavour to give you all the information that I can concerning the manner of securing judges to act at the American poultry exhibitions. As the plan of having a large number of judges seems new to you, first let me say, that from the little experience which I have had in connection with some three or four of the largest American shows, I have found it always well to have a number of judges, to have them classified, and to have no single set of men allowed to give their attention to more than two or three varieties of poultry.

As in your editorial remarks in the "Chronicle" of the 28th, you justly intimate, "it is difficult to find a large number of gentlemen who are not themselves exhibitors," and it is certain that no exhibitor should be permitted to pass judgment upon his own fowls.

It is not to be expected that every man will be capable of judging "Dorkings," or every man of knowing how to pick a good "Shanghai." One may have given years to the breeding of "Bantams;" another, his whole life to the growing of "Games," &c., &c.; and I am generally suspicious of the qualifications of any judge who pretends to be able to give every point and feather of every known species. In poultry breeding, as well as in every profession, there are many "Jacks of all trades, yet masters of none," keeping a score of varieties, but familiar with none. It seems to me, that in all cases the judges should be numerous, and selected according to their experience, and appointed to

examine only such varieties of fowls as they may have been long and intimately acquainted with. Not less than three should compose a committee, and, if possible, have them from different sections of the country, so that all the exhibitors may be represented. It is not always necessary to look outside of the exhibition for suitable judges; it is seldom that one person exhibits all the varieties for which premiums are offered, and a man may show certain species, and have previously given much attention to other kinds; so that an exhibitor of "Shanghaes," "Dorplings," "Gelderlands," or "Black Spanish," may be fully competent to pass judgment upon the "Bantams," "Games," or "Bolton Greys; and I do not think (nor is it the general opinion in America) that such exhibitor should be prevented from acting as judge.

We have in the States, as you have here, many able breeders given to the cultivation of particular varieties, yet equally well informed on various species which they do not keep, and which others may prefer. But I would not intimate that it is best to let exhibitors act as judges; on the contrary, it is ever wise to have as judges, gentlemen who have no fowls on exhibition, if the services of such can by any means be secured.

At the great exhibitions of the "New York State," and the "National Poultry Societies," held respectively at the cities of Albany and New York, in the month of February last, the judges were mostly distinguished breeders from the adjoining States, and scarcely any of them exhibitors. Some of them came from a distance of 500 miles, and I believe that no one received the slightest pecuniary remuneration, though they were in attendance for a number of days. The season being one when the business of the farmer or merchant was not very brisk, the exhibitions likely to be very attractive, and more than all, the improvement of domestic poultry having long been studied with delight by these gentlemen, they did not hesitate to attend.

Whether the societies may be so fortunate again, I cannot say; but I think it more than probable, for, from observation, I know that a true Yankee breeder or fancier thinks nothing of travelling 500 miles, even in the heart of winter, to be present at a clever "Chicken Show."

That all experienced breeders make good judges, no one should presume. There are those who have bred thousands of fowls, and yet cannot for their lives describe their true points; and it must ever be difficult to get men truly fitted for judging (indeed, such men are very scarce in any section), and besides, there are so many trivial differences existing among breeders and amateurs, that he is indeed a very lucky judge whose decisions are such as will be acceptable to any number of exhibitors, and yet not vary from justice. I trust that the day is not far distant when breeders will abandon these insignificant differences, which now so unpleasantly excite them, both in this country and the United States, and which are ever the cause of endless private and public discussions and antagonistic feeling. Let careful study designate the true standard of excellence in each species, and then let all agree to abide by it. If, perchance, the birds at times fail to come up to it, let it be acknowledged that they are impure, and let them be immediately thrown aside rather than any attempt made to introduce them as a distinct species, and thereby only add to the confusion of the breeds and the discredit of the breeders.

I regret that there is not some older American breeder and amateur at hand to provide you more completely with the information for which you have asked. It affords me pleasure to give you such particulars as I have, and such suggestions as my experience has provided; though my engagements are such as to deprive me of the time necessary to enter into the subject as fully as I would like to.

I shall be glad to serve you at any time, either during my residence in London or on my return to the United States, and

beg you to accept my congratulations on the great success attending the publication of your most interesting and valuable journal, which I consider in every way worthy of the cordial support of all who feel any interest in the improvement of our domestic poultry.—I am, with much respect, your friend and servant,

R. C. MCCORMICK, JUN.

[We are favoured with the foregoing particulars respecting poultry judging in the United States, by Mr. McCormick, the secretary of the American National Poultry Society, who has for the last few weeks been staying in London.—Ed.]

The Reformed Soldier.

A RIDDLE is a favourite with most people, as it possesses additional interest over plainly out-spoken fact, and I confess that I, the writer of this article, have been frequently amused by hearing parties anxiously endeavouring to solve the enigma, as to the individuality of your correspondent "E. C."

To be thus *in vogue*, occasionally present among others has undoubtedly its peculiar benefits—we hear opinions given and received without fear, favour, formality, or affection—we learn the really *honest* convictions of the world as to our own particular selves; sometimes to our discomfort, at others to our satisfaction. I admit having myself listened with imperturbable gravity to most adverse notions respecting "who this 'E. C.' could be," the conjectures being frequently as preposterous from fact as they were diametrically opposed to each other. I trust, however, I may not be deemed myself merging into the very error I shall, in my present story, condemn in others, when I say, approval of my anecdotes has been the almost universally expressed opinion, combined with the avowed hope (on the part of my involuntary informants) that "other narratives of a similar character would speedily follow." It is such remarks as these that have prompted

me to add another to my former list of unexaggerated truths, for unless scrupulously correct as to facts, it is surely wisest to be silent altogether: they will be found simple in their general details, but all-important in their issues as to the principal parties concerned, and they possibly may tend likewise to advance the public interest in poultry generally; if so, my object is attained. I wish to draw universal attention to a source of revenue hitherto sadly neglected, or even, may be, amidst the thoughtfulness of some unreflective individual, who, hitherto adverse to active self-assertion, may thus see that improved conduct on his part will bring with it its own reward; if such a result should happily ensue, every hope of the writer will be abundantly gratified, and the labours of the goose-quill will certainly not, in this instance, have been plied in vain.

My present anecdote refers to an individual who, in more senses than one, was an "old soldier"—he had served in many hard-fought campaigns against a nation which was formerly our bitterest foe, but which Time, in his ever-varying course, has now happily transformed into a faithful and steadfast ally. He enjoyed a tolerable pension, and had "officers' letters" in his possession (in showing which he never seemed to tire) laudatory of his former valour in action, and praiseworthy subordination as a soldier. By a musket-ball he had been disabled in his last encounter with "the Frenchmen," and so severe were the consequences of the wound, that he afterwards became minus his left arm under the hands of a medical practitioner, as being the only resource for preventing loss of life; still his constitution continued robust and unimpaired, and his besetting sin was afterwards a love of the ale-house, where nothing pleased him so well as the recital of military adventure and narrations of English successes. He had been married exceedingly early in life to a thoughtless, very youthful servant-girl, whose elder brother had previously enlisted into the same regiment—she, with-

out the slightest reflection as to the "future ways and means," became inconsiderately enamoured of our "red-coat," and when the troop was ordered into foreign service "was left to struggle on just as she could." However strange the infatuation, true it is, she was not *alone* in her selection, for how many have fallen into the same error, possibly urged on in such fancy, and fallacious hope of happiness, by the ardent enthusiasm and vaunted "*certainty of promotion*" held out by their respective followers, and perhaps no less innate approval (so constant in the feminine character), viz., a very high estimate of the daring and the brave. She was left, at the time I allude to, with five children, at once small, ragged, and uneducated; and, though his return home proved speedy, her sufferings no language could depict. Her children were a sad tie (a very mill-stone) on her unassisted efforts; still it is most pleasing to revert to the fact, in *common domestic servitude she did elude a miserable existence for them during his absence*, maintaining also her own good name, and miraculously escaping from that spirit of recklessness which but too often altogether blasts the uneducated when labouring under grievous misfortune and disappointment.

He was one of those braggart individuals who, "Munchausen-like," glory in the recitation of all kinds of anecdotes descriptive of his own personal acts of prowess and adventure on the battle-field. He was doubtless listened to (and endured) by his frivolous and careless associates, not unfrequently rather from a disposition to see "*how far*" his self-adulation would lead him, in the marvellous and equally fabulous details indulged in, than from the conviction and belief of its truthfulness of detail; for no man (in his sober senses) could possibly accredit statements so preposterous and absurd. Yet even he had his admirers, and perchance some of your readers will bear me out in the assertion, "the less educated the society the more this inordinate taste for hair-breadth escapes, deeds of valour, and all that is horrible,

developes itself; the theme seems ever new, the desire for the wonderful is never satiated." Be that as it may, however, the hero of my tale, to any really reflective mind, was obviously a never-failing spring of egotistic fabrications. Seated by the kitchen fireside of the beer-house on the village green, he was generally to be found; it was his almost perpetual "sanctuary." *Start* not, gentle readers, at the word; for, according to his peculiar notions of things, it afforded him relief from every worldly woe, and there it was, at the shrine of John Barleycorn, that this thoughtless man, for untold hours, paid most abject homage; courted by the landlord from interested motives, as the company oftentimes replenished the emptied ale-pot, to entice "further particulars," or "another tale," and that too, when (in his own graphic phrase) his wife and children had "to look to themselves,"—abandoned, uncared for; nay, I may truly add, *despised*; for the society of those vicious associates, who, whilst they encouraged his vanity (and consequently his sin), freely indulged in jeers at his expense, as to the daring incredibility of the very narrations they themselves had induced.

His wife, by repeated and natural outbursts of complaint, literally (though undesignedly) hardened her husband in the course which he pursued; for although the loss of his arm incapacitated him from most kinds of labour, there were many rural employments still open to him, which he either took and neglected, or at once summarily refused. Consequently, relied on by very few and respected by no one, his time was mostly spent either in getting intoxicated, or recovering his sobriety—in feverish excitement, or under the palling influences of strong ale; the oft-repeated remonstrances of the curate, though neglected, were still steadily repeated, and, in *justice* to the soldier, I will add, that though his advice was neglected, he always was respectful to every one, and very, very rarely, even in his pot-house conversation, did a bad word, or an oath, escape him; always *promising* reformation,

but *never* fulfilling his word. Hope cannot endure for ever, though it may long hold on, and this truly indefatigable and worthy divine at length admitted that his parishioner was incorrigible, from his generally thoughtless conduct and inordinate infatuation for drinking. But in all characters there are doubtless some latent highly-strung chords waiting to vibrate in ready response, if certain outward appliances should happily set them in motion, even though to mankind unknown, and perchance for a time remaining so; such was the case here, for it was when my reverend friend had, in sheer hopelessness, dismissed all thought of reforming him, that in mercy *He*, who directs our humblest efforts, if conscientiously exerted, thought fit to soften the rugged and *partially* petrified heart of our veteran (though to all human understanding it seemed of granite-like unimpressiveness), rewarding the persevering endeavours of his pastor, by most extraordinary, yet (when made visible in its workings, as far as his particular case was concerned) the most appropriate and ready means.

One very hot day in June, 1850, the principal actor in my narrative was carelessly lolling under the shade of a thickly-leaved tree, at the entrance gate to his usual haunt, and engaged in his wonted occupation, with a crowd of listeners, when his attention (and that of his associates) was aroused by a noise proceeding from the side of a not-far-off dung-heap, which seemed to be placed, for the owner's convenience, on some unemployed waste land by the road-side; here a very well-bred game hen, belonging to the exciseman, was listlessly basking in the sun-light, surrounded by the newly-hatched brood, when a cat from some neighbouring habitation suddenly pounced on an unfortunate chicken,—the hen instantly sprang to its defence, and with the alacrity and indomitable courage, highly denotative of her descent, soon compelled grimalkin to give up her prize. Again and again did the disappointed cat renew her attempts, and as frequently was

she forced to beat a “speedy retreat,” the lookers-on rewarding the prowess of the mother with loud and reiterated shouts of approbation, not the least noisy and applaudatory being the hero of my tale, who literally shouted his admiration, and thus drew on himself the immediate notice of the fowl's owner, who came and complained lustily “of such a set of idle fellows not parting them sooner.” The old soldier was so far excited by his admiration of the hen's courage, that he impulsively offered to buy her “at any price,” even going so far as to offer “the coat he wore as security for the purchase money until next pension-day.” This was at once contemptuously refused, as was also a similar offer the following day; but his anxiety to possess the spirited defender of her brood was by some bystander made known to the clergyman, who again waited on the pensioner, and inquired its truth—was forcibly struck with the ardent desire of the man for its possession, and the happy thought occurred to him, “May not this incident be made beneficial in procuring this man's restoration to good conduct?” He himself then called on the owner, and though the sum demanded was far too much, on the most emphatic promise of the money's return on “pay-day,” and also of his absolute abandonment, “*for ever*,” of his present vicious pursuits, it was purchased; the exciseman's non-selling scruples being withdrawn, from the heavy amount realised, coupled perhaps with the wish not to offend his local magistrate and clergyman, lest it should prejudice himself.

The cause of this tenacity of desire to possess the bird arose most probably from highly-wrought notions of *valour*, imbibed in the schools where, for some years, the soldier had received his training; otherwise considered, his present conduct seems altogether unaccountable. However, the after-facts are soon told,—he *never has returned to his dissipations*, but has fulfilled the duties well of shepherd to a neighbouring farmer, the situation being obtained by clerical intercession. From the very day

he received this present (for, reader, the repayment of his outlay, though honestly offered, was generously refused), his benefactor now finds this man's children regular attendants at the village Sunday and evening schools—to be brief, his conduct, and that of his household, have, through attention to well-suggested precepts, become altogether changed; and the long-neglected Bible, that for years had been but a sealed book, a mere piece of table furniture, that had “never been parted with, because it was her mother's,” and was only opened to consult, or have entered on its blank pages, family registrations, is now daily perused, not only by his school-children, but even the wife has learned to read, under the persevering and faithful instructions of their kind-hearted friend, who has promised me (should this account appear in the pages of the “Poultry Chronicle”) to convey to the veteran this truthful narration of his personal adventures.

I must curtly refer to the probable benefits received through the affections of this man being thus strangely enlisted by the heroism of a fowl. An example to his children is thus offered, that might otherwise never have occurred, more than fifteen pounds being now placed by the family in a savings-bank, the joint accumulations of *various presents and their own savings*. It would indeed be well if all parents would *constantly* consider how fearful are the responsibilities they incur in practising before the off-shoots springing up around them, a line of conduct that will make or mar their every interest; they will likewise do rightly by not forgetting for a single moment, that precept (however well enforced) is never so powerful an advocate to good conduct as “*practice*,” that the minds of children, even when so young as to be scarcely unfolded, are most sensitively discriminative, and given to the comparison as to whether their instructors' practices are really in accordance with their admonitions; the neglect of this duty alone oftentimes causes an abandoned father to find in his own child a “scape-grace” of

a son. How vastly important then is it to the welfare of every family, and not less so to that of society in general, for each one of us to be scrupulously careful that our own individual conduct is “void of offence?”

I am extremely sorry to be compelled to add, the poor bird that thus strangely proved the motive cause to better action in this family met with an untimely death, from the bites of a powerful dog *she had herself attacked*, an event which for a long time cast a gloom and great annoyance upon her owner, and produced no slight fear in the mind of my reverend friend, lest the loss might produce a relapse into former indiscretions: *happily it was not so*; good conduct proved too firmly rooted for such a change. The pensioner still possesses, excellent in feather (though sadly deficient in character), the vastly extended hide of this poor bird, evidently one of the first rude efforts of some village taxidermist; and now most probably (being safely cased out of “harm's way”), till the whole household are no more, she will so remain, proving even still a kind of reference, and “safety-valve,” when the naturally strong impulses of the “*reformed soldier*” prompt an outbreak narrative of gallantry and warlike adventure.

E. C.

The Gizzard.

It is unquestionable, that the use of the hard flinty stones in the gizzards of fowls *is* for the purpose of triturating, or grinding, the corn and other hard substances which they eat. “W. S.'s” notion, that these stones, or the bones of fish, are for the purpose of stimulating the gizzard to secrete “a juice or acid,” is quite apocryphal. It is more than questionable if the gizzard secrete at all—its inner coat, or lining, being a tough, coriaceous, and rough membrane, not unlike a piece of fine sand-paper. It is the function of the crop, assisted by the fore-stomach, which joins the gizzard, to secrete “juices;”

they are, indeed, very steeping-vats, and prepare the corn for the mill, or gizzard.

If "W. S." examines the gizzard of a fowl, he will find it admirably adapted for its work; it being furnished with the most powerful muscles, the fibres of which are so disposed that they exert the most crushing, grinding, or triturating motion on the food.

Your correspondent fails in physiological knowledge, when he says that rice, and grain which contains much starch, must be boiled for fowls, *because* "they require a greater heat than that of the stomach to render them soluble." I assure you, Mr. Editor, that I do not notice these things for the sake of pointing out errors, but to correct the expressions, which have no other source than that of popular fallacy. The *heat* of the stomach is not the agent—in the stomach of any animal—that dissolves, or "renders soluble," either starch, grain, or anything else taken into it. In man, for instance, it is the gastric juice that does it; in fowls, it is the secretion of the crop which steepens and softens the food, and thus renders it more fit for the mill—the gizzard.

"W. S." asks, if he ought not to give his fowls a large proportion of hard food to make up for the deficiency of gravel? Most assuredly not; for, how can they digest hard food without it? He should rather give soft food, which needs less grinding. But he may be assured that, though he has "a deficiency of gravel," his fowls *will* have it or stones, by one way or another, at least, if they have any liberty at all. Very little will do for the purpose of digestion, as the hardest, flinty pieces are those selected: and they, no doubt, last a fair, serviceable time.

Hull.

TRISTRAM SHANDY.

THE first specimen of the Honduras Turkey which appeared in England was exhibited in Bullock's museum; at the sale of that collection it was allowed to pass over to Paris.

Farm-Yard Poultry.

NO. III.

FROM the remarks which have appeared in the "Poultry Chronicle" under this head, it will have been seen that size in farm-yard poultry has been one of the chief points adverted to. Where a very considerable number of fowls is kept, and annually produced to supply the market, size should be the chief consideration. In a farm-yard containing fifty fowls (with a proper proportion of hens and pullets), a fair average of the number of eggs likely to be obtained may be arrived at by assuming that every bird will lay twenty eggs before it wants to sit: nothing is more uncertain than the quantity; some hens will not lay more than five or six, some pullets will go on till thirty are laid. The Dorking generally becomes broody earlier than other hens. With this number of eggs at command, there will be no difficulty in commencing to set in January, and still have sufficient eggs from the Brahma or Cochin pullets (who will lay often fifty or sixty before being broody), with those not required for setting from the Dorkings, for market purposes. Size being, therefore, a principal point, it will be desirable to point out the differences of the Dorking fowls. For the farmer's purpose, without entering into minute details more suitable to the distinctions of the fancier, Dorkings may be divided into four varieties:—

1st. The White.—This very beautiful bird is generally smaller than all the coloured classes. As *farm-yard* stock, the White Dorking may be considered the least desirable.

2nd. The Cuckoo, an evenly mottled bluish-grey bird, rather larger than the white. Neither of these varieties will be found so hardy as the other kinds in cold climates.

3rd. The Speckled and Grizzled.—In this class the colours assume great variety; the birds are generally large, square, deep,

and fleshy animals, the cocks sometimes arriving at a weight of ten pounds, the hens at eight pounds; but although these weights are obtained, a less weight ought to satisfy any breeder, and seven pounds in a hen or eight in a cock, is a *very* good weight.

4th. The Grey, or Silver-grey.—This is a peculiarly beautiful variety, smaller in general than the Speckled, the feathers lying more compact, and from the pencilling running one into the other, giving the bird an appearance of even less size than it actually has. In this variety, as in the last, seven and eight pounds for the hen and cock will be good weight. Not unfrequently, indeed generally, the cock bird of this variety has all the beauty and jet-black breast of the Duck-wing Game bird, and the hens have the general pencillings of the Duck-wing hens.

Both these last varieties are very excellent birds. Another kind might be named, the Black-breasted, Red, or Golden; in colour the same as the "Derby" Game bird; but for hardiness and general farm-yard utility, there will be found no more useful or flesh-making fowls than the various kinds of Speckled and Grey; and here it may be added, that, for mere purposes of breeding, a fifth claw is not essential. In a brood of ten it is very probable that more than one chick will be deficient in this peculiar and useless appendage, and no *farmer* ought, on that account, to reject a bird good in all other respects. But let him beware lest a fifth claw should be his sole guide, or he may find himself in the predicament of a good lady who once produced some birds recently purchased by her as "Cochin Chinas," and when a doubt was expressed as to their purity, she assured her hearers that they were not merely Cochin Chinas, but were "a sort that came from a long way *beyond* Cochin China;" and so they did, and "no mistake."

The chief points of merit in a Dorking may be briefly stated, as a broad, deep breast, broad, square shoulders, short legs,

with, in the hens especially, a well-rounded stern. Supposing, then, that the breeding stock is to consist of forty Dorkings, it will be desirable to select three cocks to be two years old, and two to be one year old, at the ensuing breeding season, with twenty pullets and fifteen hens. A cock is about at his *best* at two years old, and still excellent at three. By drafting out the birds every year, as before recommended, the proportions will be properly maintained.

In the White variety the birds should have an evenly-marked good rose comb; in the coloured kinds a single comb; but as there will be scarcely a brood bred from single-combed parents which does not contain rose-combed birds, this rule seems most arbitrary, and no bird kept for mere *table* purposes ought to be judged by such a standard.

In regard to the Brahma or Cochin pullets for laying, little need be said. Of Brahmas there appears to be but one variety in colour, viz., white marked with black.

Of Cochins, the chief varieties are, Cinnamon and Buff, Brown and Partridge, or Grouse, Black and White; a Cuckoo bird is also known.

The Brown and dark varieties are generally the largest, the cocks weighing from ten to twelve pounds and more; hens about eight pounds. As a farmer would merely require the pullets of this kind for laying, the dark colours would answer as well as any other. Each of the varieties has its admirers and merits; the black cocks generally become red barred on the wing, which greatly detracts from their beauty; the White do not feather on the leg so freely as the Buff and Brown, but are an extremely beautiful fowl.

In rearing chickens, taking an average of years, and commencing to set in January, it may be calculated that out of every hundred eggs, one-fourth will not be productive, or chickens to that amount be lost. Taking, then, thirty-five Dorking hens at an average of twenty eggs between January and the end of March, there will be seven

hundred eggs, and deducting, say one-fourth, there will remain about five hundred and twenty eggs, from which chickens may be expected to arrive at maturity; this will be a larger amount than a farmer need commence the year with, and three hundred will probably be found sufficient, leaving upwards of two hundred eggs for sale up to the end of March. It must be borne in mind that the eggs in the later part of the season will not be in any proportion to the number obtained in the beginning of the year; and that, although spring chickens command a very much higher price than any other fowls, indeed it might be added, than almost any other animal food, there is a constant and incessant demand both for poultry and eggs in every district of the United Kingdom in each month of the year.

It is quite an erroneous opinion that foreign eggs are cheaper than British ones. It is very true that more foreign eggs are obtained for a shilling, but the contents of those eggs are not always the most agreeable, and in an article partaking both of necessity and luxury, no person is unwilling to pay a moderate increase of price to insure a good article, nor indeed ought price to form any obstacle to a farmer breeding both for sale of his poultry and eggs. So long as he realises a fair profit, and obtains a good return on his outlay, the cost is immaterial, and cost and price will regulate each other, and from his facilities he can breed cheaper than any one. On this point, one observation may be made: there is scarcely any article of food which is not sold by weight, perhaps not one of animal food except poultry, and that is sold by the bird or the pair. This should not be—certainly a large fowl commands a greater price than a small one, but there is no relative value, while weight is so simple a matter that it ought to be as easy to buy a fowl at per pound as to buy a leg of mutton.

Before concluding these remarks, it is advisable to point out to farmers that, in many instances, they have tenants under

them in the cottages on their farms, and frequently second homesteads, where, should they wish it, some other kinds of fowls can be kept; in such cases as these a farmer can breed his own Cochins as easily, and more so, than the amateur, and by placing two or three Cochin hens with one or two of his cottagers, he will benefit them, and secure a return of young stock. Cochins, from their quiet and docile habits, will suit the cottager better than most others.

But whatever breeding takes place, he must remember that for success and weight in the long run, the pure-bred bird is the one to be depended on.

W. S., of C.

Notes by "Alector."

If the Guinea fowl were less quarrelsome, and would use its wings (which it is well able to do when it chooses) as readily as its legs, it would be a valuable addition to our game preserves. As it is, they drive off pheasants, &c., and will not readily rise until fairly run into by the dogs. In addition to these drawbacks, I must state that the Guinea fowl, unlike the pheasant, is monogamous, and consequently not so prolific. This fact is not generally known even to those who keep them, and the consequence is, that addled eggs abound, and few chickens are hatched in proportion to the number of eggs set. It is, too, almost impossible to select the eggs of a wedded hen, as these birds have a habit of establishing joint-stock nests; and I know a case, when, on reaping a field of barley, no less than eighty-four eggs were found in one nest, the united contribution of three hens. As they associate together in packs, it is difficult to ascertain which are paired, and the more so, as it is hard to distinguish between the cock and the hen, the plumage being almost identical in all specimens of the same family. A little observation, however, will enable one to discover that the

hens are constantly preaching without practising, like some of their betters, and are never less inclined to go home themselves than when they are exhorting their mates to "come back." This garrulity is, I fancy, the special perquisite of the ladies. The cock is, nevertheless, not without his peculiarity, which may be likened to the practice of certain equine coxcombs, who,

"With the left spur, insidiously, aside,
Provoke the caper that they seem to chide."

The cocks may be seen suddenly to run forward, as if they espied some dainty morsel a few feet off, and then as suddenly subside into a stately walk. The great advantages of Guinea fowl consist in the abundance of their eggs. They do not usually commence laying so early as common fowls, but when they do begin, they far exceed in quantity of eggs all other kinds of poultry. In fact, it would almost seem as if "they couldn't help it," for even when moulting they often persist in laying. As a set-off to the quantity laid is the quantity got, for they are determined nest stealers. They also come into season for the table just at the period when game is out and fowls are scarce. They are not at all bad eating, though different from a pheasant or Dorking. They are generally killed with the blood in them, and hung up in their feathers like game. This is not a bad way of treating fowls, especially if suspected of being tough, when they will roast very well.

The shell of the egg, which is of a buff colour and covered with minute specks, is much thicker than that of the common hen. The young are hatched in a month, and this operation is better performed by a Bantam or other small hen, than by a common or a Guinea hen, as the former is too big and clumsy, and the latter too much given to stray. The young require food as often as Turkey chicks, and are seemingly more difficult to rear, as, if neglected, they "never give up" till the last moment, but seem lively, cheerful, and "jolly under creditable circum-

stances," when they suddenly turn over, "with their feet to the sky and their backs to the sod," give a kick and a struggle, and are gone, to the great grief of their admiring but ignorant owner. Turkey chicks may be recovered by cramming, but these "die and make no sign." As they grow very fast, they are soon out of danger if fed with an abundance of nourishing food. They are particularly fond of ants' eggs.

On a large lawn, or in a park, a pack of Guinea fowl is a decided ornament, but in a small space they are more plague than profit, for the reasons that I have already stated; in addition to which, I may say that their notes are far from musical, unless mellowed in the distance. Besides the common kind, there is a variety of a lighter shade; another in which the plumage has a reticulated appearance, and a fourth sort is of a pure white. The last is rare, and I believe delicate, but possesses the good qualification of being easily traced to, and detected on its nest.

Black Hamburg Fowls.

WITH great pleasure I shall endeavour to afford some of the information which your correspondent asks of me in this week's "Poultry Chronicle;" but, as I presume "A Lictor," when he penned his note to you, could not have seen my reply to "Alector," in your last week's *brochure*, I must again say, that in Johnson and Wingfield's "Poultry Book" will be found a better description of the Black Hamburg fowls than I have leisure or power to furnish; and by referring to this elaborate work, he will relieve me from any necessity for attempting to sketch their general points, or insisting on their being a distinct variety.

I have had mine nearly four months, and procured them from Yorkshire, in which county, I believe, they are included in the prize lists.

They present all the distinctive points,

as, ear-lobes, as unmistakeably white and large; combs, as completely double; eyes, as prominent; head and neck, as thoroughbred; legs and white toes, as characteristic as any other variety of Hamburg fowl; and those which "A Lictor" saw at Bath, I can assure him, possess all these points, including white ear-lobes, "so distinguishing a mark of pure blood," so large as to attract the remark and admiration of most who see them.

Perhaps I ought to say, lest I be misunderstood, that the only reason why I ventured to call attention to these birds is, because I have found them, when compared with their "feathered" relatives (all of which I keep, and thus have an opportunity of testing them), to be superior in the following points:—

First and foremost, and it is no small consideration in this wild and somewhat bleak nook of "merrie England"—for we are within sight and sound of the "ever-changing" sea—they are much more hardy; whilst I have lost many chicks of the other four varieties, from the inclement weather we had some time since, I believe not one Black Hamburg succumbed to this influence; indeed, one brood of nine lost their hen when only about fourteen days old, yet they thrive without any interruption. The chicks are fast growers, and perhaps I may as well say, have combs as neatly double, and ear-lobes as white as even "A Lictor" could desire.

They are larger, and of course, heavier. Their eggs are larger, not only than those of the other varieties, but than those of most other fowls.

These facts must, in my humble opinion, obtain for them a favourable verdict on the part of the public, not from fashion or fancy (although much might be said for the undeniably beautiful plumage, particularly of the male bird), but from the solid and tangible consideration of their being a more profitable, and consequently more useful, description of poultry for general purposes, than either of the other kinds of Hamburg. T. M. G.

["A Lictor" had not seen the reply to "Alector" when his letter was written. As some of our readers who have expressed a wish to know more about the Black Hamburg fowl may not be in possession of a copy of Messrs. Wingfield & Johnson's "Poultry Book," we will give the passage to which "T. M. G." has twice referred his readers:

"Black Hamburgs.—This is also called the *black Pheasant fowl*, though it has no spangles, but a plumage uniformly rich, glossy, green-black. In form, they closely resemble the other Hamburgs, and may bear the same relationship to them that the Black Shanghaes do to the buff and other colour.

"The table of characteristic excellences adopted by the northern local clubs is as follows:—

"1st Point.—Comb.—Best double, best square, most erect, best piked behind.

"2nd Point.—Ears.—Largest and purest white.

"3rd Point.—Colour.—Best and richest glossed green-black.

"4th Point.—Legs.—Best and clearest blue.

"5th Point.—General appearance.—Best feathered hen."—Ed.]

On Phosphate of Lime.

CHICKENS or growing fowls, we are informed, require *phosphate* of lime to form bone and feather; and hens require lime to form the shells of their eggs. For the latter, chalk may suffice; but for the former, the phosphate or bones should be given, if there is not a sufficient quantity in their usual food. There are several ways in which we may discover when lime is required, viz., if hens lay soft eggs, or if a considerable quantity of white substance (lime) is not observable in their dung, or if chickens are weak and rickety in their legs.

I wish to ask what is the best way of giving bones to fowls? Chemists inform

us that there are from six to ten per cent. of carbonate of lime in bones ; so if these are burnt, the carbonate, I suppose, becomes caustic, and would burn the gizzard or stomach of a fowl, and moreover, when burnt, I find it difficult to pound the bones without leaving small *sharp* pieces.

Bones, when well broken and mixed with sand, moistened with hot water, in a large heap, ferment in summer ; but this is not convenient for every establishment, and there may be a difficulty in separating the bones from the sand. Perhaps the best way is to purchase small quantities of ground appetite, or the phosphate of lime which is found in the chalky districts of Surrey, &c.

Potatoes are deficient in lime, and it is to be feared that we shall have plenty of diseased ones this year. To give them, or much green food, with advantage to poultry, lime, in some state, should be added. W. S.

3rd July, 1854.

Columbary.

NO. VIII.—FLYING TUMBLERS.

UNDER this denomination it is my intention to include all the varieties of the most interesting and amusing kind of pigeon with which I am acquainted. The fancy Almond and the high-bred short-faced Tumblers I mentioned briefly in my last, referring those that require a fuller description to Mr. J. M. Eaton's work, where they will find full particulars as to their management, breeding, &c., as also accounts of the trouble and difficulty of rearing "a little wonder;" but such pains will, I fear, be only bestowed by a few enthusiastic fanciers. The varieties of this breed that now come under our notice are very numerous; their soaring flight and their aerial gymnastics will call forth much admiration, and are, I conceive, well calculated to enlist the sympathies of the student of nature. The Tumbler pigeons are well known in most of the countries of

Europe; in France they are called "Voltigeurs," or "Culbutants;" in Germany, "Burzel," "Umschlager," or "Tümmler-Tauben;" their name is derived from their throwing a summersault while flying, which they sometimes perform three or four times at a single spring, clapping their wings together over their back, then suddenly bringing them down with force, they throw themselves back on their tails and roll over backwards. Young birds may frequently be seen trying to tumble, throwing themselves back on their tails, but fearing to go over, and some are a long time before they overcome their fears; this is called "backing." When young birds fly well and back much, without going over (a great defect), I have found it useful to pull out the middle of their tail, so that the next time they back they often fall over, and from that learn to tumble well; some tumble too much at a time, and thereby lose the flight, or cause the others to come down to them, which is very objectionable. I have heard of a new sort (at least new to me), called rollers, because they roll along with the flight, but never having seen them, cannot describe them; perhaps some of the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle" may know them, and oblige me by a description. The Tumblers should be kept in a house by themselves, and only let out once a day; the best time is in the morning before the sun is very hot, and when they have had their fly they should be shut up for the rest of the day, and not allowed to associate with other pigeons, or they will contract a habit of low flying, which would spoil them; they should be kept in a commodious house, and in constant daily exercise, or they become lazy. Their house should be provided with plenty of food, clean water, and grit; a "salt cat" will be found very useful, made of old mortar, coarse sand, clay, and a little salt; nor should green meat be omitted, such as lettuce, cabbage, &c., and an occasional bath is very beneficial.

They are excellent breeders, and do not require so much attention as most fancy

pigeons ; keep them clean and in exercise, give them good food and water, and materials to build with, and they will do well. Although their young are small, they are excellent in pies, and are produced in abundance provided they are not cramped for room.

The Tumbler should have a nice round head, a pearl eye, a short beak, a full chest, and a consequential deportment ; they assimilate to the Almond short-faced in properties, but if intended for the flying fancy, must be stouter and of stronger constitutions,—in fact, not so high bred. They may be met with of various grades of goodness, like most other fancy articles : their plumage is the most varied of all pigeons ; there are whole colours, of black, blue, white, red, yellow, or buff, silver, dun, ash-coloured, and kite ; also mottles of all these. There are two kinds of mottles, dark and light ; the dark have only a few feathers of white about head and shoulders ; the light mottles must have the whole of the flight and tail dark, the rest of the body white interspersed with a few coloured feathers. Then there are the piers ; first, the magpie tumbler, black, blue, red or yellow, with white wings, breasts, thighs and vent, evenly marked without one coloured feather, the rest of the body being dark without any white. I have also seen reds and yellows with quite white shoulders like shields, and the Germans have a variety with white bodies but dark heads and tails. Baldhead Tumblers are very pretty ; their bodies are of various colours, as black, blue, &c., from which they receive their name, as black Baldheads, and so forth ; the head must be perfectly white, evenly marked all round, and not “slobbered ;” from seven to ten flight-feathers must be white in each wing, and the tail, rump, thighs and vent must also be quite white and clear from “foul feathers ;” the eyes, too, must be pearl, as a black eye is a great blemish. Bearded Tumblers are also very interesting pigeons : like the foregoing, they are of various colours, and must have clean white

flights, tails, rumps, thighs, &c., and pearl eyes ; their heads are dark above, the upper mandible is dark, but the lower should be white, or flesh-coloured, and under the beak should be a triangular white patch, from which they derive their name. The Blue-bearded Tumblers are considered the best flyers, but they are not now often seen of accurate markings, more attention being paid to breed them delicate and short-faced, than to maintain a clear beard and clean thighs and rump, a fact I much regret. A small, delicate bird with a tiny beak looks well in the show-pen, but very few of them are strong enough to take a lofty flight of two or three hours, oft rising above the clouds, and frequently lost to sight ; such are the delights of a flying fancier. I am aware that the head and beak fanciers consider that everything else must give way before these points, and to a certain extent this is quite right ; but those gentlemen that admire the short-faced Tumblers will, while they enjoy their fancy, allow others to enjoy theirs, and not exclude, as some seem to wish, the flying birds from all exhibitions ; for birds with such short beaks that they cannot rear their own young, or so delicate that they must not be trusted out, are certainly not fitted for lofty flights ; but good Tumblers are rather scarce, they being either too delicate to fly, or too coarse to be admired—a medium sort is the kind best adapted for good flyers.

The Germans have a large variety of Tumblers, which fly well and tumble very nicely ; they are of various colours, either whole coloured or dark with white flight and tails, often with a small beard, and their feet are covered with very long white feathers, many of the feathers on the toes measuring four or five inches in length. I kept a flight of them when in Germany, and was agreeably surprised to find them excellent high flyers, and very prolific ; but, to my great discomfiture, when I had got them almost to perfection in flying, a large hawk made daily descent upon them, and so reduced their numbers that I was obliged to leave off flying them. These rough-footed

Tumblers I found very plentiful in and about Coblenz, on the Rhine; in other parts of Germany they have many clean-footed Tumblers of various colours, as magpies, helmets, and beards, but their beards have only a white beard and flight feathers, the rest of the body being dark, of various colours.

B. P. B.

Always keep a Diary of Poultry Matters.

I AM scarcely aware of any plan so worthy of recommendation to a poultry amateur, as keeping a diary of passing events; besides, I feel well-assured that by so doing, a multiplicity of advantages may very easily be obtained, and the present trouble most amply compensated, by the experiences laid down and thus irrevocably impressed upon the mind. The faults of past days are here at once made palpable and apparent—the benefits by different remedial modes of treatment to poultry, whose misfortune it has been to have suffered from ill-health, is also tangibly recorded, and can (with incalculable advantages) be referred to at pleasure; hence it is, I advise all amateurs to adopt a plan that is at the same time so satisfactory and interesting. Allow me then to note down a few advantages, by stating the best mode of carrying out the plan I propose, as these remarks are directed more particularly to those who are keeping fancy poultry exclusively, and to whom one false step may afterwards cause much vexatious loss and disappointment.

In the first place, as a commencement of such labours (if you can ascertain it), insert in your diary the pedigree of your brood stock, as this will be of incalculable service when, in a few years' time, "change of blood" becomes indispensable. If adopted, no doubts will then arise as to this ever-necessary (and not-to-be-forgotten) management being thoroughly "carried out;" for unless you can depend on your parent-fowls (at the onset) as being of *different* strains, deterioration will, without

doubt, annually ensue, and every generation with more rapid strides than the year preceding. In the next place, it will be advisable to make entries of the time when each fowl begins to lay, and not less so to record also the date when her first laid eggs proved *prolific*; for experience will convince most amateurs, that with fancy poultry, in comparatively close confinement, the first produced eggs in the season are not unfrequently altogether useless for the production of chickens, more especially if the spring prove severe and changeable. Comparisons of your entries will add to your experience, and the data just mentioned will not prove the least deserving in your catalogue of results. Never set a hen without stating in your note-book the time of so doing; it will keep you in close remembrance of the period when your chickens may be expected, and if notice is taken, will also point out to you the individual hens it is the most advisable to trust to as mothers in future seasons,—in short, this tends strongly to prevent disappointment, while an occasional reference to your diary will call to mind many incidents, otherwise *forgotten*, that in such cases are more than generally advantageous, where any doubts are existent, as to the expediency of *present* selections.

When hatched, it will be well to make record of the proportion of chickens produced to the eggs incubated; and not less so, to note down the *reasons of death*, to all the chickens where mishaps take place, a feature that will prevent such causes being inadvertently repeated more than any other plan of which I am aware, by guarding the owner against approaching misadventure. Here too a very valuable fund of information may be attained as to the relative well-doing (or otherwise) of chickens subjected to different modes of treatment, and when the results are thus committed to paper, it directly refreshes the memory, and we test, with but little trouble, whether the proportions are somewhat alike to each other; or on the other hand, consequences ensue that should be

rigidly and carefully guarded against by a different mode of feeding. When an accident happens likewise to any individual bird of the old stock, an entry to the effect made immediately arouses attention to the causes that produced death, and is a most valuable reference in future seasons; it prevents, too, the uncertainty that not unfrequently takes possession of the mind if left exclusively to mental reminiscences. To an observant individual, many other similar entries will at once be obvious, all equally tending to guide the amateur in his future line of conduct, and proving the best possible helps to ensure general success.

It may be urged, however, that such a plan entails much additional trouble; it may possibly be a trifling one at the first, but nothing can be more easy than to make the necessary entries some time or other daily; let it be done as briefly as you please, it being only necessary it should be afterwards understood by yourself, and in a very short time the advantages will prove themselves such, that I am sure a laxity of feeling will never again prevent its continuance. I have myself for years had the pleasure of being able at once, in all such cases as those described, to refer to my diary, and I enjoy the acquaintance of many other extensive breeders, who, at my suggestion, have also adopted the same plan; all these parties are concurrent, "that it has already saved them numerous losses," and also state, "that nothing should prevent their continuing such daily entries but the complete disposal of all their breeding-stock, for that its benefits are incalculable."

These are not solitary quotations, for I am from time to time put in possession of fresh proofs of the wisdom of this arrangement, and not unfrequently have the lives of favourite and valuable birds been saved, by a single reference to such a diary, together with the expression of sincere thanks for allowing its perusal. Finding, therefore, the "Poultry Chronicle" has now gained so extensive a

circulation, I am desirous to advise, through its columns, those to whom the writer may be utterly unknown; and if by so doing I am able to prevent disappointment, vexation, or regret, to even a single amateur, who has never yet entertained the subject now before him, my object is attained, and the great desire for practical utility that has throughout pervaded the columns of your excellent periodical will (though perchance but triflingly) be somewhat advanced. E. C.

A Morning at Mr. Stevens's.

We entered Mr. Stevens's large room, on Tuesday, the 4th instant, in time to see several lots of very pretty Cochins chickens, the property of T. Rider, Esq., some of which had taken the second prize at Farningham, either sold or passed at 5s. per pair. These were followed by two hens (lots 38 and 39) which shared the same fate, and lot 40, a really beautiful hen, was knocked down for 13s. These were succeeded by a number of heavy coloured young fowls, which each performed its round in turn, and was passed over the platform; we were not told that no sales were effected, but such appeared to be the case, and the same with some pretty coloured birds of Mr. Sparham's strain.

Afterwards followed some very good Dorkings from Mrs. George, among which the three fowls which won the first prize at Reigate were sold for 16s., 10s., and 9s.; they had been purchased of the Rev. Mr. Boyes, at £10 each. A very large Dorking cock was sold for £2. 2s., a hen £1. 6s. A pair of very fine chickens 18s., three ditto 11s. A small number of lots, which sold at lower prices, passed on the expectant purchasers to Brahmas of various ages from "an amateur in Middlesex," and from Mr. Gilbert's collection. Here we had Brahma cocks and hens, from 5s. to 10s. each; some Cochins claimed at the starting price, 5s. each or per couple; some

nice Brahma chickens from 5s. to 15s. per pair. A curious nondescript grey Cochon hen, bred or imported by Mr. Stainston, £1. 4s. Two pairs of very pretty Cochon pullets at £1 per pair, and a good many chickens and fowls at about Leadenhall-market prices. A good white-faced Spanish cockerel of last year, a taker of several prizes, bred by Mr. Timothy Mason, sold for £1. 13s.

A number of nice Brahma chickens from Mr. Emery's yard were sold at prices which made the owners regret having incurred the expense of bringing them from the country. Two chickens, a cockerel and a pullet, much lauded in the catalogue, belonging to Mrs. Cannon, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, rose to the sums of 19s. and £1. 3s. respectively; and the remainder of that lady's chickens were sold, or passed, at 6s. each. A Brahma hen and a cock, belonging to Mr. Fox, were £2. 2s. each, and the remainder similar in price to those already quoted.

A correspondent has expressed a wish for reports of the sales; but while prices like those mentioned above only are realized at them, it would surely benefit amateurs but little if we were to be at the expense and trouble of having a reporter in regular attendance. A person anxious to dispose of his fowls goes to the expense of sending them 6, 20, 30, or 50 miles, as in the present instance, with the certainty of the expenses of the journey one way, of those of the auction, and the probability of having the extra charges of the return of a portion of the lots: if only one or two birds sell pretty well, and the rest at 5s. each or per pair, what surplus is there in this (except a surplus of trouble) over sending to Leadenhall or some other market? We to the full extent concur with Mr. Stevens in his often-repeated opinion, that fowls which will not bring 5s. each should not be put up at auction; and it is so difficult to judge a bird under these circumstances, that few persons, at the present time, seem disposed to offer even a fair price at an auction.

Shooting a Dog.

MR. HENRY SPEED, of Havre-des-Pas, appeared before the Court charged with having, on Tuesday last, shot at and wounded a dog belonging to Colonel Budgen.

Mr. Speed.—The charge is perfectly true. The dog came trespassing on my ground, and, as it was a large animal, and was chasing my fowls about the yard, and I held a gun in my hands at the time, I shot the dog.

Colonel Budgen and the witnesses residing near Mr. Speed's house were heard in support of the charge. They heard the report of the gun, and saw the dog afterwards lying in the road, but they did not actually see Mr. Speed shoot the animal. One of the witnesses added, that it was a constant practice with Mr. Speed to shoot dogs; that he himself kept one that attracted the others, and that this offered him frequent opportunities of gratifying his propensity for dog-shooting. "He has killed mine in the same way!" exclaimed the witness.

Another witness appeared on the part of Mr. Speed. She was a neighbour, and deposed that she saw Mr. Speed shoot the dog, after having made several ineffectual attempts to drive it away from his premises, where it was running after the fowls.

The Judge said that, according to Colonel Budgen's evidence, the dog wore a collar on which the proprietor's name was engraved; this circumstance offered Mr. Speed an opportunity of lodging a complaint with the police against the master of the dog, if the animal did any injury; but he certainly was not justified in taking the law into his own hand, and shooting the dog. He (the Judge) should therefore fine Mr. Speed 10s.

The fine was paid, and the parties left the court.—*Jersey Paper.*

A QUAIN old writer defines egotism to be "suffering the private *I* to be too much in the public eye."

The Family of Swallows.

THE swallow is a social bird, particularly the barn swallow, to which our farmers are so much attached, that they have many contrivances for enticing them to build near their houses, and scarcely a barn to which they can find access is without them. Wilson says that "in the woods they are never met with; but as you approach a farm they soon catch the eye, cutting their gambols in the air."

Some swallows build their nests five or six feet down the chimney, without any regard to the smoke which issues from it. Others prefer the shafts of old wells, or even of coal-pits, where men are constantly passing and repassing. A pair has been known to build on the spring of a bell, and although the frequent concussions prevented their hatch from succeeding, they did not quit their musical mansion until the end of the season. Bigley knew of a pair which built for two successive years upon the handles of an old pair of garden shears, which were stuck into the side of a shed; and it is by no means an uncommon occurrence for a New England farmer, who has allowed his coat to hang in an out-house for a few days, to find, upon putting it on again, that these confiding little creatures have constructed for themselves a snug home in one of its sleeves or pockets.

But a still more curious fancy must have actuated another pair of swallows, which are recorded by Mr. Rennie to have built their habitation on the body of a dead owl, which was suspended by a string from the rafter of a barn. The owl was taken down and deposited in a museum as a curiosity, and a large shell was hung up in its place. The following year a nest was built in the shell.

The swallow which builds its nest under our windows may be ranked among the mason birds. He brings a little mud, which he sticks to the wall, probably by

the assistance of some salivary fluid—as the bird is known to possess large salivary glands. Like every good architect, he takes great pains to ensure a solid, durable foundation to his structure, by plastering the materials firmly into the face of the wall with the lower part of his bill; and, like a prudent workman, in order that the weight of the upper portion may not cause the lower part to give way while it is new and soft, he has prudence and forbearance enough to build only half an inch a day—thus giving the lower part an opportunity to harden before it is required to sustain a weight. He works only in the morning, devoting the remainder of the day to food and amusement. Thus in ten or twelve days a snug nest is completed, with a small aperture at the top. It is lined inside with some soft substance, such as grass, feathers, or wool. The outside is rough, and covered with knobs and protuberances. A single nest, in a sheltered location, will often serve for several seasons. Those who have a ready-finished house to dwell in, generally get the start in hatching of those that build new, by some ten days or a fortnight.

But, notwithstanding the many social virtues and excellent qualities of the swallow, there are doubtless many of our readers who dislike their familiarities, and would gladly dispense with their company, and particularly with the nests which they build so unceremoniously under eaves, in windows, or wherever their capricious fancy dictates. We say capricious, for they often begin many edifices and leave them unfinished before they settle finally upon a location. To such of our readers we would observe, that if they are desirous of preventing swallows from building about their houses, they need only rub the forbidden places thoroughly with oil and soft soap, which will render it impossible for the bird to make the clay adhere to the wall. Once foiled, the swallow will not try the same place again for years.—*Boston Journal.*

The Editor's Letter-Box.

FARNINGHAM SHOW.

Weymouth, July 3, 1854.

DEAR SIR,—As I did not exhibit at the late Farningham Poultry Exhibition, I shall be obliged by your correcting an error which appeared in your excellent little work, namely, that I was "one of the unsuccessfuls."—Yours truly,

F. C. STEGGALL.

GIZZARD, ETC.

SIR,—In answer to the inquiries of "W. S." I refer him to Rector Stanley's (Alderley, Cheshire) two volumes on birds. If the fowls of "W. S." are confined, he cannot do better than purchase two riddles, one one-eighth of an inch, and the other a quarter of an inch in mesh, reserving what passes through the one-eighth for dust-bath, and retaining all that passes through the quarter inch for gravel for his fowls,—the coarser left in the quarter inch will come in for gravel walks. I have dissected three male birds lately, and found in the first,—

A Black Spanish, 3 yrs. old (death, apoplexy), 198 pebbles (as sample).

The gizzard of this fowl was horny, dark-coloured, and constricted; fluted inside the same, like a coffee-mill.

Cochin China cockerel, age 5 months.

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|-----|
| Pieces of coal | .. | .. | 48 |
| Pieces of glass | .. | .. | 4 |
| Pebbles | .. | .. | 253 |

305

The gizzard of this bird was not constricted, and was as yellow as a marigold flower, in consequence of being fed on yellow maize.

Black Spanish cockerel.

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|-----|
| Pieces of glass | .. | .. | 150 |
| Pebbles | .. | .. | 126 |

276

This bird, like the latter, was fed chiefly on maize; and it is quite obvious, that if the food be of a harder nature, harder substances are swallowed after taking it in order to grind it down; indeed, if the bird has only hard water to drink, I question whether maize can be ground down in the gizzard: I have seen it voided whole in such cases. A very small portion of unslaked lime thrown into their water is an excellent plan when good rain water cannot be procured for them.

As regards Tinct. Cantharides, I have tried it, but could never cause them to lay with it. If any kind of flesh containing albumen be given to them, in small portions, daily, you may rely upon having plenty of eggs, if you have a *good male bird, and well fed.*

To "A New Correspondent," p. 416.—Always purchase sound food, however coarse the sample. It is not wise to purchase "barley meal, Indian meal, &c.," as it is a well-known fact, that they are, in general, a compost either of heated or highly-damaged grain, which, if from salt water, is at once poisonous. Have a small mill of your own, and grind it yourself with one hand,—it will open the chest, and give an appetite, beating the dumb bell system into the shade.

Macclesfield.

J. L.

HIGH CONDITION IN FOWLS.

MR. EDITOR,—What is it that is given to fowls to throw them into that beautiful condition so often noticeable at the shows?—the plumage wears a beautiful metallic lustre and gloss, the combs are of a coral redness, and the general appearance indicative of a splendid state of health, caused by something more than mere ordinary food. It was given in this journal, as an extract from the "Pentalogue," that if linseed was boiled in water, and it and the water given mixed with meal, it would produce this effect, but I was unsuccessful with the experiment; that beer will produce it to a certain extent I am quite aware, but as this is a stimulant, very pernicious in its after results, particularly to chickens, I do not think that this can be the article used; and as I am very anxious to make my own fowls wear the same charming appearance, I should be glad to be informed how it is done, and in return I will communicate a secret or two equally valuable.

P.S. Washing a cock's head and comb with salt and water will make it very red and healthy-looking for a time, but it soon wears off. Is it done by linseed oil?—I think this is it. Beer is a good thing for the time, but when withdrawn it ruins the birds.

VITALITY OF EGGS.

A DORKING hen deserted her twelve eggs on June 4th, all day and night, and on the 5th she only went occasionally to the nest for about five to ten minutes, but not sitting.

On the morning of the 6th June, I took the eggs (stone cold, and had been so from the 4th), and divided them, *i. e.*, six under two hens whose eggs were due on the 7th. The result is, that every egg is hatched, and the chickens strong

and healthy. I can only attribute their retention of vitality to having put two to three inches of sand and soil (riddled fine) under the nest, which must have retained a bottom heat. I have had similar misfortunes, and always lost every chick, through not having soil and sand under the nest for a foundation. J. L.

Macclesfield, 7th June, 1854.

A FACT FOR THE REARERS OF POULTRY.

—Mr. Purse, steward to S. Capon, Esq., Framlingham, had, some few weeks back, a cock turkey, or, as they are called in Suffolk, a gobble-cock, determined to sit upon some eggs which were left in a nest. The steward, by way of experiment, placed under him 25 ducks' eggs, which so delighted him that for several days he refused to come off after his food. After sitting 29 days, he hatched out 20 ducks. A hen and a duck hatched out at the same time 30 between them. As the gobble's services were now required in another direction, it was thought advisable to commit his young family, together with those of the hen, to the care of the duck. They are now all alive, three weeks old, 50 in number, marching about with the old duck.

HABITS OF THE FOX.—A neighbour of ours possessed a large number of fine turkeys, which usually roosted on the branches of some tall Scotch firs, immediately adjoining the farm-yard. Reynard had an eye to these, and paid them several visits during the moonlight nights, unsuccessfully: they were perched too high for him to reach them, and, therefore, he had to resort to stratagem, for stratagem is the fox's stalking-horse. Now, how was this to be practised? Well, he first scratched the ground beneath the tree with his fore-foot, and then the base of the tree itself, in order to draw their attention, at the same time looking up, to mark every movement. He then ran round the tree in rapid rings. The turkeys, aware of their danger, followed his quick movements with their eyes and became confused and dizzy. One fine bird fell plump upon the ground, and was instantly killed, according to the authority

of the shepherd, who was watching the proceedings. The like scheme was repeated, and down came another, which shared the same fate. Both were borne off to the earths.—*Sporting Magazine.*

RECIPE FOR A WASH.—A superior and cheap yellow wash for either poultry houses or outbuildings, and quite suitable for the purpose of not absorbing much heat and keeping an equal temperature; can be made by slaking lime in boiling water, adding clay previously well boiled, and either some stale eggs or the serum of ox blood; the latter sets as hard as horn if properly managed.

AMERICAN RECIPE FOR A CHICKEN PIE.—Joint the chickens, which should be young and tender—boil them in just sufficient water to cover them. When nearly tender, take them out of the liquor, and lay them in a deep pudding-dish, lined with pie-crust. To each layer of chicken, put three or four slices of pork—add a little of the liquor in which they were boiled, and a couple of ounces of butter, cut into small pieces—sprinkle a little flour over the whole, cover it with nice pie-crust, and ornament the top with some of your pastry. Bake it in a quick oven one hour.

To Correspondents.

R. G.—As we have the pleasure of numbering among our correspondents two gentlemen who make use of these initials, to avoid the confusion which might occur, we will, with their permission, add to them respectively in future, "of Dorsetshire" and "of Cumberland."

W. W., W. C. of E., and Mr. S.—We are very much obliged for the schedules and other information so kindly forwarded to the "Poultry Chronicle."

W. S.—We are much obliged for having our attention drawn to the fact, that another of our correspondents has the same signature. We will for the future make an addition to the second, which will obviate confusion, and will make this clear in the index when the time shall arrive.

A Correspondent writes, "J. C. has not yet given us his plan of feeding his chickens." The same correspondent has quite mistaken our meaning, when he says, "I am glad you do not

uphold the pea-comb for Brahmas." Our meaning is, that we disclaim partiality, and do not uphold our own opinions at the expense of shutting out those of our correspondents. We believe the pea-comb to be the true characteristic of the Brahma fowl; but the repetition of this in the "Poultry Chronicle" is not a mere repetition of our own idea, but has occurred because the largest number of our correspondents and contributors advocate the pea-comb.

To Live and Learn.—Will "Live and Learn" oblige us with his address?

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

There is little alteration in the market during the past week, as the supply is only just equal to the demand. The approaching termination of the West-end season is visible in the decreasing sale of the first qualities of poultry. Large fowls are still very scarce, and much sought after.

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----|---------|-------|
| Large Fowls | ..7s. 0d. | to | 9s. 0d. | each. |
| Smaller do. | ..4s. 0d. | to | 6s. 0d. | " |
| Chickens | ..3s. 0d. | to | 3s. 6d. | " |
| Green Geese | ..5s. 6d. | to | 6s. 6d. | " |
| Ducklings | ..3s. 6d. | to | 4s. 0d. | " |
| Pigeons | ..1s. 0d. | to | 1s. 1d. | " |
| Rabbits | ..1s. 6d. | to | 1s. 8d. | " |
| Do. Wild | ..0s. 10d. | to | 1s. 0d. | " |
| Leverets | ..4s. 0d. | to | 5s. 0d. | " |

Advertisements.

FIRST PRIZE BUENOS AYREAN, OR LABRADOR DUCKS.

AN Amateur has for DISPOSAL A DRAKE and two DUCKS of the above breed, FIRST CLASS, and high-bred specimens, which gained the First Prize at "BATH." Also for Sale a Pen of magnificent and unusually superior Silver-pencilled HAMBURG Chickens, which won the first prize at "WEST KENT," June 20.—For prices, &c. apply to Mr. T. B. FAIRHEAD, Braintree, Essex.

A SPANISH COCKEREL, hatched May, 1853, with unequalled face, being perfectly white over the eye to the base of the comb, lowest price £10; Hens, £2 to £5 each, and Chickens, bred from them, £2. 2s. each; Brahma Pootra Fowls, 10s. to 15s.; and Chickens, from 5s. each. Cochins China and Dorking Fowls, Sebright Gold and Silver-laced Bantams, Silver Pheasants, Fancy Pigeons, &c.—Apply, by letter only, inclosing stamp, to TIMOTHY MASON (late of King's Cottage), No. 7, Upper Jubilee-street, Mile-end-road, London.

FANCY POULTRY, PERIODICAL SALE.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will SELL by AUCTION at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent-garden, on TUESDAY, July 18, at Twelve o'clock precisely, a SELECTION of POULTRY, from the yards of Mr. Bidwell, of Guildford; Mr. P. Jones, jun., Fulham; F. Sutton, Esq., Bury St. Edmunds; T. Shackell, Esq., Uxbridge; Plummer, Brislington; and others; it includes COCHINS of all colours, Frise Spangled HAMBURGS, POLANDS, SPANISH, and BRAHMAS.—Catalogues by inclosing a stamped-directed envelope to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent-garden.

FANCY POULTRY, &c.

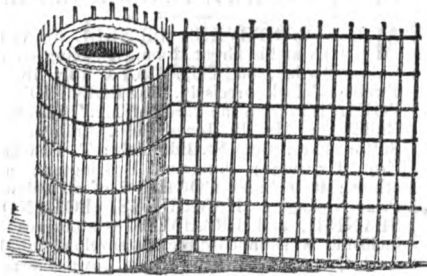
MR. J. B. MAY will SELL by AUCTION, on WEDNESDAY, August 16, 1854, at Twelve for One o'clock precisely, upon the grounds of Egypt House, Cowes, Isle of Wight, a valuable collection of about two hundred first-class FOWLS and CHICKENS, the stock of Mr. W. SAUNDERS, including some known Birds, and comprising Dorkings, Brahma Pootras, Spanish, Game, Cochins China, White and Coloured, Golden and Silver Hamburgs, White Spanish, White and Black Bantams, Ducks, and Rabbits.—Catalogues will shortly be ready, and to be had on application to the Auctioneer, Cowes, or Mr. SAUNDERS.

All the Stock will be eligible for entry at the Southampton and subsequent Shows.

N.B. The hour of Sale is fixed to allow of parties coming and returning easily by the various Steam-boats.

TWO First Prize SPANISH PULLETS for SALE, and a COCKEREL; the Cockerel is a large, good-shaped bird, with white right round the eye and a stand-up comb; also seven very handsome CHICKENS, four months old. Some of these were shown in the extra class at Taunton, and were spoken very highly of—see the "Poultry Chronicle," June the 28th. They will all be sold cheap, as the Advertiser has not room for them.—Apply, inclosing a stamped-directed envelope, to DANIEL PARSLEY, Rock-cottage, Stapleton-road, Bristol, where they can be seen at any time.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION at Lincoln, Stand No. 44. A new POULTRY FOUNTAIN, exhibited and manufactured by WARREN SHARMAN, Melton Mowbray.—Description, with Engraving, forwarded on application.



WILLIAM DRAY AND CO.'S PATENT WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, &c. Price 2d. per square foot.

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Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 21.]

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

THE Editor respectfully informs the readers of the "POULTRY CHRONICLE," that the printing and publishing will henceforth be conducted by Messrs. BRADBURY & EVANS, 11, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, to whom all Orders and Advertisements must in future be addressed, and to whom Post-Office Orders should be made payable.

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Poultry Shows.

Royal Agricultural Society of England, at Lincoln this present week.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries close this day, July 19th.

Wellington, Somerset. Thursday and Friday, 3rd and 4th of August. Honorary Secretary, R. Corner, Esq. Entries close July 21st.

Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland's Show, at Armagh, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 9th and 10th of August. Secretary, Thomas Harkness, Esq., Upper Sackville-street, Dublin. Entries close this day, July 19th.

Cleveland Agricultural Society's Show, including Poultry, Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th of August. Secretary, Mr. Thomas Parrington. Entries close, Saturday, August 5th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th.

Keighley Agricultural Show, including Poultry, Wednesday, September 6th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq. Entries close August 30th.

Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Society, including Poultry, at Radcliffe, Friday, September 8th. Secretary, Mr. J. Cross, Market-street, Bury. Entries close August 28th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

South East Hants, at Fareham, Tuesday, September 19th. Secretary, G. Creed, Esq., and J. James, Esq. Entries close September 1st.

Yeovil, September 20th. Secretary, John Clyde, Esq.

Daventry Exhibition, in connexion with the

Northamptonshire Agricultural Society (limited to the county), September 21st. Secretaries, Messrs. Freeman & Sons, Northampton.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M'C. Swarbreck, Esq. Entries close September 5th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. The Schedule is now ready. Entries close Friday, September 1.

South West Middlesex Agricultural Society, at Southall, Friday, October 6th. Secretary, Mr. John Gotelee, Hounslow. Entries close one calendar month before the show.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. Wm. Thurnall, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

Cambridgeshire, at Cambridge, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of November. The Schedule will be ready July 20th.

Norwich and Eastern Counties, at Norwich, Wednesday and Thursday, the 15th and 16th of November. Secretary, C. Oury, Esq. Entries close October 31st.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 28th.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombrian, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council Rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Nottinghamshire Poultry Association. The Second Annual Exhibition will be held at Southwell, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 19th and 20th

of December. Secretary, R. Hawksley, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 21st.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

THE public taste is in the main a correct one, and for anything to become truly popular it must have within itself the elements of common sense. The people, properly speaking, are uneducated; they are therefore ductile, and they choose their leaders among those who, had they moved in a higher sphere, would have been educated and leaders among their fellows. But there are two educations, that of schools and books, and that of experience. The first being beyond the reach of the people, the élite among them have used the common or rather superior sense they naturally possessed, and have applied it to their habits, tastes and diversions. To this, we attribute the origin of poultry shows, for they began with the people. The labouring man in London, of whatever trade or calling he may be a member, feels the want of relaxation and entire change, as a relief from his monotonous work. The public-house did not satisfy superior men, and they then chose a more humanizing and healthful pursuit, and one that at the same time identified them with some of the most beautiful works of creation. They bred pigeons, bantams, and rabbits. Emulation and the desire to excel are natural to most men, and these originated exhibitions and competition. They were joined by others

of a superior station and rank; rules were drawn up, judges were appointed, and shows were carried on. Men are like sheep, inasmuch as they follow each other. For instance, if one jump from the Monument or the Duke of York's Column, another does it directly, and hence the necessity for giving both the galleries the appearance of huge cages. They also copy each other. It has always been so, the philosopher's stone, the Eldorado, the Mohawks of Addison's time, the South Sea bubble, the Mormons, and the poultry mania all prove it. But the last has the solid common sense foundation of which we spoke in the beginning of this paper. It has stood and will stand, nay more, it is spreading. This year, for the first time, poultry has formed part of the agricultural shows in France. Our go-ahead American brethren threaten to distance us. An officially appointed gentleman from the Swedish government attended the Birmingham Show to gain an insight into the different classes, and to make notes of them, describing the chief points, characteristics, and utility of each breed; and hundreds, we may say thousands, are at this time viewing the birds exhibited at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show at Lincoln. The popularity and progress of poultry shows are proofs of the soundness of their institution. The fact of a perceptible improvement in the quality of fowls all over the kingdom, testifies to the good they are doing. We dare not anticipate the day when poultry will be within the reach of all, or we would alter the French king's wish and say "Je voudrais que chaque Anglais eût tous les dimanches sa poule au pot."

Schedule of the Keighley Agricultural Show.

THIS Show, held under the patronage of the Duke of Devonshire, the Earl of Burlington, Sir C. Tempest, G. L. Fox, Esq., and T. Greenwood, Esq., will be open to all England, and will take place on the 6th of September. Premiums are offered for cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, crops (the last appear to be confined to the locality), and poultry.

PREMIUMS FOR POULTRY.

| | 1st. | | 2nd. | |
|--|------|-------|------|-------|
| | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
| Cochin China Cock and two Hens (buff) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Ditto Cock and two Hens (dark) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Black Spanish Cock and two Pullets | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Chitterprats, Cock and two Hens | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Golden Pheasant Cock and two Hens | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Silver Pheasant Cock and two Hens | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Golden Pheasant Cock and two Hens (Poland) | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Silver Pheasant Cock and two Hens (Poland) | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Black Pheasant Cock and two Hens | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Dorking Cock and two Hens | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Game Cock and two Hens | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Golden Pheasant Bantam Cock and two Hens | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Silver Pheasant Bantam Cock and two Hens | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Black, White, or Game Bantam Cock and two Hens | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Ditto Cockerel and two Pullets | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Two Ducks and Drake | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Four Ducklings | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Two Geese and Gander | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Two Turkey Hens and Cock | 0 | 10 | 6 | 5 |

[The nomenclature is curious to our southern ideas: are Pheasant Bantams what we call Laced Bantams?]

The regulations state that the entrance money must be paid at the time the entries are made, and the ages of all Stock given at the same time.

The entrance for Poultry, where the premiums amount to upwards of 10s. 6d. each lot, will be 2s. 6d., and in other cases 1s. All entries must be made on or before the 30th day of August next.

No premiums will be paid before the 20th of September.

Poultry must have been the property of the exhibitor six weeks before the Show.

A dinner will be provided at the Devonshire Arms on the same day, to be on the table at four o'clock.—Tickets 3s. 6d. each.

By order,
WADE SMITH, Secretary.

Schedule of the Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Society.

THE annual meeting and show (which will embrace poultry) is to take place on the 8th of September. Prizes are offered to the "best cultivated farms," "draining," "laying down land to grass," and "hedges," to crops of various kinds, cattle, horses, sheep, pigs and poultry.

POULTRY.

Prizes open to General Competition.

| | SPANISH. | | 1st. | 2nd. |
|-------------------------------|----------|----|------|-------|
| | £ | s. | d. | s. |
| Cock and three Hens, Chickens | 1 | 0 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Cock and two Hens, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | |

DORKING.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|
| Cock and three Hens, Chickens | 1 | 0 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Cock and two Hens, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | |

COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon or Buff).

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|
| Cock and three Hens, Chickens | 1 | 0 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Cock and two Hens, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | |

COCHIN CHINA (Brown or Partridge).

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|
| Cock and three Hens, Chickens | 1 | 0 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Cock and two Hens, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | |

COCHIN CHINA (Black and White).

| | £ | s. | d. | |
|-------------------------------|---|----|----|-------|
| Cock and three Hens, Chickens | 1 | 0 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Cock and two Hens, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | |

GAME.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|
| Cock and three Hens, Chickens | 1 | 0 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Cock and two Hens, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | |

GOLDEN HAMBURG.

This variety includes the "Golden Pencilled Hamburgs," "Bolton Bays," "Golden Pheasants," "Golden Mooneys," "Copper Moss," and "Red Caps."

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|
| Cock and three Hens, Chickens | 1 | 0 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Cock and two Hens, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | |

SILVER HAMBURGH.

This variety includes the "Bolton Grays," "Chitterprats," "Silver Pencilled Dutch," "Silver Pheasants," "Silver Mooneys," and "Silver Moss."

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|
| Cock and three Hens, Chickens | 1 | 0 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Cock and two Hens, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | |

POLAND.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|
| Cock and three Hens, Chickens | 1 | 0 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Cock and two Hens, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | |

BANTAMS (any variety).

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|
| Cock and three Hens, Chickens | 1 | 0 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Cock and two Hens, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | |

TURKEYS.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|
| Cock and two Hens, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | ... 5 |
|-------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|

GEESE.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|
| Gander and two Geese, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | ... 5 |
|----------------------------------|---|----|---|-------|

Ducks (Aylesbury, or other White variety).

| | | | | |
|--|---|----|---|-------|
| Drake and two Ducks, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Hatch of Ducklings, not less than four | 0 | 10 | 0 | |

Ducks (Rouen, or other dark variety).

| | | | | |
|--|---|----|---|-------|
| Drake and two Ducks, of any age | 0 | 15 | 0 | ... 5 |
| Hatch of Ducklings, not less than four | 0 | 10 | 0 | |

For the best Pen of Poultry, of ANY VARIETY OR NUMBER, the Society's Silver Medal.

Special Regulations for the Poultry.

Any person gaining a Prize of One Pound, may have a Silver medal in lieu thereof.

All exhibitors will be required, in making their

entries for the Show, to state the price at which they will sell their Poultry. A prohibitory price, or what appears to be so, can of course be named; but the sale must take place if an offer is made to purchase at the price specified. There will be a Sale by Auction at the termination of the Show, at which Poultry can also be offered for sale, along with other Stock. Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales towards defraying the expenses of the exhibition.

Birds with imperfect plumage will not be eligible for any of the prizes.

The ages of the chickens must be accurately stated; and it is desirable that the ages of the other specimens should be included in the certificates, whenever this can be done. Chickens of 1854 cannot be shown in the classes for fowl above that age.

All the specimens must have been *bond fide* the property of the exhibitor, for at least one month previous to the Show.

The discovery of any false statement will be followed by the exclusion of the exhibitors of specimens thus improperly described, from all future exhibitions.

The exhibition will not be confined to a particular district.

All entries should be made on the proper form of certificate, which will be supplied by the Secretary on application. No entry can be made after the 28th day of August next.

Subscribers of 10s. per annum will be entitled to exhibit poultry free of charge; but no subscriber can enter more than two pens for any one prize, nor in the whole more than four pens for every 10s. subscribed. Non-subscribers may enter, on payment of 3s. per pen; but will, in the event of gaining any prize, be only entitled to half the amount of such prize, except cottagers, who will be paid the whole.

The Secretary is Mr. J. Cross, Market Street, Bury.

Schedule of the South-West Middlesex Agricultural Society.

It has been resolved by this Society, that an Exhibition of Stock and Poultry shall take place at Southall, on Friday, Oct. 6th; the day of the annual ploughing match. The prize list includes horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry.

From the rules and regulations we extract the following:—

Subscribers of 20s. shall be entitled to one entry in each Class *free* for each 20s. subscribed, and for every additional entry 2s. 6d. to the Poultry Classes.

Persons entering Stock or Poultry shall do so on a form, to be supplied by the Secretary, which must be filled up and returned to him one calendar month before the Show, when the entrance money must be paid.

All Stock must be at the place of Exhibition by 7 o'clock in the morning, on the day of meeting; but Poultry must be sent before 12 o'clock on the day previous, and no Stock or Poultry will be allowed to be removed until 5 o'clock, p.m., on the day of the Exhibition.

All Stock or Poultry must have been in the owner's possession, and in the county of Middlesex, for at least three months previously to the Exhibition.

Exhibitors of Poultry will be required to send them in their own baskets, made of white wicker, 2 feet 6 inches square (sides and back of basket close) front and top open wicker, 2 inches apart. The ages of all Stock and Poultry, and by whom bred, must be given on the certificates; *if unknown*, to be so entered.

No person will be allowed in the Show Yard during the time the Judges are deciding on the merits of the Stock or Poultry, unless their services be required by the Judges.

The greatest care will be taken of the Stock and Poultry exhibited, but the Committee will not be responsible for any losses which may occur by accident or mistake.

All persons entering Poultry for Exhibition, and failing to send the same, shall pay a fine of 2s. 6d., unless a satisfactory reason be given to the Committee.

The Judges will be empowered to withhold any prize where specimens are not considered of sufficient merit.

All Subscribers of not less than 20s. shall receive one ticket of admission to the Show, Subscribers of £2, two tickets, and so on in proportion to the amount subscribed.

The novel feature of having the Poultry sent in the owners' own pens, is here to be practised, we think for the first time in England.

POULTRY PRIZES.

| | 1st. 2nd. | |
|--|-----------|--------|
| | £ | s. s. |
| Spanish Cock and two Hens | 1 | 0...10 |
| Cockerel and three Pullets | 1 | 0...10 |
| Dorking Cock and two Hens (coloured) 1 | | 0...10 |
| Cockerel and three Pullets | 1 | 0...10 |
| Dorking Cock and two Hens (white) . 1 | | 0...10 |
| Cockerel and three Pullets | 1 | 0...10 |
| Cochin China Cock and two Hens (cin- namon or buff) | 1 | 0...10 |
| Cockerel and three Pullets | 1 | 0...10 |
| Cochin China Cock and two Hens (white) | 1 | 0...10 |
| Cockerel and three Pullets | 1 | 0...10 |
| Cochin China Cock and two Hens (partridges, black or brown) . 1 | | 0...10 |
| Cockerel and three Pullets | 1 | 0...10 |
| Brahma Pootra Cock and two Hens . 1 | | 0...10 |
| Cockerel and three Pullets | 1 | 0...10 |
| Game Cock and two Hens | 1 | 0...10 |
| Cockerel and three Pullets | 1 | 0...10 |
| Any other distinct variety Cock and two Hens | 1 | 0...10 |
| Cockerel and three Pullets | 1 | 0...10 |
| White Aylesbury Drake and two Ducks 1 | | 0...10 |
| Drake and three Ducks (hatched in 1854) | 1 | 0...10 |
| Any other variety Drake and two Ducks 1 | | 0...10 |
| Drake and three Ducks (hatched in 1854) | 1 | 0...10 |
| Gander and two Geese (hatched in 1854) 1 | | 0...10 |
| Turkey Cock and two Hens | 1 | 0...10 |

The Cockerels and Pullets must all have been hatched in 1854. It is particularly desired that no Stock or Poultry be sent unless in a perfectly healthy condition. Forms of Entry to be had of the Secretary only.

On the Game Fowl,

(Continued from page 403.)

BY "COCKSPUR."

THE care and anxiety which every cock-breeder bestows on his crosses, shows how important he considers this point; and, indeed, unless it is properly attended to, the best breed soon loses the high courage which is its great characteristic. This teaches an important lesson to all breeders, and though the loss of other points of

excellence may not be so soon appreciable as the loss of courage, there can be little doubt that the effects of in-and-in breeding must be to rapidly deteriorate the progeny, by both stunting their physical development, and weakening their constitutional vigour; rendering them more liable to disease and less able to resist its effects.

It has been a matter of notorious remark, especially in those districts where cock-fighting formerly prevailed,—that in late years the breed of barn-door fowls has become much reduced in size, and that the chickens brought into the markets in recent times are much smaller than they used to be some years ago. I believe this to be the case, and that it is attributable to the present system of in-and-in breeding, which prevails in the farmer's yard. There is now seldom or ever any fresh blood introduced on the premises. But formerly when cock-fighting was more practised, every farm-yard *walked* a game cock or two, and hence new blood of the best kind was always being poured into the more plebeian races, and the consequence was, that the fowls sent to our tables were of larger size and higher flavour than we find them at the present time. If horse-racing has its importance in keeping up our breed of horses, cock-fighting did something for our breed of fowls, and did possess, therefore, some contingencies that were not altogether inimical to the welfare of the commonwealth.

Of course high courage and thorough "bottom" are the first points of excellence sought for by the cock-fighter; but in our exhibitions, these are not qualities that can be judged of by an inspection of the birds in a pen.

Those physical qualities, therefore, of form and feather, must be fixed upon which are supposed, and have been proved to be, such as are most in keeping with the highest excellence sought for in a game fowl. Such, for instance, as are compatible with the greatest strength being united to the greatest activity—a combination only to be found when the best

materials are arranged in the most symmetrical form. It is from this fact that all parties must allow a high bred game cock in full health and vigour is, after all, the beau ideal of a fowl, the true aristocracy of the genus *gallus*. There is a majestic elegance in all his movements, a bold defiance in his challenge, while every glance, "keen as the eagle's," looks in your face with fearless bravery. His gallantry, as exhibited in his attentions to his harem, is of the most refined kind, and makes us feel the truth of the poet, that

"None but the brave deserve the fair."

It is not wonderful that he should have been a favourite equally with the refined and intellectual Greeks, and the hardy and daring Romans. Both nations had their cockpits and paid great attention to his breeding. Indeed all nations, where men have advanced beyond the savage state, appear to have had a taste for game cocks, and both Christians and pagans have alike taken pleasure in witnessing their prowess. I must confess to the belief, however heterodox to our present notions, that had an Englishman had less taste for his bull-dog and his game cock, he had not strode the world a conquerer, from the burning heats of tropical India to the frozen shores of the Arctic circle, nor stood in his present "pride of place" amongst the nations of the earth. Nor have I been able to appreciate the greater cruelty exhibited by allowing two cocks to follow the strong bent of their inclinations—even when furnished with silver appendages,—than is witnessed in the conquest of fifty-two dogs over the "poor and timid hare," after the miserable animal has all but burst her heart by her endeavours to escape their greedy fangs. Remember, I by no means wish to see cock-fighting revived; but merely to draw attention to the curious fact, that while men can denounce some amusements as cruel and low, they can at the same time indulge in others, giving far more pain, as fashionable and innocent enjoyments.

But I have wandered from the point in question—the best form of the game cock. In considering this point let us place the figure of the Derby bird in the "Poultry Book" before us, and keep it as a reference; and in tracing what I consider its merits, or the contrary, I will endeavour to give the "reasons for the faith that is in me" in enunciating my *criteria* of excellence.

The general form of the bird should be one combining the greatest strength with the greatest freedom of action. It should not be clumsily built, but of the best proportions. The head should be fine, tapering from the point of the beak, this again becoming strong and thick at its union with the head; the Derby bird is excellent in this respect. The strength of beak is necessary for holding and giving power with the organ generally. The neck long and somewhat crested, which gives command in a fence with beaks for a hold; and the bone of the neck should be well developed. This is a great excellence in a game cock, but can only be properly judged of by handling, as a bird with an exuberance of hackle feather may deceive the eye in this respect, and obtain, from an absolute defect, a point over a bird both better in bone and feather, if the judge be not alive to such a distinction.

In the Derby bird the hackle is a little too luxuriant, and I would have liked him better with less of it. I shall speak more of this when we consider the feathering of the game.

The body should be broad in front and tapering behind, short in the back and strong across the loins. The thighs strong and short, the shank longer in proportion and strong but cleanly made, and the foot well spread and standing firmly on the ground. Some friends who are experienced breeders require the scales of the leg and toes to be fine and closely set, though the age of the bird will always influence the appearance of these scales. The particular form of the game cock gives to him, when trimmed, almost a spherical appearance in the body, and makes him feel much larger

when handled than he appears to the eye. The legs should stand well apart, and the wing be ample, almost covering the thigh.

In well-bred chickens this fullness of wing is very conspicuous; and it is a highly-desirable form, as the wing is a very important weapon in the game cock. The broad chest and full shoulders are indicative of the large pectoral muscles which lie on each side of the breast-bone, and which are there required to give force and power to the stroke of the wing. Again, the thighs and muscles attaching them to the body must also be large and strong, so that they swell out the parts across the back. This arrangement of muscle gives the body such a full and round feel when handled, contrary to the thin and lathy feel of others. The long neck, however, and finely-developed tail, as well as the noble carriage of the bird, take away anything like an unduly rounded appearance in the body to the eye, and invest him with rather a tall than stunted appearance; and it is only when handled, or seen trimmed for the pit, that his wonderful globe-like body is so striking. It is this form, too, that makes a pair of game fowls "plump out" so when brought to table. It may be here remarked that the complaint of the Cochin Chinas "having no breast" is only a part of their diminished wing appendages; and while they are bred for many of their present points, this complaint must remain.

The chief faults in the figure of the Derby cock are, that his thigh is too long, and his shank too short, and his wings too much tucked up. Were a portion of the thigh added to the shank, the same length on the whole being retained, he would be decidedly a better-made bird.

(To be continued).

IN America, crosses are said often to take place between the wild Turkeys and the tame race, and are much valued, both for external qualities and for the table.

Notes by "Alector."

"Oh, the bird of all birds that I ever did see,
The Goose is the fairest in her degree,
For all her life long she is nearly cost free,
And when on the table, how tender is she!"

OF all poultry none is so profitable as Geese where there are facilities for keeping them; for there are none that can do so much towards keeping themselves when alive, and none that come to so little waste when dead. Unlike the Fowl, all parts of the goose are equally good. Unlike the Duck, the giblets are a dainty. Besides which, every feather is of a value greater than that of any other of our domestic birds. Every housewife knows how to appreciate bedding stuffed with their plumage; and in these days of steel pens, I cannot but be thankful that the goose still possesses quills. In the "green" state, the goose is a popular delicacy to those who can afford it. At Michaelmas she is as much an object of national regard, as if (like of old at the Capitol of Rome), she had at least saved the Tower of London, and been canonised in consequence; and at Christmas, poor indeed must be the family that cannot indulge in their favourite bird.

How is it then, that the goose is not more popular with poultry fanciers? I can only account for the fact, for fact it is, by reason of its not being in every one's power to keep them; and also because the goose in the hands of a lady would be almost as awkward a pet as a donkey. Were it not for these drawbacks, I think that they would be bred in sufficient numbers in this country to obviate the necessity of their being imported from the continent, which they are to a very great extent, in common with wild-fowl, the former alive, the latter dead.

The chief requisites for goose-keeping, are a pool of water, and a piece of turf for grazing. The latter is essential, as the bird is graminivorous as well as granivorous. An occasional cabbage or lettuce, will form an acceptable variety of food; and, during the winter, any spare garden-stuff will help

to supply the deficiencies of the paddock. The laying season commences about the end of January, and the breeding birds ought to be fed highly for a month or six weeks before, in order to promote early laying. Half a pint of oats, barley, or tail-wheat every morning and evening will do, if the season is mild; but in general double that quantity will not be too much. If fed high, geese will often lay in the autumn, but the advantage of a brood of goslings in November or December, is questionable. The number of eggs is, on the average, about ten or twelve, and the period of incubation thirty days. A second smaller brood may generally be expected from old birds that hatch early. The young should be kept in a warm, dry place for the first few days of their existence, which, with good luck and management combined, should commence about the end of March. The only infantine complaint to which they are subject is cramp, and this is occasioned by cold damps. If a turf be given them they soon begin to graze; and at ten days old, if the weather be fine, they may be turned out. Meal of barley, or oats and a few lettuce leaves, will be found the best diet for them.

As soon as the goose commences sitting, she becomes, as Mr. Pecksniff called himself, an "awkward customer:" and any attempt to interfere with her own method of carrying out her maternal duties will be vehemently and painfully resented. It might give some of your London readers an idea of what a goose can do in the way of biting, if they would only submit a finger to the tender mercies of an irritated cockatoo at the Portland Gallery. Should the experiment not prove convincing, I make no doubt but that at 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, a live goose may be had for the occasion. At all times, and particularly in defence of its young, the gander is ready to offer battle. I say "offer" advisedly, because, like the Russians at Silistria, if you do not give way, he will. The following anecdote of an assault by a gander, and the vicarious revenge consequent thereon, has recently come to my knowledge. A

gentleman, riding by a cottage in Cornwall, saw a solitary gosling in a pond, which, if his life were a burden to him by reason of the persecution he was suffering, was in a fair way of being relieved from it in consequence of a stoning that he was undergoing from a boy. Opportunely, however, a farm girl came to the rescue with the indignant query of "Whyfore you draish (thrash) our goosen chick?" which was met with the equally indignant rejoinder of "Whyfore oi (I) draish your goosen chick, whyfore his feyther boit (bite) oi in the leg?" Toads are not, strictly speaking, poultry, but as the following may be considered a pendant on the foregoing story, I venture to introduce it. I once came upon a group of boys stoning a poor toad. As the unhappy victim had assumed the form of a Normandy pippin or Norfolk biffin, it was too late to be of any service to it, so I contented myself with administering to the offenders an extemporary homily on cruelty to animals. Like many other preachers I over estimated my oratorical powers, for I had not gone far, when, on looking back, I observed them repeating their offence; "Lydford law," like that of Judge Lynch, consists, according to Devonshire tradition, in "hanging first and trying after," so, administering a hearty cuff to the ring-leader, I asked him what he meant by his conduct; "Please, sir, he spit at me first," was the ready reply in a tone of injured innocence. Reader, be merciful to toads, for they have few or no friends. They are not only harmless but useful, and if they are cold-blooded, I may almost say that they are warm-hearted animals. I have always encouraged them in the gardens as destroyers of slugs, and have invariably kept two or three in the melon and cucumber frames to keep down the wood-lice, &c. In a very short time they would learn to come out from their hiding-places, and whip the proffered fly from my finger by the almost imperceptible darting of their tongues from a distance of a couple of inches. As I am writing upon geese I must return to them, though I would

willingly devote a chapter to my beautiful-eyed pets, with their brown coats, dappled vests, loose mottled chokers, and double chins.

My Uncle Toby's Poultry Yard.

LEAVES FROM MY SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY.

"AN'T please your honour," quoth the corporal, "I have fed all the *chicken*."

"Call them *chickens*, Trim," said my Uncle Toby, knocking the ashes out of his third pipe, on the hen-coop.

"It is 'chick or chicken,' please your honour, in your honour's dictionary."

"Thou sayest true, Trim, it is a *chick*, or a *chicken*; but when thou speakest of more than one, thou must say *chicks* or *chickens*."

"And yet," continued the corporal, "many of the writers on Poultry, and others, call them *chicken*, though they are alluding to a whole yard full."

"That is the very reason, Trim, that I now point out thy error."

HULL. TRISTRAM SHANDY.

Colombiary.

NO. IX.—RUNTS.

THE term "runt" is applied to all large common pigeons indiscriminately; but my present remarks pertain to the fancy runts, those giants of the pigeon classes. The two sorts best known are the Italian and the Spanish. Of the Italian varieties the Leghorn runts are the favourites. These pigeons are usually of a red colour, and of very large size; they have rather large beaks, frequently hooked, with a small wattle; their necks are long and bent; chests full and prominent; backs very broad; tails short, and carried slightly elevated; their wings are short, and their legs long and stout; their feathers lie very close to the body, which causes them to look smaller than they really are. Though their colour is generally red, very good

ones are to be met with white, buff, and parti-coloured. The Germans call these "Bagadotten Tauben," and they have another variety which they call "Hinkel," or "Florentinen Tauben," which are very heavy, and as large as small fowls. They have long legs, but short beak and neck, and are usually blue-pied; the middle wing-feather is generally a double one; and they are considered excellent breeders.

The Spanish runt is now rarely seen in England—at least pure. Many pigeons are shown under that name, but very unlike the true sort. They are large and loose-feathered, which makes them seem even larger than they are. They have short necks and legs, but very long wings and tail, which make them appear exceedingly long birds. The best I have seen were at St. Omer, France; their colour was black, slightly mottled with white; and they were there called "Tigre Espagnol." Their wings are so very long that they rise with difficulty, but when once on the wing, they float along at ease, resembling in appearance a large sea-gull. About that part I have also seen a large red pigeon with white shoulders, called "Tigre Rouge." But of all the pigeons I have ever seen, none were so large as some white runts that came from Belgium; they had large feathers on their feet; but as I cannot give their exact size and weight, I shall forbear to state my ideas.

All the large runts, from their scarcity, are very expensive; and from the same cause are bred so much in-and-in, that they are bad breeders. I am, however, of the opinion, that if their eggs were hatched under other sorts, and the young ones carefully matched, so as to avoid any relationship for a few generations, and then allowed plenty of exercise, and not too stimulating food, that they would be found as prolific and as good nurses as other kinds; but they must have houses and nest-places adapted to their great size. I think the trial is well worth making, as they would then prove a good addition to our list of large and useful poultry. It is a well-

known fact that as our domestic animals are bred in-and-in, in the same proportion do they degenerate, both in size and productiveness; and when over-stimulated, they become fat, unhealthy, and careless of their young. If these facts were attended to, I see no reason why our pigeon-houses should not be tenanted with large runts instead of small; but I do not wish to encourage mongrelism, for by crossing kinds the respective properties of each would be lost. Adhere to one sort, but not to one family connexion. Match birds of the same sort together, but of different families—the wider the relationship the better; and I have no hesitation in saying, that in two or three generations your hopes would be realised.

B. P. B.

The "Journal des Debats" on Poultry Shows.

THE exhibition of the inhabitants of the poultry yard is an innovation, we might say a recent English importation, and a happy importation, for poultry now a-days occupies an important place in the supply of our markets. This branch of trade cannot then be too much encouraged. The entries for competition were very numerous, and above all, the breeds were varied, foreign, and crossed. Among the most curious were Cochin China hens, Muscovy ducks, cocks from the Ganges (Brahma Pootras?), rabbits from Russia, pigeons, and peacocks.

The Stagers, or Vertigo.

THIS symptom, called stagers, or vertigo, and where the fowl oftentimes also gags its head back upon the shoulder or to one side, is truly of an apoplectic nature; it is, indeed, but the premonitory symptom of apoplexy. As example is more instructive and impressive than precept, I beg very briefly to detail "a case" which occurred but four days ago, amongst my Polish chickens.

A young chicken, not three months old, was observed perching upon a garden chair on the grass-plot; half an hour afterwards it was found in a dying state, on the ground. Its head was forcibly gagged back on its shoulder, the bird trying, as it were, to force itself backward; it then fell over, convulsed. On taking it up, it shortly stretched out its limbs in apparent death, its head falling over the hand, and its eyes closed. Seeing that it still breathed, by the slight respiratory movement of the body, I immediately opened with a lancet the vein which runs along the inner side of the wing (the best vein for bleeding fowls, and corresponding with the vein from which blood is usually taken in man). Three tea-spoonful of blood were soon obtained, with manifest improvement; the convulsions ceased, the head came into its natural position, but the bird tottered and fell on attempting to walk. In two hours' time it attempted to eat, but the sight was much affected, and it could not peck up a single grain, but got a few from the open handful. Next day it walked about, but with unsteady gait, and could not yet see distinctly. On this, the fourth day, it is quite well.

I conclude that there was only *congestion* of blood in the vessels of the brain, not *rupture* of them, and consequent effusion of blood within the skull. I should also state that an aperient dose of jalap, ten grains, was given soon after the bleeding. I am quite satisfied that if the chicken had not been bled so promptly, it would have died forthwith.

Hull.

TRISTRAM SHANDY.

The Sebrigt Bantam's Tail.

CIRCUMSTANCES have rendered it impracticable for me to reply earlier to "E. H." I mean the "E. H." who asserted that the Sebrigt's tail should be spangled, not laced. I must now push "E. H." for his reason why the Sebrigt should only be laced in part, and not throughout? I

affirmed that the Sebright was, emphatically, a laced bird—not in part, but wholly so; difficult it is, 'tis true, to get them so thoroughly marked in the tail, but it is accomplished. Spangling is degeneracy, occur where it may, in Sebrights; and I re-assert, from unlimited observation, that degenerated spangled Sebrights have ever dirty splashed tails, spangled tails, or tails without colour at all.

I am wholly convinced that "E. H." is mistaken, when he affirms that he has "oft-times seen Sebrights wholly 'spangled' in the body, that were perfection in the 'lacings' of the tail." Had he said once, but once, we might have placed it side by side with the veritable tortoise-shell tomcat at the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park. The Honorable Secretary to a former Bantam Society, in London, told me that a perfect-tailed Bantam was worth £50; but here we find it on a degenerate spangled bird! But "E. H." tells us more; he says, per contra, that he has also seen "others as perfectly clear in the ground colour of the tail, and as truly laced (as the most fastidious could desire) in those feathers, that were almost altogether without any lacing on the breast; and some few that degenerated to a half-spangled, half-laced feather on the shoulders." So that perfect tails are, after all, "plentiful as blackberries!" aye, "perfectly clear in the ground colour, and as truly laced as the most fastidious could desire." Many a case has been lost by proving too much. I would not fall under the censure of Hudibras, as

"One of those cunning stagers,
That for argument use wagers;"

but this I dare undertake to do, that if "E. H." will forward to you, Mr. Editor, ever so many of those clean, perfect, laced-tailed, *spangled* Sebrights, I will give to the poor of your own parish £5 for every bird.—Of course you will send the tails, at least, to myself, whom you will know as

Hull.

TRISTRAM SHANDY.

Report of the Harrowgate Show.

THIS show took place in the Royal Cheltenham Grounds, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 5th, and 6th inst., and for a first attempt was decidedly successful, the entries being numerous, and the birds generally shown in tolerable condition, although a little approach to moulting was observable in the adult classes. Some of the pens of buff Cochins bore with them unmistakeable signs of their having a town residence, and, with the exception of one or two pens, were very inferior; the pen to which the first prize was awarded, the property of the Rev. G. Hustler, were all that could be desired, the cock being truly a magnificent bird.

The Spanish, as a class, were very good indeed; in all shows in this quarter the improvement in the breed of black Spanish is very evident. Rev. G. Hustler took the first prize in Spanish chickens with the same birds he was successful with at Holmfirth, but they did not appear so healthy nor in such condition here as they were when shown at Holmfirth.

The Brahma Pootras were not good, and no first prize was awarded.

In Dorkings the committee made three classes, red, gray, and white. It would have proved more satisfactory had they verged the reds and grays into one class for coloured Dorkings, as the birds entered in class 5 as reds were not of that colour, and were consequently passed over by the judges. In class 7, gray Dorkings, there were some good specimens shown, and the Dorking chickens of that colour were excellent. The white Dorkings and the white Cochins were only so-so.

Amongst the game there were some good birds, but badly matched, the exhibitors, apparently, being regardless of similarity of colour in the legs.

The Hamburgs, taken altogether, were nothing extra, there were good birds among them, but not good pens of birds. As I before remarked, exhibitors will not be careful enough in classing birds together; they

seem to think that if they have one or two good birds in a pen it is sufficient, and then if they do not gain a prize, the onus is all laid on the shoulders of the judges.

The Polands were all classed together, and some very good specimens were shown. A pen of pure whites, to which the second prize was awarded, were very beautiful, being shown in excellent feather and condition.

In Class 31, "any distinct breed," were some beautiful white India game (1st prize), some good speckled Andalusians (2nd prize), and some pretty specimens of that useless breed the silk fowl. Some ptarmigans were also shown, and as it is the first time they have been exhibited in Yorkshire, it is a pity there were no better specimens, as those shown were not calculated to strike the fancy of a Yorkshireman.

In bantams nothing very extra was shown; but the number of pens entered (twenty-nine) shows that they still remain favourites.

Pigeons were neither good in quality nor many in number, which is hardly to be wondered at, as at this season of the year it is often difficult to find a pair that is without either eggs or young.

The ducks were very indifferently represented; the geese pretty fairly.

In turkeys the first prize was awarded to a pen of whites, which were very good; and the 2nd and 3rd prize birds were good. It is here worthy of remark that the pens were constructed ample enough, so that "Alderman Gobble" could strut about to his satisfaction.

In extra stock nothing was shown worthy of comment.

On the whole the committee deserve a deal of praise for the manner in which the show was conducted; and although there was a little mismanagement in some departments, yet as it was a first attempt it must be overlooked. There is one thing it will be well for the committee to provide against another year, and that is, a sufficient protection for the birds against the inclemency of the weather, as parties possessing valuable

birds will not like them to be placed in open pens, to be exposed to the night air. Besides, open air exhibitions are so dependent upon the weather, that they are altogether to be condemned, as, should it be wet, it is a source of loss and disappointment.

E. Bond, Esq., Leeds, and T. B. Stead, Esq., Leeds, were the judges on the occasion.

PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.—1st prize: J. S. Henry, Esq., Crumpsale, Manchester. 2nd prize: Mr. M. Ridgway, Dewsbury. 3rd prize: F. Powell, Esq., Knaresbro'. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize: Rev. G. Hustler, Appleton, Tadcaster.

BRAHMA FOOTRA.—2nd prize: Rev. G. Hustler, Appleton. 3rd prize: Mr. G. Boothby, Louth. **CHICKENS.**—No entries.

DORKING (Red).—No prize awarded. **CHICKENS.**—Ditto. **DORKING (Gray).**—1st prize: R. Dewes, Esq., Knaresbro'. 2nd prize: F. Powell, Esq., Knaresbro'. 3rd prize: J. E. Norris, Esq., Halifax. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize: Mr. E. Greaves, Pool, near Otley. Commended: Two Pens of C. M. Swarbeck, Esq., Thirsk. **DORKING (White).**—2nd prize: Master B. Bennett, Harrogate. **CHICKENS.**—No entries.

COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon and Buff).—1st prize: Rev. G. Hustler, Appleton. 2nd prize: F. Powell, Esq. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize: Messrs. T. and E. Booth, Nelson, near Burnley. **COCHIN CHINA (Brown and Partridge).**—No awards. **CHICKENS.**—No entries. **COCHIN CHINA (White).**—2nd prize: J. Fisher, Esq. 3rd prize: Mr. J. Noble. **CHICKENS.**—No prize awarded.

MALAY.—1st prize: Mr. G. Boothby, Louth. **CHICKENS.**—No prize.

GAME FOWL (any colour).—1st prize: Mr. J. Watson, Knaresbro'. 2nd prize: Mr. J. Dixon, Bradford. 3rd prize: Mr. W. Green, Bolton Percy. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize: W. Hopkinson.

GOLD PENCILLED HAMBRO'.—1st prize: Rev. R. Pulleine, Kirkby Wiske, Thirsk. 2nd prize: J. Fisher, Esq., Carhead, Skipton. 3rd prize: Mr. J. Richardson, York. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize: Mr. T. Whittington, Jun.

GOLD SPANGLED HAMBRO' (Gold Pheasant).—1st prize: Mr. J. Dixon, Bradford. 2nd and 3rd prize: Mr. H. Clapham, Aireworth, Keighley. Commended: Mr. R. W. Eddison, Headingley. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize: Mr. J. Dixon.

SILVER PENCILLED HAMBRO.—2nd prize:

Mr. J. Dixon. CHICKENS.—1st prize: J. Fisher, Esq., Carhead.

SILVER SPANGLED HAMBRO' (Silver Pheasant).—1st and 2nd prize: Mr. J. Dixon. 3rd prize: Mr. J. Jaques, Knaresbro'. CHICKENS.—1st prize: Mr. T. Whittington, Jun.

POLAND FOWL (any sort).—1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes: Mr. A. Rushworth, Huddersfield. CHICKENS.—1st prize: Mr. A. Rushworth, Huddersfield.

ANY DISTINCT BREED.—1st prize: Mr. Rushworth (White Indian Game). 2nd prize: Mr. J. Whittington, Jun. (Andalusian). 3rd prize: Mr. J. Whittington, Jun. (Cuckoo). CHICKENS.—No awards.

BANTAMS (Gold Laced).—1st prize: J. S. Henry, Esq. 2nd prize: Mr. G. Boothby. (Silver Laced).—2nd prize: Mr. G. Boothby. (White).—2nd prize: Mr. J. Dixon. (Black).—1st prize: Mr. R. Ridgeway. 2nd prize: Mr. J. W. Scriven, Otley.

PIGEONS (Carriers).—1st prize: Mr. W. Cannan, Bradford. (Almond Tumblers).—1st prize: Mr. H. Beldon, Bradford. (Fantails).—1st prize: Mr. W. Hepplethwaite. (Powters or Croppers).—1st prize: Mr. W. Cannan.

GEESE.—1st prize: Mr. T. Cartledge. 2nd prize: J. Greenwood, Esq., Swarcliffe Hall.

DUCKS (Aylesbury).—2nd prize: G. M. Bennett, Esq., Forrest Lodge. (Borneo).—No prize. (Rouen).—2nd prize: J. Dixon. (Eider).—No entries.

TURKEYS.—1st prize: Mr. T. Cartledge, Knaresbro'. 2nd prize: E. Achroyd, Esq., Denton, Otley. 3rd prize: Mr. J. T. Shutt, Oakdale Farm.

GUINEA FOWL.—1st prize: Mrs. Beacroft.

RABBITS (Spanish).—Masters H. and T. Moore. (Any other breed).—Ditto.

GUINEA PIGS.—No prize awarded.

Malton Poultry Show.

THE Second Exhibition of Poultry took place on Wednesday last, in the field on the Castle-Howard road, occupied by the Malton Amateur Cricket Club. The day was fine, and the show was attended by most of the gentry and clergy of the neighbourhood. The poultry was, on the whole, of good quality, and the show-ground was very much thronged by the numerous

visitors. The arrangements were rather different to the generality of shows, all the poultry being exhibited in open basketwork pens placed on the ground; to which plan, however, there is this great objection, you see only the backs of the birds, and to examine them carefully must go on your knees—a serious objection to many ladies. We could not but be amused at seeing two men following the judges with a large kitchen-table on which to place the pens that came in close competition. Had the basketwork pens, however, been placed on a few rough boards, at from three to four feet from the ground, the advantage of being able to turn the pens round would have been very great.

The number of pens was about 360. The coloured Cochins were generally fair birds, but presented no peculiar feature, if we except the pen of four beautiful chickens belonging to Mr. Barker. In white Cochins we observed the white or green leg, and want of feathers in the old birds. The pen of chickens which took the prize were, however, free from the above faults.

In Malays the prize was taken by a pen of good birds, though one was not quite so good as the others; the chickens which took first and second prizes were very good.

The game class, though not large, was very good, the birds being well matched, both in feather and colour of leg.

In Spanish the first prize was carried off by some handsome birds.

Miss Bower's black Polands with white crests were excellent specimens. The other pens were very poor, as were also the golden Polands, except Mr. Charter's cock bird, the hens being imperfectly marked.

The class of golden-spangled Hamburg, very good, and closely contested. Silver-spangled, poor, except first prize. In pencilled Hamburgs nothing particular.

In the Dorking classes some good birds were shown, but amongst the chickens a great want of the proper number of toes.

Gold-laced bantams too large, and many with single combs.

Black and white, the first prizes very good birds.

Only three pens of turkeys, and those out of feather.

The geese, however, amply compensated, both in numbers and excellence, for the deficiency in turkeys; Mrs. Willoughby's pair of old geese weighing 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb., and the best couple of goslings, 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

The ducks were poor, and but a few pens of pigeons were shown.

The Rev. R. Pulleine, of Kirkby Wiske, and Thomas Reid, Esq., of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, were the judges.

LIST OF PRIZES.

COCHIN CHINA (of any colour).—1st prize, W. D. T. Duesbery, Esq., Skelton, York; 2nd prize, W. D. T. Duesbery, Esq., Skelton, York; 3rd prize, Mr. Braddock, York.

COCHIN CHINA (Partridge or Grouse).—1st prize, Mr. George Jackson, York; 2nd prize, Mr. Duggleby, York.

COCHIN CHINA (White).—1st prize, Chas. R. Robinson, Esq., Foston Hall; 2nd prize, H. Willoughby, Esq., Birdsall.

COCHIN CHINA (Chickens of any colour hatched in 1854).—1st prize, G. W. Barker, Esq., Hovingham; 2nd prize, Mr. J. Slater, Malton; 3rd prize, Mr. E. Ask, Old Malton; highly commended, No. 94, shown by Mr. J. Slater, Malton.

MALAY CHICKENS (hatched in 1854).—1st prize, and 2nd, prize, Mrs. Willoughby.

GAME.—1st prize, Henry Willoughby, Esq., Birdsall; 2nd and 3rd prizes, Mr. William Foster, Malton; the remaining pens shown by Mr. Foster were highly commended.

GAME CHICKENS (1854).—1st prize, Henry Willoughby, Esq., Birdsall; 2nd prize, Mr. Chas Kirby, Malton.

SPANISH.—1st and 2nd prizes, Dr. Pearson, Bridlington; 3rd prize, Mr. Braddock, York; No. 99 highly commended, shown by Mr. G. Wells, Malton.

SPANISH CHICKENS (1854).—1st prize, Mr. Braddock, York.

POLANDS (Black with White Crest).—1st prize, Miss Bower, Welham.

POLANDS (Gold or Silver); the bird shown by Mr. Charter, Driffield, was highly commended.

POLAND CHICKENS (1854).—1st prize, Mrs. Taylor, Kirkham Hall.

HAMBURG (or Pheasant Gold Pencilled).—1st prize, Miss Bower, Welham.

SILVER PENCILLED CHITTEPRATT.—1st prize, Mr. Wm. Jones, Bulmer; 2nd prize, Mrs. Dale, Settrington.

GOLD SPANGLED.—1st prize, My. J. Taite, Leeds; 2nd prize, Mr. Law, Coneythorpe; 3rd prize, Mr. Thomas Mennell, Malton.

SILVER SPANGLED.—1st prize, Mr. W. Monkman, Hutton; 2nd prize, Miss Coulson, Gatherley; 3rd prize, Isaac Hartas, Hutton Hall.

BLACK.—1st prize, Mr. H. Brown, Malton; 2nd prize, Mr. J. Kitching, Old Malton; 3rd prize, Mr. Charles Kirby, Malton.

CHICKENS (1854).—1st prize, Mr. J. Taite, Leeds; 2nd prize, Mr. T. Mennell, Malton; 3rd prize, Mr. C. Russell, Malton.

DORKING (White).—1st prize, H. Willoughby, Esq., Birdsall.

DORKING (Gray or Speckled).—1st prize, Alfred Simpson, Esq., Malton; 2nd and 3rd prize, Mrs. Willoughby, Birdsall.

DORKING (Chickens any colour, 1854).—1st prize, Mr. Kirkley, Driffield; 2nd prize, Mrs. Willoughby, Birdsall; 3rd prize, Lady Mary Thompson, Sheriff-Hutton Park.

BANTAM (Gold-laced).—1st prize, not awarded; 2nd prize, Mrs. Bower, Welham; 3rd prize, Lady Mary Thompson, Sheriff-Hutton Park.

BANTAM (Black).—1st prize, Mr. S. Walker, Norton; 2nd prize, Mr. C. Kirby, Malton.

BANTAM (White).—1st prize, Mr. John Sawkill, Malton.

CHICKENS ANY COLOUR (1854).—1st and 2nd prize, not awarded; 3rd prize, Mrs. Prest, Flaxton Station.

EXTRA STOCK.—1st and 2nd prize, J. Hartas, Esq., Hutton Hall; 3rd prize, a prize of 5s. awarded for a pair of American black ducks.

GUINEA FOWL.—1st prize, Miss Wright, Sheriff-Hutton; 2nd prize, Lady Mary Thompson, Sheriff-Hutton Park; 3rd prize, Mrs. Wilkinson, Leppington.

TURKEYS (White or Black).—1st prize, Mrs. Dixon, Settrington; 2nd prize, Lady Mary Thompson, Sheriff-Hutton Park; 3rd prize, Mrs. Willoughby, Birdsall.

GEESE (White).—1st prize, Miss Wright, Sheriff-Hutton.

GEESE (Gray or Speckled).—1st prize, Mrs. Willoughby, Birdsall; 2nd prize, Mrs. Warwick, Rillington; 3rd prize, Mrs. Brown, Stittenham.

BEST COUPLE OF YOUNG GEESSE (hatched in

1854).—1st prize, Mrs. Dixon, Settrington; 2nd prize, Mrs. Warwick, Rillington; 3rd prize, E. Donkin, Esq., Birdsall.

AYLESBURY DUCKS.—1st prize, Mrs. Willoughby, Birdsall.

COMMON DUCKS.—1st prize, Lady Mary Thompson, Sheriff-Hutton Park.

YOUNG DUCKS (1854).—1st prize, Mrs. Willoughby, Birdsall; 2nd prize, Lady Mary Thompson; 3rd prize, Mr. C. Kirby, Malton.

PIGEONS (Powters or Croppers).—1st prize, Mr. G. Wildon, Kirby Misperton; 2nd prize, Mr. G. Wright, Broughton.

PIGEONS (Carriers).—1st prize, Mr. Stabler, Malton; 2nd prize, Mr. John Wilson, Norton.

PIGEONS (Trumpeters).—1st prize, Master Leonard Bower, Welham.

PIGEONS (Jacobins).—1st prize, Mr. Robert Stabler, Malton; 2nd prize, Master Henderson, Castle Howard.

PIGEONS (Fan tails).—1st prize, Mr. John Culverwell, London; 2nd prize, Mr. Leonard Brown, Settrington.

PIGEONS (Tumblers).—1st prize, Mr. R. Stabler, Malton; 2nd prize, M. J. Wilson, Norton.

DOVES.—1st prize, Mrs. Flint, Malton.

RABBITS.—1st prize, Mr. C. Kirby, Malton; 2nd prize, Master F. Exley; 3rd prize, Mr. J. W. Drinkor, Tibthorpe.

The awards of the judges gave general satisfaction.

Nugæ Rusticæ.

TRIFLES, ORIGINAL AND SELECT, FROM THE
NOTE-BOOK OF A DERBYSHIRE YEOMAN.

The Cochin China Fowl.

I WROTE, that "granted for a passing moment," the Cochin China "fowl is ugly," and so on; but in truth this sweeping statement does not apply to the best bred specimens of the race, or indeed to the smaller and compact breeds, known by the name of the Lovell variety. It is unjust to deny that they possess individual points of great beauty, even if the "tout ensemble" be not so symmetrical or so attractive as that presented by the game fowl. Their most inveterate opponents must admit, that *the head* of a good Cochin fowl is handsome—

that in the face-expression of the pullet, especially, there is much beauty, and also a *loving tenderness* and an intelligence not observed in other poultry, which make them especial pets with those who rear them. There were grace, symmetry, and majesty, in the birds belonging to Mr. Harrison, of Snelston, which took the first prize at Derby, and which indeed made them appear to belong to a different race of birds from those long-legged, bony, shapeless, distorted things which generally pass under the name of Cochin China fowls. Not every cow with a short horn can be fairly considered as a type of those beautiful and useful animals which, emanating from the meadows and byres of Charles Collings, in Durham, have spread themselves over the kingdom under the appellation of "short horns," nor should every mongrel fowl with long legs, short tails, and ugly bodies, be considered as the representatives of the Shanghai fowls of Sturgeon, Punchard, Herbert, and Fairlie. Honoured names these! who have kept the field against all comers, for buff, partridge, white, and black Cochins respectively. Not but that in some stray combat they have been beaten, as Staunton in a solitary game of chess, or Pilch in a single inning at cricket, but in a season's campaign they are ever victorious, and public acclaim awards to them a place in *Poultry* annals as high and as honoured as those occupied in the "*Herd Book*" by Collings, Bates, and Ducie. But to return from the breeders to the breed. Let the best specimens of each variety be considered in a review of their respective merits, and it will be found that they are not destitute of beauty. The "buffs" perhaps are more adapted to the quiet, sober taste of English people, to that peculiar sense of the beautiful which regards an entire suit of black as the appropriate and graceful dress of a gentleman, and denounces variety or colour in costume as vulgar and "unbecoming." Hence the popularity of these said "buffs" or Sturgeonite Cochins; but the partridge ones, in perfection, are not to be despised. The

white variety (if variety be strictly applicable to birds which cannot be depended upon for continuing their characteristics in their offspring) is very handsome, when obtained of good form and colour, like the fowls from Mrs. Herbert's, of Powick. They should possess deep red combs and wattles; and with these, beaks and legs which rival the golden splendour of the beak of the Blackbird. These red combs and golden legs contrast beautifully with their milk-white plumage. Upon a grass lawn stretching out in front of some old mansion like Haddon, or Hardwicke, they look very attractive, and with Peacocks, and golden pencilled Hamburgs form a group fit for the inspection of Majesty, and would have fascinated the pencil and the brush of that immortal poultry painter with the hard name, Hondoketer.

However, Utility should precede Beauty, and in the estimation of the British Farmer "handsome is, that handsome does"—and here the Shanghae fowl will not be found wanting. As I have said before, they are *excellent* layers, and arrive at maturity earlier than any other large-sized fowl. By the term "maturity" I mean the age at which a Bird will commence laying eggs, and thus perpetuate its race. They will moreover prove *hardier* than any other fowl, except the game breed—at least my experience supports this assertion. In a very elevated position, with the thermometer for many days at 12 or 14 degrees below the freezing point; and during the night of January the 3rd, three degrees below zero, six Cochin fowl, five Spanish, eight Dorkings, and four golden pencilled Hamburgs, had to brave the cold, with no further protection than that afforded by a common poultry shed, without artificial warmth. Upon the first, the cold left no appreciable mark, the Spanish were sadly "mauled," the combs of all of them shrinking into small dimensions, and becoming as black as a choked gobbler—the Dorkings also suffered slightly (with one exception), the only parties escaping scatheless being the Cochins and the Hamburg fowls. Of

these two, the birds from the Celestial Empire had the advantage, for they laid eggs almost daily, while their pretty companions postponed this duty until the mercurial tube of the thermometer should attain a more respectable position in society. When this has been achieved, they will doubtless again resume their cackle, or to use the fine language of our apothecary, they "will express themselves in the natural language of Philoprogenitiveness." And now, what are the *points* which a good Cochin China fowl should possess? It should be of large size—an adult bird of two years old ought to weigh *at least* ten pounds—it should have a round head, short thick neck, a broad back, and strong shanks, wide apart—the shanks and legs and the outward toe should be well covered with feathers, and the toes should be four in number, the middle one being much longer than all others. The eye should be large, reddish in colour, and expressive. His feathers should be abundant—the hackle large, and flowing gracefully downwards to the ostrich-like tail. The comb should be upright, indented, and projecting backwards; the hinder parts of the birds should have a square appearance from a mass of soft "fluffy feathers." The faults to be guarded against are those which approximate the fowl to the Malay, that is, a long face, long *clear* shanks, and *close* fitting feathers; or to the Dorking by a *fifth* toe destitute of feathers. The early imported birds were many of them crossed by these fowls, and the stain will frequently show itself even in the third generation. The amateur demands a *uniform* colour, in the buff, free from white or mealy spots, and similar unity in the black and white varieties. Practical farmers can afford to smile at these niceties, and look to form, quality, and substance as preferable things. If a fowl, like a Dutchman's tulip, were a thing *merely* to look at, these fancies might be very well, but so long as the essential characteristics of this breed be guaranteed by *shape* and *size*, it will suit both the farmer's pocket and his future success to

wink at a "dark hackle," or a "mealy wing,"—*Verbum sat sapientibus*—which our clergyman tells me is the Latin for the wise saying, that a nod is as good as a wink to a blind man.—*By permission of the Author, from the "Derby Reporter."*

MANAGEMENT OF GEESE FOR THE LONDON MARKET.—Cleanliness, punctuality, and regularity prevail. The business is conducted, as it were, by machinery, rivalling the vibrations of the pendulum in uniformity of movement. The grand object of preparing, not geese only, but poultry generally, for the market, in as short a time as possible, is effected solely by paying unremitting attention to their wants, in keeping them thoroughly clean, in supplying them with proper food (dry, soft, and green), water, exercise, ground, &c. On arriving at the feeder's, they are classed according to condition. They soon become reconciled to their new abode, and to each other. They are fed three times a day, and it is truly astonishing how soon they acquire the knowledge of the precise time, marching from the exercise ground to the pens like soldiers in close column. Goslings, or young geese, come to hand about March, after which a regular and constant supply arrives weekly throughout the season. At first they are fed on soft meat, consisting of prime barley or oatmeal, afterwards on dry corn. An idea prevails with many that any sort of corn will do for poultry; this is a grand mistake. Those who feed largely know better, and invariably make it a rule to buy the best. The Messrs. Boyce, of Stratford, whose pens are capable of holding the extraordinary number of 4,000 geese, independent of ducks, turkeys, &c., consume 20 coombs of oats daily, exclusive of other food.

MOWBRAY.

PIGEONS drink differently to most other birds. Gallinaceous birds sip, and then raise up their heads; but pigeons take a long continued draught, as Gilbert White says, like quadrupeds.

The Two Different Presents.

AN ANECDOTE.

IN an article which I wrote for the "Poultry Chronicle" on a former occasion, I narrated the circumstances of the speedy detection of some poachers and poultry-thieves by means of "sleuth-hounds," and having so recently detailed the particular features of the extensive manor on which the capture took place, I will not now unnecessarily recapitulate them. Suffice it then to say, that both the ground itself, as well as its poor inhabitants, were equally neglected; both being but very partially attended to, and, in the aggregate, allowed to take their own natural course, uncared-for, and unheeded. Hence it was that the wilds of these mountains and moorlands did at the same time both produce an abundance of game and also a never-failing supply (among the widely-scattered and untaught cottagers) of all that was careless, reckless, and profane. It was when the exigent circumstances thus detailed were at their zenith that I was accidentally invited to pass some time with its owner, in the full and unrestricted enjoyment of the sports of the field. Here (to satiety) I ardently followed these pursuits, for, together with the energy of youthful impulse, my fondness for shooting at this time was most extraordinary, though since then a different taste has been my prevailing passion.

I am perfectly and fully aware it is extremely difficult, nay, almost impossible, to narrate any personal anecdote, in connexion with our former experiences, without being laid open to the charge of egotism and self-praise. I repudiate to the utmost any such feelings; I have but this ever openly-avowed desire, that possibly by my statements I may induce others to reflect and ponder on their own individual course—where they may have erred, to adopt different conduct for the future—and, contrariwise, where good effects have followed certain modes of

action, to still *maintain* them, fearlessly, inviolably, and unchanged.

Let the thoughtless, whoever they may be, indulge in smiles of ridicule, censure, or dispraise. I claim no individual merit, neither do I deserve it, as I consider it only a positive duty, to scatter by the wayside a solitary seed, and if that, by God's blessing, prove instrumental to the welfare of even my humblest fellow creature, the honour be to Him and Him alone. Without then any farther prelude, I will simply add, that though for obvious reasons I omit the name and address of parties alluded to, the circumstances are truly related, in a manner equally ungarbled and unexaggerated.

Tired of the excitement which a jealousy to be the "first to kill" ever *must* produce between rival sportsmen, when shooting side by side, I one morning, on which the weather seemed likely to be rainy, remained at the Hall; about eleven o'clock, however, the atmosphere cleared unexpectedly, and, appearances of rain subsiding, I called a favourite steady old pointer, took up my gun, and wandered, unattended by any one, I really cared not whither; as the game was so incredibly abundant, that I could safely ensure good sport anywhere. I this day more than usually enjoyed the rural scenery, and had just bagged a brace of partridges, when suddenly a blackcock rose up close to the spot from which I had only a moment before twice fired; and, being unloaded, my only resource was, if possible, "to mark him down." I did so, for he flew directly to a neighbouring brake, and thither, when ready, I speedily followed. "Belle" soon "found," in the very centre of the brake, among some rankly-grown bilberries; but by the pointer's "drawing," it was plain the bird was quickly shifting his quarters by running. He rose, at length, quite out of gun-shot, and I again "marked him down" on the side of a hill, on the *opposite* side of the glen. To reach *this* spot entailed a journey of very considerable distance, as at the deepest spot of land

now between us lay a morass, to pass over which was impossible; still anxious, if possible to kill the bird, I boldly set out on the adventure, little supposing to what it was about to lead.

The sun was now shining brightly; the heat was extreme; and my journey a toilsome one, for, bent solely on my present prey, I totally disregarded all other kinds of game that offered, called old Belle close to heel, and then struggled through brake and briar till the desired spot was attained. Here every effort to find the black grouse was totally useless; the bird must in the interval have taken wing a *third* time unknown to myself, and thus foiled me. Wearied, sunburnt, and almost exhausted, I sat myself down on the wild heather sorely vexed that I had ever been induced to cross over, and seriously reflecting on the distance back again; but I was determined not to return by the way I came, and pursued a directly contrary course, the distant hills serving me as a landmark. Thus toilworn, I journeyed homewards. I had not seen any human habitation for some hours, far less any living individual; when suddenly my attention was directed to some smoke curling at some distance apparently from an issue in the ground itself. I at once made towards it, and it proved to arise from a small hut, partly scooped out of the side of the hill, and partly erected from turf, cut from the neighbouring moors; at the doorway appeared a scantily-clad lad of about thirteen years old. I went up and spoke to him: he seemed at first very shy and alarmed, but by speaking kindly to him, the reserve wore away, and he became open and explanatory. I asked him to be allowed to sit down awhile, on account of the excessive heat of the sun, and entering, found he was busily engaged preparing the daily meal for his younger brothers and sisters. It was cooking in a large three-legged pot, over a fire made of dried sticks, the smoke from which had first attracted my notice. The contents of this pot it at first puzzled me greatly to understand, for as it bubbled

under the repeated stirrings incessantly bestowed, "strange forms came up" and as speedily disappeared; its "material" I could not comprehend; but, reader, you shall be at once made acquainted with what it took some little time and inquiries too, on my part to discover: as I wish you to know the thoroughly abject condition of this family at the time specified.

(To be continued).

The Editor's Letter-Box.

UNPRODUCTIVE HENS.

SIR,—I have been hoping to find some allusion in the "Poultry Chronicle" to a fact, and, I believe, not an uncommon one, regarding the laying of a Cochin China hen. Not, however, having observed it noticed, I will trust to the courtesy with which inquiries are always received by the Editor, to obtain the information I wish for. A Cochin hen was given to me two months ago by a friend, and was supposed to be a good layer, but there were several other Cochin hens in the same yard. To my disappointment, though I find her on the nest for an hour or two almost daily, she never lays, and even were she to eat the eggs, I feel sure I should some time have detected the act. The hen appears in perfect health, with all the signs of laying, though perhaps she does not *gobble* quite so much as a Cochin does when in full laying, and is not too fat. What I wish to know is whether there is any prospect of amendment, for there is no chance of the hen being in better health; and the bill of fare being approved by Mr. Baily, a change of diet could scarcely offer any hope. I am not aware whether it is considered that breeding in-and-in, is the cause of our sometimes meeting with "hennies," but this spring I have found several in different yards, but all from eggs from a yard where the cock and hens were related. They were the size, and had the plumage of the hen, with the head and comb of a cock, and crowed occasionally. Introducing one among my poultry, the cocks flew at it, and the hens ran away in terror, except a spirited game hen, who attacked the intruder most fiercely.—I am your obedient servant,
A.

[We can mention a parallel case, which may give our correspondent A. hopes of ultimate success with his unproductive hen. In the spring of 1853 we had a very handsome Cochin hen newly arrived from China. She was as much

disguised with dirt as fowls generally are when brought from on board ship, but appeared perfectly healthy. From the first she repaired to the nest daily, where she would sit for several hours, but no one could ever discover any signs of an egg whole or broken. We treated her with a little physic, a grass run, and a good deal of patience. She acted in the same manner until the autumn, when she chose to sit, hatched a small number of eggs, brought up the chickens, and laid a single egg, from which in November a chicken was hatched, with merit to induce continued patience with its mother. In the spring of this year she began to lay as a hen should do: she has laid an abundance of eggs, which have hatched well, and is now in every respect a capital fowl.—ED.]

ON THE DISEASES OF FOWLS.

MR. EDITOR,—To follow up my remarks concerning the Diseases of Poultry, as an example of our ignorance I will, you approving, relate the following cases from memory. 1st., D. J., Esq. forwarded a dead swan, to ascertain, if possible, the cause of death. Inspection:—Body emaciated, almost a skeleton; brain healthy; stomach somewhat more vascular than in the healthy state; plenty of food in the gizzard, but undigested, mixed with fine sand and one or two pieces of small gravel; could not detect any poison. There was clearly too little of those quartz particles for healthy digestion. I therefore proposed a liberal supply of fresh water sand. Other fowls had been sent, but this is a type of the whole. No more deaths from indigestion. 2nd., P. L., Esq., showed me a very fine buff Cochin hen, which had dropped dead from the perch. Having made a careful inquiry about the feeding, which was unground maize, *ad libitum*, and knowing its wonderful fattening properties, I suspected apoplexy, and examined the brain and its membranes very carefully, but could not say there were morbid appearances sufficient to account for death. 3rd., I lost two fowls from a disease in the windpipe, resembling croup in the child, and could not succeed in curing the disease, although I followed the instructions of some modern authors. On inspecting the windpipe from the root of the tongue, I found congestion and swelling of the glottis and rima glottidis, but no false membrane such as I should have found in a child. I carried off the water dropping from the house by spouting, and made their situation drier, and the disease now is only seldom and slight.—I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

R. G., of Cumberland.

A DISCOURAGING CASE.

I KEEP several buff Cochins, which ought to have been good birds as they cost me much money, but their progeny are very dark, and many of them were the most frightful creatures ever seen, scarcely growing after six weeks old, and then remaining stationary without any feathers except round the neck and the principal quill feathers. Some of them had such horrible heads—quite bare, and perfectly idiotic in appearance, if such a term can be applied to chickens—and at ten weeks old they still continued so. Others were quite blind (not rumpy, but their eyes sunk in their heads), and maggoty just before they were killed. What could be the cause of all these monstrosities, as my other chickens from a different strain were quite healthy? was it caused by in-and-in breeding, as the parents were all purchased of one gentleman?

A. B. WRANGLE.

TO PREVENT HENS EATING THEIR EGGS.

DEAR SIR,—I am pleased as one of your first subscribers, to perceive the "Chronicle" is getting practical, so that we amateurs, who can appreciate the luxury of seeing beautiful poultry, may better learn how to increase their comfort by proper treatment.

It would be a pity that jealousy, or business habits should withhold useful information. My information may be trifling, but if J. L. will blow some eggs and partially fill them with mixed mustard, taking care that the interior of the shell is well covered, and place them before his egg-eaters, one or more such applications could not fail of curing the thieves. A small wafer at each end of the egg would securely stop the aperture, that the mustard could not escape before the hens break the eggs. Can any of your readers prescribe for me? I have a Dorking cock with a very large comb, which sometimes is almost black, especially the extremities, and generally more so as the weather is colder.

I should further like to know how I can cleanse and whiten the feathers on the topknot of the white-crested Polands.—I am, dear Sir,
T. R. C. C.

POULTRY PRIZE AWARDS.

DEAR SIR,—Having with much pleasure read the *experience* of J. H. in No. 19, I beg to add a few lines with respect to what the above gentleman terms the lottery of prize awards at shows. Now at the recent show at Antony, the Aylesbury ducks are represented as very good. There were four pens shown, and three were disqualified

on account of certain marks found on them; yet, strange to say, our best judge in the country, E. Hewitt, Esq., awarded the first and second prizes at Exeter, but a few weeks before, to two of the pens: and gave the first prize at Taunton, but a few weeks before, to one of the same lady's pens. I will add a few words more of *experience*, for the benefit of young exhibitors at shows. Last year I obtained three chickens, and showed them at one of the principal local shows; they were passed over, and even sneered at by many, but, Sir, in the fall of the year, those same birds took two first and one second prizes in less than a month, which shows that it is quite a lottery. I am very glad to notice a list of the qualifications of certain descriptions of fowl in No. 18, copied from Mr. Baily's work, and trust it will be continued to the other sorts of fowl. I think, Mr. Editor, if you could get Mr. Hewitt to give you weekly his standard of qualification, you would be conferring a very great boon on all readers of the *Chronicle*, as then we should all know what to breed to, and not find a poultry exhibition such a lottery as it now is.—Yours,
GAMECOCK.

Plymouth, July 7th, 1854.

[The beauty of fowls so much depends upon present *condition*, that the same pen *might* take a prize at one time, and be shown without success even a few weeks after, yet attach no blame to the judges.

We are informed that the new edition of Mr. Baily's work on poultry, which is now in the press, will contain particulars, similar to the extract with which we were favoured, about each kind of fowl.—Ed.]

POULTRY JUDGING.

SIR,—It is to be hoped that "J. H." will profit by his "experience" in sending birds to poultry shows, and that he will also think twice before he acts once in purchasing a pen of prize geese; for even dealer judges are not infallible, as the following case will show. The Yorkshire Agricultural Society held a Christmas show in December last; and, as the committee of the Society had no "sinful surmises" about "dealer judges," they chose accordingly. Class 66 was for the best gander and two geese; well, the pens were arranged and occupied, and underwent the inspection of the judges, and the first prize was allotted to pen 394, containing what? THREE GANDERS!!! so that, although the Society had appointed, at a great expense, men, "whose experience, skill, and judgment, should preserve them from such mischievous blunders;" yet they were not able or disposed to disqualify the pen on sex account. Perhaps your correspondent

can give a little information as to the whereabouts of the "honourable men" he mentions; as I never myself, in the whole course of my experience at poultry shows, met with a set of judges that were infallible, and suited all parties, particularly the unsuccessful. I remain, Sir, yours respectfully,
AN AMATEUR JUDGE.

HIGH CONDITION IN FOWLS.

YOUR correspondent may rest assured that there is no royal road to "throwing birds into that beautiful condition so often noticeable at shows." It is solely accomplished by regular feeding with the usual wholesome food, pure water, dust baths, cleanliness in their habitation, and, it must be added, pure or country air; for glossy plumage is unknown in large towns; even the black Spanish is of a sooty, rather than a glossy black, in large or smoky towns. My own birds, indeed, are regularly washed in warm water and with soap before they are exhibited; and, although they are hardly glossy, yet they are clean and in good condition; and, being almost "true to a feather," they have taken the highest prizes at our largest poultry shows, although town-bred. Let your correspondent keep his birds as above hinted, and, depend upon it, they will exhibit all the glossy condition he wishes to behold.
TRISTRAM SHANDY.

Hull.

DEATH OF A NUMBER OF CHICKENS.

Sir,—Can you account for the death of a hatch of eleven chickens, which came out on the 28th of June. The eggs were quite fresh, a cross between white Shanghae and Dorking. Every egg the hen sat on, hatched, and the chickens for a few days appeared very strong and healthy. On the 4th of July three were found dead on going to feed them in the morning, and as the others appeared rather weakly, they were removed from the hen (a Dorking) and placed in a basket by the fireside, and carefully fed every two hours on egg and bread crumbs. One after another they all died in two days, some about half an hour after having eaten quite heartily. They were kept in a dry warm house when first hatched. This wholesale loss is the more unaccountable, as out of above a hundred chickens hatched this year I have scarcely lost one from illness.
AN AMATEUR.

[Had the chickens the necessary access to stones, or is it possible that anything of a poisonous nature can have fallen in their way?—
Ed]

A CONTRAST.

MR. EDITOR,—I am not a poultry fancier, and prefer a boiled fowl and oyster sauce to a Bramah

Pootra with a pea comb, or a Cochín China with falcon hocks. The other day I met with what I consider two very curious things, one was "The Poultry Chronicle," and the other the "Bill of Fare" of an entertainment given in the Great Hall, Ely Place, Holborn, in the year 1531, to Henry VIII. and Queen Catherine. You and your "Constant Readers" know a great deal more about the former of these two than I, and my only reason for troubling you with the latter is that you may compare it with your Leadenhall returns and see how wonderfully "Chickens is riz" in the last two centuries.

| | s. | d. |
|--|----|--------|
| Capons of Greece, from one poultier, 10 doz. | 1 | 8 each |
| Capons of Kent, nine dozen and six | 1 | 0 " |
| Pullets, the best at 2½d. each, the others | 0 | 2 " |
| Pigeons, 37 dozen | 0 | 2 doz. |
| Larks, 340 dozen | 0 | 5 " |

We constantly find people who lament the "Good" old times, and can seldom find any reason for their so-doing, but if the above be correct (I copied it from an old record), I really think that "in re" poultry they may do so with justice.—Yours truly,
BRAMBLE.

It is always of great consequence that children be brought up to set a just value upon all useful things, and especially upon all *living things*. One of the greatest faults of servants is their inadequate care of animals committed to their charge; this remissness is owing to the servant not having been *brought up* to feel an interest in the well-being of animals.—*Cobbett's Cottage Economy*.

WHAT is worth doing is worth doing well. Do not keep stock if you cannot keep them properly.

"Let the flock's good feed
Be the master's heed;
What at first he may cast
Will be doubled at last."

AS THE SHOWS DRAW NEAR, the chickens for exhibition should be carefully selected as to colour, comb, and age. Let them, if possible, be of the same brood, that they may agree when in confinement. If you require to show four birds, always have eight ready, to guard against accidents.

“CURE FOR THE PIP.—Undoubtedly about these days some of our chickens will have this common chicken complaint. Cure it, simply by mixing a table-spoon-full of sulphur with about three pounds of meal for feed, giving it every other morning perhaps for a fortnight.”

[We find this paragraph floating in the newspapers, and we are inclined to think it worth something. The prescription is simple, and it should be tried by those whose chickens are thus troubled.]

A RACCOON often puts to death as many as fifteen or twenty fowls in a night, without eating any part of them except the head; he only sucks the blood.—*Macajah R. Cock.*

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

The tendency of the market is downwards—the supplies increase, and the demand diminishes. The price of food is visible in the lack of condition and fatness of all poultry, more especially geese and ducks.

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------------|-----------|
| Large Fowls | 6s. | 6d. to 7s. | 6d. each. |
| Fowls | 4s. | 0d. to 5s. | 6d. ,, |
| Chickens | 2s. | 6d. to 3s. | 6d. ,, |
| Goslings | 6s. | 0d. to 6s. | 6d. ,, |
| Ducks | 3s. | 6d. to 3s. | 9d. ,, |
| Rabbits..... | 1s. | 6d. to 1s. | 8d. ,, |
| Wild ditto..... | | 10d. to 1s. | 0d. ,, |
| Leverets | 3s. | 6d. to 5s. | 0d. ,, |
| Quails | 1s. | 6d. to 1s. | 9d. ,, |

To Correspondents.

Reader.—The disease you mention is an uncommon one, and arises from some internal rupture. The opening made to allow the air to escape should be covered with some adhesive substance. You pursued the proper course; but we have never known an instance where it did not occur again, and eventually kill the bird.

Amateur.—There is no washing equal to putting fowls out in a heavy shower, and when they are thoroughly wetted, putting them in a cage well bedded with clean soft straw. Lacking the rain, the plumage may be washed in soap and water with a sponge, and the fowl put in straw, as above.

A Correspondent mentions that “T. S.,” in the catalogue of works on poultry, has forgotten that of J. J. Nolan, Esq., “Ornamental, Aquatic, and Domestic Fowl,” price 4s.

A Constant Subscriber.—As “in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom,” we are very much obliged to our correspondent for his fair and impartial opinion of the awards referred to in his letter, and hope to have the pleasure of hearing his opinion on poultry matters from time to time.

E. W. R.—White Dorkings with top-knots are not eligible to compete for prizes. Single combed are pure, and frequently stand first; but the rose-combed have always been considered a higher strain; and if two pens were alike in every other point, we should not hesitate to allow the latter to take precedence on the prize list, on account of their comb.

Live and Learn, in reply to “J. L.,” recommends the following:—“Put the birds up in a shed of some sort, so as to prevent their getting their morning meal till about the middle of the day; give them one or two eggs (according to the number) well boiled and quite hot. These they will probably eat as usual; but after burning themselves two or three times with the hot eggs, they will desist then, and probably for ever.” We have known this tried, without success.

To the Rev. W. B.—After receiving the address, we did ourselves the pleasure of forwarding the letter. If our correspondent is not successful, we shall be happy to hear from him again.

S. E.—Spanish fowls, decidedly, should not be “feathered to the toes.”

Advertisements.

WELLINGTON, SOMERSET.—A GRAND EXHIBITION OF POULTRY AND PIGEONS, open to all England, awarding Prizes to the amount of £50, will be held in the Grounds of the Rev. W. W. Fulman, at Drake’s Place, in conjunction with a Fancy Fair, on Thursday and Friday, the 3rd and 4th of August, 1854, in aid of the Funds for the Erection of the National School Rooms in Wellington, under distinguished patronage.

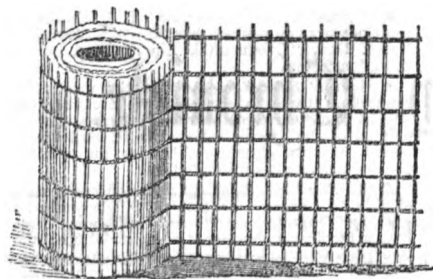
Birds will be conveyed Free of Carriage to and from the Exhibition on the South Devon and Bristol and Exeter Railways, by the kind permission of the Companies.

The band of the Royal Marines will be in attendance during the day, and there will be a magnificent display of Fireworks in the evening.

Admission—On the First Day, to the Bazaar, 1s.; to the Poultry Show, 1s.; and to the Fire Works, 6d.; on the Second Day, to the Bazaar and Poultry Show, 1s.

A List of Prizes and Conditions, with Certificates, will be forwarded to persons enclosing a fully directed stamped envelope, to MR. RICHD. CORNER, Honorary Secretary, Wellington, Somerset.

CAPTAIN SNELL will sell his **BUFF** and **PARTRIDGE COCHIN CHINA CHICKENS** at £1 1s. per pair. Single Cockerels, 10s.; Pullets, 15s. each.—St. Swithin’s Lane, London.



FOR POULTRY HOUSES.
LIGHT, CHEAP, and DURABLE ROOFING.

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons.

Price 1d. per square foot. **CROGGON'S PATENT NON-CONDUCTING FELT** for covering Steam-boilers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and Testimonials sent by post, on application to **CROGGON & Co.**, 2, Dowgate Hill, London, who also supply **SHIP SHEATHING FELT**, and **INODOROUS FELT**, for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

EGGS from **FIRST CLASS** and **PRIZE BIRDS**.—**JOHN BAILY** has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochon of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square.

MR. J. R. RODBARD, of Aldwick Court, having taken Two 1st Prizes at the Exeter Show, 1st Prize at the Bath and West of England Show, and 2nd Prize at the Cheltenham Show, with his **BUFF COCHIN CHINA CHICKENS**, has several from the same stock to dispose of.

Apply to **J. R. RODBARD**, Aldwick Court, Langford, near Bristol.

WILLIAM DRAY AND Co.'s PATENT WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, &c.

Price 2d. per square foot.

ORDINARY WIRE NETTING, from 2½d. per yard, 2 feet wide.

Address **WILLIAM DRAY AND CO.**,
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT MANUFACTURERS,
 Swan Lane, Upper Thames Street, London.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE EXHIBITION OF POULTRY will be held at Cambridge, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, November 8th, 9th, and 10th, under the distinguished patronage of **H. R. H. THE PRINCE ALBERT**, Chancellor; **T. C. GELDART, Esq.**, Trinity Hall, Vice-Chancellor; **G. A. BRIMLEY, Esq.**, Mayor, and numerous members of the University, Town and County.

Schedules of Prizes may be obtained on application to **C. H. CROSSE, M.A.**, Honorary Secretary.

VALE OF AYLESBURY POULTRY ASSOCIATION.—The First Exhibition of Poultry will take place at Aylesbury, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October the 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854.

Forms of Entry and Schedules of Prizes may be obtained on and after the 15th of July, of the Secretaries, **MESSES. T. WOOTTON and J. D. MUDDMAN**, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury, on receipt of one Postage Stamp.—Entries close September 1, 1854.

PRIZE PTARMIGANS FOR SALE, from **DR. BURNBY'S** Original Stock, a Cock and three Hens, exceedingly handsome, which **F. BERNELL, Esq.** of Fareham, gave £20 for. The Hens are in full laying.

Also, for Sale, 18 Chickens, hatched in May (most of which have the upright top-knots), at an unprecedented low price. Also, Sitings of Eggs, at 10s. the Sitting, warranted good.

To be had of **T. MOORE**, West Street, Fareham, Hants.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines..... 3s. 0d.
 For every additional Line..... 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 18s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.; payable in advance.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 22.]

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

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Poultry Shows.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Milburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries are closed.

Wellington, Somerset. Thursday and Friday, 3rd and 4th of August. Honorary Secretary, R. Corner, Esq. Entries are closed.

Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland's Show, at Armagh, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 9th and 10th of August. Secretary, Thomas Harkness, Esq., Upper Sackville-street, Dublin. Entries are closed.

Cleveland Agricultural Society's Show, including Poultry, Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th of August. Secretary, Mr. Thomas Parrington. Entries close Saturday, August 5th.

Royal North Lancashire Agricultural Society, at Burnley, August 21st. Secretary, Mr. G. Hunt, 2, Chapel Walk, Preston. Entries close August 12th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th.

Keighley Agricultural Show, including Poultry,

Wednesday, September 6th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq. Entries close August 30th.

Wellington, Salop, Horticultural and Poultry Show. Wednesday and Thursday, September 6th and 7th.

Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Society, including Poultry, at Radcliffe, Friday, September 8th. Secretary, Mr. J. Cross, Market-street, Bury. Entries close August 28th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

South East Hants, at Fareham, Tuesday, September 19th. Secretaries, G. Creed, Esq., and J. James, Esq. Entries close September 1st.

Yeovil, September 20th. Secretary, John Clyde, Esq.

Daventry Exhibition, in connexion with the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society (limited to the county), September 21st. Secretaries, Messrs. Freeman & Sons, Northampton.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M'C. Swarbrick, Esq. Entries close September 5th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. Entries close September 1st.

South West Middlesex Agricultural Society, at Southall, Friday, October 6th. Secretary, Mr. John Gotelee, Hounslow. Entries close one calendar month before the show.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. Wm. Thurnall, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

Cambridgeshire, at Cambridge, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of November.

Norwich and Eastern Counties, at Norwich, Wednesday and Thursday, the 15th and 16th of November. Secretary, C. Oury, Esq. Entries close October 31st.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 28th.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombrain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council Rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Nottinghamshire Poultry Association. The Second Annual Exhibition will be held at Southwell, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 19th and 20th of December. Secretary, R. Hawksley, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 21st.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

As there is sometimes discontent in the poultry world about the decisions of the judges at the poultry exhibitions, it behoves us to consider, and to induce others to consider, no less for the credit and satisfaction of the gentlemen who undertake the onerous task than for that of exhibitors, how confidence can best be established. In this wish we are heartily seconded by numerous contributors, including in their number, representatives of all the classes most interested in the question, who are willing and ready to aid us with a fund of intimate knowledge, time-tested experience, and sound opinions founded on both.

We do not blame the judges for the mistakes which are so often quoted, as it would be unfair to blame persons who fail in the accomplishment of a superhuman task. We believe the question may be brought to one point: the judges of poultry have often more work to do than can be done well in the allotted time. We, amateurs, in the narrow limits of our own collections, when we determine to exhibit, walk round our poultry enclosures again and again; compare, and cogitate, and deliberate, and finally select. But how long does this take? Does not a morning, an afternoon, or an evening slip away, and sometimes leave us still undecided? If it takes so long to choose among fowls with which we are intimate, how can one gentleman (or even three) judge a whole show in something like the same space of time?

The American plan of having many judges for a show, and for them to act separately, is excellent, and induces the consideration whether the same plan would be practicable with us. The difficulty of finding a large number of gentlemen,

possessed of sufficient knowledge, yet not themselves exhibitors, would be very great. We fear the plan would not work well, of allowing exhibitors in certain classes to be admitted within the show for the purpose of judging other classes, however remote the scene of duty from the class or classes in which they might themselves be exhibitors; and we believe fanciers will be unanimous in the opinion, that exhibitors must not judge in the show in which they have pens,—and that during the hours in which the judges are performing their duties, none who have a personal interest *in any of the birds* should be allowed to enter the building.

We believe our necessity for good judges, and for a large number of them too, to be too great to admit of nice and unnecessary restrictions,—and, chief of these, we reckon the exclusion of dealer judges. We would not exclude any person from acting as judge on account of his being a dealer; as, it appears to us, to do so would be unfair—would be impolitic—and would be impracticable. It would be unfair to shut out one class of men for no better reason than on account of the trade which they follow; it would be impolitic to do so, because their knowledge is likely to be more *general* than that of amateurs; and it would be impracticable—nay, impossible—for who can draw the line where the amateur ends and the dealer commences?

If the poultry shows are to be a criterion of the merit of our fowls, we must have a sufficient number of efficient judges; and the only restriction which we would place on their selection should be, that they must be honest, honourable men. There is one dark view of the subject to which we must

revert, although it be with pain: A JUDGE MAY ACT DISHONESTLY. We have no reason to think this does occur, FOR WE HAVE NEVER KNOWN A CASE; but if such things be, let each instance, for the satisfaction of the poultry world, and probably for the justification of a straightforward man, be sifted out. But there are grades of dishonesty: a judge may withhold a prize from a pen of birds on account of dislike to the supposed owner; or may wish to give one to another, which he knows. Where MANY JUDGES are concerned, this cannot be. Three men are not likely to give an unmerited prize, or to avoid awarding one which is deserved.

We wish most heartily that at our poultry shows three judges could be appointed to each two or three descriptions of fowls; and we wish no less earnestly that committees and exhibitors could and would manage the matter together. It would certainly be the interest of those who show their birds to be satisfied with prizes of smaller value, and thus leave funds at liberty to have every show efficiently judged.

We think the American plan of unpaid judges (for the account of which we sincerely thank our valued correspondent, R. M'Cormick, Esq. of New York,) would not succeed with us. In England, all labour bears a money value; and there is certainly no fee more richly earned than the customary one to the judges at our poultry shows.

—♦—

AN American journalist says:—Keep clear of Shanghais; but we do not agree with him.

Schedule of the Aylesbury Poultry Show.

THE Vale of Aylesbury Association for the Improvement of Poultry, will take place at Aylesbury on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of October. A commendable wish on the part of the committee to encourage the description of poultry for which the locality is chiefly celebrated, has induced them to offer a silver cup as the first prize to Aylesbury ducks, and to give them the first place in the prize list.

PRIZE LIST.

DUCKS, WHITE AYLESBURY (Open Class).

| Class | 1st. | | 2nd. | |
|------------------------------|------|----|------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 1. Drake and two Ducks | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Third prize | 10s. | | | |

WHITE AYLESBURY.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|----|---|
| 2. Drake and two Ducks | 21 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Third prize | 7s. | 6d. | | |

ROUEN.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 3. Drake and two Ducks | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|------------------------------|----|---|----|---|

SPANISH.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 4. Cock and two Hens, of any age | 30 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
|----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|

CHICKENS OF 1854.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 5. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|

DORKING (White).

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 6. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
|----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

CHICKENS OF 1854.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 7. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|

DORKING (Coloured).

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 8. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
|----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

CHICKENS OF 1854.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 9. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|

COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon or Buff).

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 10. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

CHICKENS OF 1854.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 11. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|

COCHIN CHINA (Brown and Partridge Feathered).

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 12. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

CHICKENS OF 1854.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 13. Cock and two Pullets | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|--------------------------------|----|---|----|---|

GAME FOWL (Black-breasted and other Reds).

| Class. | 1st. | | 2nd. | |
|-----------------------------|------|----|------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 14. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 0 | 15 | 0 |

WHITE AND PILES.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 15. Cock and two Hens, of any age | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|---|

ANY OTHER VARIETIES.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 16. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

GOLDEN SPANGLED HAMBURG.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 17. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

GOLDEN PENCILLED HAMBURG.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 18. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURG.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 19. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

SILVER PENCILLED HAMBURG.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 20. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

POLAND (Black with White Crest).

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 21. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

POLAND (any other Colour).

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 22. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

BANTAMS (Gold Laced).

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 23. Cock and two Hens | 15 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|

BANTAMS (Silver Laced).

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 24. Cock and two Hens | 10 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|

ANY OTHER VARIETIES.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 25. Cock and two Hens | 10 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|

GEESE.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 26. Gander and two Geese..... | 21 | 0 | 10 | 6 |
|-------------------------------|----|---|----|---|

TURKEYS.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| 27. Cock and two Hens | 21 | 0 | 10 | 6 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|---|

GUINEA FOWL.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 28. For the best Pair | 15 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|

PIGEONS (Carriers, Almond, Balds, Beards, and Mottled Tumblers, Owls, Nuns, Turbits, Archangels, Jacobins, Fantails, Trumpeters, Pouters or Croppers, Barbs, Runts, or any Variety).

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 29. For the best Pair of each..... | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|

DEAD POULTRY—Fit for table.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 30. Best Couple of Fowl..... | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Best Goose | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Best Turkey | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Best Couple of Ducks | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

COTTAGERS' PRIZES—MIXED BREEDS OF FOWLS.

| | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|---|
| 31. Best Cock and three Hens, of any Breed..... | 10 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
|---|----|---|---|---|

REGULATIONS.

Exhibitors will be required to state the price at which they will sell their specimens. A prohibitory price can be named; but the sale must take place if an offer be made. All sales to be effected through the Secretary, who will receive the proceeds. Ten per Cent. will be deducted towards defraying the expenses of the Exhibition. The sale office will not be opened until Twelve o'clock on the First Day of the Show; and no pens can be claimed until that hour. The baskets, hampers, &c., to be included with Fowls at the price specified.

The Exhibition will be strictly confined to amateurs; but there is an open class for breeders and dealers, &c., &c., in the justly celebrated White Aylesbury Ducks.

Fowls entered in a wrong class, or with clipped, drawn, or trimmed plumage, or fraudulently dressed, will be excluded from taking prizes; and the Judges will be requested to notice all irregularities they may discover.

Competent persons will be employed for the care and management of the specimens sent to the Exhibition; but the Society will not be answerable for any loss or damage which may occur or happen.

All eggs laid during the time the birds are being exhibited will be destroyed.

Exhibitors are earnestly requested not to forward specimens in an unhealthy state; any diseased fowl will be immediately removed from the Show. No specimens can be removed till after the termination of the Exhibition.

All specimens intended to be exhibited must be at the place of Exhibition on Monday, October 2nd, or they will not be admitted. Baskets, hampers, &c., to be addressed to the Honorary Secretaries of the Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association; and the carriage, in every case, to be previously paid by the Exhibitor.

All letters addressed to the Honorary Secretaries, requiring a reply, to contain one stamp.

No member of the society, or of the committee, or other person, will be admitted before the opening of the Exhibition on Tuesday, October 3rd, with the exception of those who are actually engaged in the arrangements within the building, and who have received admission cards, signed by the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee.

All fees or gratuities are strictly prohibited; and it is requested that any complaint of in-

attention or incivility may be immediately made to the Secretaries.

The requisite forms for entries can be had, on application to the Secretaries, on and after July 16th, which will be supplied by them, with Schedule of Prizes and Regulations, by post, on receipt of two penny stamps. The entrance fee must be paid to the Secretary when the entry is made, or the pens cannot be entered for competition. Entries close September 1st.

The Show to commence at Ten o'clock in the Morning, and to close at Four P.M.

Exhibitors of Poultry to pay 3s. for each pen; Pigeons, 2s.

It is particularly requested that subscriptions be paid as early as possible, to facilitate the early distribution of the admission cards. Catalogues to be obtained at the Exhibition.

That the minimum subscription be 5s., which shall entitle the member, so subscribing, to free admission to the Annual Show; that a subscription of 10s. 6d. shall entitle the subscriber to two cards of admission to the Private View, and free admission to the Annual Show; and that a subscription of 1l. 1s. shall entitle the subscriber to four cards of admission to the Private View, and free admission to the Annual Show.

Subscribers will have the privilege of nominating One Cottager to exhibit; and the charge for pens to such nominee will be reduced one half.

Admission to non-subscribers, on Tuesday (the Private View), 2s. 6d.; on Wednesday and Thursday, 1s. each.

T. WOOTTON, }
J. D. MUDDIMAN, } Hon. Secs.

Farm-Yard Poultry.

NO. IV.

In addition to the breeding stock of Dorkings and the Brahma or Cochin pullets for laying, some farms have space for ducks, geese, and turkeys.

Of the former the only two kinds which will be mentioned as most suitable to the farm-yard, are the Aylesbury and the Rouen. It is not necessary here to enter into the question of the origin of these varieties; they are now so distinct from any other as to be easily distinguished by any one desirous of obtaining them.

The Aylesbury bird is of a pure white,

with flesh-coloured bill and orange-coloured legs. In birds of about two years old the bill frequently becomes marked with dark blotches, which is considered a great disfigurement. The duck is a good layer, commencing early in the year, and should be allowed to sit on thirteen of her own eggs. A pair of Aylesbury birds at full growth will be found on an average to weigh about ten pounds.

The Rouen duck is generally larger than the Aylesbury, and heavier: the plumage of this bird much resembles the wild duck. The duck is a brown bird, the feathers being all marked with black: the drake has a magnificent plumage—the head and neck a rich lustrous green, a white ring at the base of the neck, breast a reddish brown, the remainder of the body and wings partaking very greatly of the colours of the wild mallard. The duck of this kind has at a very early age a great development of its "stomach pouch," which frequently hangs so low as to impede the action of the bird: from this, and other causes, the Rouen is a less active variety of bird than the Aylesbury, and for the same cause does not make a good sitter, being too heavy for the young birds when hatching. The eggs laid by these birds generally exceed in number those laid by the Aylesbury; indeed, the duck is almost a continuous layer: but not making a good mother for the cause stated above, her eggs should be placed under a hen.

The demand for ducks being very much smaller than for fowls, one drake and three or four ducks will be sufficient for most farms. The Rouen bird will do better without water than the Aylesbury; but a pond deep enough for the birds to swim in is so *essential* for both ducks and geese, that no farmer should attempt keeping them without it.

Young ducks are easily reared provided they are *not* allowed to get into *any* water for some time after they are hatched; and although this time may not be accurately defined, if six weeks are allowed to elapse, the birds will be found to have gained most

considerably in weight and size over those which have frequented a pond, as the time employed in swimming is then occupied in sitting still and getting fat. All ducks are enormous eaters. The young certainly well repay the cost by their rapid growth.

No bird degenerates in size and quality by breeding in so quickly as the duck; indeed, so rapid will this tendency to degenerate be found, that a change of drake every year will be a caution on the right side.

In geese, as in ducks, two varieties will be sufficient to bring before the farmer's notice—the "Embden" and "Toulouse."

On every village green flocks of motley-coloured birds are found, generally partaking of white and brown plumage.

The Embden goose is perfectly white—the feathers being on that account of greater value when sold. In most respects the Embden and common goose are alike; at least, no great difference except colour exists.

In the Toulouse bird the colour is invariably of a grayish-brown, in varieties of shade from an ashy-gray to very dark-brown and white in the underpart of the body. The bird may be called of a uniformly brown colour, with a great development of the pouch at a very early period.

It is so very essential for farmers to procure good and pure-bred stock in their poultry-yards, that although the difference between a flock of ordinary geese and of Embden birds may not be great except in colour, it is still advisable that the Embden or Toulouse should be preferred as being *distinct* breeds, and therefore by attention to the renovation of the stock not likely to deteriorate.

Of turkeys, omitting the white as less hardy than the black Norfolk or gray Cambridge, the latter will be found, from its size, as good farm stock as any other. This bird has much variety in colour, from dark leaden-gray to rusty brown-gray.

In choosing stock birds, four hens and one cock will be sufficient: the birds should

be selected from the early brood of the year. The hens should be two years old, and the cock (from a different strain) the same age. Birds of this age are better *stock* birds than the yearlings. A change of the cock *every* year will be found the simplest of all arrangements.

The hen lays about fifteen eggs: the earlier eggs should be removed and hatched under a large Dorking or Cochin hen, and thirteen given to the turkey.

The chicks are by no means so hardy as fowls at first; and the turkey hen requires confinement to prevent her wandering propensities from dragging the young to death. In the neighbourhood of good stubble, beech, or oak woods, turkeys will nearly feed themselves during the autumn.

A few observations must be made in regard to the house for ducks, geese, and turkeys. It should be separate from that for the fowls. If possible, the ducks and geese should be located near their pond. Assuming this, as is frequently the case, to be impracticable, the three may be lodged under the same roof, the house being divided by a strong wooden trellis-work (an open division is preferable to a close one for better circulation of air); the ducks and geese occupying one part, the turkeys the other. Like the fowls' house, this building should be lofty, and its floor of brick. On this floor, in the duck's division, a false bottom should be placed, raised six inches from the floor (made in divisions to be easily moveable), of planed half-inch deal battens, two inches wide, nailed about one inch apart; the brick floor, being properly covered with ashes or sand, will be found a fit receptacle for all the droppings which will find their way through the inch openings, with a little sweeping to help them.

In the turkey-house exactly the same plan may be most advantageously employed; except that, by using fir-poles, three inches in diameter, cut in half, and placed three inches apart, the bird will have the opportunity of perching as well as lying on the floor—desirable for a heavy bird.

Ducks, geese, and turkeys, all require watching in the laying season, or many eggs will be lost.

As the object of these rough notes has not been to enter into a detailed account of the management of farm-yard poultry, a reference here to page 440 of the "Poultry Chronicle" will be all that is required to point out the various works which give information on the subject. But does the farmer's wife want information as to poultry-breeding? Surely not. Poultry is bred *most successfully* on every farm: and the fault is, not in the quantity, but in the quality. It is time that this should cease.

The attention lately directed to poultry has done, and is doing, much good, in pointing out to food-growers the various kinds and qualities of the different animals. It is the farmer's duty to take advantage of those experiments which amateurs have tried, and profit by their experience. That they are doing so must be admitted; but there is not that alacrity to benefit by improvement which there ought to be: and there is not the excuse in this instance that may be urged in such stock as horses and cattle in regard to first-rate stock requiring very large prices.

The stock of poultry recommended to the farmer is within the reach, at easy and moderate cost, of the smallest farm-holder; but until he sweeps away the miserable and half-starved birds he now keeps, and procures the good flesh-producing kinds pointed out, and feeds them well, his poultry, *as stock*, will continue a disgrace to him, and fail to realise that profit which it ought to do.

In bringing these remarks to a close, at the risk of appearing to indulge in repetition, I will again urge upon the landowner that it is his duty to see that his tenants' farm-yards and buildings are suited to *every* branch of farming: upon the committee-man, that it is his duty to *direct*, as well as encourage, the present favourable turn in poultry breeding: and upon the farmer, that it is his profit to get as good stock in his poultry-yard as he would in his flock

or herd; and to make that gain which is now handed over to the foreigner.

W. M. S.

Mr. Editor—very rough, is it not?
[Very good, it is!—Ed.]

Notes by "Alector."

I HAVE already said that geese are much given to grazing, but I have not said that they improve the pasture. This is the case, although there is an old misquoted proverb to the effect that "nothing *will* eat after a goose," whereas the auxiliary verb should be *can* and not *will*. The fact is that the goose will thrive on pasture so short that a goat would starve on it; and the consequence is a remarkably dense sweet herbage.

In the event of any one being induced by my account to keep geese, let me recommend him not to begin with young birds. They are not to be depended upon for breeding, until the third year, and do not attain their perfection for a year or two, subsequent to that age. When once in their prime, like Ninon de l'Enclos, they never retrograde, so that, barring accidents, a man possessed of a gander and three, or four geese (noway related to each other, and in the prime of days), may almost consider himself set up in the anserine line for life. As I cannot speak from my own experience as to their prolific longevity, I am almost afraid to touch upon the subject; but I have heard of an old lady, who had numbered above fifty years, still persisting in producing her two broods every summer.

A gosling, hatched in the month of March, should be ready for the spit by the middle of July, when its value is more than if it were kept on for the following Christmas. The second brood will generally be fit for killing by Michaelmas, but between the ages of five, and nine months, they do not fatten so readily as at other times, at least such is my opinion; and I account for the supposed fact, by the analogy that there is a certain stage in the growth of all

animals, when nourishment, instead of producing fat, is absorbed in the formation of bone, muscle, and general framework of the body.

The best way of fattening them, is to keep them in a warm quiet shed, with plenty of dry clean straw, a constant supply of fresh water and gravel, and to give them a ten minutes' spell at barley or oats every two or three hours. Par-boiled tail wheat is also very good in moderation. By limiting the feeding time, the birds will soon learn to fall to heartily, whereas if the food were left with them, they would be always picking and pecking, and wasting it, instead of sleeping between meals. A little green food may be occasionally given.

After the first week, if time be any object, cramming may be resorted to, and if it be administered at all should be regularly kept up at least three times a day. After the bird has eaten as much corn as he chooses, pellets of barley or oatmeal, of the shape of a sausage, and the size of a lady's little finger, should be put down the throat as long as the power of swallowing exists.

Before being put up to fatten, the weight of each gosling should be ascertained, and if no improvement is perceptible at the end of a week, such bird should be dismissed. After this period they ought to be weighed every two or three days, and as soon as they cease to increase, they should be killed off, or they will rapidly go back, and then

Not all the Queen's barley or all the Queen's men,
Will fatten the gosling up again.

If the attempt be persevered in, the bird will resent the treatment by going off into an atrophy, and so dying of his own accord. A friend of mine was once accosted by his hind with "Please, Sir, shall we kill the pig next Monday?" "Why, no, John," was the answer, "I think we shall be too busy."—"Please Sir, he wants to be killed very bad," was the reply. Upon which my friend rejoined, "Oh, if the pig wishes it, I have no objection to grant it as a personal favour." Now, fat geese always

want to be killed very bad, and the only way to save their lives is to kill them outright, or else turn them out to grass again. The same may be said of all poultry.

I have only further to add, that unless very young, geese and ganders should not be put up together. It would also be advisable to give them an occasional opportunity of washing themselves.

As regards the origin of the common goose, it is, like that of a Welshman, lost in remote antiquity. It is certainly much older than that of the domestic duck, for Homer, in his *Odyssey*, makes mention of the former but not of the latter. Indeed the duck is quite a "novus homo," a "sans culotte snob;" and though he can hardly be classed among the great unwashed, it is very doubtful if ever, genealogically speaking, he had a grandfather. As in the case of ducks, so in that of geese, I must decline involving myself in a voluntary controversy as to their origin. I must however observe, that whereas all the wild varieties are monogamous, he is as great a pluralist in the matrimonial line, as Joe Smith, or any other leader of the Mormonites, or Mahometans. It may be that civilisation has corrupted his premature simplicity of life, but the pigeon and Guinea-fowl are instances to the contrary. It may be asked where then is the original stock to be found? To this question, I would Quaker-like reply by another, viz: if every domesticated animal, must be descended from some existing wild breed what is the origin of the camel which is only found in captivity? Leaving your readers to crack this nut, I will proceed to describe a few of the best known varieties.

The common goose, as far as my own observation extends, is invariably more or less of a grey colour, whilst the gander is as invariably white. There is an old adage of

No goose that swims so grey, but soon or late
Will find some honest gander for her mate.

I remember an old maid once, who had

not despaired of matrimony, being highly incensed at a child's quoting this to her; but the sting of the epigram lay in the fact that she was *grey*,—but thanks to Tyrian dye she endeavoured to conceal the fact.

The Embden goose, is a white bird with blue eyes, and is perhaps larger than the former; but this may arise from its being more highly cultivated on account of its comparative scarceness.

The same may be said of the Toulouse goose, which is perhaps a size larger again. It is of a brownish-grey, and may be easily recognised by its red irides and bill.

The China goose, is rather smaller than any of the former. The plumage is a rich dark brown, with a black stripe down the neck, and it has a black knob on the bill.

The cross between any of the above kinds will furnish a splendid bird for the table; and, as well as I can remember, the time of incubation for all of them is thirty days.

With the following varieties I have little beyond a bowing acquaintance. Some of them I know will not breed in captivity, and I cannot answer for the others; but I hope some one will supply my ignorance.

The Canada goose, is a large brown-grey bird, with a black head and neck, and a white patch on each cheek.

The Bean goose is much smaller, but of the same colour with the exception of the black parts.

The White-Fronted goose, is of a size between the two, and may be known by its white face.

In addition to these, I have met with the Barnacle goose of exploded myth, and the pretty little Brent goose. The first I cannot venture to describe distinctly from memory, but the latter is of a smoky-black colour.

By the way, I have nearly forgotten to mention the Grey Lag, or (as some will have it) Leg goose, which is by many averred to be the source of our common kind. It certainly the most resembles it, but the legs are of a different colour. The same may be said of the Pink footed goose, judging from the stuffed specimens I have

seen; but I have never met with the bird alive.

The Mallard.

IN answer to a question in one of your "Chronicles" respecting the habits of the wild Mallard, I beg to say he is *monogamous*.

The ducks generally select high grounds, where heath and short furze abound, for their nesting place, sometimes at a considerable distance from the water, and, whilst sitting, a number of the "forlorn husbands" may be seen in a flock; each, however, attends his spouse when, prompted by the calls of hunger, she leaves her eggs and makes a preliminary circuit of the meadows they frequent. My informant (a highly respectable keeper) further informs me, that when the young birds make their appearance the Mallard immediately takes his departure (probably to some of the northern lakes), and at this season of the year he never sees an old male bird. R. G. of Dorsetshire.

On Novel Experiments.

Now that poultry keeping is not considered solely an employment befitting poor old women, but high and low, the aristocracy and the mobocracy, rich and poor are all sensibly engaged in proving poultry keeping to be an occupation befitting all ranks, we may hope to see some of our savants condescending to promote science and to clear away theoretical impossibilities by a series of experiments.

Many of your readers may have seen the result of some experiments tried by a Frenchman to prove that by feeding insects on certain plants, that they would imbibe the juices of the plants and thus incorporate certain dyes. Mr. Wallace, the writer of a tour up the great Amazon river, narrates the mode the natives treat birds to obtain feathers of peculiar colours: he says that the Indians rear numbers of tame parrots whose natural plumage is

green or blue, that they pull out certain feathers and inoculate the flesh-wound with the secretion from the skin of a toad or frog: when the feathers grow again, they are of a brilliant yellow or orange colour, without any mixture of the original green or blue as in the natural state of the bird; and on the new plumage being again plucked out, it is said to come of the same colour without any fresh operation. What a field for novel experiments? What's to prevent our shows being graced with bright blue or crimson feathered birds if we can only find out the proper process? Buff has been all the go, why not blue, red, or green?—the latter colour may be objectionable to some, reminding them too strongly of verdant transactions,—besides what a useful way of marking birds it would be. We have the blue room, the green room, and other colour-denominated rooms in our houses, why not have the blue hatch, the green hatch, &c. &c.? Joking apart, I think there is a fair scope for experiments without cruelty; drawing a wing-feather and inoculating its wound—but with what? that's the question. Pray Mr. Editor start the subject, and some one may perhaps solve it. W. W.

Poultry Judges.

THE editor's foot-note to an article in the "Poultry Chronicle" of July 5th, so perfectly coincides with my own views relative to the frequent dissatisfaction evinced at the judges' decisions at different shows, that I have been induced to write a few lines on the subject, by way of opening for discussion a remedy for an evil, perilous to the advancement of exhibitions of this kind.

The greater number of exhibitors are amateurs (not dealers), having probably purchased their birds at a high rate, possessing most of the known essentials of their class, and if by an experienced person, most likely a very good pair has been selected; of course he breeds from them, and obtains (it may be) chickens of merit, which, with

great expense, care, and trouble, are made just as near a perfect pen as Mr. Nameless laid down as the acmé of perfection last year, but on exhibiting them to be judged by the same man who performed that office on the previous year, the very opposite requirements are found essential. Who does not know that in the Cochin class a semblance of a sickle feather in the tail was decried? But now we find birds with those feathers properly insisted on, as also the Polands, which were expected to vie with the present movement and cultivate the beard, but now the contrary. The Dorkings too, as a matter of course, were to have the 5th claw, but now we hear of birds without this essential gaining a prize, and even laying pullets discarded as "male birds." Nothing can stand this kind of empiricism, and exhibitions must rapidly sink into their comparative "pristine nothingness," unless shorn of this ridicule, which is sadly on the increase. There must be a more specific and direct rule laid down, nor will it be only necessary to lay down the rule, but to write it "that those who run may read," to correct false impressions which arise from preconceived notions of the required standard of excellence. There are three points I would urge:—1stly, as you suggest, dispel all surmises about "dealer judges," and secure the services of skilful *disinterested men*. Dealer judges have endless power and monopoly in their hands, and by their opinion may (I hope they never have) bear the market; in other words, by ruling that certain points are necessary in a bird, he may buy largely of those without them, and on the succeeding year, the opposite being insisted on, of course those in the secret hold the monopoly. 2ndly, I believe that no town man can judge all the varieties of fowls. Who so good a judge of a game as a country breeder? In this class more dreadful blunders occur than in any other; a big, fluffy, long-hackled, and loose-feathered brute, with a leg as foul as his general contour, is the recipient of a first prize, and the smart, tight, close-feathered, active, springy *true*

bred, with a leg and foot as symmetrical and strong as a race-horse, is passed by as not up to the mark, although quality in the prospectus is to be the standard. The games, as seen cooped up in a pen, draggled and dispirited, with their generous natures indignant at the restraint forced upon them, and the natural shyness and timidity (especially of the hens) when caged, offer no apology for their appearance. The beauty of this elegant species of fowl is alone seen when in freedom; the cock retains some little portion of his bearing, but not a vestige of the hens' remains; their close, stealthy, skitting about, with outstretched neck, darting after gnats and other insects, the marvellous stretchy tightness of their feathers, with their clean, lean, and sprightly legs always on the go, give place to the exact opposite when gazed at, and panting in a position and temperature so foreign to their habits. Any person having kept the heavier kinds of fowls for some time, is wonderfully out of his judgment in a lighter variety. Therefore, three persons ought to decide on the merits of a poultry show; one for the heavy class, and ducks, geese, turkeys, &c., another for games and the lighter class, and a third for bantams, pigeons, &c.; and the division of labour would facilitate my third and last suggestion, viz., that as these shows are to be instructive to the amateur, the intended amateur, and the ignorant, it is absolutely necessary to state the reasons why a prize be given or withheld, nor need this very much increase the labour (the chief objection, I learn, to any classifications). Most of us have had our books at school, with a bene or male, or good or bad, expressed by a B or M, &c.; why not act on the same plan? A vocabulary of concise terms, or even initials might do; thus, V S (very superior), G (good), M (moderate), and the disqualified birds be alone signified in the sale books, *enhancing their value* in some manner, as the following: CB (cross bred), WM (without merit), WC (wrong class), Imp. (imperfect), too light, too dark, badly penned, and so on, *ad infinitum*. The

excuse of taking up time is a subterfuge, and the fact of the books being leisurely compiled is a complete refutation. I offer no apology for taking up your time, as I am fully aware you are as anxious as your readers to get the thin edge of the wedge in to reform this silly state of affairs. Yours, &c. CHANTICLEER.

[We hardly understand whether "Chanticleer" would have this sort of initial character given to every pen in a show; if so would not judging be too lengthy a process? —Ed.]

Exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society at Lincoln.

THE poultry world has certain great treats and competitions at stated periods, which engross the attention of amateurs, and afford opportunities for that friendly competition, which is one of the delights of those who admire and keep the various tribes that have adorned our yards for many years, and of late have been deemed of sufficient importance to have a place assigned to them, though it be taken from the garden.

The Royal Agricultural Society's show is one of these, and it is of the meeting held at Lincoln last week that we have to treat.

However unfavourable the season of the year may be for exhibiting adult fowls, it is certainly the halcyon time so far as their health and comfort are concerned, since it allows them to be in the open air, and almost neutralises the effect of confinement. It is moreover the time when those who have good chickens may anticipate the honours they will gain, with double pride, because if early hatched, they have been reared through a season of difficulty, and the achievement of receiving a prize has the greater honour. But we believe the Royal Agricultural Society of England are right in giving their prizes at this time, because they desire to offer a premium for early maturity. This could not be done later in the year when the

chickens of February and May are alike mature. Every man deems his own subject the most important, and we are too often apt, as Poultry chroniclers, to view the whole meeting as merely the vehicle for exhibiting a certain number of pens. Such is, however, not the case; it is an adjunct one in the bundle of sticks, that forms a society of which all connected with it may be justly proud. We may observe, *en passant*, that unless the funds of the Royal Agricultural Society of England are in that plethoric state that an addition thereto is no longer desirable, some alterations in Poultry matters would greatly increase the receipts in every way. There is a great charm in out-door meetings, and the spot was happily chosen: it was in a valley, sheltered by hills on two sides, and by the town on the other. The view of Lincoln, from the show-yard, was exceedingly pleasing, as it covers the whole side of the hill, and the houses rise one above the other like the seats of an amphitheatre, the whole being crowned by the noble cathedral. The accommodation of every sort in the town was excellent, and therein presented a strong and pleasing contrast to some of the previous trysting-places of the society.

Before entering into the detail of the several classes, we would remark that the prize list will show the usual names in the principal classes, and we would congratulate both Captain Hornby and Mr. Davies on the success of the Knowsley stud. The triumphs of last years were well sustained, and six prizes, including the three first in Dorkings and Spanish, proved that these celebrated birds have rather gained than lost by their transfer from Lancashire to Middlesex. The Dorking classes were more than excellent, and the improvement in these birds is so continuous, that it is hard to say where their stopping-point will be found. There was a novelty in the class for cocks only, and here the well-known birds of Mrs. Towneley Parker maintained their reputation, taking both prizes, one going to that lady, and the other being

awarded to a bird sold from her yard. The Spanish were also very good. The first and third prizes were awarded to Mr. Davies of Spring Grove, the second to Mr. G. Botham, of Wexham Court, Slough. The first disqualified pen was in this class; as, although judges have protested for years against visible marks being put on birds, here, red tape was tied round their legs. A new candidate for Poultry honours was successful in this class, as well as in Dorkings, we allude to Mr. Gelderd of Kendal. The good condition of his birds was remarkable, and his success deserved. The difficulty of procuring good Spanish cocks was proved by the small number of competitors in Class 5. Alas! for Cochins, all their progress seems downward. The class, though numerous, was a bad one; Mr. Gelderd took the two first prizes, Mr. Sandys the third, and Mr. J. Taylor the fourth. We protest against the neglect of these birds; we never approved the ridiculous fuss made about them, or the high prices that were asked for them, but we think they deserve more care in breeding than their present owners seem disposed to bestow upon them. Some good cocks were shown in the single Cochins class. The prize was taken by Mr. C. Pocklington, of Boston, and a high commendation by Mr. Punchard. The Brahma Poutra class was better in numbers than quality. The prize pen, of good birds, belonged to the Rev. F. Thursby, of Abington Rectory. The game fowls were excellent, and a large class; and the claims to distinction were sufficiently numerous to give the judges much trouble in making their awards. The prizes were taken in order by Messrs. Worhall, of Liverpool; Adkins, of Birmingham; and Cox, of Brailsford. Mr. Marshall, of Cotgrave, took the only prize in the single cock class, which was a good one. We have to do next with the blot in the prize-sheet, viz., the Pencilled Hambro's. All the prizes were withheld. This unusual course was warranted by the total absence of merit in every pen exhibited.

Every bird appeared to be either bred, or breeding out; hackles, tails, combs, and pencilling were alike defective. All this may be rectified by more careful breeding, and more pains-taking, otherwise exhibitors must be prepared for the repetition of a proceeding alike distasteful to judges and themselves.

The Spangled Hamburgs were better, but not equal to those exhibited at the shows last winter.

The Malay was a small class, and calls for no particular mention. Very different were the first prize Silver-spangled Polands, the property of Mr. Adkins; although moulting, their beauty and the goodness of their points were striking. The same gentleman took the second prize with some good black birds, with white top-knots. The third prize was deservedly awarded to Mr. Rawson, of the Hurst.

Lord Hill has long stood at the head of those who breed the American turkeys, and this year he exhibited a pen, surpassing anything we ever saw, except a pair shown at Liverpool some months since by Mr. John Neilson. The second prize was taken by Mr. Pocklington, of Boston; the third by Mr. Lister Mawe, of Tetley. Mrs. Towneley Parker always takes the prize for geese, and this year the first pen belonging to that lady weighed 55½ lbs.; the second prize was awarded to Mrs. Hill, of Stretton Grandison; and the third to Mr. Rawson. The judges pronounced the Aylesbury ducks a highly meritorious class. The first prize went to Mr. Breavington; the second to Mr. Davies; and the third to Mr. Gelderd. Those for Rouens were given in order to Messrs. Borham, Leeming and Punchard, Mr. Worhall was successful with brown call-ducks, and Mr. Keyworth with Buenos Ayres.

The judges were, Mr. Wright, of Birmingham; Mr. Andrews, of Dorchester; and Mr. Baily, of London.

POULTRY.

CLASS 1.—DORKING FOWLS (cock and two hens—chickens of 1854): 1st prize of £5 to No. 9,

viz., to H. D. Davies, of Spring Grove House, Hounslow. 2nd prize of £3 to No. 8, viz., to H. D. Davies, of Spring Grove House, Hounslow. 3rd prize of £2 to No. 25, viz., to Joseph Smith, of Henley in Arden, Warwick. 4th prize of £1 to No. 29, viz., to James Lewry, of Handcross, Crawley, Sussex.

CLASS 2.—DORKING FOWLS (more than one year old—cock and two hens): 1st prize of £5 to No. 39, viz. to H. D. Davies, Spring Grove House, Hounslow. 2nd prize of £3 to No. 47, viz., to Mrs. Towneley Parker, of Astley Hall, Chorley, Lancashire. 3rd prize of £2 to No. 46, viz., to Mrs. Towneley Parker, of Astley Hall, Chorley, Lancashire. 4th prize of £1 to No. 49, viz., to G. A. Gelderd, of Aikrigg End, Kendal, Westmoreland.

CLASS 3.—DORKING COCKS (of any age): 1st prize of £2 to No. 64, viz., to G. A. Gelderd, of Aikrigg End, Kendal, Westmoreland. 2nd prize of £1 to No. 63, viz., to Mrs. Towneley Parker, Astley Hall, Chorley, Lancashire.

CLASS 4.—SPANISH FOWLS (cock and two hens): 1st prize of £5 to No. 80, viz., to H. D. Davies, of Spring Grove House, Hounslow. 2nd prize of £3 to No. 73, viz., to George Botham, of Wexham Court, Slough, Bucks. 3rd prize of £2 to No. 81, viz., to H. D. Davies, of Spring Grove House, Hounslow. 4th prize of £1 to No. 75, viz., to G. A. Gelderd, of Aikrigg End, Kendal, Westmoreland.

CLASS 5.—SPANISH COCKS (of any age): The prize of £2 to No. 84, viz., to James Dixon, of Westbrook Place, Bradford, Yorkshire.

CLASS 6.—COCHIN CHINA FOWLS (cock and two hens—chickens of 1854): 1st prize of £5 to No. 91, viz., to G. A. Gelderd, of Aikrigg End, Kendal, Westmoreland. 2nd prize of £3 to No. 90, viz., to G. A. Gelderd, of Aikrigg End, Kendal, Westmoreland. 3rd prize of £2 to No. 108, viz., to John Taylor, jun., of Spring Grove, Hounslow. Fourth prize of £1 to No. 89, viz., to William Sanday, of Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

CLASS 7.—COCHIN CHINA (cocks of any age): The prize of £2 to No. 124, viz. to Caborn Pocklington, of Boston, Lincolnshire.

CLASS 8.—BRAMAH POUTRA FOWLS—(cock, and two hens): The prize of £2 to No. 146, viz., to the Rev. F. Thursby, of Abington Rectory, Northampton.

CLASS 9.—GAME FOWLS—(cock, and two hens): 1st prize of £5 to No. 151, viz., to Henry Worrall, of Knotty Ash House, near

Liverpool. 2nd prize of £2 to No. 158, viz., to G. C. Adkins, of West House, Edgbaston, Birmingham. 3rd prize of £1 to No. 170, viz., to William Cox, of Brailsford, near Derby.

CLASS 10.—GAME COCKS (of any age): The prize of £2 to No. 176, viz., to Henry Marshall, of Cotgreave, Nottingham.

CLASS 11.—HAMBURG FOWLS (Golden Pencilled cock, and two hens): 1st prize of £2—*withheld*. 2nd prize of £1—*withheld*.

CLASS 12.—HAMBURG FOWLS (Silver Pencilled cock and two hens): 1st prize of £2—*withheld*. 1st prize of £1—*withheld*.

CLASS 13.—HAMBURG FOWLS (Golden Spangled—cock and two hens): 1st prize of £2 to No. 208, viz., to William Sylvester, of Stamp Office, Lincoln. 2nd prize of £1 to No. 212, viz., to John Andrew, of Waterhouses, Ashton-Under Lyne.

CLASS 14.—HAMBURG FOWLS (Silver Spangled—cock and two hens): 1st prize of £2 to No. 223, viz., to James Dixon, of Westbrook Place, Bradford. 2nd prize of £1 to No. 222, viz., to Jeffrey Ashcroft, of Waterloo, Ashton Under Lyne.

CLASS 15.—MALAY FOWLS (cock and two hens): 1st prize of £2 to No. 236, viz., to James Oldham, of Long Eaton, Derby. 2nd prize of £1 to No. 234, viz., to the Rev. T. Lyon Fellowes, of Beighton Rectory, Acle, Norfolk.

CLASS 16.—POLAND FOWLS (cock and two hens): 1st prize of £3 to No. 244, viz., to G. C. Adkins, of West House, Edgbaston, Birmingham. 2nd prize of £2 to No. 243, viz., to G. C. Adkins, of West House, Edgbaston, Birmingham. 3rd prize of £1 to No. 240, viz., to C. Rawson, of the Hurst, Walton on Thames.

CLASS 17.—TURKEYS (cock and two hens): 1st prize of £3 to No. 251, viz., to Viscount Hill, of Hawkston, Shrewsbury. 2nd prize of £2 to No. 247, viz., to C. Pocklington, of Boston, Lincoln. 3rd prize of £1 to No. 249, viz., to H. Lister Maw, of Tetley, Crowle, Lincoln.

CLASS 18.—GEESE (gander and two geese): 1st prize of £3 to No. 253, viz., to Mrs. Towneley Parker, of Astley Hall, Chorley, Lancashire. 2nd prize of £2 to No. 262, viz., to Mrs. Harriet Hill, of New House, Walton-on-Thames. 3rd prize of £1 to No. 261, viz., to Christopher Rawson, of the Hurst, Walton-on-Thames.

CLASS 19.—AYLESBURY DUCKS (drake and two ducks): 1st prize of £3 to No. 268, viz., to W. G. K. Breavington, of Vicarage Farm, Hounslow. 2nd prize of £2 to No. 265, viz., to H. D. Davies,

of Spring Grove House, Hounslow. 3rd prize of £1 to No. 266, viz., to G. A. Gelderd, of Aik-rigg End, Kendal.

CLASS 20.—ROVEN DUCKS (drake and two ducks): 1st prize of £3 to No. 282, viz., to George Botham, of Wexham Court, Slough. 2nd prize of £2 to No. 276, viz., to Thomas Teanby, of Ulceby, Hull. 3rd prize of £1 to No. 280, viz., to Charles Punchard, of Blunt's Hall, Haverrhill, Suffolk.

CLASS 21.—DUCKS of any other variety—(drake and two ducks): 1st prize of £2 to No. 287, viz., to Henry Worrall, of Knotty Ash House, near Liverpool. 2nd prize of £1 to No. 295, viz., to T. M. Keyworth, of Cottesford Place, Lincoln.

Arrangement and Decorations of the Town.

THE ancient city of Lincoln last week was a scene of unbounded bustle and gaiety. Decorations, triumphal arches, and crowds of smiling faces met the eye on every side. The worthy mayor of Lincoln (J. T. Tweed, Esq.) was indefatigable in his exertions to carry out the various arrangements in a manner reflecting credit on the town. The decorative department, under the superintendence of Mr. J. Clarke, of Gloucester, was of a magnificent character. The arch erected at the South Bar was upwards of thirty feet in span, and about twenty feet high, and had a beautiful appearance, being ornamented with banners, flags, &c., with the motto, "Welcome," on one side. Next in extent was the Midland arch, in a different style, but bearing a similar motto. It consisted of two extensive open work columns, splendidly decorated, supporting an immense architrave trimmed with flowers, &c. St. Mary's arch was of a lighter nature, elegantly wreathed with evergreens, the city arms being surrounded with flags and banners. The Mayor's arch was of a circular form, and surmounted by a pediment, bearing, in a most conspicuous manner, the arms of the city, with a transparent V. R. The spandrils of the arch contained magnificent medallions, in addition to which it was prettily decorated

with flowers, festoons, &c., and swords of justice. Its altitude was of an extent rarely witnessed, approaching sixty feet. The fronts of various hotels and private residences were also splendidly decorated, and at night brilliantly illuminated.

The ancient gateway, called the Stonebow, was lit up with its 3000 coloured lamps, and was the centre of attraction; and, beautiful as were the arches, and varied and attractive as were the decorations and illuminations, all sunk into insignificance when compared with the splendid appearance of our fine old arch. The High Street, from eight o'clock until eleven o'clock at night, was pretty nearly filled by a dense mass of human beings of all ranks and classes, from the peer to the peasant, and all were loud in the expression of the great gratification they experienced from the magnificent gratuitous exhibition provided for them. We have had opportunities of witnessing illuminations in London, Paris, and in other places, but we never met with a single piece of illumination which for quiet beauty and taste equalled the ancient arch. Every distinctive line in the architecture on both sides was hung with variegated lamps; the arches, the windows, the adornments, the battlemented top, the towers, all being marked by strong lines of variegated light. On the north side were the letters V. A. in coloured lamps, on either side of the great arch, with two stars just above the centre of the same. In the middle of the battlemented top is the illuminated clock, with its intelligent shining face; and although our city friend is "two-faced" he is tolerably trustworthy and correct in his account. Above this shining dial was a splendid crown in gorgeous coloured lamps, the whole building being surmounted by a pair of banners on each side, and two swords of justice. The south side was somewhat similar to the one described, having stars in the centre above the arch, and a ring of coloured lamps around the coat of arms immediately over the gateway. The top of the battlemented roof had ornaments similar to those which we have described on

the north side. Words can convey no adequate idea of the extreme beauty of these magnificent decorations. Flags of all colours, embracing the national Union Jack and the tri-color of France, were exhibited from every window in the principal thoroughfares, and from the numerous churches, mills, &c., whilst the bells hung in the respective church towers rang forth their merry peals, and music was heard in every direction. Large pavilions were erected for concerts, dancing, and refreshments, and Wombwell's menagerie, with its excellent band, also held forth great attractions. The Horticultural Society also held its show on Wednesday last, in the picturesque Temple Gardens, and at night fireworks and numerous balloons were sent up.

Driffield and East Riding of Yorkshire Poultry Show.

THE first meeting of this Society, which is in connection with that for the promotion of agriculture, took place at Driffield on Wednesday, the 12th inst. The morning was dull, and looked like rain; however, as the day advanced, the clouds cleared away, and, though not a bright day, still the visitors had no reason to complain, neither had the committee, as upwards of 300*l.* was taken in shillings at the gate. The poultry, as at Malton, were exhibited in open basket-work pens; but taking no doubt a hint from their neighbours at Malton, as to the inconvenience of having the pens on the ground, they were raised on slight wood frames, about three feet high, which enabled the visitors to examine them with much greater ease.

Amongst the birds we could not fail to recognise many that we had previously seen at Malton.

In Cochins there was nothing very striking. The first and second prize in Dorkings were good birds; but in the other pens the cocks were very old, and many both in this class, and also in 48, were bumble-footed.

In Spanish all the prizes were taken by Mr. Pearson with really good birds.

In Malays, the pens that were first at Malton, here only came second, the hens belonging to Mr. Boothby being better matched.

Mrs. Willoughby took the prize for chickens with a pen of excellent birds, probably the same as shown at Malton.

In game the pens were excellent, being well matched, both as to feather and legs; the class for the best cock was admirable—not a bad bird in it, and eighteen entries. Both classes were commended by the judges, and they richly deserved it.

The Polands looked dirty, and out of plumage. Had Miss Brown's pen had a full-grown bird, instead of a chicken, as cock, we think the award of prizes would have been very different.

Hamburgs looked faded, and beginning to moult. In Silver-pencilled we observed two or three pens with ten toes marking a relationship with Dorkings.

Bantams poor.

A good Bramah Poutra cock was shown by Mr. Hotham, and also a pen of very nice chickens in the class for any breed not previously classed.

For the best collection of fowls there were some nice pens; and Mr. Thompson's birds were certainly very good, as also were Mr. Jordan's Dorkings.

In geese Mrs. Willoughby's pen far outstripped all the rest, though they would have looked better had they had a good wash before they left home.

Ducks, turkeys, and Guinea fowl call for no remark. The Honourable and Rev. S. W. Lawley, the Rev. R. Pulleine, and Mr. Jolly, of Acomb, were the judges.

PRIZE LIST.

CLASS 43. (COCHIN-CHINA)—Best cock and two hens, 15*s.*; second do., 7*s.* 6*d.* 1st, Duesbery, Esq., Skelton; 2nd, Rev. C. Hotham, Rooss.

CLASS 44. (COCHIN CHINA)—Best cock and three pullets, 10*s.*, Duesbery, Esq., Skelton.

CLASS 45. (COCHIN CHINA)—Best cock, 7s. 6d., W. W. Boulton, Beverley.

CLASS 46. (DORKINGS)—Best cock and two hens, 15s.; second do., 7s. 6d. 1st, John King, Huggate; 2nd, A Simpson, Esq., Malton.

CLASS 47. (DORKINGS)—Best cock and three pullets, 10s., M. Kirby, Jun., Driffield.

CLASS 48. (DORKINGS)—Best Cock, 7s. 6d., Mrs. Conyers, Driffield.

CLASS 49. (SPANISH)—Best cock and two hens, 15s.; second do., 7s. 6d. 1st, and 2nd, T. T. Peirson, Brid. Quay.

CLASS 50. (SPANISH)—Best cock and three pullets, 10s., T. T. Peirson, Brid. Quay.

CLASS 51. (SPANISH)—Best cock, 7s. 6d., T. T. Peirson, Brid. Quay.

CLASS 52. (MALAYS)—Best cock and two hens, 15s.; second do., 7s. 6d. 1st, G. W. Boothby, Louth; 2nd, Mrs. Willoughby, Birdsall.

CLASS 53. (MALAYS)—Best cock and three pullets, 10s., Mrs. Willoughby, Birdsall.

CLASS 54. (MALAYS)—Best cock, 7s. 6d. No competition.

CLASS 55. (GAME FOWL)—Best cock and two hens, 15s.; second do., 7s. 6d. 1st, T. Bowman, Fridaythorpe; 2nd, Mrs. Willoughby, Birdsall.

CLASS 56. (GAME FOWL)—Best cock and three pullets, 10s. Mrs. Willoughby.

CLASS 57. (GAME COCK)—Best cock, 7s. 6d. James Laycup, Driffield.

CLASS 58. (POLAND FOWL)—Best cock and two hens, 15s.; second do., 7s. 6d. 1st, G. W. Boothby, Louth; 2nd, G. W. Boothby, Louth.

CLASS 59. (POLAND FOWL)—Best cock, 7s. 6d. G. W. Boothby, Louth.

CLASS 60. (GOLDEN PHEASANT)—Best cock and two hens, 15s.; second do., 7s. 6d. 1st, T. Simpson, Hull; 2nd, W. Charters, Driffield.

CLASS 61. (GOLDEN PHEASANT)—Best cock, 7s. 6d. T. Garton, Bridlington.

CLASS 62. (SILVER PHEASANT)—Best cock and two hens, 15s.; second do., 7s. 6d. 1st, J. Monkman, Malton; 2nd, E. Tindall, Bridlington.

CLASS 63. (SILVER PHEASANT)—Best cock, 7s. 6d. No competition.

CLASS 64. (CHITTEPRAT OR CORSICAN)—Best cock and two hens 15s.; second do., 7s. 6d. 1st, Mr. Wells, Straddlethorpe; 2nd, R. Golden, Bridlington.

CLASS 65. (CHITTEPRAT OR CORSICAN)—Best cock and three pullets, 10s. J. Fisher, Carhead.

CLASS 66. (CHITTEPRAT OR CORSICAN)—Best cock, 7s. 6d. No competition.

CLASS 67. (Golden or Silver Pheasant Bantams)—Best cock and two hens, 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st and 2nd, G. W. Boothby, Louth.

CLASS 68. (Golden or Silver Pheasant Bantams)—Best cock, 5s. No competition.

CLASS 69. (Bantams of any other variety)—Best cock and two hens, 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, R. Ridsdale, Walkington; 2nd, S. Walker, Esq.

CLASS 70. (Bantams of any other variety)—Best cock and three pullets, 7s. 6d. No competition.

CLASS 71. (Bantams of any other variety)—Best cock, 5s. G. Wilson, Driffield.

CLASS 72. (Any breed not previously classed)—Best male cock and two hens, 15s.; second do., 7s. 6d. 1st, R. Brigham, Driffield; 2nd, W. Boothby, Louth.

CLASS 73. (Any breed not previously classed)—Best cock and three pullets, 10s., Reverend C. Hotham, Roos.

CLASS 74. (Any breed not previously classed)—Best cock, 7s. 6d., Rev. C. Hotham, Roos.

CLASS 75. (Best collection of Fowls)—To consist of one male and five hens, 15s., J. Thompson, Malton.

CLASS 76. (GEESE)—Best gander and goose, 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st, Mrs. Willoughby, Birdsall; 2nd, Mrs. Moore, Cranswick.

CLASS 77. (GEESE). Best couple (hatched in 1854), 7s. 6d., Miss Tennison, Fraithorpe.

CLASS 78. (DUCKS)—Best drake and two ducks, 10s.; second do., 5s. 1st and 2nd, Miss P. Taylor, Sewerby C.

CLASS 79. (DUCKS)—Best couple (hatched in 1854), 7s. 6d., R. Simpson, Cowlam.

CLASS 80. (MUSCOVY DUCKS)—Best duck and drake, 7s. 6d., W. C. Laybourne, Naffrtn.

CLASS 81. (TURKEYS)—Best turkey, cock and hen, 15s.; second do., 7s. 6d. 1st, Mrs. Conyers, Driffield; 2nd, Mrs. Willoughby, Birdsall.

CLASS 82. (TURKEYS)—Best three (hatched in 1854), 10s., W. Bateson, Brigham.

CLASS 83. (GUINEA FOWL)—Best pair, 7s. 6d.; second do., 5s. 1st, J. Rickinson, Lockington; 2nd, Miss Ogle, Atwick.

CLASS 84. (PIGEONS)—Best six of any breed, 10s.; second do., 5s.; 1st, J. Bower, Esq., Barmston; 2nd, J. Hudson, Kirkburn.

CLASS 85. (RABBITS)—Best pair of any breed, 7s. 6d.; second do., 5s.; 1st, Mrs. Bower, Welham; 2nd Hayton Young, Beswick.

Exhibition of Stock and Implements at Worthing.

THIS Exhibition took place on Thursday, July 6. The day was very fine, the company numerous, and the poultry tent was crowded with ladies all day.

The prize Cochon hens were two beautiful birds; and the cockerel in the second prize pen was a magnificent fellow. There was one pen of Surrey fowls, which were very handsome, and which changed owners. The Dorkings were not good.

The Spanish were, on the whole, very good; so much so, that the judges had some difficulty in awarding the prizes.

DORKING FOWLS.—The 1st and 2nd prizes were taken by Mr. Charles Bedwell, Iford, and Mr. James Lewry, Hand Cross, respectively.

The SPANISH prizes were 1st to Mr. Caleb Carey, Lewes; and 2nd Mr. Charles Davey, Lewes. A pen belonging to Mr. James Jenner, of Lewes, was highly commended; and one belonging to Mr. B. Brown, of Worthing, commended.

In the COCHON Class the 1st and 2nd prizes were taken by Mr. George Gibbs, Henfield; and a pen of Mr. William Randle's was commended.

OF GAME FOWLS and GESE there were no entries. The 1st prize for DUCKS was awarded to Mr. Robert Loder, Beeches, Crawley, for a pen of AYLESBURY; the 2nd to Mr. H. S. Hayward, Folkington, also for AYLESBURY.

The Judges for Poultry were, J. S. Turner, Esq., Chinton, Seaford; Mr. T. Webb, 109, Tottenham Court Road, London; and Mr. T. Wells, Lewes.

[One of our correspondents has kindly favoured us with the above particulars.—Ed.]

Review.

Fowls. By John Baily, 2nd. edition. Helmingham and Hollis, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square.

PERHAPS few things will prove more acceptable to the lovers of poultry than the new and improved edition of this excellent practical little work, with a copy of which (in the rough sheets) we have just been favoured. There are few poultry fanciers who have not often applied for advice to the former edition, in which, as in the present one, the matter is all so good and so conveniently

condensed, and wherein Mr. Baily presents to amateurs the result of his intimate knowledge and long tried experience. In the present edition we notice an addendum which has been almost clamorously called for by the poultry world a minute description of the characteristics of each variety of fowl as a table of reference for persons putting up their pens for exhibition, in which the qualities which are imperative are stated to be so, and disputed points allowed still to remain an open question.

We regret that the space occupied by the Royal Agricultural Society's Exhibition, renders it necessary to defer giving an extract until next week, we can therefore only recommend the reader to procure a copy of the book as soon as he can get it.

On the Game Fowl,

(Concluded from page 476.)

BY "COCKSPUR."

Having now considered the main points of excellence in the form of the game, I shall further add a few observations on their feathering.

The *texture* of their feather is of considerable importance, and for more reasons than one. The feathers should be hard and closely set to the body. The hackle of the cock should not be too full—long enough to touch the shoulder, but not flowing in fine showy soft masses, like luxuriant ringlets over the bosom of a pretty girl. The feathering of the body of the bird should be so hard, that if a handful of dry peas are thrown at it, they will rebound off, as from a marble slab, and not sink into an unresisting mass of fluff. This hardness of feather is not only useful as a shield from external injury, but is an index to the temperament, if I may so speak, of the bird. It indicates a finer and more compact structure in the tissues of the body, and a greater degree of solidity in the texture of the bones—their approaching, like the bones of the race-horse, more to the ivory character. It is this latter fact of indicating ulterior qualities, rather than the immediate use of the hard feathering itself, that I have ever looked upon as an essential feature in a high-bred game cock;

and it is rather surprising how soon it alters, if attention be not paid to breeding. I cannot help feeling that the figures of the Derby birds show an approach to too great a looseness of feather.

I have mentioned that this appears in the hackle of the cock. The hen also shows the same indications. The fluff round the vent is much too full and loose, and the feathering of the thighs far too exuberant.

In noticing the hen of the game I will describe one that is now pruning herself before my window, and which I have always considered pretty nearly perfect, both in form and feather. Her general appearance does not give the idea of great size, but when taken in hand you at once feel your eye has deceived you. Her motions are quick, and her general manner sprightly. Her head is fine and small; her comb thin and moderately developed; her eye large and bright, with a good deal of the "laughing devil" in it; her neck gracefully crested, and carried with a "jaunty" air, while the body is finely modelled, showing the breadth of shoulder, and rounded and full developed wing and thigh, which are well set off by the fine close feathering of the bird. The tail is ample, and carried at a good height, but not very greatly spread, nor very much over the back. The leg and thigh bear the same proportion we have spoken of in the cock; the foot is well spread; toes fine and long, these extremities altogether looking finely and delicately formed. The same rigidity of feather is here observable as in the male, but the hackle has become so short, that it is nearly lost sight of, while the shoulders, from being thus exposed, show their fine rounded proportions to great advantage. The feathering of the thighs is short and close, and the fluff round the vent has the appearance of being shaven or closely shorn, so regular, close and firm is it in texture.

I have now considered the chief external qualities necessary to observe in forming a judgment on the game fowl, or such, at least, as are most indicative of his qualities

for contending successfully in the pit; and I humbly opine that it is only by such tests that we can judge him fairly.

The cock-breeder was never particular about the *colour* of birds; and the fact that he was often required to make crosses with birds dissimilar in colour, to incorporate fresh blood, made it difficult for him to preserve any strain perfect in this respect. The colour of the legs, too, has in some measure been forced upon him, farmers often refusing to walk birds with yellow legs, or even dark ones, on account of such colours preventing the sale of their chickens in the market. White legs have, therefore, been more particularly sought after by the breeder.

If I might presume, in conclusion, to make a few observations for the exhibition of the game fowl, I would say, committees have frequently been too sparing in their prizes for this variety of fowl, mostly confining them to one class, while for Cochin Chinas, Polands, Hamburgs, Bantams, &c., they have classes for all varieties. I am quite sure that even now, when the game cock has been so long under suspicion of being only a very "doubtful character," and hardly a fit associate for the respectable, steady, matter-of-fact Dorking, or the more gay and foppish gentlemen from Poland and Hamburg, not to speak of the *grandees* of China and the Spanish *don*s, give him fair play, and he will yet take a high position, if not the very highest, for general usefulness, hardiness, and beauty of plumage; for I cannot but feel, after trying many other sorts myself, and seeing many others possessed by my friends, that we must say of him as Hamlet said of his father—

"Take him for all in all,
We shall not look upon his like again."

The Golden Spangled Hamburg.

LEAVES FROM MY SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY.

THE criticisms respecting the properties of the Golden Spangled Hamburg, have hitherto been quite wide of the mark. The

real point contended for by the Yorkshire men is, that *the saddle-feathers be spangled*. They contend, that, the Golden Spangled Hamburg should be wholly, not partially spangled. But, as the saddle-feathers are only found spangled in the short-tailed birds, so the short tail has been considered an usual, nay a quasi necessary accompaniment. But we shall not now rest satisfied with merely defending our position, but convert defence into attack, and blow to pieces the whole hypothesis of long-tailed, saddle-hackled (by courtesy), Golden Spangled Hamburgs! Such birds, I am wholly satisfied are mongrels, a cross between the black-breasted red game fowl, and the true Hamburg. As I have before privately stated to some, who are now, doubtless, your gentle readers (for their name is legion), no less than five cases have come under my own immediate observation where the true Hamburg hen was crossed with the game cock; and although a few of the chickens were very *gamy*, yet a great portion were just the long-tailed, saddle-hackled Hamburg of the Southern fancy. In some of these five instances the cross was purposely made, but it most frequently happens on account of the death of the only true Hamburg cock bird, when the game is resorted to as being "nearest alike." Hence is explained the cause why many of these long-tailed mongrel Hamburgs have frequently black, or but very partially spangled breasts. I firmly believe that no fact in Ornithology is more complete than the history now given of these long-tailed birds. No Hamburg should be noticed at poultry exhibitions that has not the spangled saddle-feathers; twice have I disqualified such birds, and ever should do so, were I again to act as judge; of which, however, (peace be to the saddle-hackled amateurs) I have no intention. The Southern, I contend, knows comparatively little of this bird, it has been but recently introduced to him; and being unfortunate in at first getting the long-tailed birds—for such mongrels are plentiful enough—he has

imbibed false doctrines; and from the pertinacity with which he defends them, we may well say with Swift—

"This old vertigo in his head,
Will never leave him—till he's dead!"

HULL. TRISTRAM SHANDY.

P. S. Some Southern go-a-head amateurs have recently got the *true* Spangled Hamburg from this and other parts of Yorkshire. In every case they have been "delighted" with them, and I know of one gentleman who immediately sent orders to a dealer, for all the cock birds to be had; so it is to be hoped that we shall soon hear no more of the saddle-hackled. Unfortunately some Southern judges are still in the way, but as they will soon have spangled, wholly spangled, and none but spangled to judge, the temporary stop-gap will soon be swept away.

The Two Different Presents.

AN ANECDOTE.

(Concluded from page 488.)

FROM the village formerly mentioned in my account of "The Poachers," and which was some miles away, the "guggle" (or windpipe) of a cow had been some way or other obtained; this was cut into small pieces, each one making (of course), a complete hollow circle; it had been already boiled for a lengthy period in "water from the spring," and afterwards had had added to it a considerable quantity of crabs (or wild apples), collected with much toil from trees also far distant; the dark loosened pippins from which looked most strangely eccentric in the "meat-porridge," as the poor elder boy himself now called the mixture, that had previously received the addition of a few handfuls of coarse flour since my arrival. I felt very strongly the sad condition of a family thus strangely secluded from the world around them. At once an interest in their peculiarities, and hopes to benefit them were aroused, but little did I

then ever intend to render their history a *subject for the printing press*; but as the reverend gentleman who had a connection with the present story is now numbered only with those things that time back existed, I shall simply comply with *stern facts* as to particulars, and at once continue my narrative.

I by a little careful inquiry elicited that the father did work at "looking after" some small sheep on the hills, for I know not whom, nor can I state the exact sum he received as wages, but it was miserably scanty; the mother, whose health was very indifferent, was absent with him, and thus I had only to enquire cautiously to know all about them. I found that no one ever scarcely called or approached them, unless it was some sportsman, who wished for information. I saw that every thought was crippled by want of intercourse and instruction: no furniture, except a rude three-legged table, and two small stools of like form, were about me; and that really uncared-for ignorance was here "all in all." In a nook in the turf wall lay, to my astonishment, a book!

What could be the subject of that book?—was it a tract?—or how came it thither? These ideas flashed rapidly through my mind. I then asked the boy if he could read at all?

"No!"

"Did any one ever offer to teach you?"

"No!"

"Can your father read?"

"No!"

"Can your mother?"

"Not much."

"Did you ever see a Bible?"

Confused look, and the answer at length, "No."

"My dear boy, do you ever say a prayer?"

"No."

"Does the parson (I chose the word to suit the mind) ever come near you?"

"No."

"Do your father and mother ever go down on their knees to pray?"

The reply was indeed singular; "When

mother's had a babby, her says, thanken God I'se gotten o'er this."

I then found of all notions of a Deity he was perfectly unaware, of our Saviour wholly unconscious: but, as to ghosts, and so forth, he seemed "quite at home." I asked him to let me see the book (for my curiosity was much increased), from its general appearances betokening it well-used. Reader, it proved to be a "Napoleon's Dream Book, or Book of Fate," declaratory of certain dreams producing certain consequences, and such like; abounding also with many rude descriptive plates; its original cost, as printed on the first page, was 2s. It was a book of reference to the mother, and had been the gift of "Squire —'s eldest daughter," at a time when by *appointment* she met a gipsy fortune-teller in this lone abode. I was paralyzed to reflect on the circumstances now related, and after a trifling gift of money, left the hut, with many serious thoughts; the stillness of the walk homewards increased their intensity, and I was resolved to do something, and then "hope for better things."

I asked (not stating why) the chief gamekeeper, "Whether if I sent him a parcel he would give it to the family I named to him?" His affirmative reply decided my course. I called at the town of — in my journey homewards (to my own house) a few days afterwards, purchased one of the Bibles of the Bible Society and forwarded it; *but I could not rest here*; when convinced it had been received I wrote most earnestly, though very respectfully, to the clergyman of the district, acquainting him with every circumstance, and emphatically requesting this poor family might be taught to read, and *understand it*.

I know the Priest at *that* time did not much reflect on such affairs, but the matter being thus openly before him he waited confidentially on my friend, showed him my note, and wanted very much to know my "position and influence;" he then stated, "he supposed something must be done," and did also get some one *to do it*.

I shall now very curtly close my narrative. Through the influence of the thus appointed instructor, a few turkies were entrusted to this family's attention (the necessary provender being supplied by the owner); they succeeded beyond the most sanguine expectations, and even to this present hour "no such birds come at Christmas into market" as those reared at the once wretched cottage on the moor. But altered circumstances and proper instruction have changed the nature of every member of this formerly neglected family (for I am informed) "each of them can now read, whilst from being paid so much per head for all the turkies reared, their position and circumstances are wondrously improved. Whether they have the Dream Book I do not know, but *your* Bible is their treasure, frequently consulted, and carefully kept clean." I am much gratified to find it is so; Reader! perhaps the opportunity lies equally at your hands, of a gift to benefit or to injure; do then seriously consider the different results of these two presents, and then choose your own course. The gift of a Napoleon's Dream Book necessarily contracts the intellect, renews each time-worn link in the heavy drag-chains of fast-fading superstition, and produces (more especially to the uneducated and neglected mind) feelings of abject fatalism, of utter hopelessness, and of unalterable predestination. A freely given Bible, contrariwise (God permitting), loudly proclaims to the hitherto enthralled soul, the glad tidings she is from henceforth free; no longer thus enslaved, she quickly bursts the conjointly-wrought fetters of Ignorance, Fatality, and Superstition, that may still hang around her.

Self-assured—she feels herself the untrammelled agent, to work (though with fear and trembling) both her present and future welfare—or—her woe.

How varied are the consequences produced by these two presents. Think, therefore, how necessary it is to be careful, what *kind* of seed we commit to the yet untried ground of youthful first-

affections. "Like will (depend upon it) as certainly reproduce like," as will superstition ever recoil shamed and abashed, if brought under the enlightening influences of a well-planned, though perchance most humble, education. E. C.

POULTRY AT THE EXHIBITION OF R. A. S. E.—"The display of poultry," says the *Morning Post* of Saturday, "though good, was not so large as it might have been, the society not encouraging the display of fancy birds, the show being intended for the promotion of breeding poultry as a practical business of farming, and not to encourage fancy breeds, which, whilst they obtain a high nominal value, are of little or no use in the farm-yard."

The Editor's Letter-Box.

PHOSPHATE OF LIME.

MR. EDITOR.—Your correspondent, W. S. of this week's Chronicle, writes an article on Phosphate of Lime, and wishes to know how to give bones to fowls. Answer:—feed your poultry well when young, and if they cannot get a range to help themselves with small particles of lime from white-washed walls and old mortar, which they will do when a fortnight old, then let them have the chance of getting chalk well pounded so as to be granular. Quick-lime will kill chickens from its irritant properties. A cottager lately informed me of his bantam laying all her eggs without shells; but she had plenty of lime within reach, and thinking the health of the bird required some improvement, I suggested a change of situation for two or three weeks, which effectually cured the affection. Here it was plain lime was not the remedy, but how often are we told in books of the infallible cure. Let us, as amateurs, endeavour to think for ourselves, let every one who is capable of ascertaining a *real fact*, publish it in the Poultry Chronicle, and the index in a few years will enable any one to consult the best authority when in difficulty. Yours respectfully, R. G. of Cumberland.

TAKING THE LAW INTO OUR OWN HANDS.

MR. EDITOR,—In No. 17, your correspondent, J. L. wants to know what may be done with trespassing fowls, and animals, and you suggest

"the pound;" but, unless I can run as fast as a shot, how can I catch a beast that may be running off with one of my chickens.

In No. 20, you give a case in point. Some one, living in Jersey, saw a dog within his own premises chasing his fowls; he shot it; the owner of the dog summoned him before the court, and he was *fined ten shillings!* Now this may be Jersey law, but is it the law with us? Will some one of your correspondents tell me whether, if I see an animal chasing and killing my fowls *in my own ground* (or molesting without killing them) it is against the law for me to prevent the injury any way in my power?—Your well-wisher,
A SPORTSMAN AND FANCIER.

Lime should be accessible to poultry.

Make the most of everything.

Never half do anything, you may thus lose more in one day than a month can restore.

Often inspect your stock and keep a sharp look out for disease and accidents.

Pure water should be supplied to all stock.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE heat of the weather is not without its influence on a market supplied with highly-perishable goods. While numbers are spoiled and thrown away, small fresh lots make rather more than an average price. We believe the instructions we have so often given to our readers respecting the fattening and killing of poultry may now be turned to profitable account. The supply is getting gradually larger, and the demand is equal to the average. The immense consumption of poultry at the Crystal Palace has a beneficial effect, now the supply is equal to it.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|--------|--------|------|-------|
| Large Fowls | 6s. | 6d. | to 7s. | 0d. | each. |
| Small do. | 3s. | 6d. | to 4s. | 6d. | „ |
| Chickens | 2s. | 6d. | to 3s. | 6d. | „ |
| Geese | 6s. | 0d. | to 6s. | 6d. | „ |
| Ducklings | 3s. | 6d. | to 0s. | 0d. | „ |
| Leverets | 3s. | 6d. | to 5s. | 0d. | „ |
| Pigeons | 0s. | 9d. | to 0s. | 10d. | „ |
| Quails | 1s. | 6d. | to 1s. | 9d. | „ |
| Rabbits | 1s. | 4d. | to 1s. | 6d. | „ |
| Wild ditto | 10d. | to 1s. | 1d. | „ | „ |

To Correspondents.

W. M. S.—We are much obliged to our correspondent for mentioning, with so kind a motive, the non-arrival of his "Poultry Chronicle," No. 20; but we have every reason to hope that mistakes of the sort will not occur in future; for as the work is now printed and published by Messrs. Bradbury & Evans, country booksellers and newsvenders can receive their copies regularly with "Household Words" and "Punch." While in such excellent company, the "Chronicle's" journeys will certainly be long and frequent.

Carlo Minasi.—It will give us great pleasure, on an early occasion, to inspect the new Incubator.

W. B. T.—We are sorry the new edition of Mr. Tegetmeier's "Profitable Poultry" reached us too late for the present number of the "P. C."

An Old Amateur's Ideas, and The Convert, next week.

Advertisements.

FOWLS.—By JOHN BAILY. Now in the press, and will be published, August 1, the Second Edition of the above work, with which is reprinted the Fourth Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," corrected, revised, and considerably enlarged. It contains descriptive Tables of all the Fowls now exhibited, giving in few words their chief points and qualifications, with copious rules for their selection and management. Price 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.

JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

PIGEONS.—A TREATISE on the Art of Breeding and Managing Fancy PIGEONS. Also, how to breed the Antwerp, or most subtle, cunning, sharpest-flying Pigeon for Homeing. Carefully compiled from the best authors, containing the whole of the Works of Moore, 1735; Mayor, 1765; Girtin; Boys, Esq's. Notes. With observations and reflections, by J. M. EATON, with seven elegantly-engraved coloured Portraits (large as life) by Wolstenholme.

Published by, and to be obtained of, the author, JOHN MATTHEWS EATON, 7, Islington Green, London, price 10s., post free. Money Orders payable 86, Upper Street, Islington.

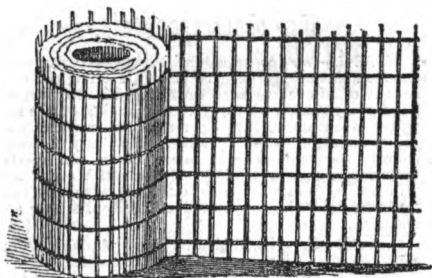
COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.—To be disposed of immediately, 7 last year's Birds and 25 Chickens, from Three Months old, for £3 10s.

Address T. SUTCLIFFE, 8, Weedington Street, Kentish Town.

PURE WHITE AYLESBURY DUCKS.—1st Prizes at Lincoln, Bath, and Farningham.

W. G. K. BREAVENTON begs to offer a few first-rate Birds from his Stock of young Aylesbury Ducks, in sets of One Drake and Two Ducks, 15s. each; 6 young Ducks, 1st Prize, Farningham, One Guinea each.

Post-office Orders payable to WILLIAM G. K. BREAVENTON, Vicarage Farm, Hounslow, Middlesex.



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LIGHT, CHEAP, and DURABLE ROOFING.

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons.

Price 1d. per square foot. **CROGGON'S PATENT NON-CONDUCTING FELT** for covering Steam-boilers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and Testimonials sent by post, on application to **CROGGON & Co.**, 2, Dowgate Hill, London, who also supply **SHIP SHEATHING FELT**, and **INODOROUS FELT**, for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

EGGS from **FIRST CLASS and PRIZE BIRDS**.—**JOHN BAILY** has now for Sale, Dorking, Spanish, Cochin of all colours, Brahma Pootra, Sebright, Bantam, and Hamburg. Aylesbury Duck Eggs. The above are from carefully selected and very superior birds.

Baily's Roup and Condition Pills for Fowls and Pheasants, now in general use. Box, 3s.; by post, 3s. 4d.

Baily's Registered Fountains, fourteen quarts, 17s. 6d.; seven quarts, 15s. 6d.; three quarts, 13s. 6d. Particulars by post on application.

"Fowls," by Baily, 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.—The plainest and most practical treatise of the day.

113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square.

MR. J. R. RODBARD, of Aldwick Court, having taken Two 1st Prizes at the Exeter Show, 1st Prize at the Bath and West of England Show, and 2nd Prize at the Cheltenham Show, with his **BUFF COCHIN CHINA CHICKENS**, has several from the same stock to dispose of.

Apply to **J. R. RODBARD**, Aldwick Court, Langford, near Bristol.

WILLIAM DRAY AND Co.'s PATENT WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, &c.

Price 2d. per square foot.

ORDINARY WIRE NETTING, from 2½d. per yard, 2 feet wide.

Address **WILLIAM DRAY AND CO.**,
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT MANUFACTURERS,
Swan Lane, Upper Thames Street, London.

THE SALISBURY AND WESTERN COUNTIES' EXHIBITION OF DOMESTIC POULTRY.—The Fourth Annual Exhibition will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st and 22nd days of November, 1854. Prize Lists to be had of **T. PAIN**, Honorary Secretary.
Salisbury, July 20th, 1854.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Preserving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c.

Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d.; 2 yards wide, 3d.; and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

To be had in any quantity at **GEORGE EATON & Co.'s Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory**, 6 & 7, Crooked Lane, London.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork, Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market, London.

PRIZE PIGEONS.—To be Sold, cheap, a PAIR of FANTAILS, Prize Birds, at Yarmouth, 1853; commended at Cheltenham and Bath, 1854.

Also, some Pouters, including the Prize Hen at the London Summer Show, 1853; and a Pair of Jacobins **H. H. SWIFT**, Purton, near Swindon, Wiltshire.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines..... 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line..... 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 13s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.; payable in advance.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 23.]

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

☞ THE Editor respectfully informs the readers of the "POULTRY CHRONICLE," that the printing and publishing will henceforth be conducted by Messrs. BRADBURY & EVANS, 11, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, to whom all Orders and Advertisements must in future be addressed, and to whom Post-Office Orders should be made payable.

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Poultry Shows.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Ripon, August 2nd and 3rd. Secretary, M. M. Millburn, Esq., Sowerby, Thirsk. Entries are closed.

Wellington, Somerset. Thursday and Friday, 3rd and 4th of August. Honorary Secretary, R. Corner, Esq. Entries are closed.

Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland's Show, at Armagh, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 9th and 10th of August. Secretary, Thomas Harkness, Esq., Upper Sackville-street, Dublin. Entries are closed.

Cleveland Agricultural Society's Show, including Poultry, Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th of August. Secretary, Mr. Thomas Parrington. Entries close Saturday, August 5th.

Tottington Agricultural Exhibition, including Poultry, at Tottington, near Bury, Lancashire; Friday, August 13th. Secretary, Mr. Eli Roberts, Tottington. Entries close August 11th.

Royal North Lancashire Agricultural Society, at Burnley, August 21st. Secretary, Mr. G. Hunt, 2, Chapel Walk, Preston. Entries close August 12th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th.

Keighley Agricultural Show, including Poultry, Wednesday, September 6th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq. Entries close August 30th.

Wellington, Salop, Horticultural and Poultry Show. Wednesday and Thursday, September 6th and 7th. Secretary, T. W. Jones, Esq., Church Street, Wellington.

Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Society, including Poultry, at Radcliffe, Friday, September 8th. Secretary, Mr. J. Cross, Market-street, Bury. Entries close August 28th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary,

Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

South East Hants, at Fareham, Tuesday, September 19th. Secretaries, G. Creed, Esq., and J. James, Esq. Entries close September 1st.

Yeovil, September 20th. Secretary, John Clyde, Esq.

Davertry Exhibition, in connexion with the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society (limited to the county), September 21st. Secretaries, Messrs. Freeman & Sons, Northampton.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M'C. Swarbreck, Esq. Entries close September 5th.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. Entries close September 1st.

South West Middlesex Agricultural Society, at Southall, Friday, October 6th. Secretary, Mr. John Gotelee, Hounslow. Entries close one calendar month before the show.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. Wm. Thurnall, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

Cambridgeshire, at Cambridge, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of November. Secretary, C. H. Crosse, Esq., New Square, Cambridge. Entries close October 11th.

Norwich and Eastern Counties, at Norwich, Wednesday and Thursday, the 15th and 16th of November. Secretary, C. Oury, Esq. Entries close October 31st.

Salisbury and West Counties' Exhibition of Domestic Poultry. Fourth Annual Exhibition, at Salisbury, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st and 22nd of November. Secretary, T. Pain, Esq.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 23th.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover)

Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council Rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Nottinghamshire Poultry Association. The Second Annual Exhibition will be held at Southwell, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 19th and 20th of December. Secretary, R. Hawksley, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 21st.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 17th and 18th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

RAILWAYS did not create Poultry Shows, but it is a fact they afford the facilities for carrying them on. Just imagine, under the old system, the conveyance of fourteen or fifteen hundred large baskets of live poultry, and ten thousand exhibitors and spectators, by the seven or eight daily coaches that fell to the lot of the large cities and towns of England. What pre-booking of places, what squabbles about luggage, what struggling for the hind-rail, what remonstrances with coachman and guard about favourites consigned to that black hole 'velept the boot, and then the time consumed in the journey and the expense of it. It would have been beyond the reach of any but those who have time and money at command, and, unfortunately, they are the minority. But if shows are thus dependent on railways, the latter are not quite free from obligations. Many pounds

flow into their coffers through the instrumentality of a poultry show. Any one who has witnessed the influx into Bingley Hall when an excursion train comes in, and listened to the mutual congratulations of those who have arrived, their pity for those who were left behind for want of room, and their exultation over the throngs at the different stations waiting for the *stopping* train, which was later in the day, to put them in possession of the privileges secured to those who came throughout without stopping, can form an idea of the advantage to the railway of such an attraction as a poultry show.

Many, who have neither shares nor interest in these marvellous conveyances look at them with suspicion, and endeavour to find fault. They speak moodily of monopoly, and, although some may still discourse eloquently of the comfort of a stage-coach, yet we think that, on comparing the two, the poultry amateur will decide with the majority of mankind that they are a vast improvement on all other modes of conveyance or transit. But we are, or fancy we are, philanthropists, and we love to see the masses in the enjoyment of one of their dear-bought and few holidays. By excursion trains at low prices, and by the addition of a few third class carriages to them, directors place a healthy and humanising treat within reach of many who are obliged to look hard at their money before they spend it. We do not envy the feelings of those in power (if such there be) who would not view fifty pounds with more pleasure, earned by the shillings of a large number of the lower classes in third class conveyances, than by a few who can afford the luxury of the first.

Every argument is in favour of liberality. It is said that a tone is given to a nation by its pursuits. It is said that civil wars are so sanguinary in Spain, because from their national recreation of bull fighting they become reconciled to the shedding of blood, and to scenes of cruelty.

Let us not be thought ridiculous when we say that a poultry show is a place calculated to improve a man, for we believe it appeals to kindly feelings. Let it not be thought of small importance, or that we exaggerate. Our columns this day announce twenty-four such meetings in the next five months, and there are doubtless many more. Yorkshire, Somersetshire, Ireland, Lancashire, Hampshire, Berkshire, Shropshire, Buckinghamshire, Middlesex, Bedfordshire, Cambridgehire, Norfolk, Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire, and the Isle of Wight all figure in the list, and some for two or three exhibitions in different parts or divisions of the county. Here, then, is a field open for railways, and we come to a close by referring our readers to the liberal terms offered by the directors of the London and North Western Railway to those who may wish to visit the Malvern Show in September. A notice of them will be found in this number.

Might not the London and South Western follow the example, by giving cheap trains to the Southampton and Dorchester shows, and allowing them to stop at some of the intermediate stations.

Be admonished that a stitch in time saves nine; for the laying up one rail, or nailing one board, may save the ninth repetition and unruly stock.

Feed your fowls the year round if you would make them profitable.

Schedule of Tottington Agricultural and Poultry Show.

POULTRY.

Pullets and Cockerels to be hatched since January 1st, 1854.

| No. | | s. | d. |
|--|--|----|----|
| CLASS I.—COCHIN CHINA (of any Colour). | | | |
| 1. | Best Cockerel and three Pullets..... | 15 | 0 |
| | Second best ditto | 5 | 0 |
| 2. | Best Cock and two Hens | 7 | 6 |
| CLASS II.—SPANISH. | | | |
| 3. | Best Cockerel and three Pullets | 15 | 0 |
| | Second best ditto | 5 | 0 |
| 4. | Best Cock and three Hens | 7 | 6 |
| CLASS III.—DORKINGS (of any Colour). | | | |
| 5. | Best Cockerel and three Pullets..... | 15 | 0 |
| | Second best ditto | 5 | 0 |
| 6. | Best Cock and two Hens | 7 | 6 |
| CLASS IV.—GAME (of any colour). | | | |
| 7. | Best Cockerel and three Pullets | 15 | 0 |
| | Second best ditto | 5 | 0 |
| 8. | Best Cock and two Hens | 7 | 6 |
| CLASS V.—PHEASANTS OR HAMBURGS. | | | |
| 9. | Best Cockerel and three Pullets | 15 | 0 |
| | Second best ditto | 5 | 0 |
| 10. | Best Cock and two Hens | 7 | 6 |
| CLASS VI.—BANTAMS (of any variety). | | | |
| 11. | Best Cock and two Hens, of any age | 10 | 0 |
| | Second best ditto | 5 | 0 |
| CLASS VII.—DUCKS (Aylesbury, or any White Variety). | | | |
| 12. | Best Drake and three Ducks, of any age | 10 | 0 |
| | Second best ditto | 5 | 0 |
| CLASS VIII.—ROUENS (or any dark variety). | | | |
| 13. | Best Drake and three ducks, of any age | 10 | 0 |
| | Second best ditto | 5 | 0 |
| CLASS IX.—GEESE. | | | |
| 14. | Best Gander and two Geese | 10 | 0 |
| | Second best ditto | 5 | 0 |

The stock of the several persons showing for premiums must be on sale, and *bond fide* the property of the exhibitor; and no premiums will be awarded without competition, except with the approbation of a majority of the committee. The judges shall not award any premium unless there be sufficient merit.

A description of the cattle showing for premiums, with name and residence of the

owner, must be lodged with the Secretary to the Committee before ten o'clock in the morning of the fair day, at the house of Mr. James Pilkington, the Robin Hood Inn.

All exhibitors of poultry are requested to send their entries to the Secretary, by letter, on or before the 11th day of August, in order that a sufficient number of pens may be provided. The necessary form of entry will be supplied to all parties on application to the Secretary. Price of entry—2s. for a single pen, or 5s. for three pens.

There will be a convenient erection in which the cattle and produce will be exhibited for the various premiums. Admissions before two o'clock One Shilling, after two o'clock Sixpence.

No stock of any description will be allowed to leave the show yard before three o'clock in the afternoon on the day of the show.

Dinner on the table, at the Robin Hood Inn, at three o'clock. Gentlemen, farmers, and others attending the show, are respectfully invited.

Mr. HUGH ROBERTS, } *Treasurer.*
Mr. RICHARD GORTON, }
Mr. ELI ROBERTS, } *Secretary.*

The Schedule includes premiums for cattle, horses, pigs, cabbages, turnips, and other roots.

The Malvern Poultry Show.

THOSE who visited this lovely spot last year will require no urging to do so again. Those who have not seen it can form no idea of the beauty of the scenery, or of the attractions of a poultry show, held in most beautiful gardens of several acres. There is one arrangement peculiar to this place, the money is paid for admission into the gardens, which are amply provided with seats; thus spectators may walk in and out of the show at will during the day, enjoying at intervals the treat of walking in a beautiful pleasure ground commanding one of the most varied and extended views in England. The committee have made arrangements by which a train will leave Euston Square at 7 a.m., and return from Worcester at 6 p.m. Fares: First Class, 15s.; Second Class, 10s.; Third Class, 7s. 6d. The fare between Worcester and Malvern is 1s. We hope Directors and Committee will meet the reward they deserve in a large attendance.

Wellington Poultry Show.

At the moment of going to press, a packet has reached us with particulars of the manner in which the committee of the Wellington, (Somerset,) Society has been catering for the amusement of the, no doubt numerous, visitors who will attend the show.

The Poultry show which is to take place on the 3rd and 4th inst, is in connexion with a grand *fête champêtre* and fancy bazaar to be held in the grounds of the Rev. W. W. Pulman, and the profits are to aid the funds of the Church National Schools, now building at Wellington. The bazaar will be held under the large marquee of the Devon and Exeter Horticultural Society.

Birds will be conveyed FREE OF CARRIAGE, to and from the Exhibition on the SOUTH DEVON and BRISTOL and EXETER railways; and arrangements have been made, with the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company, to grant return tickets, at single fares, by ALL THE ORDINARY TRAINS, to persons visiting Wellington on the 3rd, from Bristol and all the intermediate stations. Trains will arrive at the Wellington Station, from Exeter and the intermediate Stations, at 8.7. a. m., 10.30 a. m., 12.0. a. m., 3.35. p. m., and 7.15. p. m.; and from Bristol and the intermediate stations at 9.45. a. m. 11.45 a. m., 1.15. p. m., 4.32. p. m., and 7.32. p. m.

For the accommodation of parties holding return tickets, special trains will leave the Wellington Station, after the Fireworks, for Bristol and Exeter and the intermediate stations.

The Band of the Royal Marines will play throughout the first day of the Fête, and in the evening, the company will be treated with a magnificent display of Fireworks, the kind contribution of S. Dobree, Esq., which will commence at half-past eight o'clock. Refreshments will be sold on the grounds.

Admittance on the First Day: to the Bazaar, 1s.; to the Poultry Show, 1s.; to the Fireworks, 6d., or to the Reserved Ground 1s. On the Second Day: to the

Bazaar and Poultry Show, 1s. Children half-price.

Tickets may be procured, on or before the 2nd. of August, of Mr. R. Corner, Wellington, or at the Gates on the day of the Fête.

The Show at Lincoln.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

THE show-yard was most delightfully situated on the Cow Paddock, a piece of level ground at the foot of Canwick Hill, about a quarter of a mile from the Railway Station.

In front of it the City rose tier above tier, the summit of the hill being crowned with the magnificent Cathedral, Castle, Keep, Tower, and other public buildings; and when the sun lit up the grand old Cathedral with its ardent beams, the scene was one of great magnificence.

The poultry pens were ranged at the east end of the show-yard, in a double tier, in front whereof was an iron hand-rail, to prevent the too near approach of the visitors, which was a very necessary precaution, the space appropriated to the poultry being covered over with asphaltic felt, and too near to the coops, as it prevented ventilation when the front was occupied by thousands of spectators. Had the space in front of the pens been covered with canvas, the birds would have been seen to greater advantage, there being a deficiency of light to view them, from the over-crowding. The range of pens was 600 feet in length; and the attendants provided for the wants of the poultry in a very liberal manner, treating them with bread soaked in ale, corn, &c., and a plentiful supply of water, which was needed, as they evidently suffered much for want of pure air.

The show of fowls was good in quality, but small in number, there being only 295 pens entered, which I account for on the ground that the Society makes no provision for the sale of poultry, and consequently

there is no temptation to send inferior birds, as at other shows, simply for sale.

The different railways afforded every facility in the conveyance of the birds, which were carried both ways free of charge.

The Show was altogether well conducted and successful, 12,000 persons being present on the Thursday, and the receipts being £1500; on the Friday the number admitted was 25,000, and consequently it has been very beneficial to the funds of the society, which will again be in a healthy state.

I cannot conclude this notice without congratulating the good men of Lincoln on the chaste manner in which the city was decorated, and the good order which prevailed throughout the lengthened period occupied with the show; and expressing a hope that we may soon meet them again at a poultry show.

In the class for a single Cochin cock of any age, the prize bird, one year old, originally from the stock of Mr. Steggall, was the most beautiful cock I remember to have seen, purely buff, throughout even his tail, which flowed most gracefully, and was very fine in quality; the bird was in the highest possible condition and feather.

C. P.

The Sebright Bantam's Tail.

IN REPLY TO "TRISTRAM SHANDY."

IN reply to the remarks made by "Tristram Shandy," at page 480 of "The Poultry Chronicle," I most fully agree with that gentleman, that "many a case has been lost by proving too much;" of the truth of which his own letter is a complete and significant "illustration." He states: "'E. H.' asserted that the Sebright's tail should be *spangled*, not *laced*." Certain it is no such statement can be found in my writings, but is a phantom of "Tristram Shandy's" own imagination, and therefore I leave to him the Quixotic exploit of its destruction; simply adding, a "spangled tail" in a Sebright Bantam would certainly

to me present an unquestionable proof of its *degeneracy*. However dubious "Tristram Shandy" may still remain on the subject, I must however again assert, "I have oftentimes seen Sebrights partially, and sometimes even wholly, *spangled* in the body, that were perfection in the *lacings* of the tail," and contrariwise others (though by no means "plentiful as blackberries"), perfectly clear in the ground colour of the tail, and as truly "laced" (as the most fastidious amateur could desire) in those feathers, that were almost altogether without "lacing" on the breast, and some few that degenerated into a half-spangled, half-laced feather, on the shoulders; whilst that gentleman must excuse my entertaining different opinions as to ANY Bantam (however perfect-tailed) being really "*worth* £50;" nor have I yet known of one realising that amount.

The (to my notions) *rather* irrelevant subject of "veritable tortoise-shell tomcats," is one I have not, myself, as yet, entertained, therefore will, in this instance, at once give way to "Tristram Shandy," whose general knowledge and experience in such matters, I admit, may be far more extended and profound.

I am one of those parties who consider wagers but a very indifferent substitute for argument; neither do I advocate the needless transmission of valuable poultry from place to place; but should "Tristram Shandy" think fit at any time to call and see the birds at my own residence (as, Mr. Editor, my address is equally well known to that gentleman as to yourself), he will receive courtesy and attention; and if, afterwards, any qualms of conscience should still suggest the expediency of "presents of £5 notes to the poor of your parish" (or any other) he will find me the very last party desirous of placing any unnecessary obstacle in the way of so truly praiseworthy an inclination. E. H.

Read in your spare moments, rather than gossip.

An Old Amateur's Ideas.

WHEN the "Poultry Chronicle" appeared, I thought I would wait three months, and if it held its ground I would then become a contributor. I have for many years been such to various papers on Poultry matters, and have often wished for a similar publication. Seeing it has enlisted such writers as "Alector," "Derbyshire Yeoman" "Tristram Shandy," &c, and many others, I shall be proud to see my poultry-gossip printed in their company. My inclination leads me to everything connected with the subject, and my leisure permits me to visit most of the shows that take place. I believe my experience entitles me to give an opinion, for I was a judge at the rare poultry shows, many years since, when many of those who now act in that capacity, knew not one quarter of the breeds now exhibited. The chickens at the late shows prove that the season has been a bad one, they are few in number and not strong. It may be worth while to ask the causes? Unusually dry weather, very cold nights. The first makes hatching difficult; the second if they do not prevent the formation of the chick, at least render it weak. I have never heard such general complaint of chickens being dead in the egg, although perfectly formed and ready to come out. I agree with Sylvanus, in a paper styled "De omnibus rebus," that when the weather is so dry it is necessary to wet the eggs. However artificially we may keep our fowls, nature must supply the theory on which we graft our own experiments, which we too often dignify by the name of improvements. The gourmand or millionaire eats his peas or strawberries in January, at golden prices, and while he eats, longs for those naturally produced some months later; and so while we look at the delicate and thorough-bred chickens at the early poultry shows in June and July, we see in our mind's eye, the sturdy natural birds that will gain the prizes at Birmingham in December. The truth is, one is natural, the other artificial. We must then, if we alter the season for our

setting hens, do for them as the gardener does for his peas and strawberries. We must out of season supply them with that they would naturally have later in the year, and for success all our efforts must be carefully made in imitation of nature. How then shall we *damp* our eggs?

When drought prevails, the dews are frequently very heavy, and the hen seeking her food, wets her breast on the grass, and returns to her occupation. But she has shaken the water off, and she is only damp. Herein consists the difference between our *wetting* and her *moistening*. Being artificially kept and confined to her setting house, how shall we imitate this, or rather how shall we enable her to do for us, as she would do were she at liberty? Seeing the difference is immense between sprinkling by hand, whereby some eggs are flooded and others escape, and communicating from the feathers warmth and moisture at the same time; I advise where she cannot be allowed to leave her eggs for a few minutes to run on the grass, that a large sod of long growing grass be cut, and if not naturally covered with dew, that it be watered with a fine spreading water-pot, and placed in her way. This I believe, as I have used it, will come nearer to nature than anything else, as she will kick and trample it, and thereby moisten her breast feathers. In damp weather when the atmosphere is impregnated with moisture this is unnecessary, but when everything is dried up, it is my belief that it acts on the shell and lining membrane of the egg, till they are so hardened that the chicken is confined in a prison against which its efforts are as impotent, as if its walls were of wrought-iron. Hence they die *in their shell*.

If the strong chicken be unable to break through this barrier, what can the weaker one do? It must die, unless we can discover the natural cause of weakness, and find a remedy for it. I believe nothing spoils so many eggs, and weakens so many chickens, as the morning frosts, of which we have had so many in late years, in April and sometimes in May. These are always in the

morning, about and just after daybreak. No men know so much of these as game-keepers, and they will tell how they destroy legitimate hopes, and expected sport. But I also believe it is necessary to have healthy and good-constituted hens to perform the office of sitters. I am also sure they should not be overfed, as the heat for hatching should be regular and uniform, the product of health and not fever. Recollect, I am only treating of artificial management, and it will therefore be no objection to say that pheasants, partridges, and other birds have none of this care and pains-taking. Hens like to leave their eggs at daybreak. The little remnant of nature left in them teaches them to seek their food when it is most plentiful. This is when the mischief is done. Wherever the hen may sit then, it is necessary there be sufficient shelter to preserve from a morning frost. If in a house let it be closed, except enough opening for ventilation, if out of doors, place some thatched hurdles or even some straw, so as to exclude the cold air. Of course after the season of frosts is passed, or when they become very slight, these precautions are unnecessary. Put the eggs about which you are most anxious under the strongest and healthiest hen you have, and if she is broody before you have them, satisfy her desire by allowing her two or three common ones to occupy her till they are ready. Let her have water always within her reach, let her place be carefully ventilated, let her have ashes, feed her on soft nourishing food, such as oatmeal, do not let her be disturbed by other hens, and she will do her part well, the genial health-warmth of her own body will be transmitted to her offspring, and you shall have strong chickens that under all ordinary circumstances shall be able to free themselves at the proper time, and shall *not die in the shell*. SENEX.

P. S. I purpose shortly giving you my remarks on the Lincoln Show.

[This paper, which should have appeared last week, was unavoidably delayed, from press of matter, to the present number.—Ed.]

An Old Amateur's Ideas and Notes on the Lincoln Show.

WHILE I fully appreciate the business-like report of your correspondent last week, I fancy that a more critical view may be taken, and that the opinions and criticisms resulting from a leisure survey, may not be without interest to some of your readers. The Dorkings were excellent, and I was glad to see a first prize awarded to a pen of birds with double combs. It is time the *fact* was admitted, that comb is no test of purity or otherwise. At each succeeding show, there is manifest improvement in these birds, yet there is no foreign strain to resort to for fresh blood, we may then learn how much is to be done by pains-taking, and I shall have occasion to refer to it again in the course of my criticisms. I think a commendation was deserved by pen 40, the property of Mr. Davies. There was an unusually good pullet in pen 28, the property of Miss Steele Perkins, the second was not so good, but I thought them meritorious enough to figure in the prize-lists had they been properly mated, but light speckled hens were put with a cuckoo cock, and an inferior one. I am no stickler for servile adherence to colour, but here the contrast was too glaring. I confess myself an admirer of Lord Hill's colour, and was glad to see the Hawkstone fowl increasing in size. I observed the old fault in pen 21, I allude to dissimilarity of combs; exhibitors should recollect that judges cannot give prizes to them under the circumstances. Mr. Gelderd's 1st, and Mrs. T. Parker's 2nd prize birds in the single cock class, were truly noble specimens of the breed. The honours of the whole class belong to Mr. Davies, of Hounslow, and Mrs. T. Parker; the former gentleman's fowls were marvelous, had they not been so, such birds as those exhibited by Mrs. Parker, Mr. Smith of the Grove, Lord Hill, Mr. Bodlam, Mr. Finch Noyes, and Mr. Fowler could not have failed to take prizes. There have been curiosities in literature published, and I must notice one in poultry, in pen 43,

there was a hen evidently crossed with Malay, in pen 255 was a Malay as evidently crossed with Dorking, and they were in every respect alike.

I noticed little worthy of remark in the Spanish, except that their condition for the time of year was excellent, and that the first pen was worthy of Knowsley in its best days. I was sorry to see good birds disqualified by being marked, but I think the judges were right.

Cannot all England give us a better display of Cochin chickens. I looked in vain for the birds of last year, I thought the prizes well awarded. The best pullet in the show, was in pen 108, the fourth prize. There were but two really good birds in the cock class, one took the prize, the other was highly commended, there was little difference between them. I thought badly of the Brahma Poutras, except the prize birds. After the last three classes, it was refreshing to look at the game, and the winners had hard work to get their honours, and so had the single cocks; I confess, I wished the two best birds would get out. There was an open space of greensward, and as an old cocker said to me, "I should like to make a pit with the baskets for it is a lovely spot." I will say nothing of the pencilled Hambro's, except that when there is choice of new blood both in Holland, and the United Kingdom, there is no excuse for such a palpable breeding out of colour, and such evident breeding in of stock. The Spangled Hamburgs, except some golden pullets were not to any taste, and I confess I looked at hen-feathered cocks with aversion. Mr. Adkin's Polands were noble birds. The turkeys, ducks and geese were all capital, but as my sayings, when I warm on my subject, will become tiresome perhaps to others, I draw to a close. I cannot however do so without putting my conclusions on paper, for I believe an uninterested person, and a non-exhibitor sees things more clearly than those who have something at stake. No exhibition was ever more pregnant with instruction to breeders than this, because

it has proved that when a yard has attained its celebrity, care will continue it. Captain Hornby's birds were as successful as ever. So were Mrs. T. Parker's both geese and fowls. Lord Hill's birds were as beautiful, and increasing in size. Mr. Brevington held his old place at the head of the ducks. Cannot Cochin and Hambro' breeders learn something from this? All these are due to the judicious introduction of fresh blood, while degeneracy was written on the others.

Sir A. Macdonald was an indefatigable steward of the poultry, and better than all brought his practical knowledge to bear on the subject. I should hope his appointment was permanent.

I could not understand why the awards were not read with the others after dinner. No agricultural exhibition is perfect now without poultry, and that of the Royal, should be at the head of the latter as well as the former. All that is required is for the society to undertake the receipts, and the despatch of the birds after the show. A very small outlay would enable this to be done; their entries would be increased sevenfold, and their visitors would be doubled. The way in which all the duties of the yard, are performed by the gentlemen who undertake them, and the ubiquity of Mr. B. Gibbs, deserve the thanks of all who have occasion to be there. SENEX.

Notes by "Alector."

In the hope of drawing forth a learned defence in behalf of an error, a lady once asked Dr. Johnson why he had defined the word "pastern" in the first edition of his Dictionary, as "that portion of the leg of a horse lying between the knee and the fetlock"?—To her great disappointment the Lexicographer replied, "Ignorance, madam, pure ignorance was my only reason." Upon this Boswell goes on to expatiate in laudatory terms, upon the greatness of mind that could so readily acknowledge an error. Never having taken credit to myself for knowing all

about every kind of poultry, I hope the readers of the "Chronicle" will accept the apology of ignorance for any faults I may have perpetrated, whether of omission or commission. In looking over my late papers I find but little to add to them beyond the bare fact, that the time of incubation of the swan is, I believe, just six weeks.

From poultry, however, the transition to eggs is a very natural consequence, and having lately had an opportunity of testing the qualities of different kinds, I think I shall be breaking fresh ground if I proceed to give the results of my experiment.

In spite of the off-hand assertion and nonchalant truism of some, that an egg is an egg, I fancy most persons will agree with me there is a wide difference in the flavour and appearance of the eggs of different varieties of the common fowl. How this arises is the question I now propose to discuss.

In the spring of the year, it would be a libel on any egg to say that it was not fresh, and therefore I may reasonably conclude that all my trials have been made on recently laid specimens, but still I have found that those of the Brahma Pootra, and Cochin China were infinitely superior to any others. Whether this proceeds from some innate excellence in the breed I know not, but I am rather inclined to attribute it to the fact of their being the pets of the fancy, and consequently higher fed and better kept than the other breeds. That the quantity of eggs depends upon the state of the hen's condition and health, no poultry grower will dispute; why then should not the same causes affect the quality also? And here it may not be amiss to mention a circumstance, to a degree corroborative of my theory. In April last, I was staying with a relative, who had a daily supply of fresh eggs from a neighbouring farmer. On more than one occasion, we met with an egg which, while the white showed unmistakable signs of freshness, was nevertheless undoubtedly bad to the smell and taste; before however any complaint had reached the farmer's ears, I happened to have some

poultry talk with his wife, who, in the course of conversation, volunteered the startling information, that one of her hens *laid stale eggs*. Every endeavour was made, but unfortunately without success, to bring the fact home to the offender; a strong case of suspicion was however made out against a hen that was a very foul feeder, and was constantly seen in the vicinity of the drains, &c.

Of all the eggs that I have experimented upon, none were so poor as those which had been imported. In all of them the yolk was a pale, sickly, starved-out yellow; and notwithstanding that the eye may exercise some influence on the palate through the medium of the imagination, I think I could tell the difference between the egg of a Cochin China, and a dunghill fowl blindfold.

It is recorded of some eminent lawyer that mistaking his client, he made a long speech in favour of the wrong person before he discovered his error, but that he adroitly shifted his ground, and assuming that his previous arguments would be those of the opposing counsel, he gravely proceeded to demolish them. In a somewhat similar spirit I would ask, how is it that the eggs of the Guinea fowl, the wandering half fed Arab of the poultry-yard, are so rich as to almost pass into a proverb. This fact rather strongly militates against my high-feeding theory. Perhaps some of your readers, gifted with a full development of the organ of causality, would like to sift the subject. If so, I shall feel some pleasure in having given them the choice of either side of the question.

Since writing the above I have an accidental confirmation of my opinion, as regards the existence of a difference in the quality of eggs, from a friend who observed he "did not like Cochin China eggs as they were too rich, but preferred those of other breeds, Hamburgs and game for instance, as more delicate.

—♦—

Quality not quantity should be the maxim.

“Disappointments.”

That poultry-keeping is a great pleasure many if not all of your readers will bear evidence to, but that it has its disappointments and vexations no one will deny with justice; some caused by ill luck, some by bad management, oversight, or carelessness on our own parts; by deceit (as many egg purchasers will loudly proclaim,) on the part of others; by frost, by rain, and cold unseasonable weather. From one and a thousand causes disappointments will arise, the future recurrence of which can only be avoided, by the purchase of dear bought experience. Now I am at this moment suffering from a grievous disappointment, and am disposed to make my troubles known; as perhaps I may through your columns hear if there are others suffering in a similar way, and derive some consolation therefrom; for in this wicked world we are all prone to derive some comfort from the feeling, that we have fellow sufferers.

I had last year, a good stud of Partridge Cochins, which produced good chickens which got me some prizes. Not content with doing well I must forsooth do better, and improve my stock by the introduction of a fresh cockerel, from one of the most successful breeders; now mark the result: with the same hens and this cock, I have not one partridge-marked chicken, but every bird is of that disagreeable feathering so often thrown by buff birds, or by dark bred cinnamons; my whole season is lost, and I find myself the possessor of a worthless cock and a still less valuable progeny. Are any other of your readers in the same “fix,” as our transatlantic friends would say? Is there no remedy—no action for damages—for breach of promise—or for loss of services? The bird looked all right, in fact he promised “fairly,” but has behaved “fouly.” I took him on his breeder’s word, and on his selection as the best bird he had. I have applied for redress from the breeder and can get none, so I suppose I must indulge in the truly British luxury of grumbling and swallow

the disappointment in the shape of a cock-a’leeky and chicken broth. W. W.

Colombiary.

NO. X.—THE PIGEONHOUSE.

COUNTRY gentlemen, when they keep pigeons usually build a dovecot as I have described in my former paper when writing about the dovecot pigeons, and these are usually tenanted by common birds.

In towns where the flying pigeons are kept, the loft under the roof of the house, or some out-building, is their frequent abode; this should be floored, and the skirting well secured against the entrance of rats or other vermin. From the rafters shelves may be suspended and divided into nests, or as some prefer these on the ground, they may be made in pairs all round the floor; light should be let in through a glass window at the end, or a skylight in the roof, and an opening should be made in the roof with a trap-door of some sort, that a person may occasionally put his head and shoulders out to look about. A platform of boards must be laid for the pigeons to alight on, at the entrance, and on this should be placed their airy or trap, which is a framework of laths, with three doors, letting down and pulling up with a cord; on the top of the trap several square holes of about four inches wide are left, which are called “tipping holes;” and at the sides of the trap at each corner are wires, suspended on a pivot, which fall against a small ledge that prevents their swinging outwards, these are called “bolting-wires.” The tipping-holes and bolting-wires are always useful to allow any pigeon to enter from without when the trap is closed, though no pigeon can get out of them when rightly made at least it very rarely happens; and such traps are in constant use, by means of which the owner has always command over the pigeons, and can shut them up, let them out, or catch any he pleases on the shortest notice. The loft should be provided with a “hopper” or

meat-box so constructed that it supplies a trough at the bottom as long as there is any food in the box; the trough must be guarded by wires, or the pigeons are apt to knock the corn over and waste it. The water should be placed in a large earthen fountain or water-bottle: the best forms are those that are made like a large round bottle, inverted in an earthen stand, with holes all round for the pigeons to drink from: metal fountains are very objectionable; iron may perhaps be an exception.

The "salt cat" is good for all pigeons, and should be placed in a jar with holes all round for the pigeons to peck through, and covered with a lid. It is thought by some that pigeons injure a roof, but the damage they do is so very trifling, if any, that it is scarcely worth notice; they cannot possibly loosen any tiles by pecking, though by running over an old roof they may occasionally shake down a tile, or slate, that was previously loose, but which would of necessity have fallen the next high wind had the pigeons not been there; the mortar they eat is only that which time and the weather has crumbled and made soft, and which would be washed down by every shower. A bath is good for pigeons, and they take great delight in washing, but it is not necessary for them always to have it, and it should be so placed that their splashing may do no harm. Green food, too, is beneficial for them; they will eat almost any sort of smooth-leaved greens or lettuce. The best food for pigeons are small beans or old tares, but where they have plenty of exercise almost any sort of grain will do, provided it is occasionally changed. It is almost impossible to describe the inside arrangements of a loft, so various are tastes, and so much does it depend on circumstances; but the pigeons must not be too crowded, and each pair must have two nests. Some prefer earthen pans for them to breed in, others let them nest on the boards or in boxes, but in either case the nest should be somewhat secluded, and the nest, as well as the whole loft, often cleaned out. Birch twigs and heath or

heather I consider the best materials for the nest, though straw will do. I like the pigeons to build their own nests; others do not, but put sawdust in their nest-pans. Care should be taken to place the nest so as the young cannot fall out, or they will be liable to be pecked and even killed by the other pigeons, whose domains they may unfortunately get into, as each pair takes possession of a certain part, and drives all others from it. The two nests for one pair should be so situated that the young may not run into and disturb the old ones when again sitting.

It is also necessary in all lofts to have a few matching pens, where any pigeons can be confined for pairing, or any other purpose.

The fitting up of a large pigeonhouse or aviary for fancy sorts will depend much on the taste or inclination of the owner, but attention to the arrangement of the nests may be found useful. Shelves about nine inches wide should be erected eighteen inches apart, and divided by upright partitions at three feet distances; a nine-inch-wide board or slab should be placed up in front at each end of each partition, so as to form two secluded retreats for the nests; the nest-pans if used can be placed in these recesses, and a brick or ledge put across to keep them steady; in the middle of each division should be a partition about five or six inches high, which will prevent the young in one nest running into and disturbing the old birds when sitting again—this partition will also form a roosting place for the old birds: the shelves may be made of well planed boards, but thin slate slabs would be found better, not being so apt to harbour vermin.

When fresh pigeons are introduced into the pigeonhouse they should not be let out till they have fixed upon and taken possession of a nest-place, to facilitate which a framework of laths is useful to hang in front of the shelves, and so confine them to the nests it is desirable for them to take for a few days; but they should also be allowed to go into the trap a few times before they have full liberty, that they

may learn the way in and out of their habitation. Attention to these hints may save much trouble and many losses.

* * Beware of oats. B. P. B.

Reviews.

Profitable Poultry. By W. B. Tegetmeier. Darton & Co., Holborn Hill.

THIS little work, which has now reached a second edition, will be found to contain some useful hints, especially on the subject of feeding, from the chapter on which we will give our readers an extract:—

“It cannot be too strongly impressed on all feeders of stock that the food eaten has to serve several distinct purposes when taken into the body. One portion is consumed in supporting the natural warmth of the animal; another set of substances supplies the nourishment required for the growth of the body, and replaces the daily wasting that occurs; a third yields the materials from which the bones are formed; and a fourth supplies the fat which is stored up in the bodies of animals; we may, therefore, speak of the following classes of foods:—

“1st, *Warmth-giving Food.*—As starch, which forms almost the entire bulk of rice, and the solid portion of potatoes; gum, sugar, &c.

“2nd, *Flesh-forming Food.*—As gluten, &c., which exists in large proportions in wheat, oatmeal, peas, beans, middlings and sharps, and in somewhat smaller quantity in barley, Indian corn, &c.

“3rd, *Bone-making Food.*—Which is found in larger proportion in the bran, or outer part of the grain, than in the inner parts.

“4th, *Fat-forming Food.*—Consisting of fatty or oily substances; these occur, to a considerable extent, in Indian corn (the yellow variety), oatmeal, middlings, bran, &c.

“All experiments that have been made tend to prove that each of these kinds of food is unable to serve the purposes of the others; thus, to give an example, neither warmth-giving nor fat-forming substances are capable of adding to the flesh of a growing animal, nor can flesh-forming food increase the quantity of fat. In a mere elementary work, like the present, it is impossible to go into this subject at any great length. Those who desire the facts on which these statements are grounded are referred to the works of Johnston, Liebig, and other eminent agriculturists and agricultural chemists.”

The idea is further illustrated by the following Table, showing the number of pounds of different substances contained in every 100 lb. of

grain, &c. &c. When a — is used it signifies that the quantity has not been exactly ascertained:—

| Every 100 lb. of | Water. | Flesh-forming Food (Gluten, &c.) | Fat or Oil. | Warmth-giving Food (Starch, &c.) | Bone-making Substances, &c. &c. |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Wheat..... contains | 12 | 12 | 3 | 70 | 1 |
| Bran, Middlings, &c. „ | 14 | 18 | 6 | 53 | 5 |
| Oats, with husk „ „ | 94 | 15 | 6 | 47 | 2 |
| Oatmeal „ „ „ | 9 | 18 | 6 | 63 | 2 |
| Barley „ „ „ | 11 | 11 | 2 | 60 | 14 |
| Malt Dust „ „ „ | 6 | 30 | — | — | 8 |
| Indian Corn „ „ „ | 10 | 11 | 8 | 66 | 5 |
| Rice, husked „ „ „ | — | 7 | — | 89 | — |
| Dhoora „ „ „ | 12 | 11 | — | 70 | 4 |
| Buckwheat „ „ „ | — | 11 | — | — | 2 |
| Peas, &c. „ „ „ | — | — | — | — | — |
| Beans „ „ „ | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tares „ „ „ | 15 | 25 | 2 | 48 | 8 |
| Lentils „ „ „ | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Potato..... „ „ „ | 75 | 2 | — | 19 | 3 |

The author's theory with respect to the different kinds of food is superior to his information of the different varieties of fowls, in which his intelligence appears rather to be gleaned from somewhat casual observation, than to be the result of extensive practical knowledge. This chapter, however, ends with the following excellent bit of advice:—

“In conclusion I would strongly recommend persons who are at present breeding from common fowls, not to attempt to improve them by the introduction of one or two good male birds into the yard, but to obtain a good stock either by the purchase of birds or eggs, and to breed from them alone, avoiding of course all intermarriage between blood relations.”

We would second Mr. Tegetmeier's advice, to those who have inferior fowls, by saying, procure from two different families good stock, if only a single pair.

Poultry. By Baily.

WE with pleasure fulfil our promise, given last week, by an extract from this useful little work, giving a plan for keeping several sorts of fowls in small space, yet distinct:—

“It is often desired to keep several sorts of fowls, to have each breed pure, and yet to have but one run for all.

“The only plan I can suggest to accomplish this is to have separate roosting-houses, each with a small netted or wired space in front; let one be

appropriated for each sort. The hens of every description may of course run in the open space all day, but at night they must be compelled to enter their respective places; and, indeed, little compulsion is necessary, as they will soon take to them, and refuse to go into any other. For the well-doing of the fowls, and to prevent crossing, the hens must be let out early in the morning, and the trap-door then securely closed till the evening, when they will want to roost. A separate place must be provided for them to lay in, and after the season is past for rearing chickens, the fowls may all run together, if the cocks can agree, till six weeks before it is intended to set the eggs. But to ensure purity it is absolutely necessary the birds should be separated quite six weeks before the eggs are set, and I am not sure that a longer time is not desirable.

"This, at first sight may appear a very troublesome proceeding, but it is not so in fact. It must be borne in mind it is an expedient to enable the possessor of one meadow to indulge his fancy to the same extent as he does who is fortunate enough to possess as many farms as sorts of fowls.

This plan has one advantage over that of scattering the birds about, viz., they are always at hand, and to be seen, if required."

Andalusian Fowls.

I ENCLOSE a description of my Andalusian fowls. They are not fully described in any work on Poultry that I have ever seen. The original stock was imported in the barque *Asa Fish*, by Capt. Isaac Gates of Mystic Ct., from Leghorn, Italy, in the fall of 1851, and they have been bred in that vicinity since. The cocks are red, with a large single upright comb, deeply serrated, and of the most brilliant scarlet, with wattles of proportionate size. The hens resemble the black Spanish fowls in size and appearance, with a large, deeply serrated, but drooping comb. Plumage of a grey to a mealy white; end of the tail, tipped with black; legs of a bluish white to a slate colour.

The importer calls them Leghorns, from the port of exportation, under which name I exhibited them at our county fair last fall, although I was convinced that they were identical with the fowls mentioned in Dixon and Kerr's Ornamental and Domestic Poultry, pages 210 and 211, as Andalusian

fowls, imported from Andalusia, Spain, by Mr. Leonard Barber in 1846. At the suggestion of Gen. R. U. SHERMAN, Chairman of the Committee on Fowls, I have adopted the name of Andalusian Fowls, believing as I do that they came originally from Spain. As layers they are equal, if not superior, to the black Spanish fowls. They are a most valuable as well as beautiful addition to our poultry yards.—E. H. BLIVEN—*Hope Farms, Bridgewater, N. Y. June 12, 1854.*

The above letter no doubt refers to the same kind of Andalusian fowls as those of J. Taylor, Jun. Esq., of Shepherd's Bush.

Commendations of Poultry

GIVEN AT THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S MEETING.

- 23 highly commended, viz., Viscount Hill's Dorking fowls.
- 36 highly commended, viz., Rev. F. Thursby's Dorking fowls.
- 51 highly commended, viz., Viscount Hill's Dorking fowls.
- 62 highly commended, viz., Mrs. T. T. Parker's Dorking cock.
- 103 highly commended, viz., Miss R. Walker's Cochinchina fowls.
- 127 highly commended, viz., Mr. Charles Punchard's Cochinchina fowls.
- 128 highly commended, viz., Mr. W. Lamb's Cochinchina cock.
- 178 highly commended, viz., Mr. J. Benn's jun. game cocks.
- 15 commended, viz., Mr. H. Smith's Dorking fowls.
- 22 commended, viz., Viscount Hill's Dorking fowls.
- 34 commended, viz., Mr. J. M. H. Turvin's Dorking fowls.
- 54 and 55 commended, viz., Mr. J. Lewry's Dorking fowls.
- 57 commended, viz., Mr. William Torr's Dorking fowls.
- 70 commended, viz., Rev. F. Thursby's Dorking cock.
- 142 commended, viz., Mr. E. Simons' Bramah Poutra fowls.

NOTE.—The Judges consider the exhibition of Dorking fowls of unusual merit.

The Convert.

Scene. A Farm-Yard.

Farmer. I be much obliged to you for the loan of the "Poultry Chronicle." I read all that about the farm-yard stock, but I doan't know much about it: my missus does, though; she be mighty particular about her chickens.

Committee-Man. Howd'ye do, Mrs. ——. I've just been talking to your good man about your poultry: he says you know more than he does.

Missus. Lor, sir!

Farmer. Noa, I didn't a mean exactly that. But now, joking apart, you doan't mean to say as how any what-'em-call-'em things—them big no-tailed things—weighs ten and twelve pounds?

Missus. Now, that's just what I says to master, "Master, says I, I doan't believe it a bit." There's our old Tom (and no finer cock's to be seen in —shire than he be)—and when Mr. — gave us that little paper to read, says I, "I'll weigh old Tom:" so I catches him, and weighs him; and he weighs five pounds. There now!

Committee-Man. Well, now, if I can convince you that "old Tom" is a mere chicken compared to my ordinary fowls—that the Dorkings and Coch'n China, or Brahma Pootra ("Gracious! what did he call um?" says Missus, in an audible aside); Brahma Pootra, I said; so called from a river in India, which, properly spelt, sounds somewhat like the words I used: the birds, however, come from America. "Lucus a non lucendo," you see.

Both. Oh yes, sir.

Committee-Man. Well, then, come and see my different yards, and I'll weigh my birds before you.

Committee-Man's Yards.

Committee-Man. Now, Mrs. —, I am going to beat old Tom. How old is he?

Missus. Three years, sir.

Committee-Man. Let us weigh this Dorking cock; he is now fifteen months old. Well, see the weight: what is it?

Missus. Well, it's five pounds; no, 'tain't, it's seven pounds; no, 't ain't, he's going down,—he stops at eight pounds seven ounces. My!

Farmer. Be ye sure, wife?

Committee-Man. Now let us have a hen; any one you please. Well, what's her weight?

Farmer. Missus, you doan't know them weights; give 'em to I. Six pounds, as sure as I'm alive. But they must ha' been well fatted, though!

Committee-Man. No; I assure you the birds you see are good and moderate examples of a good farm-yard fowl, well fed: and where old Tom and the miserable half-starved birds you have, weigh five and three pounds, mine weigh eight, seven, and six pounds. You must get rid of old Tom, and all the young Toms too. Now, let us try that Brahma cock; he is quite a young bird, and we will put a hen in with him. This is the new sort, you know.

Farmer. What, the India American ones?

Committee-Man. Yes, exactly so; except that I believe them to be in reality the same as the Coch'n China birds, only different in colour; and, so far, totally distinct.

Missus. And are they better?

Committee-Man. That I cannot say. There are plenty of persons, who, knowing little about them, more than a year since, when they were almost unknown, expressed their opinions most freely on them. In my opinion—But now, look. See the Coch'ns—see the Brahmas—look at the two yards! Well, what do you think?

Farmer. They be all alike to I.

Committee-Man. No, I do not think they are all alike; I think the Brahmas are in some respects superior to their coloured relatives. I have found *all* my chickens grow faster, and I like them better: but do not let me mislead you. I have only had four hens and three cocks, and eight months' experience.

Missus. Does the hens want so many cocks, sir?

Committee-Man. No, not exactly; but I was anxious to try whether the colour ran true with different birds, and tried it with the three pairs: and if you look round amongst the chickens, you will distinguish at once every Brahma chick by its black-and-white colouring. But now, let us try the weight of this pair.—Eighteen pounds five ounces, that is not a bad weight for birds thirteen and fourteen months old; and they are not first-rate samples either—at least this hen is not. The cock, I advise you to look at.

Now let us try the Cochins: the cock I have caught is not large; he weighs ten pounds, and is two years old; but he is kept for his perfect shape.

Farmer. Ten pounds, and not large! Well, now!

Committee-Man. And that hen will weigh ten pounds, too; try them together.

Missus. Lor, sir!—twenty-one pounds two ounces!

Farmer (in a big whisper, “They be stuffed; look under their feathers, wife”). I can’t abide them big things with no tails. I doan’t think that’s their real weight, though.

Committee-Man. Well, try it yourself; feel the birds—do whatever you like.

Sequel.

DEAR SIR,—I and my missus ha’ been a talking over all you said to us, and we thinks we should like some Dorkins, as you seems to think they bes the best; but my missuses mind do run on them great big Chinees things—and I can’t say as I wish to contrary her, though I doan’t know about it [So like a man!]: and so we means to kill old Tom, and all the rest, or send ‘em on board ship, they’l do well there; my missus says they’l be *hard-y* enough: and if you can get us some Dorkins we should like six hens and one cock at first; and missus says she must have some of them American Ingines, and some of the Chinees ones; and she won’t mind a shilling or two extra if you can get us big ones, as missus says while she’s about it she may as

well have the Dorkins and all—all to weigh about eight or ten pounds, and we’ll be much obliged.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly.

So old Tom’s nose, or beak, was clearly “out of joint.”
W. M. S.

On the Selection of Poultry Judges.

HAVING perused with great interest and satisfaction the varied opinions expressed by numerous correspondents of the “Poultry Chronicle,” as to matters pertaining to the welfare of our Public Exhibitions, I feel inclined to forward my own sentiments on the same matter, as being confident that the careful and well-considered management of the shows is the *first* element towards their present success, and ultimate perpetuity.

I feel assured that in almost any populous district, a show of poultry may be held, both to the pecuniary advantage of its founders, and the gratification of the public generally—that the annual recurrence of such a meeting of old friends, acquaintances, and poultry amateurs, will be eagerly looked forward to, and when viewed in the retrospect be a “sunny spot” on which the mind will fondly linger, if *all has been properly conducted, and the premiums fairly assigned.*

This latter point is decidedly the most essential of all, to the *future* well-being of any exhibition, for should the impression of improper or unjust awards once enter the minds of subscribers, no after-effort of a committee will place their show in its pristine position. For this reason the selection of the arbitrators should be the subject of great care and forethought in the first instance, for as satisfactory awards will be the subject of general congratulation, any “mistakes” here will be like a “May-frost;” it will cast its blighting influences alike over all future efforts, equally with the exhibition now existing. Due care and consideration on his subject will therefore, here, be by no means “thrown away,” as I naturally presume very few parties would trouble themselves with the establishment of a Poultry

Exhibition if they did not hope it would become an annual custom.

This leads me to notice the fact of how frequently many societies of this kind have lost much of their original influence from the egregious "blunders" committed by unpractised hands. I know myself of several instances where committees have afterwards deeply deplored the appointment of judges, who have, perchance, been fully alive to every characteristic of some which they knew and liked, but who, in the majority of the other classes, have proved themselves quite unequal to the allotted task, and have thus caused one almost incessant reiteration of public condemnation; for be it ever remembered that, in all probability, the most *perfect* specimens in any particular class (whatever it may chance to be) have been raised by amateurs most intimately conversant with their essential points of excellence, and who are therefore perfectly capable of "pointing out" the misdoings (to positive conviction) of an inefficient or an inexperienced poultry judge, alike to his personal annoyance, and the consequent dissatisfaction of all parties. It will be quite obvious to every reader that such an outbreak is by no means to be coveted, and memory will most likely suggest, to not a few poultry committees, the thought that *this* was the unsuspected rock, on which were foundered (in their own first effort) every anxious hope of future successful exhibitions.

It has been suggested that several judges should be selected, and certain classes respectively committed to their individual investigation (allowing each to select those particular varieties, to which they have chiefly directed their attention), and that thus these difficulties would be at once obviated, and the much-to-be-desired end attained. I think, however, few managing committees could possibly give an ear to such an arrangement, as, from the very great additional expenses it would entail, it would be quite out of the question, for, in all probability, "the funds on hand" have been already pretty well "drawn dry" by

the necessary and indispensable expenses, unexpectedly incurred, in twenty different ways, not at *first* anticipated. It will be therefore as imperative on their part, to avoid needlessly drawing on their limited "cash account," as it is, on the other hand, to secure the certain, honest, and well-determined awards of the premiums they may have originally offered in their published "prize-list." It is, perhaps, almost certain that occasional differences of opinion will arise, even amongst the most wisely-selected adjudicators of poultry prizes, but the test of very many shows proves that where the parties in office (though various) are thoroughly conversant with the duties imposed, the results will assimilate far more closely and correctly than most persons would suppose; and it need not here be argued that poultry of unusual excellence will (as natural sequence, if fairly judged) ever retain their exalted position, until, perchance, by the emulous or sordid desire of a thoughtless owner, frequent confinements, combined with the terror, colds, and fatigues of travelling, &c., render them so completely "out of condition," that they are at length forced to doff their laurels to those that have been more thoughtfully and carefully attended, and that have not been subjected to so many trials and privations.

It is to this cause alone, that many an amateur, may impute an unexpected defeat. But though such trifling discrepancies as those before alluded to may at intervals occur, even with the really experienced in poultry, how much more certain are they to take place, when the office has been assumed by a perfect tyro in such matters, literally acting altogether under the impulse, of "ambition prompts me." It is then, that the difficulties of adjudication, first make themselves manifest; his troubles multiply exactly in proportion to the intensity of the competition—confused and wavering are the decisions. The varnish of his *first* pretensions fades quickly away, in presence of sudden and unlooked-for difficulties, (difficulties requiring most especial presence of mind, quick thought,

and untiring energy). If the external pressure of circumstances, at length compel "drawing to a finish," and the awards made by parties thus uncertain, have been irrevocably settled, the after-scrutiny of the public eye, piloted no doubt by some unsuccessful one, who justly complains of "not being fairly dealt by," causes a train of unpleasanties to a committee that are most vexatious even to describe, how much more to endure.

A managing committee thus placed, feel all the consequences of a "dead fix,"—for by *altering* the decisions they make the wound grow deeper, as those to whom the Prizes have been in the first place assigned, very naturally become even more vehement in their protestations of injustice; and as surely will the rectitude of the present award (let it be now what it may) be most unceremoniously impugned. If contrarywise, the prizes that have been the subject of dispute, are allowed to remain inviolate, the palpable want of judgment displayed, will fearfully detract from the entries in future years. These two-fold troubles then, like Scylla and Charybdis, stand on either side of *ill-advised awards*; "no after-steps can make amends for former indiscretions;" the matter having reached its culminating point, the moment it comes before the Public, and future attempts have to toil onward loaded with the heavy drag-chain of the former unwise selection of the Judges.

It is to the inexperience and want of judgment, too frequently displayed, that may be ascribed the manifold complaints that sometimes reach the ear, of the "*varieties of opinions*," expressed by Poultry Judges. It has certainly arisen from the want of efficiency in some only of the adjudicators, as to different particular classes, and thus we occasionally find the supremacy awarded, to pens of fowls, that would rather have been justly dealt with, by an entire and immediate "disqualification." Indeed of late, so preposterous and adverse have been the decisions of some few parties, (from generally received

opinions), that the time is most probably not very distant, when the public voice will be loudly raised, "to know what really are to be considered the characteristics of purity in the different races of poultry;" for an uninitiated exhibitor may reasonably plead himself quite "astonished and perplexed," when he finds the very traits of character he has himself so long coveted, and emulously done all he could to obtain, proclaimed by some unwitting Judge as the very cause of their defeat, though he may too have read both in the first Poultry works of the day, and likewise heard from parties (acknowledged the most generally efficient) that these self-same characteristics were the very essentials to success!

How then are these annoyances to be avoided, as the necessity of the case deserves?

It simply requires the thoughtful care of the managing committee. Be careful in the selection of the parties to fulfil this always arduous, and not-to-be-coveted office (the apportioning of Poultry Prizes), and devote your every energy to obtain for this purpose, those only, whose perfectly *capability and trustworthiness* none will doubt; then, cavil of any kind will be quite out of the question, and the society's probable success will be as certainly ensured, as by a careless and unwise selection the before described troubles will inevitably ensue. E. C.

The Poultry-Maid.

CHAPTER III.—GOOD TEMPER.

"THE constant tenor of the Gospel precepts is to promote kindness and good-will," says an old writer, "and the cultivation of an amiable disposition is a part of religious duty. Do not, therefore, think lightly of the offences you may commit for want of a due command over temper." "One of the greatest faults of servants is their inadequate care of animals committed to their charge," says old William Cobbett, in an extract from one of his works given in

the "Poultry Chronicle" a few weeks ago. To make live stock thrive well, they should be treated with *uniform* kindness. There are few positions in which an ill temper is more mischievous in its consequences than in the charge of animals of whatever description; and perhaps there may be few circumstances in life under which the temper may be more tried.

There are, in very truth, few more ill-tempered things in nature than a mother hen, and, like all people or creatures given up to the guidance of the same evil principle, she shows off her ebullitions without calculation, sense, or reason. Alike she scolds, and tramples, and pecks, whether the object of attack be the hand that feeds her and her bantlings, or an unfortunate chicken from another hen's brood; and her blind rage is sometimes even expended on her own poor, little, unoffending chickens. When my lady is in such vagaries you can only do all in your power to quiet her—to remove the cause of irritation, and to prevent her doing mischief to her own or to other chickens, and also to prevent her pecking your hands; but never for a moment forget that you are a reasoning being, and that she is not. Do not allow yourself to show as little sense as an unreasoning animal; be quiet with her, and she will soon be quiet too. Above all never tease an angry bird; by so doing you only perpetuate an evil, which, if left alone, would by nature wear off by the time the chickens are a few weeks old.

In naming an ill-tempered mother hen I give an extreme case of an ill-tempered fowl; similar instances, in perhaps a less degree, will often fall in the way of any one who has charge of a poultry yard. Almost all birds with broods are equally irritable. Some cocks, especially of the Spanish kind, have a trick of flying at persons, and when the young cockerels of a stock are kept apart (as they generally are towards the latter end of the chicken season, when they grow troublesome if allowed to remain with the pullets) they will peck the hands of persons who may have to handle them.

Whatever Alector may say of the superior strength of a goose's peck—of which I have no doubt, a peck from a powerful young cock is no trifle. If a fowl which has these tricks (which, where there are children about, are very dangerous) is given a smart cut with a thin switch, it knows the reason as well as a dog or a cat, but never on any account touch a bird at the time that you feel irritated; if you hit it do so for the reason that you will break it of a troublesome trick, and not because you are cross. Let your actions show that in your management of an unreasoning, you are a reasoning being.

There is another, a far more unprovoked case, in which ill-humour to animals is sometimes displayed, a case in which there is no reason whatever to feel anger or resentment *towards them*. Your employers may be angry with you, justly or unjustly, as the case may be, or something else may have vexed you, and you vent the ill-temper, which you cannot, or do not chose to display before others, on the poor, unoffending live stock, which, being in your power, can neither resent nor resist your cruel injustice. The case, stated plainly, as I put it now, may seem to make you guilty of the act of a demon; and so it is, rather than that of a conscientious English girl, to neglect, hurt, or injure innocent living things, because some circumstance, in which they have had no part, has put you out of temper. A girl or a boy may deceive an employer in the neglect or injury of that which is placed under her or his charge, but the fault—I may almost say the crime—cannot be concealed from God.

Poultry and all other live stock will do more credit to the person who is kind to them than to one who performs the task, as a task, and takes no delight in his charge. The poultry-yard will speak for itself when it is looked after by one who takes pleasure in its prosperity, whether that one be the owner or the little poultry-maid, and the confiding tameness of a stock which is treated with uniform kindness and

unvarying attention will always make that fact apparent, even to a casual visitor.

E. W.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

BLACK HAMBURG FOWLS.

MR. EDITOR,—Having exhibited a pen of these birds at the Bath Show, in the extra class, and which is probably the pen alluded to by "A. Lictor," and "T. M. G.," I beg to confirm the statements of your latter correspondent in No. 20. July, 12. I keep all the varieties of the Hamburg fowls, but I find the black, the most hardy, the best layers; their eggs larger, and their chickens more easily reared.—Their plumage is a rich, glossy green-black.—I am, Sir, yours truly,
T. L. F.

N.B. My pen of Black Hamburg took the first prize at the Metropolitan Show, and also at the Manchester Show, 1854.

ON THE PRICE OF CORN, AND OTHER MATTERS.

DEAR SIR,—Could a small portion of "The Poultry Chronicle" be spared for the prices of wheat, maize, barley, oats, buckwheat, sharps, pollard, bran, Indian corn meal, oatmeal, barley-meal, &c., &c.? It already gives the weekly market-price for poultry, and, of course, the above would be acceptable to most of your subscribers. Having occasion to inquire about buckwheat in the Manchester corn-office, the answer I received was, that they only knew the name of the grain, and that it was not sold in that locality.

"W. W.," page 502, starts a mystery. A partridge-coloured hen moulted last year but one, and threw up a few white feathers; but on moulting last year she threw up all white. She is the most sprightly and the wildest in the flock. I attribute the change to her extreme irritability when chased or put out of her way. There can be no doubt of the effect of skin inoculation, as I have had proof of it. The following I can substantiate:—Three bullfinches were fed with hempseed alone for 15 months; the result was, that when they moulted they were as black as a raven (in toto). I could start more subjects, only for trespassing too much upon your pages.

Macclesfield.

J. L.

[We consider the suggestion in the early part of "J. L.'s" letter very deserving attention, and we will give it our immediate consideration. Did our correspondent ask for buckwheat under the name of "brank"?—ED.]

HOW TO PREPARE FEATHERS.

SIR,—Could you or any of your correspondents oblige me with a recipe for preparing the feathers of fowls, so as to make them fit for use in stuffing beds, pillows, &c. I fancy, to large keepers of poultry this might be made an auxiliary source of profit. Excuse my troubling you; and, with best wishes for success, I remain, yours, &c.,

A MANCHESTER SUBSCRIBER.

[Can any of our correspondents oblige "A Manchester Subscriber" and us with the recipe he requires?—ED.]

THE DEATH OF CHICKENS.

SIR,—In answer to your question, "Had the chickens free access to gravel stones, or had they any poisonous matter in their way?" I write to say that they had plenty of gravel in a little yard, where they were all day, and in their coop some sand mixed with lime. Could this have had any poisonous effect upon them? Since my last letter I have lost about twenty more chickens, apparently from the same cause.

AN AMATEUR.

[If it were quick-lime in the coop, that *might* prove injurious. We give lime to our chickens in the form of broken oyster-shell, or old building rubbish. In the late hot weather we have lost about five fine chickens; they all belonged to broods which roosted in houses. Among those which are camped out, *v. e.*, living day and night under cottage-shaped coops (of which the place is changed twice or thrice a-day), there were no deaths. The plan of camping out was recommended to us by Mr. Baily, of Mount Street, and proves very successful. The coops are rather more than two feet square, high enough for the comfort of the hen, and with a gable roof made with asphalted felt over a wooden frame. If "An Amateur" can spare a corner of a lawn, or any bit of grass, we think this plan may prove beneficial to his chickens.—ED.]

BENARD'S CONTRIBUTION.

MR. EDITOR,—You can easily imagine the pleasure which the rapid progress of the "Poultry Movement" affords me, connoisseur as I am.

How amusing and instructive to fanciers is your weekly publication; and be assured the *fixtures* on its first page do not affect my weak nerves half so much as those of our worthy square, during the hunting season. For my sake Mr. Editor, I hope you will encourage the breeding of water-fowl; for though a plump Dorking, or Turkey-poult is dainty fare, oh! don't I love a fat goose about Michaelmas, or "not to put too fine a point upon it," whenever I can get one? And this reminds me of my chief object in

writing to you. A friend of mine had a goose sitting (for the second time this year) on nine eggs; the day her probationary month expired, she was by accident shut out from her nest for several hours, in fact her eggs were quite cold before the good lady's unfortunate position was noticed; with the greatest perseverance, however, she continued her duties, until after ten or eleven days she was rewarded with five fine goslings, two of the remaining eggs contained dead ones. Can any of your *knowing* readers account for this singular case? RENARD.

[We hope some of the numerous capital contributors and correspondents to the "Poultry Chronicle" will oblige the Editor and Renard, by sending any particulars which may fall in their way relating to water-fowl.—ED.]

PRIZES TO GAME FOWL.

MR. EDITOR.—I think that there ought to be at all exhibitions prizes awarded the same for Game as for any other, for I consider them next to Spanish and Dorking: they are the same trouble and expense to rear up, and the price per pen is the same. Perhaps you will be kind enough to give a hint in your valuable Chronicle.

A SUBSCRIBER.

[We with pleasure publish "A Subscriber's" letter, for the purpose of placing it under the consideration of committees of poultry shows; but, we think, in settling the amount of a prize, the "trouble and expense of rearing" a variety of fowl would stand on the debit side. In arranging the amounts of the prizes, committees consider first the present or prospective usefulness of the kind. Has the Game fowl useful qualities enough (in addition to its undisputed beauty) to compensate for its troublesome pugnacity?—ED.]

COTTAGERS' PRIZES.

MR. EDITOR.—In the reply of "E. C." to my letter of the 28th ult., he completely waives the question at issue (the propriety of encouraging poultry-keeping by cottagers), and accuses me of "decrying wholesale the humble barnsman, and equally honest labourer."

I cannot rest under this stigma, and therefore trouble you with a few remarks in self-defence. That which I bring forward as a *probable consequence*, "E. C." construes or understands as a *fact positive*: with what reason or justice your readers may decide. No-one is more willing than I to acknowledge the good qualities of the faithful and honest farm labourer, or to assist in any project likely to make his rural home more worthy of that attachment which is innate in the breast of every Englishman.

"E. C." states, "honesty is not dependent on

caste, not contingent on high position:" agreed; education is to be the panacea for the *supposed* or *probable* venality of the "youth of humble parents;" but if individuals of "caste," "high position," and of course cultivated minds, are still susceptible, and yield to temptations *when thrown in their way*, can we expect more moral strength from the aforesaid youth, even if the advantages of education were more liberally supplied to him? No one will dispute the necessity for proper and consistent instruction for *all* classes, but I still question the prudence of promoting that (cottager's prizes) which *may* be attended by the evil results I noticed in my last.

R. G., of Dorsetshire.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

MR. EDITOR.—Last evening I returned from the Lincoln Poultry Show. I was at Great Yarmouth on Tuesday, and on reference to the *Poultry Chronicle* of the 12th inst. I understood, from what was there stated, that the first day of the Poultry Show at Lincoln would be on Monday last. Consequently I arrived at Lincoln yesterday morning, when I found the Poultry Show would not be opened until late in the day, as the judges were then making their awards. About two o'clock their labour was concluded, and the show was thrown open to the public at a charge of 10s. each: this I did not complain of, but I did feel *much* annoyed at being compelled to pay an extra 2s. 6d. to pass through the implement yard. It cost me 12s. 6d. to view the poultry, and then I could not ascertain which birds obtained prizes. Why not mark the pens (if in the roughest manner) directly the awards were made; surely persons ought to get some value for their money. To pay railway fare to and from Lincoln, 12s. 6d. admittance, and the high charges for refreshment, lodging, &c., (which are high at Lincoln during the show) is no joke. My case was not so bad as that of another gentleman: he, like me, paid 2s. 6d. to go into the implement yard, then 10s. to the poultry yard; he staid in the implement yard and made a purchase; after having viewed the poultry for an hour or so, he wanted to return to the implement yard to make arrangements about the goods he purchased, but they would not re-admit him, so he had to walk to the front entrance again and pay another 2s. 6d. I do think this ought to be noticed in your Journal.

Now for my opinion of the Poultry Show. I thought it very poor. There were a few good pens of Dorking and Spanish, but I considered the majority of the birds inferior. My own humble opinion is there was scarce a pen that deserved lauding up; the Cochins were very indifferent. The opinion I now express of the

poultry was that of many persons present: it would be ridiculous to compare it with the Birmingham Show.—Yours very truly, P. G.

[In naming that the show would take place "in the week commencing July, 17th," the wording of the schedule of the Royal Agricultural Society was followed. We are sorry it should have misled a visitor to the exhibition, but this would have been obviated by reference to the full particulars which were published in the "Poultry Chronicle," page 93. It is not fair to compare the poultry at the Royal Agricultural meeting with the *greatest poultry show* in the world at Birmingham. In one case the poultry is a mere addendum,—a comparatively recent addition; the other is an aggregate of all the choicest fowls in the country: the poultry there is the chief attraction. With regard to the charge of the extra 2s. 6d., is it possible that there could have been some mistake?—Ed.]

HENS EATING THEIR EGGS, ETC.

SIR,—The remedy (for egg eaters) proposed by T. R. C. C. is excellent, except the wafering both ends of the egg: I should apply gutta-percha, as if I were sealing a letter. As regards the blackness of the Dorking's comb, I think there may be turgid blood located in the head, and consequently the fowl wants an alterative. I lost a Bantam cock last week; his comb and wattles were blackish only one day previous to his death, and remained so after death. I concluded that he was poisoned, so I sent him to a surgeon to analyse the contents of the crop, and which analysis proved that he was too well fed, and died from apoplexy.

The best mode of cleansing feathers is to wash them well in water to which a small quantity of unsalad lime has been added.

Macclesfield.

J. L.

[Many of these letters were intended for last week's "Chronicle;" but press of matter delayed their publication to the present time.—Ed.]

COCHIN-CHINAS RUBBING THE LEG-FEATHERS.

SIR,—Will you, or some of your readers, have the kindness to inform me how to prevent the leg-feathers from being constantly rubbed off, and the scales of the legs cracking and exposing the raw and bleeding interstices, in an otherwise perfectly healthy Cochin cock? Every attention is paid to cleanliness, and the perches are constructed on the admirable plan recommended by Mr. Tegesmeier, one foot only from the ground.

May I also so far trespass on your valuable time as to enquire whether there are any objections to hens of the Andalusian, Polish, and

Spanish breeds having a male bird of the Cochin kind, the eggs being solely for table use?

Your notice, or replies to the above will be esteemed a favour by—Your Well-Wisher,

A SUBSCRIBER, AB-INITIO.

[We should place the cock on a more cooling diet, and, if possible, give him a grass run; but no doubt some of our correspondents will kindly favour us with their opinion.—There can be no objection to the above-named cross to produce eggs for eating; nor, we should fancy, for chickens for the table.—Ed.]

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POULTRY CHRONICLE.

SIR,—Before making my usual weekly return of the price of poultry in Leadenhall market, I proceed to notice the letter of Landamman, which you have forwarded to me. I hold myself strictly responsible for the prices I quote; but I have repeatedly stated they are for the best qualities only. In order to test the accuracy of a report, it is necessary to be a judge of the article. In all markets, even where the greatest possible scarcity exists, there are certain descriptions of goods so inferior as to command only a nominal price, and there are certain shops where only this quality is kept. It is to one of these Landamman must have applied. When the best chickens are quoted at 3s. as the lowest price, there are plenty of lower class ones at 1s. 9d., and every thing else in proportion. To give the prices throughout would only entail the necessity of beginning at a much lower price; but it would be no guide, as it would only represent a class of provisions fit only for the *commonest* purposes. It is not sufficient to ask for the best a shop contains, as many keep none but the worst. "Parmi les aveugles, un borgne est roi." A reference to any first-rate poulterer, to any consumer of the best poultry, or to any sender of such to the market, will justify my report, and I am well content to be judged by them. Your

LEADENHALL REPORTER.

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|------------|-----------|
| Large Fowls | 6s. | 0d. to 6s. | 6d. each. |
| Smaller do. | 3s. | 6d. to 4s. | 6d. " |
| Chickens | 2s. | 6d. to 3s. | 6d. " |

| | | | |
|-----------------|------|------------|-----------|
| Geese | 6s. | 0d. to 6s. | 6d. each. |
| Ducks | 3s. | 3d. to 3s. | 6d. „ |
| Leverets | 4s. | 0d. to 4s. | 6d. „ |
| Pigeons..... | 11d. | to 1s. | 0d. „ |
| Quails..... | 1s. | 3d. to 1s. | 6d. „ |
| Rabbits..... | 1s. | 6d. | „ |
| Wild ditto..... | 10d. | to 1s. | 0d. „ |

Supply good, and average demand.

To Correspondents.

J. H.—White Dorking Fowls with top-knots are to be obtained of most dealers. They are worth about 10s. each. They rank among fancy fowls, and cannot compete in the White Dorking Classes for prizes.

J. T. C. wishes to know “what is the best and cheapest work on pigeons,” and “what mixture of seeds and corn would do for food for them.” We have asked the favour of an answer to these questions from our valued contributor, “B. P. B.,” and his answer will be found in another column. We recommend “J. T. C.” to read Mr. Eaton’s work on pigeons, from which he cannot fail to gain useful information.

A Visitor at the Lincoln Show.—We have referred your inquiry to our own correspondent at Lincoln. We cannot say what the rules of the judges were; but in his own opinion (and we think him competent) he says the 1st prize was awarded to the pink bills you speak of; the 2nd, to the largest ducks in the show—unquestionably pure, with pale bills. The birds you speak of as much better were disqualified, because the drake had a large dark mark along the bill. The bills of Aylesbury ducks should be pale; but the pink bill of which you speak is the result of management and water—it may be made. The 2nd prize ducks, he says, were not yellow-billed.

Advertisements.

FOWLS.—By JOHN BAILY. Just Published, the Second Edition of the above work, with which is reprinted the Fourth Edition of “The Dorking Fowl,” corrected, revised, and considerably enlarged. It contains descriptive Tables of all the Fowls now exhibited, giving in few words their chief points and qualifications, with copious rules for their selection and management. Price 2s. ; by post, 2s. 6d.

JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

MR. H. D. DAVIES has much pleasure in allowing any one to see his Stock of Poultry; but some inconvenience having arisen from the visits of persons altogether unknown, and at unseasonable hours, those Ladies or Gentlemen who may wish to see the Birds are requested to favour Mr. DAVIES previously with their name and address, when a Card of Admission will be immediately forwarded. In future no person can be admitted to the Poultry Yard without producing such a Card; or at any other hours than those named for the purpose.

Spring Grove House, Hounslow.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork, Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market, London.

SOME very fine **AYLESBURY DUCKS** and **DRAKES** FOR SALE, from Prize Stock, at Eight Shillings each; four months old. Apply to X, Post Office, Cirencester.

TO POULTRY FANCIERS.—MR. J. C. STEVENS begs to notify that his Periodical Sales of Poultry will be discontinued during the months of August and September, but will be resumed on the first Tuesday in October.
38, King Street, Covent Garden, 1st August, 1854.

PURE WHITE AYLESBURY DUCKS—1st Prizes at Lincoln, Bath, and Farningham.

W. G. K. BREAVENTON begs to offer a few first-rate Birds from his Stock of young Aylesbury Ducks, in sets of One Drake and Two Ducks, 15s. each; 6 young Ducks, 1st Prize, Farningham, One Guinea each.

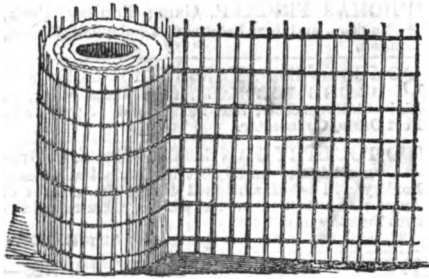
Post-office Orders payable to WILLIAM G. K. BREAVENTON, Vicarage Farm, Hounslow, Middlesex.

SPANISH AND DORKING CHICKENS for 1854, bred from the Prize Birds at Bath, Cheltenham, and Lincoln, and other first-rate Stock; as also some **BRAHMA POOTRA CHICKENS**, and **WHITE AYLESBURY DUCKS**, are now on Sale, and may be had by Amateurs and others wishing to improve their Stock of Poultry, on application, by letter, p. p. to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, Spring Grove House, Hounslow.

PRIZE FANCY POULTRY SELLING OFF

VERY CHEAP.—GEORGE BOOTHBY of Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire, who has been remarkably successful this season at the various Poultry Shows, offers the following, which have taken many 1st and 2nd prizes at Doncaster, Leeds, Manchester, Driffield, Hitchin, &c. &c., viz., White Cochins, 1 Cock and 2 Hens, 3 guineas; 1 Cock and 1 Hen, do., 25s.; jet black Cochins, 1 Cock and 4 Hens, 4 guineas; Black Cock and 3 Hens, 3 guineas; White-faced Black Spanish Cock and 3 Hens, 6 guineas; Cock and Hen, do., 25s.; Cock and 3 Hens, White Spanish or Andalusian, 2 Guineas; 2 White Dorking Hens, 15s.; 1 Cock and 2 Hens, Grey Dorking, 3 guineas; 1 Cockerel and 2 Hens, do., 21s.; Cock and Hen, imported Brahma Pootra, 2 guineas; a few fine do., Cocks, 10s. 6d. each; 1 Cock and 2 Hens, Malay, 2 guineas; Cockerel and Pullet, do. 41; Cock and 2 Hens, Ptarmigan, 6 guineas; Cock and 5 Hens, White Silky Fowl, 43; Cock and 4 Hens, White-crested Black Polish, 5 guineas; Cock and 4 Hens, Gold Polish, 5 guineas; Pair of do., Chicks, 1 guinea; Cock and 4 Hens, Silver Polish, 5 guineas; Pair of do., Chicks, 1 guinea; Cock and 3 Hens, Black Crested, Black Polish, very rare, 6 guineas; Cock and 2 Hens, White Polish, 1 guinea; do., very superb, 3 guineas; Pair of Blue Polish, 2 guineas; Blue do., Cocks, 10s. 6d.; 3 Buff Polish Chicks, 30s. each; Gold-laced Scabright Bantams, 15s. per Pair; eggs from the Polish, 10s. 6d., from the rest, 5s., per dozen. A few Pairs of Buff Cochins, Chickens, early hatch, 10s. 6d. and 15s. per Pair; 1 Cockerel and 6 Pullets, White Cochins, 4 guineas. A few Silver-pencilled Hamburgs, 7s. 6d. each.

Full Particulars of each lot, by a letter sent to the above address, enclosing two penny postage stamps.



FOR POULTRY HOUSES.
LIGHT, CHEAP, and DURABLE ROOFING.

CROGGON'S PATENT ASPHALTE ROOFING FELT is perfectly impervious to rain, snow, and frost, and has been tested by a long and extensive experience in all climates. Saves half the timber required for slates. Can be laid on with great facility by farm servants or unpractised persons.

Price 1d. per square foot. **CROGGON'S PATENT NON-CONDUCTING FELT** for covering Steam-bollers and Pipes, saves 25 per cent. of fuel.

Samples and Testimonials sent by post, on application to **CROGGON & Co.**, 2, Dowgate Hill, London, who also supply **SHIP SHEATHING FELT**, and **INODOROUS FELT**, for Damp Walls, and lining Iron Houses and Roofs generally, to equalise the temperature.

FANCY POULTRY SALE.—**MR. R. C. NUNN** will hold his Third Annual Sale, by Auction, at the King's Head Inn, Diss, Norfolk, on Friday, August 4th. Entries received up to Friday, July 28th, 1854. Offices, Mere Street, Diss.

WHITE PERUVIAN MUSK DUCKS.—A Gentleman Amateur can part with a few surplus Birds of the above sort, from this year's broods.

The White Musk Duck of Peru is very fond of water, grows to a great size, lays eggs large and plentifully, is very ornamental, and also profitable for the table.

For particulars apply, pre-paid, to the Rev. C. W. D., Post-office, Crediton, Devon.

THE DORSETSHIRE POULTRY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, OPEN TO ALL ENGLAND.—The Annual Exhibition of this Association will be held at Dorchester, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 27th and 28th September next, when not less than Eight Pieces of Plate, in addition to the Society's Premiums, will be offered for competition.

From and after the 26th July instant, a Prize List will be forwarded to any applicant, on a stamped envelope, addressed, and six penny postage stamps being received by the Honorary Secretary,

G. J. ANDREWS.

Dorchester, 22nd July, 1854.

WILLIAM DRAY AND Co.'s PATENT WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs, Rabbits, Poultry, &c.

Price 2d. per square foot.

ORDINARY WIRE NETTING, from 2½d. per yard, 2 feet wide.

Address **WILLIAM DRAY AND Co.**,
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT MANUFACTURERS,
Swan Lane, Upper Thames Street, London.

THE SALISBURY AND WESTERN COUNTIES' EXHIBITION OF DOMESTIC POULTRY.

—The Fourth Annual Exhibition will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st and 22nd days of November, 1854. Prize Lists to be had of T. FAIR, Honorary Secretary, Salisbury, July 20th, 1854.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Preserving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c.

Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d.; 2 yards wide, 3d.; and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

To be had in any quantity at **GEORGE EATON & Co.'s** Fishing-Rod and Tackle Manufactory, 6 & 7, Crooked Lane, London.

PRIZE PIGEONS.—To be Sold, cheap, a PAIR of FANTAILS, Prize Birds, at Yarmouth, 1853; commended at Cheltenham and Bath, 1854.

Also, some Pouters, including the Prize Hen at the London Summer Show, 1853; and a Pair of Jacobins. H. H. SWIFT, Purton, near Swindon, Wiltshire.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines..... 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line..... 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 13s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.; payable in advance.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 24.]

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

☛ THE Editor respectfully informs the readers of the "POULTRY CHRONICLE," that the printing and publishing will henceforth be conducted by Messrs. BRADBURY & EVANS, 11, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, to whom all Orders and Advertisements must in future be addressed, and to whom Post-Office Orders should be made payable.

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Poultry Shows.

Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland's Show, at Armagh, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 9th and 10th of August. Secretary, Thomas Harkness, Esq., Upper Sackville-street, Dublin. Entries are closed.

Cleveland Agricultural Society's Show, including Poultry, Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th of August. Secretary, Mr. Thomas Parrington. Entries are closed.

Tottington Agricultural Exhibition, including Poultry, at Tottington, near Bury, Lancashire; Friday, August 18th. Secretary, Mr. Eli Roberts, Tottington. Entries close August 11th.

Royal North Lancashire Agricultural Society, at Burnley, August 21st. Secretary, Mr. G. Hunt, 2, Chapel Walk, Preston. Entries close Saturday, August 12th.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th.

Keighley Agricultural Show, including Poultry, Wednesday, September 6th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq. Entries close August 30th.

Wellington, Salop, Horticultural and Poultry Show. Wednesday and Thursday, September 6th and 7th. Secretary, T. W. Jones, Esq., Church Street, Wellington. Entries close September 1st.

Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Society, including Poultry, at Radcliffe, adjourned to Monday, September 11th. Secretary, Mr. J. Crosse, Market-street, Bury. Entries close August 28th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary,

Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

South East Hants, at Fareham, Tuesday, September 19th. Secretaries, G. Creed, Esq., and J. James, Esq. Entries close September 1st.

Yeovil, September 20th. Secretary, John Clyde, Esq.

Davertry Exhibition, in connexion with the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society (limited to the county), September 21st. Secretaries, Messrs. Freeman & Sons, Northampton.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M^cC. Swarbrick, Esq. Entries close September 5th.

Dorsetshire Poultry Association's Annual Exhibition, at Dorchester, Wednesday and Thursday, September 27th and 28th. Secretary, G. J. Andrews, Esq.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. Entries close September 1st.

Sparkenhoe Farmers' Club, including Poultry, October 4th and 5th. Secretaries, J. W. Taverner, Esq., Hartshill, Atherstone, and W. P. Dewes, Esq., Ashby de la Zouche. Entries close September 1st.

South West Middlesex Agricultural Society, at Southall, Friday, October 6th. Secretary, Mr. John Gotelee, Hounslow. Entries close one calendar month before the show.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. Wm. Thurnall, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

Cambridgeshire, at Cambridge, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of November. Secretary, C. H. Crosse, Esq., New Square, Cambridge. Entries close October 11th.

Norwich and Eastern Counties, at Norwich, Wednesday and Thursday, the 15th and 16th of November. Secretary, C. Oury, Esq. Entries close October 31st.

Salisbury and West Counties' Exhibition of

Domestic Poultry. Fourth Annual Exhibition, at Salisbury, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st and 22nd of November. Secretary, T. Pain, Esq. Entries close November 10th.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 28th.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council Rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Nottinghamshire Poultry Association. The Second Annual Exhibition will be held at Southwell, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 19th and 20th of December. Secretary, R. Hawksley, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 21st.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

"THREE competent judges will be engaged," is an addition to the rules and regulations as usually set forth, which is now, for the first time, presented by the committee of a poultry exhibition to their constituents and to the public. Perhaps a precedent of greater importance than this, of *naming beforehand* a circumstance of such great interest to all parties concerned—could scarcely have been given; and this fair promise made by the Cambridge-shire Poultry Association, will please a

much larger number of persons than those interested in the present show only.

To the committees and conductors of poultry shows confidence in the stability and fairness of the awards of the judges is a matter of vital importance, nor is it less so to the judges themselves in the avoidance of an incalculable amount of vexatious questions and explanations; but it is to the exhibitor that it is of the greatest consequence, for the whole value of his prize often depends on when and under what circumstances that prize has been obtained. On exhibitors, then, it is incumbent to do all in their power to promote this desirable end.

It is well known that poultry shows are frequently not financially successful, but it is certainly the wish of amateurs, who benefit from them generally in the receipt of pleasure, amusement, and often in pocket also, that they should be, at any rate, self-supporting: it would be illiberal to ask for an increased expenditure in one item of poultry show expense, without being willing to see some compensatory diminution in another. A small addition to the entrance fee for the pens would make a very trifling difference to each exhibitor, nor would a small diminution in the amount of prizes be considered, for to most persons the honour and the increased value of the successful stock is of far more worth than the sum of money received.

RAILWAYS have come forward generously with their efficient aid to many of our poultry shows. The assistance offered by the NORTH WESTERN to the Malvern show, and by the SOUTH DEVON and BRISTOL

AND EXETER to the Wellington, we had the pleasure of mentioning last week. The liberality of the EASTERN COUNTIES and NORTHERN AND EASTERN lines is of old standing and frequent recurrence, nor are these unusual instances, whether we refer to the past or look forward to the future.

Schedule of the Cambridgeshire Show.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF PRINCE ALBERT.

THE Cambridgeshire first annual exhibition of poultry, open to all England, will be held at Cambridge, under the favourable and flattering auspices of the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of November.

It is mentioned in the Schedule that the services of THREE COMPETENT JUDGES WILL BE ENGAGED; and having been favoured with a glance behind the scenes, we may say that measures have been proposed, which, if carried out, are almost certain to prevent disappointment in this very desirable and confidence-inspiring arrangement.

The regulations are so conveniently condensed by the Committee that we are able to give them almost without abridgement.

REGULATIONS.

1. All birds must arrive on Monday, November 6th, or before two o'clock on Tuesday, November 7th; each pen in a separate hamper; carriage to be *pre-paid*.

2. All sales must be made through the secretary, baskets included. £10 per cent. will be deducted. No pens can be claimed before four o'clock on the first day of Exhibition.

3. The entrance-fees must be paid when the entry is made, or the pens cannot compete.

4. The entrance-fees, including coops, food, attendance, &c., are as follows:—

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Class 1 to 24, and Geese and | |
| Turkeys..... | 5s. per pen. |
| Class 25 to 55 | 3s. „ |

5. The Committee guarantee every possible

care and attention to the Stock sent, but they will not be answerable for any losses that may occur from accident or mistake.

6. No dogs, sticks, or umbrellas, will be allowed in the place of exhibition.

7. Any birds sent in an *unhealthy* condition will not be allowed to be exhibited.

8. All applications requiring an answer must contain a stamped directed envelope.

9. Subscribers of 5s. will receive *two* tickets, of 10s. *five* tickets for the *private view*; single tickets, 3s.

10. The services of three competent judges will be engaged. Hours of admission: Wednesday—12 to 2, private view to subscribers only. 2 to 5 and 6 to 9, entrance 2s. 6d. Thursday—10 to 4 and 6 to 9, entrance 1s. Friday, 9 to 1, entrance 1s.

* * The Eastern Counties' Railway Company have kindly consented to convey poultry both ways free of charge, and to grant passengers tickets (first and second class) at a single fare, available only on the day of issue.

PRIZE LIST.

The Chickens must all be of 1854.

SPANISH (Exceeding One Year Old).

| Class. | 1st. 2nd. 3rd. | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----|----|
| | s. | s. | s. |
| 1. Cock and two Hens | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| 2. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| 3. Cock of any age | 20 | | |
| 4. Hen of any age | 20 | | |

DORKING (Coloured, irrespective of Comb).

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|
| 5. Cock and two Hens | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| 6. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 40 | 20 | 10 |

DORKING (White).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| 7. Cock and two Hens | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| 8. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| 9. Cock of any age or colour ... | 20 | | |
| 10. Hen of any age or colour ... | 20 | | |

COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon, Buff, or Lemon).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| 11. Cock and two Hens | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| 12. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 40 | 20 | 10 |

COCHIN CHINA (Partridge or Grouse).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| 13. Cock and two Hens | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| 14. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 40 | 20 | 10 |

COCHIN CHINA (White).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 15. Cock and two Hens | 40 | 20 | |
| 16. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 40 | 20 | |

COCHIN CHINA (Black).

| Class. | 1st. 2nd. 3rd. | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----|----|
| | s. | s. | s. |
| 17. Cock and two Hens | 40 | 20 | |
| 18. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 40 | 20 | |
| 19. Cock of any age or colour ... | 20 | | |
| 20. Hen of any age and colour ... | 20 | | |

BRAMAH FOOTRA (Irrespective of Comb).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| 21. Cock and two Hens | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| 22. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| 23. Cock of any age | 20 | | |
| 24. Hen of any age | 20 | | |

GAME (White and Piles).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 25. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 10 | |
| 26. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 30 | 10 | |

GAME (Black-breasted and other Reds).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 27. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 10 | |
| 28. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 30 | 10 | |

GAME (Any other Colour).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 29. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 10 | |
| 30. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 30 | 10 | |

MALAY.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 31. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 10 | |
| 32. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 30 | 10 | |

GOLDEN PENCILLED HAMBURG.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 33. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 10 | |
| 34. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 30 | 10 | |

GOLDEN SPANGLED HAMBURG.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 35. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 10 | |
| 36. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 30 | 10 | |

SILVER PENCILLED HAMBURG.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 37. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 10 | |
| 38. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 30 | 10 | |

SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURG.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 39. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 10 | |
| 40. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 30 | 10 | |

POLAND (Black with White Crests).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 41. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 10 | |
| 42. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 30 | 10 | |

POLAND (Golden).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 43. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 10 | |
| 44. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 30 | 10 | |

POLAND (Silver).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 45. Cock and two Hens | 30 | 10 | |
| 46. Cockerel and two Pullets ... | 30 | 10 | |

FOR ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|--|--|
| (Birds of any age). | | | |
| 47. Two First Prizes of 20s. each | 40 | | |

| BANTAMS (Gold Laced). | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Class | 1st. s. | 2nd. s. | 3rd. s. |
| 48. Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... | 10 |
| BANTAMS (Silver Laced). | | | |
| 49. Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... | 10 |
| BANTAMS (White). | | | |
| 50. Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... | 10 |
| BANTAMS (Black). | | | |
| 51. Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... | 10 |
| BANTAMS (Any other Colour). | | | |
| 52. Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... | 10 |
| DUCKS (White Aylesbury). | | | |
| 53. Drake and two Ducks | 30 | ... | 10 |
| DUCKS (Rouen). | | | |
| 54. Drake and two Ducks | 30 | ... | 10 |
| DUCKS (Any other Variety). | | | |
| 55. Drake and two Ducks | 30 | ... | 10 |
| GEESE. | | | |
| 56. Gander and two Geese | 40 | ... | 20 |
| TURKEYS (Exceeding one year). | | | |
| 57. Cock and two Hens | 60 | ... | 20 ... 10 |
| 58. Cock and two Hens | 40 | ... | 20 ... 10 |

COTTAGERS' PRIZE.

Rental £8 per annum or under, entry free.

For the best Collection of useful Poultry, not less than six in number... 20 ... 10 ... 5

Entries close Old Michaelmas Day, October 11.

N.B.—Every facility will be afforded to strangers to see the various places of interest in the Town and University.

By order of the Committee,
CHARLES H. CROSSE, M.A.,
Hon. Secretary.

New Square, Cambridge.

Schedule of the Sparkenhoe Farmers' Club.

THE annual meeting of this Society will be held at the Royal Hotel, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Wednesday and Thursday, October 4th and 5th. The prize list includes premiums to farm labourers, prizes for

ploughing and hedge-cutting, and prizes also for beasts, cheese, corn, and roots.

CONDITIONS AND REGULATIONS.

Certificates of entry will be ready on the 1st of August. All Entries must be returned on or before the 1st of September (free of expense).

All stock intended to be exhibited must be on the ground on Wednesday, October 4th, at 9 A.M. Persons will be admitted into the exhibition field on payment of one shilling, and into the poultry exhibition on payment of one shilling also.

No premium will in any case be awarded unless the judges shall consider there is sufficient merit to deserve it, but want of competition is not a bar to the award.

Wilful mis-statements in certificate will disqualify the candidate from receiving the premium, and will render him liable to be expelled from the society.

Any one desirous of becoming a member is requested to send his name to one of the secretaries, and may be elected on paying an annual subscription of 5s. and upwards, which will entitle him to a free admission to the quarterly lectures, a free entry for ploughing, hedge-cutting, rewards to deserving labourers, corn, roots, vegetables, fruit, and flowers. A sum of 10s. or upwards will entitle such subscriber to a free entry for cattle, sheep, pigs, and horses. All subscriptions become due on the 1st of January in each year, and must be paid on or before the time of sending in the certificates to entitle members, subscribers, or their servants, to compete for prizes.

All Competitors for prizes must be members or subscribers, or their servants; and all specimens sent must be *bona fide* the property of the exhibitor.

All members or subscribers are considered as such, until they signify in writing their wish to withdraw.

An entrance fee of 1s. for each pen of poultry, and 6d. for pigeons and rabbits, (in addition to the 5s. subscription entitling persons to exhibit such poultry, pigeons, and rabbits,) must be sent with the certificates of entry; and each pen must be sent separate.

The whole of the contributions, consisting of poultry, corn, roots, fruit, and vegetables, &c., must be in the show-yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Tuesday, October 3rd, or they will not be admitted, and none can be removed before Friday,

October 6th. All specimens must be properly labelled, and addressed to the show-yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and carriage previously paid by the exhibitor.

Exhibitors may send as many pens of poultry, &c., by paying the entrance fee of 1s. each, and specimens of corn, roots, &c., as they wish; the ages of the poultry must be as accurately stated as possible.

Exhibitors will be required to state the price at which they will sell their specimens. Five per cent. will be deducted towards defraying the expenses of the show. Poultry dealers and gardeners are inadmissible to compete for prizes.

Cottagers, being labourers of members, and recommended by their master, may compete without subscribing, in the classes allotted to them.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.

| Class. | 1st. | 2nd. | 3rd. |
|---|-------|------|-------|
| | s. | s. | s. d. |
| 1. Cock and two Hens, any age 20 | ... | 10 | ... |
| DORKING (Coloured). | | | |
| 2. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |
| DORKING (White). | | | |
| 3. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |
| COCHIN CHINA (Coloured). | | | |
| 4. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |
| COCHIN CHINA (White). | | | |
| 5. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |
| GAME (White, Piles, and Light Colours). | | | |
| 6. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |
| GAME (Red and other Dark Colours). | | | |
| 7. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |
| MALAY. | | | |
| 8. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |
| HAMBURG (Gold and Silver Pencilled). | | | |
| 9. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |
| HAMBURG (Gold and Silver Spangled). | | | |
| 10. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |
| POLAND. | | | |
| 11. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |
| BARN DOOR. | | | |
| 12. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |
| FOR ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED. | | | |
| 13. Cock and two Hens | | 20 | ... |

DUCKS (White Aylesbury).

| Class. | 1st. | 2nd. | 3rd. |
|-------------------------|-------|------|-------|
| | s. | s. | s. d. |
| 14. Drake and two Ducks | | 20 | ... |

DUCKS (any other Variety).

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----|-----|
| 15. Drake and two Ducks | | 20 | ... |
|-------------------------|-------|----|-----|

GEESE.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|----|-----|
| 16. Gander and two Geese | | 20 | ... |
|--------------------------|-------|----|-----|

TURKEYS.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| 17. Cock and two Hens, any age 20 | ... | 10 | ... |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|-----|

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|----|-----|
| 18. Pair of GUINEA FOWLS | | 10 | ... |
|--------------------------|-------|----|-----|

BANTAMS.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----|-----|
| 19. Cock and two Hens | | 10 | ... |
|-----------------------|-------|----|-----|

PIGEONS.

20—24. Pair of Pouters, or Croppers; pair of Carriers; pair of Tumblers; pair of Fantails; pair of any other distinct Variety—5s. each.

RABBITS.

25—27. Heaviest Weight; greatest Length of Ear; any other kind—5s. each.

LABOURERS' POULTRY.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| 28. Cock and one Hen, any age 10 | ... | 5 | ... |
|----------------------------------|-----|---|-----|

The annual dinner will take place on Wednesday, October 4th, in a Pavilion near to the Baths, at three o'clock, at which it is hoped ladies will do the society the honour of attending.

Damage to and by Fowls.

A MOST important question to poultry-keepers was started in your last number (for July 26th) as to whether one person may destroy the live animals of another which are trespassing and damage feasant. It is quite right for poultry-keepers distinctly to know their remedies and their liabilities in these matters; and as the law is very explicit, you will, I am sure, give a place in your valuable periodical to a short exposition of it.

The general rule of law is, "No man shall take the law into his own hands where a remedy is provided by the law."

Now apply this to the case of the dog

worrying the fowls, as mentioned in a late number of the "Poultry Chronicle." The owner of the fowls has a right of action against the owner of the dog, for the dog's trespass; and the damage which can be recovered will be *what can be shown to have accrued* to the owner of the fowls on account of this dog so trespassing. Thus the dog's owner will be liable for any breakage the dog has committed, and also for the value of any fowls killed or injured. But observe, as the trespass is the foundation of the action, no action will lie if the fowls are the trespassers, as in the public road or elsewhere; nor will any compensation be given for fowls so killed or injured.

If, however, the dog's owner can be shown to have had a malicious intent in loosing his dog, or in setting him at the fowls, the jury may take that into their consideration in awarding damages (*Sears v. Lyons*; 2 Starkie, 317, by Abbott, C. J.) All one can do, if a dog, &c., worries or kills one's fowls, is either to drive off the animal damage feasant, or else to pound him, and give notice to the owner of the damage sustained, and that if not redeemed within 7 days, the dog will be sold, to pay expenses.

This is the only safe course. Possibly a notice to the dog's owner to keep him at home, or he will be destroyed if again caught trespassing, might rid the party so destroying him of the onus thereof; but this is doubtful.

No matter how exasperating the destruction of favourites is to one's feelings, unless one wishes to figure as the defendant in a county court, and to have to bring a cross action for the damage sustained, the destruction of any animal so doing damage must be carefully avoided.

The only case where the destruction can be upheld by law, is the case where the animal so doing damage is *feræ naturæ*, i. e., not a domesticated animal, as a dog or cat; but a ferret, polecat, or a tame fox, &c., for in such beasts the law recognises no right of property, and an indictment for stealing them will not lie.

Let me earnestly advise your readers never to lay themselves open to proceedings by taking the law into their own hands; and if I am successful enough to persuade them to this, the present hasty remarks are not penned in vain.

A. J. H.

On Turkey Breeding.

BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR.

(Continued from p. 403.)

IN corroboration of our remarks, there were turkeys exhibited at the late poultry show at the American Museum, in this city, which weighed thirty pounds and a half the cock, and eighteen pounds the hen. These were extraordinary birds, to be sure, but they were well bred, and of full age and growth—and not wild turkeys, either. Mr. John Giles, of Woodstock, Ct., sent us a cock turkey a few weeks ago, which weighs thirty-three pounds,—a giant of a fellow,—and he walks the poultry-yard with the measured tread of an emperor. We shall see whether we cannot increase the size and excellence of our turkeys by choice breeding. At the English shows they have got turkeys up to forty pounds weight; and it will be a poor story, if, in the native country of the bird, with our fine, dry climate, and abundance of food, we cannot get him up to the standard of a climate less favourable to his development.

Many people suppose that the wild turkey is larger than the tame one. This is not so. Extraordinary exceptions have been found, when, in the height of the nutting season, with the wild bird at its fattest, a veteran gobbler has been shot that weighed thirty pounds or more. But well bred, at the same age, and in like condition, the tame turkey is the larger bird. We would, however, for a fresh cross, and to give the domestic turkeys additional stamina, prefer a dash of wild blood among them. It is wonderful to see the invigorating influences of the wild blood upon the tame in the first progeny. The style of the bird, in figure, plumage,

action—all are changed. A degree of self-reliance is added to the young things as they creep and dodge among the leaves, "shirking for themselves." One single cross is sufficient—that is—half blood. More than that, is apt to give them shy and rambling habits, as it takes several generations of domestication to make the wild turkey thoroughly tame.

The wild turkey is truly a noble bird. Standing erect upon the ground, surrounded by his harem of females; proud, defiant, confiding in his own strength and prowess; his gorgeous, metallic plumage glistening in the sun, no living bird is equal to him. Even the peacock, in all his attributes of beauty, will not rank with him. No wonder that Audubon grew eloquent, grand, and enthusiastic over his description.

As to colour—the natural—that of the wild is the most to our taste. We have tried all colours. Light-coloured birds are apt to be less hardy than dark, and the flesh less rich in appearance. Still, colour is not essential, when the bird is in all else satisfactory.

The Golden Spangled Hamburg.

THE criticisms of "Tristram Shandy," on the Golden Spangled Hamburg, in No. 22 of your useful periodical, are in my opinion calculated to enforce very erroneous opinions; and though the writer seems convinced of what he states, there are points on which I feel assured he is wholly mistaken. Such I opine to be the case when he affirms (his own hypothesis) "that long-tailed Golden Spangled Hamburgs" are necessarily "a cross between the black-breasted red game fowl and the true Hamburg." It is from such *positive* assertions as these that I plead a justification to speak with equal decision.

In the case of a correspondent who openly avows himself already "wholly satisfied that such fowls are mongrels," I have little hope of making a convert. It is, therefore, simply to prevent the extension

of error to the *uninitiated* that my observations are applied; for such parties, though they may be "delighted" at the onset, will certainly find their joy exchanged for disappointment when they have really tested "Tristram Shandy's" henny favourites by reproduction, or the trying ordeal of several (or many) of our principal Poultry Exhibitions.

It so happens that in my own locality, the Golden Spangled Hamburg (or, as they are more universally termed, the "Pheasant Fowl,") greatly abound; they having obtained well-merited repute for their egg-producing properties, and have consequently long been considered the most profitable of any variety to their owners, as naturally entailing far less expense than where chickens are to constitute the chief market produce. The means of such parties are generally limited; and so it has not unfrequently happened that a game cock has been "walked" for some other person, simply to obtain the sovereign per annum, that, by a few who still enjoy the excitement and cruelties of a cockpit, is freely offered for the privilege, to the complete *exclusion* of the male Hamburg. The *produce* thus raised is very frequently before me, I admit, a complete "mongrel"—"very gamy;" but never have I yet seen one solitary specimen that even a beginner would pronounce "*just* the long-tailed saddle-hackled Hamburg of the southern *fancy*."

In the case of *both* the parents, I am relying on perfect purity at the onset; and the first "cross" is such that no one possessing the knowledge of a real Hamburg could *mistake* for the bird "Tristram Shandy" so strongly repudiates; it is, on the contrary, as diametrically opposed as can well be conceived. The characteristics of the male parent, though modified, are distinctly visible to any practised eye. The gait partakes of that of the male bird; the rigidity of the feather renders the "cross" at once apparent (in the whole brood); the head is finer and smaller; and if this "cross" is carried out *another* generation, all

varieties of colours, combs, and general characters will *invariably* ensue.

It is not so with chickens from the male bird your correspondent "mongrelises;" the chickens may vary a trifle in colour, or markings (as all fowls will do occasionally), yet as a whole they will be identical, the only "variation" being an *unfrequent* "sport of nature," in one of those "henney" cocks so strongly extolled by your correspondent; but which (if itself tested by raising further broods) will infallibly at length revert in the reproduction of the very fowl from which itself was bred, and which "Tristram Shandy" decries so strongly.

I cordially agree that "some southern judges are still in the way" (*and northern ones too*), for I happen to have the pleasure of acquaintance with many of the principal judges of our present day, who would at once "disqualify" these birds; not from "having comparatively little knowledge, or having imbibed false doctrines," but from the time-tested conviction, that such specimens cannot be *generally* reproduced; and your readers may depend upon it, the "temporary stop-gap" will prove of far greater *durability*, and the time when "none but" the henney-tailed cocks are "to be judged" is far more *remote* than is opined by your correspondent, "Tristram Shandy."

ONE OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

The Poultry Judge.

"I will a plain unvarnished tale deliver."

THE poultry mania had existed in our town for some time, and I was not uncommonly the referee in cases of dispute. Still I had never acted as judge, and therefore in common with those who are in the same position, I criticised their decisions, and spoke of the delicacy that prevented me from openly giving my opinion. I shrugged my shoulders, learnedly shook my head, passed for an oracle among my associates, and wondered at the blindness

of committees in not seeing my merits, and availing themselves of my services. At this time I thought little of poultry judges, and inwardly longed for the day when I should appear the sun of the system.

I was not destined to wait long for the distinction; very soon afterwards a letter arrived inviting me to act. I had always thought much of poultry before, but now it assumed gigantic proportions. It was almost a solemn office, on my decision would depend large sums of money, my word would become a "fiat" and the distinction or extinction of a yard would depend upon it. Decidedly the office of judge even at a poultry show is an important one.

I now felt I must be cautious in giving my opinion, because it carried weight with it. I must decline to view people's birds because I should have to judge them hereafter. But I wished my fellow townsmen to know of my appointment. I walked out, and purposely threw myself in the way of those who would be likely to introduce the subject. The first I met immediately asked me to advise him on a knotty point. My dear friend, said I, I should indeed be glad to do so, but I am appointed judge at ———, and *we* make it a rule not do anything that can be afterwards thought to have influenced *our* judgments. I felt I was assuming a sort of superiority that did not belong to me, but I could not help it; he perceived it, answered in the same vein, and my visit ended in the loss of a good friend, and in my being called a "stuck up fellow whose head was turned." Common sense told me he was right, false pride whispered, it was the first tribute paid to incorruptibility in my new character. One ray of glory passed from my face, and one line of care took its place. I do not pledge myself to follow the narration of my experiences without sometimes deviating, but such wanderings shall bear on the subject.

I recollect reading some time since in a French paper, that the National Guard of Paris after the revolution of 1848, when every man, of every height, disposition and calling, was in spite of himself a member of

that force, had the guard of the public buildings entrusted to them. One of them was placed at a gate of the Tuileries with orders to let no one enter. The same respectable military functionary figured a few hours afterwards before a court-martial for allowing six people to pass. After the prosecutor had done, and the president had frowningly asked him for his defence, he said "I beg your pardon, colonel, I represent two distinct men, one a national guard, the other a hatter. In the first character, I refused to allow the people in question to go in, but when appealed to as a hatter by a customer, and threatened with the loss of his custom, I allowed an annual order for two hats and six caps to pass." The defence was ingenious, but the culprit was sentenced to three days imprisonment. In my judicial importance and severity, I forgot my friend was a valuable customer, and I lost his favours. The national guard, and the poultry judge are alike public characters, and private interests must not sway them.

A lady friend of mine dislikes "Vanity Fair" that most excellent work of Thackeray's because it is "too true," and perhaps some poultry judges may say my picture is overdrawn. It may be so in their cases because they are stronger minded than myself, I merely commit my own feelings to paper.

Naked truths are like naked pictures and statues, only fit for certain people to hear or see. Their unfitness lies not in any deformity, because they may represent perfection in every way, but the fault is with the auditors and spectators, who dress both from their own wardrobes.

A week elapsed between the receipt of the letter of invitation and my departure for the scene of my duties. I admit I thought of little else, and if I were to point out the period of my life when I attended least to my business I should say it was this week. I now studied the prize list, and found I had to adjudicate in forty-two classes. I had misgivings; I had for years kept two or three breeds, and felt satisfied

I was master of them, but here were endless varieties, and I could but recollect that the exhibitors of each were as conversant with theirs as I was with mine. My late friend had quizzed me all over the town. My aspersions on poultry judges were now visited on myself, and I more than half regretted my former insignificance.

(To be continued).

The Golden Spangled Hamburg.

THE following prescription may, I think, be of use to "Tristram Shandy" and some Yorkshire go-a-head amateurs in breeding the short-tailed, spangled, saddle-hackled golden Hamburgs. Take a good-sized Sebright Bantam cock, and put him to a true Hamburg hen; take a small Hamburg cock, and put him to a large Sebright bantam hen. Again, put their produce together—and although a few of the chickens will be very *bantamy*, yet a great portion will be just the short-tailed, saddle-hackled Hamburgs of "Tristram Shandy" and the Yorkshire go-a-heads; and my opinion is

"Before they've tried it very long,
They will confess they're in the wrong."

LONGTAIL.

Poultry for all Classes.

THERE is one point in connexion with the addition of poultry to the Royal Agricultural Society's show which seems to have escaped most persons. It is that it enables the lower classes to enter into competition with the higher, and thus continues to rivet the links of that chain, which, embracing every grade of society in England tends so much to the security of her institutions. We think it helps to make the society perfect, for among the names this year distinguished in the prize-list may be found those who from their position in life could never have competed in any other class. A society distinguished "par excellence" by royal patronage should embrace every class of subjects, and this now does so.

Cottage Poultry.

IN most counties the cottager is so intimately bound up with the farmer that a few observations on a source of gain to him may not be out of place, after the notes which have already appeared on farmer's stock.

The cottager's poultry must be looked at in a totally distinct manner from the farm-yard fowls, the facilities of the cottager being far less than those of the farmer; it may be as well to divide cottagers under two heads,—those renting or owning simply a cottage and garden, and those occupying the second or small homestead (or fodder-yard, as it is sometimes called) on a farm.

Let us take the last first. If a barn is attached to the premises, the farmer may, with some reason, object to his cottage tenant keeping any poultry of his own, as, however carefully locked the barn may be, misapprehensions arise which it is well to avoid; but here the farmer has an additional means of keeping a greater head of stock himself, and materially benefitting a labourer whose position he wishes to improve. At these second homesteads there is precisely the same run as at the farm-yard; but it is only so far different from the farm that it is not under the immediate eye of the farmer's wife, and it may be used for breeding such few stock as the farmer does not wish to mix with his own—the Brahmans and Cochins for instance—where, by adopting one of the systems to be presently mentioned, he will obtain, at a trifling cost, all the breeding pullets he requires; or, acting upon the same principle, enable him to keep a distinct variety, game, Spanish, or any other of the many excellent sorts there are which do not come under the denomination of "farm-yard stock."

But, to return to the cottager possessing only his back-yard and garden, we must consider whether breeding *early* chickens, a supply of *winter* eggs, or a *constant* supply of eggs are most suited. Every locality will have its different want; but, as a general rule, the winter eggs and early chickens

will be found to answer the cottager better than any other system.

Surrounded, as cottage premises generally are, by neighbours who resent the intrusion of anything not belonging to themselves, the fowls must either be confined in some very small space, have their wings cut, or be of a kind disposed to remain at home and unable to fly. For a very considerable portion of the year the limited number of birds likely to be kept by a cottager will do little harm and some good in his garden; and, however excellent Spanish or Hamburgs may be as perpetual layers—which term, perhaps, arises as much from their never or rarely wanting to sit, as from their actual laying qualities—they have the disadvantage for cottage purposes of being active birds, and the latter certainly do not bear close quarters well. The varieties which seem pointed out as combining excellent layers, good mothers, and docile, unflitting birds are the Cochin and Brahma. Without entering into any controversy as to the distinctness of the Brahma from the Cochin, in nature and habit they are so much alike that they will equally suit the cottager. It will be very desirable for him not to overstock himself. Let him procure in October three large heavy early pullets, and a large cock a year and a half old. He may fairly calculate that these birds will begin to lay in November. The earlier eggs should be sold; and if broody hens can be obtained in the middle of December, let seven or eight eggs be placed under each of them. It will be a great risk to set more in such a cold period, when both eggs and chickens require the fullest covering the hens can give them; and by the first week in January a brood will be obtained. It is most advantageous for the cottager to buy or borrow a hen to set the eggs under, as in all probability his own pullets will not become broody in sufficient time to bring out very early broods; and, in the meantime, the eggs which they will continue laying will be a very great source of profit.

Should the cottager not require chickens, he will be amply supplied with eggs with-

out a male bird, but a combination of eggs and chickens will be found more profitable; and if two cottagers could agree to keep one male bird between them, and let him run every alternate week with their different hens, they would save themselves expense, both in the original outlay and cost of keep. To follow this principle, it would be essential that there should be a *distinct* understanding as to the manner of the partnership. The simplest would be, that each party should join in the expense of obtaining it; that the first who has it should be bound to *take* it to the other at the expiration of the first week, the second cottager *returning* it at the expiration of his week, and so on. This plan, if continually carried out, will, for obvious reasons, answer well. Should the bird be ill, the cottager who has it at the commencement of its illness should keep it till cured. Should it die, *let it be buried*, and on no account say a word about it, or difference of opinion may ripen into a quarrel.

There are various means by which a cottager may be first started with his stock, which will be mentioned hereafter.

W. M. S.

Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

At the Summer Exhibition of Flowers, Fruits, Vegetables, and Poultry, held in the New Vegetable Market, on Wednesday, the 19th of July, the following premiums were awarded:—

POULTRY PRIZES.

CLASS 1.—BLACK SPANISH.

Best cock and two hens (Minorca) Mr. Th. Aubin 5 s.

CLASS 2.—BLACK SPANISH CHICKENS.

Best cock and two pullets, Mr. Clement Du Pareq 3 s.

CLASS 3.—COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon and Buff).

Best cock and two hens,* Mr. Clement Du Pareq 5 s.
2nd best do. do.,...do.....Hon Premium.

CLASS 4.

Best cock and two pullets,* Mr. Clement Du Pareq 3 s.
2nd best do. do., do.....Hon. Premium

CLASS 5.—COCHIN CHINA (Brown, Partridge-feathered, White or Black.)

Best cock and two hens, Mr. Frs. Le Touzel 4 s.

CLASS 6.—(Most useful Cross-breed).

Best cock, hen, and chickens, Mr. Ths. Hayley 3 s.

N.B.—The birds marked (*) were also awarded the Cochin China cocks presented to the Society by a member.

Honorary cards and tickets, "Worthy of Commendation" were affixed to the undermentioned poultry:—

| | |
|--|----------|
| One cock and two hens (Cochin China), | } Hon. |
| Mr. N. Poingdestre..... |  | } Card. |
| One cock and two hens (game, black red), Mr. Godley..... | } Hon. |
| One cock and two hens (Cochin China, cinnamon) Mr. M. de la Taste | } Com- |
| One cock and two hens (silky breed) do.... | } mended |
| One cock and two hens (game, black red) do. | } do. |
| One cock and two hens (Cochin China, buff), Miss Hume | } do. |
| One cock and two hens (white bantam), Mr. Hayley | } do. |
| One cock and two hens (Minorca), Mr. N. Poingdestre | } do. |
| One cock and two hens (Cochin China, cinnamon), Mr. Frs. Le Touzel | } do. |
| One cock and two hens (game, blue), Mr. Godley | } do. |
| One cock and hen (do. do.), Mr. Jas. H. Robin | } do. |
| One cock and two hens (black Spanish), Mr. T. Dorey | } do. |
| One cock and two hens (golden bantam), Mr. J. Coutanche | } do. |
| One pair of carrier pigeons, do. | } do. |
| One pair of carrier pigeons, Mr. C. B. Saunders | } do. |

Judges for poultry: Messrs. W. Shayler and H. C. White.

G. L. CUMING, Hon. Sec.

Tavistock Poultry Exhibition.

THE second annual show of poultry at Tavistock, took place on Wednesday last. The fowls were exhibited in the light and commodious pens of the Devon and Cornwall Society for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry, which were hired and brought from Plymouth for the occasion. The show although not large was an improvement on that of last year. There were a hundred and ten pens.

In coloured Dorkings, old birds, there were five entries. The birds shown were fair average samples of the class, but hardly gray enough. There was one pair of grey with rose combs. The Dorking chickens were as a class still better than the elder birds, the seven pens entered comprised several of considerable merit. The first prize was awarded to a particularly nice pen, exhibited by Mr. Cornelius, to whose old birds the first prize was awarded.

There were five entries of Spanish, and although the birds shown were out of condition, the class as a whole was an improvement on the Spanish hitherto shown in Tavistock. The hens in the 1st prize pen were very good, and the cock in the second prize pen a perfectly white-faced, although in other respects not a first-class bird.

The Cochin China grown fowls, of which nine pens were entered, were an inferior lot. The chickens of the same class were almost equally deficient in merit; of the eight pens shown not one would have had a commendation at the larger and better established exhibitions.

Of game there were thirteen entries, and this class presented pens which would have stood a good chance at the best shows in the kingdom. Several of the pens were badly matched. One of the best cocks, a fine gray bird, was placed with two tasselled hens, no way a match for him, even had the tassels not been on their heads. Several of the pens shown, including the 2nd prize birds, belonged to cottagers.

The birds shown as Polands and Malays were not deserving the names. The Ban-

tams were all white and feather-legged. The 1st prize pen birds were handsome specimens of the class.

The Aylesbury ducks were good, and the prize pen of geese were fine, and, for their age, remarkably heavy birds.

The show of rabbits was, for the West of England, very good; the ears of the best were about 17 inches by 5.

The exhibition was visited by a large number of persons in the course of the day, and appeared to give general satisfaction.

The judges were: Mr. Terrell, of Ottery, Tavistock; and Mr. S. C. Parkhouse and Mr. William Hunt, of Plymouth.

The prizes were awarded as follows:—

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

DORKING (coloured).—For the best cock and two hens, Mr. W. Perry; 2nd prize, Mr. Ed. Cornelius, of Kelly, Tavistock. For the best cock and two hens (chickens, 1854), Mr. Ed. Cornelius; 2nd prize, E. H. Scobell, Esq., of Tavistock.

SPANISH.—For the best cock and two hens, Mr. Samuel Gale; 2nd prize, Mr. James Stannes, of Tavistock.

COCHIN CHINA.—For the best cock and two hens, E. H. Scobell, Esq.; 2nd prize, Mr. E. Cornelius. For the best cock and two hens (chickens, 1854), Mr. Josiah Metherell, Tavistock; 2nd prize, Mr. G. H. Smith.

GAME.—For the best cock and two hens, Mr. William Menhinick, Tavistock; 2nd prize, Mr. Collacott, Tavistock.

MINORCAS.—For the best cock and two hens, Mr. W. Lillicrap; no 2nd prize.

MALAYS.—For the best cock and two hens; 2nd prize; no prize awarded.

HAMBURG.—For the best cock and two hens, Mr. A. Mackey; 2nd prize, Mr. E. Cornelius; equal two 1st prizes.

POLANDS.—For the best cock and two hens; 2nd prize; no prize awarded.

BANTAMS.—For the best cock and two hens, Mr. John Adams, Endsleigh; 2nd prize, Master Walter Weekes, Ottery, Tavistock.

HYBRIDS (or barn-door fowls).—For the best cock and two hens, no 1st prize; 2nd prize, Mr. E. Cornelius.

DUCKS (Aylesbury).—For the best drake and two ducks, W. W. Rowe, Esq., Milton Abbott, Tavistock; 2nd prize, Miss Gill, Ottery. Any

other variety, the best drake and two ducks, Mr. T. Symons, Coryton; 2nd prize, Mr. John Spence.

GEESE.—For the best gander and two geese, W. W. Rowe, Esq.

TURKEYS.—For the best cock and two hens; 2nd prize; no prizes awarded.

Best couple of dead fowls (trussed). Best couple of dead ducks (trussed). No prizes awarded.

RABBITS.—For the best lop-eared, Mr. Wm. Doige, Tavistock. Best of any other kind, Mr. Luke Hoidge.

Poultry at the Selby Agricultural Show.

THE Selby and Tadcaster Agricultural Association held their first meeting at Selby on Friday, July 28th, and a most successful one it proved to be. The weather was beautiful, and the show ground crowded with admiring visitors. We will confine our observations to the poultry. There were about one hundred pens brought together; and among them were a few first-rate birds. In Spanish and Dorkings, there was nothing very particular, but the Rev. G. Hustler's buff Cochins were very first-rate, and superior to anything usually seen in this district. The same Exhibitor likewise gained the prize for a beautiful pen of chickens of this kind. There were a few good birds in the Game class, but as is so often remarked, badly matched. In the other classes were nothing particular, excepting a pen of very nice Brahmas, which took the 1st. prize in the class for any breed. E. Bond, Esq., of Leeds, acted as judge, and awarded the following prizes.

POULTRY PRIZES.

SPANISH—1st prize: Rev. Geo. Hustler, Appleton, Tadcaster. 2nd prize: Mr. Thos. Irvin, Howden.

DORKINGS.—1st prize: Rev. Geo. Hustler, 2nd prize: Mr. Wm Hindell, Barlby.

COCHIN CHINA.—1st prize: Rev. Geo. Hustler. 2nd prize: Mr. Geo. Sykes, Selby.

CHICKENS.—1st prize: Rev Geo. Hustler.

GAME.—1st prize: Mr. Thos. Jackson, Selby.

2nd prize: Wm. Mr. Bawter, Barlby. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize: Mr. Thos. Jackson.

GOLDEN SPANGLED HAMBURGS.—1st prize: Mr. Jos. Richardson, Thorne. **CHICKENS.**—ditto.

SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURGS.—1st prize: Mr. Jos. Richardson. 2nd prize: Mr. Wm. Atkinson, Tadcaster. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize: Mr. Jos. Richardson.

SILVER PENCILLED HAMBURGS.—2nd prize: Geo. Burton, Selby.

POLAND.—2nd prize: Mr. Geo. Hood, Selby.

ANY BREED OR CROSS.—1st prize: Rev. Geo. Hustler, (Brahma Pootras).—**CHICKENS.**—1st prize: Mr. B. B. Thompson, Tadcaster, (Cochins).

BANTAMS.—1st prize: Mr. T. B. Ireland, Tadcaster.

Cock (of any Breed or Cross).—1st prize: Mr. Geo. Palliser, York (Cochin).

PAIR OF HENS (of any Breed or Cross).—1st prize: Rev. Geo. Hustler, (Cochins).

GEESE.—1st prize: Mr. B. B. Thompson.

DUCKS.—1st prize: Mr. G. H. Thompson, Bolton.

TURKEYS.—1st prize: Mr. Joseph Vollans, Selby. 2nd prize: Mr. J. P. Toulson, Skipwith.

Poultry Exhibition at Wellington, Somerset.

THIS Exhibition of poultry, (above three hundred pens,) was held on the 3rd and 4th inst., in conjunction with a Fête Champêtre, and Fancy Bazaar, the whole of the assets to be appropriated to the very laudable purpose, "of aiding the building of Church National Schools at Wellington"; and from such being the case it very naturally obtained the sanction and ready assistance of all the surrounding gentry. Very great credit is due to the managing committee, for the care and attention paid by them to the poultry entrusted for exhibition, but the great danger of disappointment from the variable character of our climate, in reference to out-of-door shows, was here but too fully illustrated. At midday (the time for the public admission), on the 3rd inst., the rain commenced in heavy torrents, completely saturating the green-sward and rendering the access

to the grounds of the Rev. W. W. Palsman, (who had kindly placed them at the disposal of the committee), all but inaccessible, and it so continued until about 5 P. M., when abating a little, some thronged thither, but very few comparatively remaining, from the fear of taking severe colds; whilst the holiday attire of the ladies was painfully unaccordant with the state of the weather,—indeed many hundreds who had arrived at the Wellington Railway-Station, from the surrounding districts of Exeter, Bristol, &c., preferred rather to return homewards at once, by the following train, than venture onwards. From this cause a considerable amount was altogether lost to the funds; it is very gratifying notwithstanding to be enabled to say, a handsome surplus above expenses will even now be handed over; though for a time it was presumed "the whole would be an utter failure." This adds another proof as to the manifest advantages of tents, or other efficient shelter on such occasions.

The Band of the Royal Marines, from Portsmouth, attended by permission of Colonel Coryton; and for the first evening, arrangements had been made for an unexampled display of fireworks, among which were (literally) flights of rockets, by "the hundred"; concluding with a grand "illuminated piece," surrounded by stars of different coloured fires, encompassing the most *appropriate* motto, (composed of nearly seven thousand blue lights,) "Feed my Lambs." The fireworks were of course deferred till the following evening.

In the Spanish class, the first prize fell to the lot of Mrs. Lydia Stowe, her pen of fowls fully maintaining the high repute of her stock of this variety. The Dorkings were unusually excellent in character, and large in size. The chickens of this class have rarely, as a whole, been excelled. The adult class of Cochins (buffs) were indifferent, if we except the prize fowls; the chickens of this variety were very superior, and a numerous display; the two prize pens of "partridge or grouse-coloured,"

were also excellent; an *extra* prize was allotted to this somewhat neglected variety. The 1st prize Malays were excellent, both in quality and condition, the 2nd prize birds were deplorably out of feather. In the game classes were many first-rate groups; the principal prizes were taken by T. K. Robard, Esq., whose birds were (for the season) "in high condition"; many parties lost all chance of success in the chicken class, from placing *either too many, or too few specimens*, in their competing pens, a never failing cause of "disqualification." All the Hamburgs were excellent. The silver and golden Polands were very good, the black Polands scarcely equal to most Exhibitions. In the "extra class," were some superior specimens of Brahmas, White Spanish, and Black Hamburgs. The Bantams were, as a whole, indifferent, the Sebrights, from moulting, showing to sad disadvantage. The geese and Aylesbury ducks were far superior to the usual run; and the pigeon classes were both numerous and excellent. Mr. Edward Hewitt, of Spark Brook, Birmingham, officiated as judge of the poultry. We append the list of prizes:—

SPANISH, Class 1.—1st prize, Mrs. L. C. Stow, Bredon, near Tewkesbury; 2nd prize, W. W. Rowe, Milton Abbot, Tavistock. CHICKENS, Class 2.—Prize withheld.

DORRING, Class 3.—1st prize, Charles Harward, Hayne House, Plymtree, Devon; 2nd prize, Mrs. L. C. Stow. Extra prize.—J. S. Boden, Marland Cottage, Wellington (white); commended, Dr. Rogers, Honiton, and W. W. Rowe, Milton Abbot. CHICKENS, Class 4.—1st prize, C. Harward, Hayne House, Plymtree, Devon (grey); commended, F. J. Coleridge, the Cottage, Ottery St. Mary, near Honiton (white). The whole class meritorious.

COCHIN CHINA, Class 5 (partridge).—1st prize, Rev. G. F. Hodson, Barnwell, Somerset. 2nd prize.—Rev. G. F. Hodson. Class 6 (Buff).—1st prize, W. L. Channing, Heavitree, Exeter. 2nd prize, W. L. Channing. Class 7 (white or black).—1st prize, Cyrus Clark, Street, near Glastonbury; 2nd prize, Rev. G. H. Hutchinson, Charlton, Malmesbury. CHICKENS, Class 8 (any colour).—1st prize, Henry L. Bean, Ashcott,

Glastonbury (buff); extra prize, Rev. G. F. Hodson (grouse). Class meritorious.

MALAY, Class 9.—1st prize, T. B. Fairhead, Braintree, Essex; 2nd prize, Charles Balance, Mount Terrace, Taunton. **CHICKENS**, Class 10.—Charles Balance.

GAME, Class 11 (black, brassy-winged, black-breasted, and other reds).—1st prize, J. R. Rodbard, Aldwick Court, Langford, near Bristol; 2nd prize, Robert Russell Sewell, M. B., Bridgewater, Somerset; commended, Henry Sheild, Taunton. Class 12 (white, piles, greys, and blues).—1st prize, J. R. Rodbard; 2nd prize, W. Duncombe, Taunton. **CHICKENS** (any colour), Class 13.—Henry Sheild.

HAMBURGS, Class 14 (gold-pencilled).—1st prize, F. Pattison, Feniton Court, near Honiton; 2nd prize, Mrs. B. J. Ford, Ide, near Exeter; commended, W. W. Rowe. Class 15 (silver pencilled).—1st prize, W. W. Rowe; 2nd prize, F. H. Aberdeen, Honiton; commended, T. Michelmores, jun., Berry, Totnes. Class 16 (gold spangled).—1st prize, C. Edwards, Brislington; 2nd prize, Walter Hugo, Albert Villa, Mount Radford, Exeter. Class 17 (silver spangled). 1st prize, C. Edwards; 2nd prize, W. R. Gee, Stearthisfield, Paington, Devon. The Hamburg Classes highly meritorious.

POLAND, Class 18 (gold spangled), 1st prize.—R. H. Bush, Ashton Lodge, near Bath; 2nd prize, Stephen Towan, Plymouth. Class 19 (silver spangled).—1st prize, P. Jones, Fulham; 2nd prize, Rev. J. H. Gandy, Old Cleve, Taunton; commended, C. Edwards. A highly meritorious class.

BLACK POLAND, Class 20 (with white crests).—1st prize, J. Buncombe, Wellington; 2nd prize, C. Edwards.

ANY DISTINCT BREED, Class 21.—1st prize, W. L. Channing (white Spanish); 2nd prize, T. M. Gunn, Bridport, Dorset (black Hamburg); commended, J. Marshall, Belmont, Taunton (Brahma Pootra).

BANTAMS, Class 22 (gold laced).—1st prize, J. G. Gully, Queen Street, Exeter; 2nd prize, Rev. G. F. Hodson. Class 23 (silver laced).—Rev. G. F. Hodson. Class 24 (black).—Rev. G. F. Hodson, Charles Balance. Class 25 (white).—John Gough, Congresbury.

TURKEYS, Class 26.—J. R. Rodbard (American).—Only one entry.

GESE, Class 27.—1st prize, T. Valentine, Preston Farm, Uppottery, Devon; 2nd prize, W. W. Rowe.

DUCKS, Class 28 (Aylesbury).—1st prize, Mrs. B. J. Ford; 2nd prize, Hon. Greville Howard, Lydiard, Swindon; commended, C. Edwards and H. L. Bean.—Whole class meritorious. Class 29 (Rouven).—1st prize, Miss Steele Perkins, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham; 2nd prize, Charles Balance.—This class indifferent. Class 30 (any variety).—1st prize, J. Marshall (Buenos Ayres); 2nd prize, W. H. Mayo, Taunton (white decoy); commended, D. C. Fox, Swallowfield, Wellington (Buenos Ayres).

PIGEONS, (carriers).—S. Summerhayes, Taunton; commended, C. R. Titterton, Snow Hill, Birmingham, and W. J. Square, Plymouth. Tumbler.—Dr. Rogers, Honiton; commended, C. R. Titterton. Runts.—T. Twose, Bridgewater. Fantails.—S. Summerhayes; commended, C. Bluett, Taunton. Pouters.—C. R. Titterton; commended, S. Summerhayes. Barbs.—C. Bluett; commended, S. Summerhayes. Jacobins.—Dr. Rogers; commended, C. R. Titterton. Trumblers.—H. Child, jun., Balsall Heath, Birmingham. Owls.—Rev. G. F. Hodson; commended, C. R. Titterton. Nuns.—Miss S. Northcote, Upton Pyne, Exeter; commended, T. Twose. Turbits.—Charles Bluett; (any variety) S. Summerhayes; commended, H. Child and Dr. Rogers.

In the extra stock a pen of silver spangled Poland chickens was commended, belonging to Mr. J. Buncombe, Wellington.

Exhibition Fowls.

BY PERMISSION FROM MR. BAILLY'S "FOWLS."

No. 2.—DORKING.

COCKS.

Black breast, or black spotted with white. Black tail, or mixed with white. Hackle. Light saddle.

HENS.

Grey, slate colour, silver, ash, cobweb speckled, with darker light colour. Any colour but brown.

CUCKOO.

Cock and Pullets alike.

Red Speckled.

COCKS.

Black breasted, red or red and white speckled. Tail black, or black and white. Red hackle. Red saddle.

HENS.

Brown. Brown with white speckle. Brown with dark speckle.

Imperative Rules.

Uniformity of combs. White legs. Well defined five claws on each foot. Size and weight very important, and body, if deprived of neck, tail and legs, bearing more resemblance to a square than any other fowl.

HAMBRO' FOWLS.

Pencilled.

COCKS.

Double comb full of points, ending in a large one at the end turned up. No hollow in the centre of it. White deaf-ear. Ample tail, foundation colour black, but the sickle feathers silvered at the edge. White body, save sometimes a little spotting towards the hinder parts, or a chestnut on the wing.

Gold same as silver, substituting yellow for white, except in the deaf-ear, which would be white in both varieties.

Imperative Rules.

Ample florid double combs; white deaf-ears; taper blue legs. Very cheerful carriage. Size and weight are not essential.

Works on Pigeons,

AND FOOD FOR THEM.

J. T. C. wishes to know which is the best and cheapest work on pigeons. Mr. J. M. Eaton's "Treatise on Tame, Domesticated, and Fancy Pigeons," price 10s., with plates, to be obtained of the author, 7, Islington Green, London, is the best work I know of. Mr. Eaton deserves the thanks of all pigeon fanciers for rescuing from the cobwebs and oblivion the original work of Mr. John Moore; to which he has added, in the most honourable way, all the additions of subsequent authors, acknowledging each: and the author has also added an excellent treatise on the Almond Tumbler. Mr. E., however, confesses himself no friend to Toy pigeons, as may be

judged by his short remarks on them under the head of Porcelain: nor does it appear to me that Mr. E. has a correct idea of the true Antwerp, mistaking, as he does, the cross-bred birds for the original; still Mr. Eaton's work is the best,

"The Pigeon Fancier's Guide," by J. Rodgers, and published by Dean and Co., Threadneedle Street, London, at one shilling, is the cheapest; but I do not consider it original.

I know of no English work that contains a description of the more recently introduced varieties of Toy pigeons; but a German one, "Das Ganze der Taubenzucht," by Gottlob Neumeister, with coloured plates, published by Bernhard Friedrich Voigt, Weimar, in 1837, contains full and excellent descriptions of them.

With respect to food, good authorities recommend good old tares and small tick beans. From my own experience I prefer the small bean ("Heligolands") with an occasional change of lentils, peas, wheat, or Indian corn ("Maize"); but pigeons will eat all sorts of grain, and seeds, and do very well on almost any kind, provided they have their liberty, and can find such condiments as small stones, grit, lime in some form, and green food. B. P. B.

A Game Breeder's Ideas of the Sitter's Influence.

A FANCIER of game fowls, and one who has fought many mains, informs me that he considers it all important, in breeding for the pit, to set a hen on her own eggs, or that they should be hatched under hens of the same breed. The argument used is that, inasmuch as the egg is porous, and the chick could not be hatched if the pores were closed with grease or other material, it necessarily absorbs with the heat of the hen some portion of her moisture, or nature, as he terms it; and that he has frequently had game cocks hatched under hens of other breeds, and though they were plucky and fought well a game or two, yet they invari-

ably, in the long run, showed the white feather and bolted, which he rarely knew a thoroughbred bird to do. If my informant's notions are correct, it behoves those who wish to breed first-class birds of *any breed* to attend to this suggestion, as it is equally probable that the form or feather may be affected if the *natural* habits of the bird are changed.

Boston.

C. P.

Good Condition.

There is no better preservative against the attack of many diseases, both in animals and plants, than such a mode of feeding and care as produces what is generally understood by the phrase 'good condition.' Somewhere lately we met with a statement to the effect that the writer was inclined to depend more upon having his sheep in good condition, as a mode of escaping the destructive effects of grub in the head, than upon any specific remedy or preventive application; and is it not likely that poor poultry will be more annoyed with vermin than those which are well cared for?

DIALECTS OF BIRDS.—I believe there is a dialect in the songs of birds. The songs, for example, of a thrush near London, or in any of the home counties, has little resemblance, except in tone and specific character, to that of the same bird in Devonshire, or near Exeter. The same notes, I suppose, will all of them be detected, but they are arranged for the most part in a different tune, and are not sung in the same way. They are given with different values, and the singing is pitched in a different key. One great distinction between the two cases is the number of guttural notes, of which the song of a Devonshire thrush is often made up, but which near London are heard only at the end of a bar, or even much less frequently; while those chief notes which mainly constitute the song of the other bird, and make it so impressive, are rarely pronounced by the Devonshire thrush.—*Jesse's Country Life.*

Bridgnorth Agricultural Association.

A SOCIETY has been established at Bridgnorth for the purpose of holding annual exhibitions of stock and agricultural implements; to give prizes for the best growing crops of turnips and other roots, and for specimens shown at the general meeting; to encourage and reward the exertions of agricultural labourers; and to present bounties to meritorious household servants. It is intended, also, that the committee of management shall correspond with, and promote, as far as possible, the objects of the Royal Agricultural Society of England—a novel feature, but one worthy of the highest commendation. We are informed that the promises of support already received are most satisfactory, and leave no doubt that the society will be of a permanent character. It is proposed to hold the first exhibition on the 12th of October next; and a prize list, on a liberal scale, has been for some time in circulation. This list, we are glad to perceive, includes domestic poultry, 1st prizes of £1 10s. and 2nd prizes of 10s. being offered in no less than twenty-one classes—amply sufficient to ensure a good collection, and render the show highly attractive.—*Midland Counties Herald.*

Artificial Hatching.

A NEW apparatus for artificial hatching has been constructed by Mr. C. Minasi, which is so well described in the "Morning Post," that we cannot do better than extract the passage.

"Mr. Carlo Minasi has effected a great improvement in the artificial process of hatching chickens. This new incubator is a very simple contrivance, and can, consequently, be constructed at about one-fourth of the expense formerly required. The practical results are equally satisfactory, for he states that the average number of birds produced is eighty out of every one hundred eggs. The necessary heat is obtained from a naphtha lamp, without a wick,

which is so arranged that it may be left to itself for two or three days together, and yet the process of hatching goes on with due regularity and certainty. The eggs are placed on a series of tubes, through which a stream of hot water is, by means of the naphtha lamp, kept constantly flowing; and, when the chicken comes out of the shell, it is placed beneath the same tubes, which now perform the second duty of the artificial parent. After being kept there the proper time, it is removed to a compartment more suited to its increasing strength, and is ultimately placed in a pen in the open air. Mr. Carlo Minasi has not confined his operations to mere barn-door fowls, but has taken a flight into the regions of what may be termed scientific natural history, and displays, with satisfaction, as a proof of his skill, a very healthy specimen of the barnacle goose, which is to be an addition to the Ornithological Society's collection in the Regent's Park. The enthusiastic pursuit of his art does not allow Mr. Carlo Minasi to stop here, for his success has excited his ambition even to the incubation of the egg of an ostrich, which he feels quite confident he could accomplish. Should it prove so, it would be advisable, before the time arrived to welcome the little long-legged stranger, to remind the establishment of the old maxim—and the occasion on which it was used—of "Every one for himself," as the donkey said when he danced among the chickens—to prevent serious doings in that miniature poultry yard. However, without waiting for the fulfilment of the great object of Mr. Carlo Minasi's highest aspirations, his apparatus will be found very interesting, and is fully explained by him, at his residence, No. 16, Brecknock Place, Camden Road, where it is in constant operation. When we inspected it, several of the chickens had, by a star on the shell, announced their first appearance in public on the following day."—*Morning Post*, August 2.

The improvement on the old plan is, that the present invention will come cheaper and

require less frequent attention, than those which have before been used. We certainly never saw chickens (without a mother), appear so happy and comfortable as these of Mr. Minasi. He considers that he will be able to sell the machines from £5 upwards.

The eggs are half-embedded in sand, which is placed over the tubes, charged with hot water, so that it is an under heat which performs the hatching. Mr. Minasi informed us, that from being thus embedded the same heat only as that of the hen is required; whereas, in incubators in which the eggs are not so embedded, the heat is obliged to be greater, from which the chickens suffer in strength.

The naphtha consumed during the three weeks of incubation is about a gallon, which may be purchased for 3s. 6d.

Nugæ Rusticæ.

TRIFLES, ORIGINAL AND SELECT, FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF A DERBYSHIRE YEOMAN.

The Fifth Claw of the Dorking Fowl: A Disquisition.

THE Royal Agricultural Society's Prize Essay on Poultry teaches us that "The fowls of this breed have five toes on each foot, a peculiarity, if absent, denoting impurity of blood." This opinion should have been qualified, or might have been given as an opinion, rather than in the dogmatic form of an undoubted matter of fact. It would have been prudent to have cautioned purchasers from buying a so-called Dorking fowl with four toes; but as a matter of fact, the above statement is fallacious. Birds of the very pure strain sometimes produce chickens with four toes only, and this peculiarity occasionally occurs to a large extent; in the year 1852, my Dorking fowls, of whose purity, through many generations at least, there could not be the slightest doubt, produced one-fourth of their chickens with four toes—an incident which never occurred with the same fowls before, nor did it transpire in 1853, although

no change in their management had taken place. In the same season large numbers of the chickens had five toes on one foot and four on the other; while several had six toes on one foot and four on the opposite. Neither will the converse hold good—the fifth toe being by no means a test of purity; for it will show itself through several generations by one cross of Dorking blood. In the same year in which my pure-bred Dorkings produced chickens defective in the number of their claws, some *half-bred* chickens presented this peculiarity in a redundant degree—the cockerels with the plumage, gait, and figure of their sire, a game fowl, possessed the fifth toe of extreme length and size; and nothing is more common than to perceive this supernumerary member on the feet of barn-door fowls, which contain in their veins as much variety of “blood” as is to be found in a Yankee. Yesterday, for instance, I saw in the yard of a farmer a fowl which resembled a Spangled Hamburg in colour, but it possessed a fifth toe, and was the offspring of a white game-cock with a gray spangled fowl not a Dorking, but probably possessing through some remote ancestor a faint trace of that breed. Is not the fifth toe, after all, an “abnormal” and useless growth? Did it not spring up originally as a surplus appendage in some fowl of great size, and become stamped by hereditary descent through many generations, so as to become almost a fixed type, through parties breeding from the *large* hen, because of her *size*, and not for the purpose of securing this supplementary member to the locomotive organ?

Some ardent disciples of Natural Theology might be offended with the above remarks, and indignantly repudiate any such thing as a surplussage in the works of nature. The good Dr. Paley, in his zeal to explain all things, could describe the use of one organ in the human body as being “a *stuffing*, a soft cushion to fill up a vacancy, or hollow, which unless occupied would leave the package loose and untidy,”—overlooking the fact that such a clumsy

expedient rather dimmed than exalted the skill of the Workman. In like manner, he described the use of two large curved teeth which emerge from the upper jaw of the Babyroussa, or wild hog, as being to support the head of the animal when asleep: “he sleeps standing, and the curved processes are hooked upon the branches of trees to support his head.” Recent research has proved that the wild hog does not ordinarily sleep standing, nor are the huge, curved, and extraordinary bony processes on his head ever used for the purposes described. How much better to confess our ignorance, than to resort to such wild explanations as the above. We know that man has had “*dominion*” given to him over all living things, and can perpetuate any “malformation” which may accidentally spring up, nay, he does so when it serves his purpose. In the Annals of Philosophy we are told, that a ram accidentally produced on a farm in Connecticut, with elbow-shaped fore legs, and a great shortness and weakness of joint indeed, in all four extremities, was selected for breeding purposes, and that a flock was thus procured which was unable to climb over fences. Again, by excluding all black sheep from the breeding pen, we have white flocks; it is equally certain we might have entire black ones, if the opposite plan were pursued. Can any one maintain that long horns curving into and growing through the cheeks of the bovine tribe are other than a natural defect, and yet how common was this in the palmy days of the almost extinct “Long Horns” of Bakewell, Princep, and Mundy? Horace, who flourished in the Augustan age, some two thousand years ago, sang that the brave were created by the brave and good, and that the converse is equally true, indeed the poet has said—

“*Ebrii gignunt ebrios;*”

and we are sure that we can at any time produce *hair* or *wool* on the backs of sheep, by selecting for the first the wild sheep of Ethiopia or Siberia, and for the second the

beautiful sheep of Mr. Sandys, or the native animals of Thibet. But enough—my neighbour, who reads the "Reporter," as he smokes his pipe on a Friday evening, is already exclaiming, What on earth has Dr. Paley and Horace and wild hogs, and long-horns, and Siberian sheep to do with the fifth claw of the Dorking fowl? Much every way, they intimate that a natural defect may have been perpetuated in the desire to secure other qualities of a high character with which this supernumerary appendage happened to be associated. That it is a defect (if such a paradoxical term may be applied to a thing in excess), is certain, for some high-bred chickens now before me, have great difficulty in walking, in consequence of these prolongations from each foot becoming entangled with each other; and suffer some pain from the abrasion which constant friction has produced upon each supernumerary toe.—*By permission of the Author.*

The Editor's Letter-Box.

PRIZE AWARDS TO GEESSE AT LINCOLN.

SIR,—I take the liberty of calling your attention to an error inadvertently fallen into by the reporters of the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Lincoln. In the class for poultry, and under the head "Geese," I find in the several papers I have perused, and also in your own excellent little work, "The Poultry Chronicle," that the *second prize* is stated as having been awarded to Mrs. Harriet Hill, New House, *Walton-on-Thames*, instead of Mrs. H. Hill, New House, Stretton Grandsome, Herefordshire; you also remark that Mrs. Townley Parker always takes the first prize. Now, Sir, although I have no wish to *diminish* the honour of that lady, allow me to say as a friend of Mrs. Hill, who is a subscriber to your "Chronicle," and has obtained you many more, myself amongst the number, that Mrs. Hill took the *first* and *second* prize at Birmingham last show, and the *first* at the previous exhibition, one lot of which was purchased by Mr. Parker, and the others I have reason to believe are in the possession of royalty; not only so, but I believe that the successful birds at Lincoln were descended from her flock. There were no birds of the *bona fide* age of Mrs. Hill's in the show at Lincoln equal

to hers; and you will see, when the Birmingham show comes round, at which the supply is better and the competition greater than at any other show in the kingdom, whose will carry off the palm. As a friend of Mrs. Hill, and one who takes considerable interest in the subject, having succeeded at one of the best shows in mid-west England, I respectfully ask you to be kind enough to correct the error in your next.—I am yours obediently. C. W. R.

[We regret to say that this letter arrived too late for insertion last week.—Ed.]

SIZE ONE POINT IN THE SEBRIGHT.

MR. EDITOR,—As probably there may be a great competition at the Aylesbury poultry show, through having a so well-arranged schedule, can you inform me whether the judges will be requested to judge upon every merit upon the Sebright bantam? I mean, by weight also, as at the Sebright show every February. Your answer will oblige a constant subscriber,
Herts. H. F.

FOXES.

MR. EDITOR,—What is to be done about the foxes? In this neighbourhood they abound, and I believe have already devoured several hundreds of chickens. One farmer's wife said to me the other day, "I have not reared any chickens this year, ma'am; for 'tis no use feeding them, for the foxes."

The advice given to farmers in the "Poultry Chronicle" is excellent; but if foxes are not restrained within reasonable bounds, I fear "farm-yard poultry" will soon cease to exist in this locality. Amateurs, too, will be greatly discouraged, for it is well known that a large number of fowls cannot be profitably kept without a good range, and the foxes condemn ours to strict confinement. Not only do they steal at night, or in the early morning, but they prowls about during the day, come close to the houses, and carry off valuable early Dorkings, &c. &c., before your face. The neighbouring woods are full of rabbits, but the foxes prefer well-fed poultry to anything else. Now, the question is, can anything be done?—if not, we must make up our minds to bear it, get rid of our Dorkings, and keep only Cochin Chinas, as they can bear confinement.

With extensive runs for several breeds, with first-rate stock, and hundreds of healthy chickens, I had hoped to revel in all the joys of successful poultry keeping, till disappointment met me in the shape of these cruel foxes. I fear even the "Poultry Chronicle" cannot help me, but it is some comfort to tell one's troubles; and I am

sure you, Mr. Editor, will feel compassion for yours obediently,
A SUBSCRIBER.

["A Subscriber" will see by "A. J. H.'s" account of how the law stands, that she may (by deputy) shoot and destroy foxes.—ED.]

TURKEYS.

IN selecting breeding stock, what aged birds should be preferred, and what should be the weight at different ages? Mr. Fairlie, I believe, recommends never to breed from a turkey cock less than twelve months old, and to procure a fresh one invariably every season. This is so contrary to the practice with other poultry, that I should be glad to be informed whether a very fine male bird, two years old, should be discarded after his first breeding season, or whether he should be retained and fresh hens given to him.

J. T. SISSEY, near Boston.

[We should be very unwilling to banish a very superior bird, but in-breeding must be avoided, we believe, in turkeys even more than in other poultry.—ED.]

SMOKING THE CHICKEN.

MR. EDITOR.—When we derive any benefit from following advice, it is but fair, in requital, both to acknowledge the favour, and to pass on our further experience to others, in confirmation of the goodness of the said advice.

I had three eggs from an Indian Bantam, newly imported, set under a Cochin China hen, who had done her duty so badly, that I had very little expectation of chickens; but, when the time for hatching arrived, a chick was found, thrown out of the nest, quite cold, and apparently lifeless. I picked up what I thought the dead chick, and, recollecting H. H.'s advice, "Poultry Chronicle," page 199, I had it held in the smoke of the kitchen fire (a coal-fire, by the way,) until it opened its beak, which was not until the holder was glad to remove her hand from the heat by placing the chicken in an open-work basket. When it began to breathe it was held in a warm hand until quite recovered, and nursed about from one member of the family to another until night, when a Cochin China hen, which had been sitting some days, was beguiled into taking charge of it. It is now above a fortnight old, and is well and hearty.—Yours truly,

B. A.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE unfavourable state of the weather, and the approaching termination of the London season, are taking effect on the demand for poultry. The supply is large,

and the trade dull; but the market is not glutted.

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------------|-----------|
| Large Fowls | 5s. | 6d. to 6s. | 6d. each. |
| Smaller do. | 3s. | 6d. to 4s. | 6d. " |
| Chickens | 2s. | 6d. to 3s. | 0d. " |
| Geese | 5s. | 6d. to 6s. | 6d. each. |
| Ducks | 3s. | 0d. to 3s. | 3d. " |
| Rabbits | 1s. | 6d. | " " |
| Wild ditto | | 10d. to 1s. | 0d. " |
| Pigeons | 0s. | 8d. to 0s. | 10d. " |
| Leverets | 4s. | 0d. to 5s. | 0d. " |
| Quails | 1s. | 3d. to 1s. | 6d. " |

To Correspondents.

M. B. H. would be much obliged if any correspondent to the "Poultry Chronicle" could describe a kind of fowl called the "Princesses' fowls."

A lover of Game Fowl writes, "would 'Cockspur' continue his excellent articles by telling your readers about the different colours, piles, reds, &c."

A. Z.—We believe the first Ancona fowls were imported by Mr. Barber. If we are wrong, we shall be much obliged to any correspondent who will set us right.

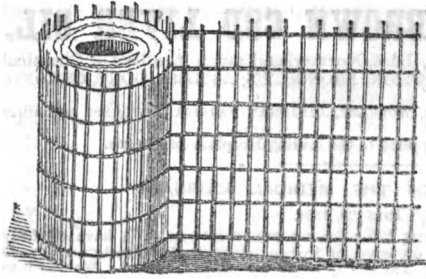
A Reformer suggests that it would be a great improvement to the Catalogue of the Birmingham and other large shows, if an additional page could be given with an alphabetical list of Exhibitors, after the fashion of that in the catalogue of the pictures in the Royal Academy's Exhibition.

M. D.—The number of pens of poultry (without pigeons) in 1852, was 1018.

Advertisements.

FOWLS.—By JOHN BAILY. Just Published, the Second Edition of the above work, with which is reprinted the Fourth Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," corrected, revised, and considerably enlarged. It contains descriptive Tables of all the Fowls now exhibited, giving in few words their chief points and qualifications, with copious rules for their selection and management. Price 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.
JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

NORFOLK AND EASTERN COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF POULTRY.—President, THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF LEICESTER, Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk.—The Exhibition of the above Association will take place in the City of Norwich, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 14th, 15th, and 16th of November, 1854, when prizes to the amount of upwards of ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS will be awarded. Prize Lists, Forms of Entry, &c., &c., will shortly be ready.
CHARLES OURY, Hon. Sec.
London Street, Norwich.



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Also, Sitings of Eggs, at 10s., Package included. A few Sitings of Eggs from **Corican Fowls** can be had, and the Stock seen, by applying to **C. COLLES**, Coach Builder, Farcham, Hants.

SPANISH COCKRELLS Warranted from Prize White-faced Birds.—Some Strong promising young Cockrells to be Sold, for want of space, 5s. to 7s. 6d. each; Age, Three Months. To be seen daily.
Address, **Mr. C. W. MAISEY**, 3, Oilney Place, Cheltenham. For reply enclose Stamped Address. Birds not approved, retaken.

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FANCY POULTRY, &c.—**MR. J. B. MAY** will **SELL** by **AUCTION**, on Wednesday, Aug. 16, 1854, at Twelve for One o'clock precisely, upon the grounds of **Egypt House**, Cowes, Isle of Wight, a valuable collection of about Two Hundred First-class **FOWLS** and **CHICKENS**, the Stock of **Mr. W. SAUNDERS**, including some known birds, and comprising **Dorkings**, **Brahma Pootras**, **Spanish**, **Gama**, **Cochin China**, **White** and **Coloured**, **Golden** and **Silver Hamburgs**, **White Spanish**, **White** and **Black Bantams**, **Ducks**, and **Rabbits**.—Catalogues to be had on application to the Auctioneer, **Cowes**, or **Mr. SAUNDERS**.

All the Stock will be eligible for entry at the **Southampton** and subsequent Shows.

N.B. The hour of Sale is fixed to allow of parties coming and returning easily by the various Steam-boats.

MR. H. D. DAVIES has much pleasure in allowing any one to see his Stock of Poultry; but some inconvenience having arisen from the visits of persons altogether unknown, and at unseasonable hours, those Ladies or Gentlemen who may wish to see the Birds are requested to favour **Mr. DAVIES** previously with their name and address, when a Card of Admission will be immediately forwarded. In future no person can be admitted to the Poultry Yard without producing such a Card; or at any other hours than those named for the purpose.

Spring Grove House, Hounslow.

PRIZE PIGEONS.—To be Sold, cheap, a **PAIR** of **FANTAILS**, Prize Birds, at **Yarmouth**, 1853; commended at **Cheltenham** and **Bath**, 1854.

Also, some **Pouters**, including the **Prize Hen** at the **London Summer Show**, 1853; and a **Pair** of **Jacobins**.
H. H. SWIFT, Purton, near **Swindon**, **Wiltshire**.

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Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d.; 2 yards wide, 3d.; and 4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 20s., sent carriage free. Orders by post, with remittance, punctually attended to.

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EXTRACTS FROM OPINIONS OF THE MEDICAL JOURNALS.

"THE LANCET," JULY 29, 1854.

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"THE MEDICAL CIRCULAR," MAY 10, 1854.

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for 1854, bred from the Prize Birds at Bath, Cheltenham, and Lincoln, and other first-rate Stock; as also some BRAHMA POOTRA CHICKENS, and WHITE AYLESBURY DUCKS, are now on Sale, and may be had by Amateurs and others wishing to improve their Stock of Poultry, on application, by letter, p. p. to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, Spring Grove House, Hounslow.

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Gentleman Amateur can part with a few surplus Birds of the above sort, from this year's broods.

The White Musk Duck of Peru is very fond of water, grows to a great size, lays eggs large and plentifully, is very ornamental, and also profitable for the table.

For particulars apply, pre-paid, to the Rev. C. W. D., Post-office, Crediton, Devon.

THE DORSETSHIRE POULTRY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, OPEN TO ALL ENGLAND.—

The Annual Exhibition of this Association will be held at Dorchester, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 27th and 28th September next, when not less than Eight Pieces of Plate, in addition to the Society's Premiums, will be offered for competition.

From and after the 26th July instant, a Prize List will be forwarded to any applicant, on a stamped envelope, addressed, and six penny postage stamps being received by the Honorary Secretary,

G. J. ANDREWS.

Dorchester, 22nd July, 1854.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market London.

PURE WHITE AYLESBURY DUCKS—

1st Prizes at Lincoln, Bath, and Farningham. W. G. K. BREAVENTON begs to offer a few first-rate Birds from his Stock of young Aylesbury Ducks, in sets of One Drake and Two Ducks, 15s. each; 6 young Ducks, 1st Prize, Farningham, One Guinea each.

Post-office Orders payable to WILLIAM G. K. BREAVENTON, Vicarage Farm, Hounslow, Middlesex.

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Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 13s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.; payable in advance.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 25.]

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

THE Editor respectfully informs the readers of the "POULTRY CHRONICLE," that the printing and publishing will henceforth be conducted by Messrs. BRADBURY & EVANS, 11, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, to whom all Orders and Advertisements must in future be addressed, and to whom Post-Office Orders should be made payable.

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Poultry Shows.

Cleveland Agricultural Society's Show, including Poultry, Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th of August. Secretary, Mr. Thomas Farrington. Entries are closed.

Tottington Agricultural Exhibition, including Poultry, at Tottington, near Bury, Lancashire; Friday, August 18th. Secretary, Mr. Eli Roberts, Tottington. Entries are closed.

Royal North Lancashire Agricultural Society, at Burnley, August 21st. Secretary, Mr. G. Hunt, 2, Chapel Walk, Preston. Entries are closed.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries close August 19th.

Keighley Agricultural Show, including Poultry, Wednesday, September 6th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq. Entries close August 30th.

Wellington, Salop, Horticultural and Poultry Show. Wednesday and Thursday, September 6th and 7th. Secretary, T. W. Jones, Esq., Church Street, Wellington. Entries close September 1st.

Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Society, including Poultry, at Radcliffe, adjourned to Monday, September 11th. Secretary, Mr. J. Crosse, Market-street, Bury. Entries close August 28th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries close August 19th.

South East Hants, at Fareham, Tuesday, September 19th. Secretaries, G. Creed, Esq., and J. James, Esq. Entries close September 1st.

Yeovil, September 20th. Secretary, John Clyde, Esq.

Daventry Exhibition, in connexion with the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society (limited to the county), September 21st. Secretaries, Messrs. Freeman & Sons, Northampton.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M'C. Swarbrick, Esq. Entries close September 5th.

Dorsetshire Poultry Association's Annual Exhibition, at Dorchester, Wednesday and Thursday, September 27th and 28th. Secretary, G. J. Andrews, Esq.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. Entries close September 1st.

Sparkenhoe Farmers' Club, including Poultry, October 4th and 5th. Secretaries, J. W. Taverner, Esq., Hartshill, Atherstone, and W. P. Dewes, Esq., Ashby de la Zouche. Entries close September 1st.

South West Middlesex Agricultural Society, at Southall, Friday, October 6th. Secretary, Mr. John Gotelee, Hounslow. Entries close one calendar month before the show.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. Wm. Thurnall, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

Cambridgeshire, at Cambridge, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of November. Secretary, C. H. Crosse, Esq., New Square, Cambridge. Entries close October 11th.

Norwich and Eastern Counties, at Norwich, Wednesday and Thursday, the 15th and 16th of November. Secretary, C. Oury, Esq. Entries close October 31st.

Salisbury and West Counties' Exhibition of Domestic Poultry. Fourth Annual Exhibition, at Salisbury, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st and 22nd of November. Secretary, T. Pain, Esq. Entries close November 10th.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th

and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 28th.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council Rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, the 7th and 8th of December. Secretary, J. Hodgson. Entries close Nov. 13th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Nottinghamshire Poultry Association. The Second Annual Exhibition will be held at Southwell, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 19th and 20th of December. Secretary, R. Hawksley, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 21st.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

WE hail it as one of the proofs of the soundness of the opinion we expressed when we began the present work, that it supplied a "want" in the poultry world, and also of the confidence reposed in us, that we are constantly receiving letters on every subject from amateurs.

We have to acknowledge several complaining of having poultry stolen, and asking what steps should be adopted. If locks and bolts and a good yard-dog fail to protect the feathered tribes, we can only urge on the sufferers to take rigorous

measures for bringing one of the offenders to justice.

We believe the morbid and maudlin philanthropy that overlooks and excuses small thefts, is the parent of more serious offences. If those who lose two or three fowls of small value will not take pains to discover and punish the thief, they encourage him, by impunity, to help himself to more valuable birds. If the jurymen knowingly acquits a thief against evidence, because he only took two or three chickens, he has none but himself to blame if his cheese-store or bacon-racks are the next sufferers; and the feeling of false humanity that would not punish a first offence, by a few weeks' imprisonment, is the cause of the transportation or penal servitude that follows a more serious infraction of the law.

Fowls are no longer the comparatively valueless things they were; and there is no reason why a neighbourhood where there are ten or twelve amateurs, should not form a small association, by the subscription of a guinea each, for the detection and prosecution of depredations committed in their poultry-yards. We very much doubt if the money would ever be wanted.

If it were, and if the local policeman were unable to detect the offender, we would advise that application be made at once to London for a sharp and practised officer, to whom every facility and information should be given. Patterns should be taken of all foot-prints, and the marks left in the earth should be covered over. Liberal rewards should be offered for the recovery of the birds, for evidence, and for detection, and the prosecution should be

rigorously carried on. We believe this would not only prevent fowl stealing, but it would improve the morality of the neighbourhood. A baronet in one of the home counties on succeeding to his estate found that these small thefts were the curse of the place. The men, three in number, who committed them, were well-known, but they could not be detected. He applied to the police authorities in London, and in less than a week they were all in prison. From that time the neighbourhood has enjoyed immunity from these depredations, not the less injurious because they are trifling in amount.

Schedule of the Norwich Show.

THE Norfolk and Eastern Counties association for the improvement of poultry, open to all England, will be held in the Corn Hall, at Norwich, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, November the 14th, 15th, and 16th. The president is the Earl of Leicester, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county. We are informed by the schedule that subscribers of 5s. will be entitled to one general or two half-crown tickets of admission; subscribers of 10s. to one general and three half-crown tickets; and subscribers of one guinea to one general and seven half-crown tickets, with a recommendation of one pen for a cottager; and that the surplus funds will be carried to the account of the association. The hours of exhibition will be, on the first day, from 12 o'clock A.M. until 5 o'clock P.M.—admission, 2s. 6d.; on the second and third days, from 10 o'clock A.M. until 4 o'clock P.M.—admission 1s.; and tickets not used on the first day will be admitted on either the second or third. Arrangements have been made for the conveyance of passengers from all stations on the Eastern Counties and Eastern Union Railways, during the holding of the Exhibition, at a single fare for

the double journey—available only on the day of issue.

PRIZE LIST.

| <i>Class.</i> | | <i>s.</i> |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| | SHANGHAE (any Age or Colour). | |
| A. | Single Cock | 20 |
| | Single Hen | 20 |
| | SPANISH (any Age or Colour). | |
| B. | Single Cock | 20 |
| | Single Hen | 20 |
| | DORKING (any Age or Colour). | |
| C. | Single Cock | 20 |
| | Single Hen | 20 |
| | GAME (any Age or Colour). | |
| D. | Single Cock | 20 |
| | Single Hen | 20 |
| | HAMBRO' (any Age or Colour). | |
| E. | Single Cock | 20 |
| | Single Hen | 20 |
| | SHANGHAE (Cinnamon or Buff). | |
| | <i>1st.</i> | <i>2nd.</i> |
| <i>Class</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>s.</i> |
| 1. | Cock and two Hens | 30 ... 15 |
| 2. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 30 ... 15 |
| | SHANGHAE (Brown or Partridge). | |
| 3. | Cock and two Hens | 30 ... 15 |
| 4. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 30 ... 15 |
| | SHANGHAE (White). | |
| 5. | Cock and two Hens | 30 ... 15 |
| 6. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 30 ... 15 |
| | SHANGHAE (Black). | |
| 7. | Cock and two Hens | 30 ... 15 |
| 8. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 30 ... 15 |
| | BRAHMA POOTRA. | |
| 9. | Cock and two Hens | 30 ... 15 |
| 10. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 30 ... 15 |
| | SPANISH. | |
| 11. | Cock and two Hens | 30 ... 15 |
| 12. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 30 ... 15 |
| | DORKINGS (White). | |
| 13. | Cock and two Hens | 30 ... 15 |
| 14. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 30 ... 15 |
| | DORKINGS (Coloured). | |
| 15. | Cock and two Hens | 30 ... 15 |
| 16. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 30 ... 15 |
| | GAME (White and Pile). | |
| 17. | Cock and two Hens | 20 ... 10 |
| 18. | Cockerel and two Hens | 20 ... 10 |

GAME (Black-breasted and other Reds).

| <i>Class.</i> | | <i>1st.</i> | <i>2nd.</i> |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | <i>s.</i> | <i>s.</i> |
| 19. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
| 20. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 20 | ... 10 |

GAME (any other Colour).

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----|--------|
| 21. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
| 22. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 20 | ... 10 |

MALAYS.

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|----|--------|
| 23. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
| 24. | Cockerel and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |

POLAND (Black with White Crests).

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----|--------|
| 25. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
| 26. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 20 | ... 10 |

POLAND (Golden).

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----|--------|
| 27. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
| 28. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 20 | ... 10 |

POLAND (Silver).

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----|--------|
| 29. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
| 30. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 20 | ... 10 |

HAMBURG (Golden Pencilled).

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----|--------|
| 31. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
| 32. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 20 | ... 10 |

HAMBURG (Golden Spangled).

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----|--------|
| 33. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
| 34. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 20 | ... 10 |

HAMBURG (Silver Pencilled).

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----|--------|
| 35. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
| 36. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 20 | ... 10 |

HAMBURG (Silver Spangled).

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|----|--------|
| 37. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
| 38. | Cockerel and two Pullets | 20 | ... 10 |

FOR ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|-------|
| 39. | Cock and Hen—Four prizes: each | 20 | ... 0 |
| | Four second prizes: each | ... | 10 |

BANTAMS (Gold Laced).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----|--------|
| 40. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
|-----|-------------------------|----|--------|

BANTAMS (Silver Laced).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----|--------|
| 41. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
|-----|-------------------------|----|--------|

BANTAMS (White).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----|--------|
| 42. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
|-----|-------------------------|----|--------|

BANTAMS (Black).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----|--------|
| 43. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... 10 |
|-----|-------------------------|----|--------|

GEESE.

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|----|--------|
| 44. | Gander and two Geese | 30 | ... 15 |
|-----|----------------------------|----|--------|

DUCKS (White Aylesbury).

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|----|--------|
| 45. | Drake and two Ducks | 20 | ... 10 |
|-----|---------------------------|----|--------|

| DUCKS (Rouen). | | 1st. | 2nd. |
|----------------------------|--|------|------|
| Class. | | s. | s. |
| 46. | Drake and two ducks | 20 | 10 |
| DUCKS (Any other Variety). | | | |
| 47. | Drake and two Ducks | 20 | 10 |
| TURKEYS. | | | |
| 48. | Cock and two Hens above one year | 30 | 15 |
| 49. | Cock and two Hens of 1854 | 30 | 15 |
| NORFOLK BREED. | | | |
| 50. | Cock and two Hens | 40 | 20 |
| GUINEA FOWLS. | | | |
| 51. | For the best pair | 20 | 10 |
| 52. | PIGEONS. | | |
| A. | Best pair of Carriers | 10 | 0 |
| B. | Almond Tumblers... | 7 | 6 |
| C. | Pouters and Croppers | 7 | 6 |
| D. | Balds, Beards, and Mottled Tumblers | 5 | 0 |
| E. | Owls | 5 | 0 |
| F. | Nuns | 5 | 0 |
| G. | Turbits | 5 | 0 |
| H. | Archangels..... | 5 | 0 |
| I. | Jacobins..... | 5 | 0 |
| K. | Fantails..... | 5 | 0 |
| L. | Trumpeters | 5 | 0 |
| M. | Barbes | 5 | 0 |
| N. | Runts..... | 5 | 0 |
| O. | Dragons..... | 5 | 0 |
| P. | Any other new and distinct variety ... | 5 | 0 |

COTTAGERS' PRIZE.

Rent not exceeding £8 per annum—Entry free, on recommendation of Subscribers of One Guinea.

| | | | |
|--|---|----|---|
| Collection of useful Poultry, not less than six in number..... | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Second prize | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Third prize | 0 | 10 | 0 |

All entries must be made on the printed forms, which, with prize lists, may be obtained of the Secretary. The last day of entry will be positively October 31st.

All birds must be at the place of exhibition on Monday, November 13th, by Seven o'clock p.m. Exhibitors of Poultry to pay 3s. for each pen; Bantams 2s., Pigeons 1s. The entrance fee to be paid when the entry is made, or the pen cannot be allowed to compete.

Should all the specimens entered in any one class, be thought by the Judges too inferior to merit a prize, they have power to withhold it.

In all cases (where it can be accurately done) the age should be stated; in the case of chickens it is imperative, as in this class a wrong statement of age will be held as a disqualification. The correct name must be given to all specimens, and all synonyms, provincial or otherwise, may be added.

Birds (shown for prizes) must be *bond fide* the property of the exhibitor, the discovery of any wilful mis-statement will exclude the exhibitor from all future exhibitions; and any prizes so obtained will be forfeited.

Specimens intended for sale must have the lowest price affixed (baskets included). Birds which have not been successful, may be claimed at the price put upon them after Three o'clock on the first day. All sales must be made through the Secretary. Ten per cent will be deducted.

High condition, beauty of plumage, and purity of race, will be preferred above mere weight. Fowls with trimmed feathers will be excluded from taking prizes.

All Eggs, laid during the time the Birds are in charge of the Establishment, will be destroyed. Exhibitors are earnestly requested not to forward Specimens in an unhealthy state, as they will be rejected.

All Fees or Gratuities are strictly prohibited, and it is requested that any complaint of inattention or incivility may be immediately made to the Secretary.

The committee having witnessed the injurious consequences of insufficient cleanliness in previous Exhibitions, will see that every possible care and attention be given them; but they will not be answerable for any losses that may occur from accident or mistake. Ventilation will be especially attended to.

To avoid mistakes, Labels will be forwarded to be addressed in full, with the Name of the Exhibitor, Class, and Pen, to be attached to each package.—*Carriage in all cases to be prepaid.*

The Eastern Counties Railway Company have kindly consented to convey Poultry from the Exhibition free of Charge!

N.B.—All communications to be addressed (post paid) to MR. CHARLES OURY, Hon Sec.

Schedule of the Salisbury and Western Counties' Exhibition.

THE fourth annual exhibition will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st and 22nd of November.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

The Chickens must all be of 1854.

| SPANISH. | | 1st. | 2nd. |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|
| <i>Class.</i> | | <i>s.</i> | <i>s.</i> |
| 1. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 2. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| DORKING (Coloured). | | | |
| 3. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 4. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| DORKING (White). | | | |
| 5. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 6. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon and Buff). | | | |
| 7. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 8. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| COCHIN CHINA (Brown and Partridge Feathered). | | | |
| 9. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 10. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| COCHIN CHINA (White). | | | |
| 11. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 12. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| COCHIN CHINA (Black). | | | |
| 13. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 14. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| MALAY. | | | |
| 15. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 16. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| GAME FOWL (White, Piles, Duckwings, and Grays). | | | |
| 17. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 18. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| GAME FOWL (Black-breasted and other Reds). | | | |
| 19. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 20. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| HAMBURG (Golden Pencilled). | | | |
| 21. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 22. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| HAMBURG (Golden Spangled). | | | |
| 23. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 24. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| HAMBURG (Silver Pencilled). | | | |
| 25. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 26. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| HAMBURG (Silver Spangled). | | | |
| 27. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 28. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| POLAND (Black, with White Crests). | | | |
| <i>Class.</i> | | 1st. | 2nd. |
| | | <i>s.</i> | <i>s.</i> |
| 29. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 30. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| POLAND (Golden). | | | |
| 31. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 32. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| POLAND (Silver). | | | |
| 33. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 34. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| CROSS BETWEEN ANY BREEDS. | | | |
| As the crossing of the breeds of poultry may produce the most valuable results, all crosses must be particularised, with the pedigree of the races from which they sprung. | | | |
| 35. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 36. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 30 | 15 |
| BANTAMS (Gold Laced). | | | |
| 37. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| BANTAMS (Silver Laced). | | | |
| 38. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| BANTAMS (White). | | | |
| 39. | Cock and two Hens | 15 | 10 |
| BANTAMS (Black). | | | |
| 40. | Cock and two Hens | 15 | 10 |
| BANTAMS (Any other Variety). | | | |
| 41. | Cock and two Hens | 15 | 10 |
| GEESE. | | | |
| 42. | Gander and two Geese | 30 | 15 |
| DUCKS (White Aylesbury). | | | |
| 43. | Drake and three Ducks | 30 | 15 |
| DUCKS (Rouen). | | | |
| 44. | Drake and three Ducks | 30 | 15 |
| DUCKS (Any other Variety). | | | |
| 45. | Drake and three Ducks | 30 | 15 |
| TURKEYS. | | | |
| 46. | Cock and two Hens | 30 | 15 |
| 47. | Cock and two Hens (birds hatched in 1854) | 30 | 15 |
| GUINEA FOWL. | | | |
| 49. | For the best Pair | 20 | 10 |
| FOR ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED. | | | |
| 50. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 51. | Cockerel and three Pullets | 20 | 10 |

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. That the subscribers of 5s. shall be entitled to one card of admission, and subscribers of 10s. to two cards.

2. All entries to be made on or before the 10th of November.

3. Exhibitors of poultry to pay 3s. for each pen.

4. The judges will be empowered to withhold a prize or prizes in any of the classes in which there is no sufficient merit.

5. The poultry entered in a wrong class will be necessarily excluded from competition for the prizes.

6. The discovery of any false statement as to proprietorship or possession of fowl, or their age, &c., will be followed by the exclusion of such specimens.

7. The ages of the specimens must be stated as accurately as possible.

8. Exhibitors must state a price for all birds that are for sale; specimens that are not for sale must be distinctly so stated. Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales to defray the expenses of the exhibition.

9. The exhibition will be open to all England.

10. Admission to non-subscribers on Tuesday, after 10 o'clock, 2s. 6d.; on Wednesday, up to 4 o'clock p.m., 1s.; Children under twelve, half price.

11. Competent persons will be employed to take charge of the birds during the exhibition, and all eggs will be broken; but the Committee cannot be answerable for any losses that may occur, either from accident or mistake.

12. The whole of the poultry must be delivered before 1 o'clock p.m., on Monday, the 20th of November. The hampers, baskets, &c., must be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, the names of the Exhibitors to be attached, the carriage in all cases being previously paid.

T. PAIN,
Hon. Secretary.

Salisbury, July 20, 1854.

Poultry for Exhibition, and Exhibition Fever.

Now that shows thicken, a few practical hints on the capabilities of fowls for supporting these trials, and the discretion that should be exercised, may be worth the attention of amateurs.

A golden rule is to limit your entries by the number of birds you possess, and not by your desire for success and distinction. If you have but two good pens your entries must be few and far between. Few, because a good pen is always likely to be successful, and consequently in danger of being claimed; far between, that there may be time for them to recover one show before another comes on. Success is often a very Cannæ to the holder of a small stock of good birds. The writer of this paper knows more than one instance in which the hopes of a breeding season have been entirely destroyed by the success and consequent claiming of a pen. But, as it is hard to have the best birds and not show them to the world, the only plan is to put a prohibitory price on them. Twenty or thirty pounds will not do; follow the examples of many of the best breeders and amateurs, and put five hundred pounds. If you are successful, it will prove your wisdom: if you pass unnoticed, people will laugh, but that breaks no bones. If you exhibit with one set only this is imperative. If you can conveniently spare one, put a moderate but remunerative price, say of twenty or thirty guineas. You will always find this the best way to sell your birds. An exhibitor should always have at least three, or even four, pens ready. In many breeds, especially Spanish, it is almost impossible to have as many perfect birds. You must then class them to suit the show for which they are intended. Your best pen must be reserved for the great meetings, and the merits of the others must mark their places in order among the numerous shows from which exhibitors may choose. As it is essential they should always be sent in perfect health, I advise that when they return from any exhibition they should at once have medicine, not given the next day on a full stomach, but at once on their arrival—a table-spoonful of castor oil, followed by pills for three or four days. After the oil has operated feed them on sopped bread, and by degrees return to their original diet. Whenever fowls have

been from home, and for whatever cause, they should never be turned with the others till a probationary period has passed, proving they have brought no epidemic, or contagious complaint with them. For this reason every yard should have a dry spacious walk, especially and solely used for this purpose, and the exhibition birds should remain there at least a week after their return. If, at the end of this time they show no symptom of disease they may run with the others. I believe these precautions will prevent complaints about exhibition fever. In fowls, as in human beings, sudden change of diet and habit, excitement, substitution of confinement for exercise, will cause derangement of the system, and in both the cure is the same. Man, knowing this, takes preventive measures for himself, but allows his feathered favourites to be ill before he attends to them, while trifling precautionary measures would have prevented it. When shows were first instituted they were not as well understood as they are now, and the consequence was that, while the best intentions were entertained, the treatment was of the worst. The pens were too small, the birds were indifferently attended to, and the feeders were too often mere labouring men guiltless of any practical knowledge of the duties they undertook.

The food was whole barley *ad libitum*, and water at discretion. The bottoms of the pens were covered with sawdust, quantities of which were picked up with the corn, and then soaked in the crop, with the water they swallowed. This, repeated three or four days in succession, produced, first, discomfort, and then illness. Now, men of undoubted ability as judges and amateurs superintend the feeding; the coops are roomy; soft food is given in proper quantities, and every care is taken of the birds. One improvement is still needed, viz., that the fowls in each pen shall be provided daily, during the exhibition, with a large sod of growing grass. This, we believe, will do away with exhibition fevers. But many who are the

loudest to complain of this, have the least reason to do so, because their birds are not in health when sent. It will be found a prize pen is seldom among the sufferers; and it is because they are sent in the highest condition. It is partly the secret of their success, and the entire cause of their immunity from disease. I believe it is true that inferior birds are often hardier than the higher bred, and will bear exhibiting oftener. Such, then, seeing the loss is not so great if injured, may be sent often; but the best should never be shown more than once per month.

It may be asked why I speak of showing inferior birds, seeing they have no chance of success; but I must remark I speak of inferior as compared to the best, but not of *bad* birds. Second and third-rate birds, at medium shows, will often get commended, sometimes take a prize, and find a purchaser in consequence.

SYLVANUS.

Columbary.

NO. XI.—THE RATIONALE OF FLYING PIGEONS.

WHEN it is desired to train carriers, or any of the other varieties of flying pigeons, the following is the most approved manner of procedure:—

Having procured the sort or sorts required, the first thing is to get them settled or accustomed to their new abode, this is best attained by procuring a few common pigeons first, which are easily settled by keeping them in the loft for a week or fortnight, and allowing them to go into the trap to look about. These may be frequently found useful while raising or first establishing a flight, and can then be got rid of. The better sorts are very difficult to settle in a new home, and the best are almost impossible to retain at large, though pairing them with mates already settled will sometimes induce them to remain; therefore it will be found less troublesome to retain young birds—"squeakers;" but be careful to have them quite young, for if of

a good stock, and but once flown, they may prove treacherous. Perhaps it would be more successful where it is desired to raise a good flight of first-rate birds, to procure old ones, and breed from them in a separate loft—never letting them out—only into a lathwork, or wire enclosure, or trap, and then to draft the eggs or young ones into the loft of flyers. But the generality of flying pigeons will not require so much trouble. Young birds, and even old ones, are frequently to be settled at a fresh place with a little management, provided they have not been previously trained; whereas the best sorts will frequently return home on obtaining their liberty, though they have been kept up for twelve months or more, and some few even refuse to breed during their confinement. Very wild pigeons are more difficult to reconcile than the tamer ones, though the wilder generally make the better homing birds.

When settled, the pigeons should be turned out, and put on the wing twice a day, once early in the morning, and again in the afternoon; when they are thus accustomed to daily exercise they will continue on the wing for an hour or two at a time, and after circling round their home a few times, will start off and take long circuits of a mile or two in extent, and then returning will take a tour in another direction, which is called "going an end," and is of great use to them, as well from the exercise it affords their wings, as in keeping them in remembrance of their homing faculties.

Old birds it is not advisable to train, as they rarely make proficient, and in case of coming near their former home they will frequently stop there. Young ones should be trained, as soon as they fly strong, at home; the training consists in taking them a short distance from home, and turning them loose to find their way back, the direction being continually altered, and the distance increased, till they will at last perform very long journeys. But particular care must be taken to keep them in a condition for flying, strong, clean, and healthy,

by means of good food and plenty of exercise, otherwise they may be one day missing, though they may have performed the same journey before. It must also be borne in mind that the pigeon should be properly conveyed to the place of starting, not cramped nor its plumage soiled; neither should a pigeon be turned off with its crop too full, nor yet fasting, or it may become exhausted or faint. The wilder a pigeon is the better chance I think it has of returning. It is generally considered that a cock homes quickest when driving to nest, and a hen when she is feeding squabs, such times being mostly preferred for flying night matches.

The way of sending a letter is simply to write what it is desired to communicate on a piece of thin paper about three or four inches square, which, when rolled up, is laid between two of the tail feathers, where it is secured by means of a piece of fine binding wire, which is pushed through the shaft of one or both of the feathers; their vanes are then wrapped about the paper, which is fastened by twisting the wire round, so that the pigeon carries it without being in the least inconvenienced in its flight. Some persons, I believe, wind the paper round the leg, and fasten it with worsted. As pigeons on their journey are liable to many accidents, such as being injured by careless handling, fatigue, or being killed by guns or birds of prey, it is frequently found advisable to despatch several bearing the same communication, and if such is required to be kept secret, it may be written in private characters previously determined upon. Most pigeons when tossed (let off) for homing, circle round several times, rise a good height in the air, and then fly off in the direction of their home, the better ones make but a few turns, and the pure Antwerps dart off in a straight line, and then make but one turn for home.

It is generally supposed that pigeons find their home by sight; this I consider an error, for it is impossible for a pigeon to discern its home one or two hundred miles

distant, nor do I think the reasoning and calculating powers of pigeons to be of such a high order as to allow of their remembering, and consequently flying by waymarks, as some have argued. I believe it to be a natural gift implanted in them by their Maker purposely to guide them to their homes. The dog, the bee, and many other animals have the same faculty.

My opinion is, that it is a natural attraction that draws them, and inclines them to take the right direction, and that by practice and cultivation it can be greatly increased and strengthened. I am also much inclined to believe that if pigeons are well trained for several generations, the young ones have this faculty almost as it were by inheritance; some varieties have it in a higher degree than others, and some individuals are superior to others of the same variety. A high range of hills, or a fog, intervening between the bird and its home, may intercept or so interrupt this attraction or affinity as to weaken or alter its effect on the feelings or sensibilities of the pigeon, which will explain the reason that pigeons are sometimes lost under such circumstances, though the London pigeons, which are used to a foggy state of the atmosphere, are enabled to return through it, but it would then be impossible for them to see their home or waymarks at a very short distance; besides, pigeons will home in the dark, or else night matches could not be flown. I have had my own dragons come home when it was dark, when flown late; yet those who have witnessed the attempts of pigeons to settle, when they have been disturbed at night, must acknowledge that though a pigeon can fly in the dark, it cannot see much. Pigeons have been known to return to places where they had been kept, though they had no knowledge of the neighbourhood; neither do pigeons search for a new home when theirs is, as frequently happens, entirely changed in appearance by being covered with snow, which they would be likely to do if sight was the medium through which they knew it. A few bad-flying fancy pigeons,

frightened by the, to them, novel appearance, may be lost, but that does not prove anything.

Pigeons while homing will occasionally fly past their homes, which is a curious fact, termed "overflying themselves." The Antwerps, I have been informed, are liable to do so in short journeys. I have seen pigeons in coming home fly past, then turn and descend, which could not happen if they flew by sight.

Many other facts may be collected to prove that sight is not the main source by which pigeons find their homes. Sight may assist them when near, and also in the manner of their flying high or low, to avoid objects and enemies, as well as in settling; otherwise I believe a pigeon might be flown blindfolded. I feel convinced, and have no hesitation in saying, that the power the pigeon has of returning home from a place many miles distant from where it has ever been before, is a natural attraction or affinity between the bird and its home, or in other words, I consider that home is to the pigeon what the north is to the magnet.

B. P. B.

Judges.

"Who can draw the line where the amateur ends and the dealer commences."—*Poultry Chron.*, p. 495.

Who indeed!

The words at the head of this strike at an important result, arising from the great and general attention given to poultry.

Napoleon on one occasion reproved Massena for being a robber (perhaps of a hen-roost).

"Sire," replied the soldier,

"Je suis un voleur, Nous sommes des voleurs.

Tu es un voleur. Vous êtes des voleurs.
Il est un voleur. Ils sont des voleurs."

Looking to the advertising columns alone, of the "Poultry Chronicle," by an alteration of the word voleur into dealer, may not the majority of present poultry keepers

reply to the "Chronicle's" query somewhat as Massena did,

I am a dealer. We are dealers.
Thou art a dealer. You are dealers.
He is a dealer. They are dealers.

When an "amateur" parts with his "surplus" stock, either of eggs or poultry, and invites the public to purchase, by advertisement, in this matter he differs little from the "dealer" who invites the public to purchase in another way.

Why limit the field for obtaining such a necessity as a judge? Appointed public judges are out of the question.

If committees fixed a few standard rules, much labour to judges and disappointment to exhibitors would be saved.

Why should there not be a "conference" of say three or five known judges, and let them promulgate decided rules for judging birds. Committees would gladly avail themselves of such a guide to place in the hands of their judges. This would remove much present uncertainty, and exhibitors, by studying such a document, would learn much.

Three, of many suggestions as to judges themselves, may be given here:—

If possible, get four judges from a distance, as great a distance as your funds will allow.

If possible, have three. [We say no "if possible," but "have three," and if necessary make the prizes a little lower, or the entry fee a little higher.—Ed.]

Publish their names beforehand, and give them *full and ample time to do their work*.

The Editor of the "Poultry Chronicle" will be, probably has been, consulted by committees anxious to obtain good judges. A list of competent persons in various districts would be a very useful memorandum on the Editor's table.

Watch carefully the clouds and the crows that you may not be caught unawares.

Always take one or more agricultural papers, for every number will give you information which will benefit you dollars.—*American Paper*.

Reviews.

Pigeons and Rabbits. By E. S. Delamer. George Routledge & Co., Farringdon Street, London.

It is with much pleasure that we have perused this interesting little work; it treats of the different varieties of the beautiful creatures, and gives excellent instructions as to their choice, management, and profitable treatment: nor has the author forgotten them when dead, but has given many excellent receipts for their cooking.

Mr. Delamer has well described the difference between the Blue Rock and the Chequered Dove house Pigeons—two birds that are too often confused. We extract the following:—

"There are two very distinct varieties of Pigeons, which are kept in large flocks for the supply of the table. Some naturalists regard them as separate species. The first is the Blue Rock Dove (*Columba livia*); the second is the Dove-house Pigeon (*Columba affinis*, of Blyth). Both are found wild, breeding independently, in a state of nature; but the former affects caverns, cliffs, and rocks, as its resting-place (whence its name); while the latter seems to prefer the inaccessible parts of public buildings, ruins, and ecclesiastical edifices,—such a home, in fact, as the jackdaw would choose."

Further he remarks—

"The Dove-house Pigeon is much the more common inhabitant of dovecotes, is less capricious in its sojourn therein, and when it betakes itself to a state of complete independence, exhibits much less dislike to the neighbourhood of man than is shown by the Rock Dove under similar circumstances."

Again, he says—

"A main characteristic of the *Columba livia* (Blue Rock Pigeon), is the absence of spots, which are so remarkable a feature in that of the *C. affinis*" (Chequered Dove-house Pigeon).

The writer is also particular in describing the Stock Dove (*Columba anas*), as also our other native Doves, as the Ring-dove (*Columba palumbus*) and the Turtle-dove (*Columba turtur*); and here, too, he is careful to explain that the common tame Dove, or Collard Turtle (*Columba risorius*), is not the true Turtle Dove as many suppose.

We are much pleased with the work, which proves the author to be a naturalist, though we fear he is not an experienced fancier, as he is slightly in error with a few of the minuter points of the fancy Pigeons.

We were sorry to find no account of the Antwerp Carrier, and hardly any notice of the recently-introduced Toy Pigeons; but the book teems with much useful and amusing information.

To the amateur we confidently recommend its perusal.

The second part of the work, on Rabbits, discourses of their antiquity, uses, habits, breeding, management, and diseases; much useful information respecting warrens, Rabbit courts, and pits; also of Rabbit hutches, of which Mr. D. gives an excellent design, which we shall certainly adopt when we require new ones. He has given full instructions on the points of a fancy Rabbit as respects the ears, dewlap, markings, &c., as also the regulations of a Rabbit show. There is one error which we should not consider ourselves trustworthy reviewers if we omitted to notice, and perchance the author may not take it amiss when we call attention to the fact, that though the Rabbit is an Incisor mammalia, they are nevertheless *not* destitute of molar teeth—they do grind their food, and we are not aware of any of the Incisors that are destitute of these teeth, but we believe many of them, if not all, are destitute of the canine teeth.

We think, also, that the author lays too much stress on the sentence, that "Wet herbage is deadly poison." The writer admits nature should be our guide, and he says, "It should also be remembered that the Rabbit is naturally an animal of nocturnal, or we ought rather to say crepuscular, that is *twilight* habits." Has then, we would ask, the author forgotten that at such times the herbage is covered with dew? We think that Rabbit keepers generally are too careless of extremes, and we believe that in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred where the doe eats her young it is through thirst: our custom has always been to supply her at kindling time with a pan of bread and milk, and continue it for a time. We have ourselves seen a doe leave the young ones she was eating when a pan of water was offered to her, which she drank, and did not return to her unnatural repast.

Apart from this difference of opinion, we consider it the best treatise on the Rabbit we have read; and therefore, we confidently recommend it to the public, being sure the reader will not think his shilling mis-spent. Next week we will give an extract from the portion of the work which is devoted to Rabbits.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society.

THE meeting of this Society took place this year at Ripon.

On entering the show-ground at 11 o'clock on Wednesday, the 2nd inst., we found no awards had been made, and in

vain did we wait till 1 o'clock, when the judges commenced their labours. We were informed that the delay arose from the society at the last moment, being disappointed of one of the judges; but surely it is hardly fair to the exhibitors, to the public, or to the judges themselves, to defer until so late an hour, the commencement of what ought to have been done before the company were admitted.

The class of old birds in Spanish was very good considering the season of the year; the chickens very poor.

Dorkings as at Lincoln, came out well, and the chickens were very superior.

In Cochins, Mr. Duesbery stood as usual first, Mr. Hustler second, both good pens of birds. In Cochinchickens, Mr. Barker was successful, with the beautiful birds that a few weeks ago carried off the first prize at Walton.

In the other classes there was nothing to call for any particular remark, if we except Mrs. Fidler's beautiful pen of Aylesbury ducks, and Mrs. Wetherell's pen of ten Dorking chickens in the extra poultry, evidently descended from Lord Hill's breed.

The Rev. R. Pulleine, Mr. Jolly of Acomb, and Mr. Braddock of York, were the judges.

In conclusion, ere another meeting we think some improvements might be made in the arrangement of the classes, and also in regard to the care of the poultry whilst being exhibited: 289 pens were entered. Below we give the prize list:—

POULTRY.

Best Spanish cock and two hens, 20s., to Mr. Frederick Powell, Knaresbro'; 2nd, 10s., to ditto. The other specimens shown by Mr. G. Hustler, Appleton; Mr. James Dixon, Westbrook Place, Bradford; Mr. R. J. Bentley, West House, Rotherham; Mr. J. Powell, Knaresbro'; Mr. J. M. Thompson, Dewsbury; Hon. A. Stourton, Allerton, were commended. 8 entries.

Best three Spanish chickens, 20s., to Mr. Titus Bennett Stead, Leeds. 7 entries.

Best Dorking cock and two hens, 20s., to Mrs. T. Parker, Astley Hall, Chorley; 2nd, 10s., to ditto. Hon. A. Stourton, Allerton, Knaresbro';

Mr. G. Hustler, Appleton, commended. 18 entries.

Best three Dorking chickens, 20s., to Mrs. Jane Weatherill, Kirk Bridge, Darlington; Mr. C. M. Swarbreck, Thirsk, commended. 25 entries.

Best Cochin China cock and two hens, 20s., to Mr. W. D. T. Duesbery, Skelton Hall, York; 2nd, 10s., to Mr. George Hustler, Appleton, Tadcaster. 7 entries.

Best three Cochin China chickens, 20s., to Mr. T. H. Barker, Hovingham; Mr. Geo. Hustler, Appleton, Tadcaster; Mr. W. D. T. Duesbery, Skelton, York; Mr. J. H. Smith, Skelton Grange, York, commended. 18 entries.

Best Malay cock and two hens, 20s., to Mr. David Hume, Marton, Middlesbro'-on-Tees. 3 entries.

Best game cock and two hens, 20s., to Mr. James Dixon, Westbrook Place, Bradford; 2nd, 10s., to Mr. John Watson, Knaresbro'. 21 entries.

Best three game chickens, 20s., to Mr. David Smith, Guiseley, Otley; Mr. Thos. Craven, Manningham, Bradford; Mr. J. H. Smith, Skelton Grange, York; Mr. E. Allison, jun., Park Hall, Chorley, commended. 22 entries.

Best golden pheasant cock and two hens, 20s., to Mr. Edwin Eddison, Headingley, Leeds; 2nd, 10s., to Mr. J. Dixon, Westbrook Place, Bradford; Mr. A. Goodman, Gledhow House, Leeds, commended. 19 entries.

Best three golden pheasant chickens, 20s., to Mr. Alfred Goodman, Gledhow House, Leeds. 6 entries.

Best silver pheasant cock and two hens, 20s., to Mr. D. Hume, Marton, Middlesbro'-on-Tees; 2nd, 10s., to Mr. John Mitchell, Hog Holes, Keighley; Mr. H. Beldon, Bradford, commended. 13 entries.

Best three silver pheasant chickens, 20s., to Mr. Joseph Tuley, Keighley; Mr. John Mitchell, Hog Holes, Keighley; Mr. Thos. Craven, Manningham Hall, Bradford; Mr. C. Dearlove, Preston Junction, Yarm, commended. 15 entries.

Best chitteprat or Corsican cock and two hens, 20s., to Mr. James Dixon, Westbrook Place, Bradford; 2nd, 10s., to Mr. H. A. Harrison, Lindrick, Ripon; Mr. James Dixon, Westbrook Place, Bradford, commended. 8 entries.

Best Poland, any variety, with or without ruffs, cock and two hens, 20s., to Mr. J. Conyers, jun., Leeds; 2nd, 10s., to ditto. 3 entries.

Best cock and two hens of any breed or cross, 20s., to Mr. J. Buckley, Desford, Leicester; 2nd,

10s., to Mrs. T. Parker, Astley Hall, Chorley. 6 entries.

Best three chickens of any breed or cross, 20s., to Mr. W. Duckworth, Addingham, Otley. 14 entries.

Best cock and three hens, black, white, or any other variety of bantams, 20s., to Mr. J. Dixon, Westbrook Place, Bradford; 2nd, 10s., to Mr. W. Duckworth, Addingham. 18 entries.

Best cock of any breed or cross, 20s., to Mr. E. Eddison, Headingley, Leeds; Mr. W. Cleasby, Carlton Miniott, Thirsk, commended. 16 entries.

Best pair of hens of any breed or cross, 20s., to Mr. C. Mason, Dishforth, Thirsk. 11 entries.

Best gander and goose, 20s., to Mrs. T. Parker, Astley Hall, Chorley; 2nd, 10s., to Mr. E. Alison, jun., Park Hall, Chorley; Mr. E. Eddison, Headingley, Leeds, commended. 8 entries.

Best drake and two ducks, 20s., to Mrs. Elizabeth Fidler, Stokesley; 2nd, 10s., to Mr. J. W. Scriven, Throstle Nest, Otley; Mr. E. Alison, jun., Park Hall, Chorley, commended. 17 entries.

Best Turkey cock and hen, 20s., to Mr. R. J. Bentley, West House, Rotherham; 2nd, 10s., to Mr. J. Conyers, jun., Leeds; Mr. R. J. Bentley, West House, Rotherham, commended. 9 entries.

EXTRA POULTRY.

1st, Mrs. Jane Wetherell, Kirkbridge, Darlington, ten Dorking chickens; 2nd, Mr. Henry Peckett, Carlton Hushwaite, Thirsk, three white Aylesbury ducks. 4 entries.

The Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland.

THIS Society held their show on Thursday, the 3rd inst., at Berwick upon Tweed. Knowing the excellent arrangements of the society, in general, we went there with the full expectation of a rich treat in the poultry department; but judge of our surprise on referring to the catalogue to find but eighty-seven entries altogether, and not above half of those had put in their appearance, and they but very poor specimens of their respective breeds, if we except two pens of Spanish belonging to Mr. Battie, of Haddington, and they were unfortunately

disqualified from some error in entering them.

We do not add a prize list, as there was really nothing to note.

County of Durham Agricultural and Poultry Exhibition.

THE annual gathering of the above society took place at Darlington, on Friday, the 4th instant, and, notwithstanding the cold, dark, unseasonable day, was attended by all the *élite* of the neighbourhood. I shall not enlarge upon the merits or demerits of various specimens of cattle on the show ground, but proceed without more to-do with that particular branch to which your pages are devoted. The show of poultry, so far as regards numbers, was by no means large, but this may be easily accounted for, owing to the small amount of prizes offered by the society; a ten-shilling *first* prize and a five shilling second for old birds are sums scarcely likely to improve or extend the rearing of a long neglected and valuable description of farm produce. The *quality*, however, as a whole might very successfully vie with many exhibitions of considerably more extent.

In the black Spanish class (cock and two hens) there were six entries. The first prize was won by capital birds belonging to Mr. Lightfoot, of Newcastle, whose yard has often been successful in all our north country shows; the same gentleman carried off the chicken prize also in this class with birds of great *promise*; I say *promise* as there is no other description of chickens, in my opinion, which so often disappoint the hopes of their owners.

Dorkings were next on the list, and in all the shows I have witnessed I never saw the class of this best of English fowls so well represented; the old birds were large, square, magnificent specimens, and the prize was triumphantly won by Mr. Stockdale with a pen of birds fit to be exhibited at any show in the country. The superiority of this class may be imagined when a lot of birds whose pen was adorned with

seven prizes of first and second degrees was neither placed first nor second, and this, too, by one of the first judges in the country, viz., Mr. Trotter, of Bywell, near Newcastle, the author of a "Treatise on Poultry." The chickens in this class were also highly meritorious, and some grays from Lord Hill's stock were very much admired. I think that they will always fall short in that most requisite of points, viz., weight, when compared with others of this variety; still the beautiful feather they carry, combined with compact shape, will always make them great favourites, especially with the ladies, whose praises this day were so lavishly bestowed as to make a single man almost wish he had been a Dorking.

Our friends, the Cochin Chinas, were next on the roll, and, of all the classes, were the worst represented. I feel with regret how much has been sacrificed for colour, and look in vain for those good, square, short-legged specimens some few years ago shown by Punchard and other lovers of the "darks;" and we have now a lean, long-legged brute, possessing, with very few exceptions, scarcely a single property belonging to one of the most valuable descriptions of poultry now known in this country. In the old class there was only one bird of any pretensions, and that was the cock in the winning pen, and if he only was a shade more even in colour on his saddle he would then be a bird of first-rate pretensions. Only *one* pen of chickens out of the eight shown had the least merit, and for these the prize was deserved, as they really were good.

There were six entries for game, the prize was won by a first-rate pen of reds in fair condition, considering the season of the year: and, when talking of the "season of the year," we must remark that the whole of the "adults" showed unmistakable signs of moult, some so much as to be perfectly ragged, not only spoiling their general appearance, but reflecting a little on the good taste of their owners for sending them.

Some of the north country shows have a system of jumbling the Hamburgs all up into one class, making the spangled and pencilled varieties come into individual rivalry. A custom can scarcely be conceived more likely to bother a judge, and give great dissatisfaction to the public generally; the varieties are quite as distinct as any other description of poultry, and should, as a matter of course, be arranged in two classes. The first prize was won by the famed Mr. Dixon, of Bradford, with a pen of splendid spangled birds, *all* his rivals being pencilled; and this decision of the judge gave the greatest *public* dissatisfaction, and simply for this reason—nine tenths of the company were perfectly unacquainted with the relative merits of either class, and judged simply from the general appearance of the birds, which, with them, was immensely in favour of those beautiful birds the pencilled Hamburgs—another instance of the foolish custom of arranging them in one class. This, however, was avoided in the silver varieties; but by some peculiar freak hardly intelligible the class was for “silver pheasants,” and the one immediately following was for “Chittepratts.” Now, I have always believed, and do believe still that the latter is *only* the *pencilled* variety of the former, and never yet “fell foul” of one of these Chittepratt fanciers who could explain where the difference is, and I therefore set it down as a northern provincialism not to be recognised in the more advanced schools of the south. In this instance, however, it had a good result, as it saved this class the same jumbling to which their golden brethren had to submit. The prizes in each class were well competed for by good specimens of each variety.

The remaining pens were worthy of no particular remark, with the exception of the geese and ducks, the former of which were magnificent specimens of the Toulouse variety, and the latter all that could be desired. Of white Aylesbury the drake (from Lord John Scott's stock) was a noble fellow, and would have shamed a moderate-sized goose out of his stoical temperament.

The following is the

PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH (cock and two hens).—1st prize, Mr. W. Lightfoot, Shieldfield, Newcastle; 2nd prize, ditto. CHICKENS.—1st prize, Mr. W. Lightfoot, Shieldfield, Newcastle.

DORKINGS (cock and two hens).—1st prize, Mr. Thomas Stockdale, Hilton, near Yarm; 2nd prize, Miss Wood, Stanwick Park, Aldborough. CHICKENS.—1st prize, H. J. Spearman, Esq.

COCHIN CHINA (cock and two hens).—1st prize, Mr. W. Marshall, Darlington. CHICKENS.—1st prize, Mr. R. Benson, Darlington.

GAME (cock and two hens).—1st prize, Mr. J. Dixon, West Brook Place, Bradford. 2nd prize, Mr. John Charlton, Newcastle. CHICKENS.—1st prize, Mr. A. G. Grey, jun., Newcastle.

GOLDEN PHEASANT (cock and two hens).—1st prize, Mr. James Dixon, Westbrook Place, Bradford. CHICKENS.—1st prize, Mr. Webster, Kelloe, near Ferryhill.

SILVER PHEASANT (cock and two hens).—1st prize, Mr. D. Hume, Marton, Middlesbrough; 2nd prize, Mr. Thomas Dobbing, Caldwell.

CHITTEPRATT OR CORSICAN (cock and two hens).—1st prize, Mr. J. Dixon, Westbrook Place, Bradford; 2nd prize, N. Plews, Esq., Darlington.

Cock and two hens (any breed or cross).—1st prize, Miss Wetherell, Kirkbridge; 2nd prize, Mr. D. Hume, Marton.

Chickens (any breed or cross).—1st prize, Miss Wetherell, Kirkbridge, Darlington.

BANTAM (cock and three hens—any variety).—1st prize, Mr. A. G. Grey, jun., Newcastle.

Cock (any breed).—1st prize, Mr. Charles Dearlove, Preston.

GEESE (gander and goose).—Mr. T. Stockdale, Hilton, near Yarm.

DUCKS (drake and two ducks).—1st prize, Edward Pease, Esq.; 2nd prize, Miss Wetherell, Kirkbridge.

TURKEYS (cock and hen).—1st prize, Miss Blackett, Low Shipley.

The Poultry-Judge.

(Continued from page 550.)

To continue my narrative of the naked truth, and my experiences as poultry judge, I must say my trials were not confined to those I encountered out of doors. I was

laughed at by my wife for my assiduity in reading, and half-scolded by her for my extravagance in buying every book I could meet with that treated on the subject. I was disposed to be angry, but that feeling was dissipated by a prattler who got on my knee to ask me to put on my great wig and frock like the old man in the picture in our room, alluding to the portrait of an eminent judge in his robes.

But there is a term to everything, and the day approached for me to leave home for my arduous duties. I had to pass through London. When I arrived at Euston Square to take my place in the train that would convey me to my destination, I felt somewhat fearful lest I should not be able to preserve my incognito; I therefore put up the collar of my coat, and pulled my cap over my eyes. I confess to a feeling of disappointment at the apparent unconcern of all employed at the station. There were no large boards or notices to inform the public there was an exhibition coming off; the train was composed of the usual number of carriages, and when the porter asked where I was going, he was content to look at my ticket, and took no notice of me. Truth said, no such great thing after all; conceit said, you have played your cards well, and you are not recognised. Every carriage was full; ah, said I, just like railways! they know there is no other conveyance, and they affect a proud indifference they do not feel. I also felt how careful I must be not to betray myself while travelling. I resolved to be silent during the whole journey, and glean what I could from those who were doubtless on the same expedition as myself, though not in the same capacity. I drew myself up in a corner, and felt secure. I was surprised to hear no crowing of cocks, but I consoled myself with the reflection they had been sent by earlier trains. As usual it was some time before there was any conversation, but when it began I was somewhat mortified to find they talked of everything but poultry. My mystification continued, and long ere I reached my stopping-place I was alone in

the carriage. Common sense said, you have formed erroneous opinions of your importance, and that of poultry; pride said, the judges go first, and the spectators follow.

But I arrived at *the* station. A small drizzling rain was falling, and two or three tired and sleepy porters were standing about, conversing with the driver of a solitary car. "Ticket, sir," said an official with a lantern, opening the door. "Is there any one or any conveyance waiting for me," ask I, "for Mr. ——" "I don't see any one," said the man, and continued his business. I left the carriage, and when my luggage was got out, asked the driver of the car if he was sent for me. He looked hard at me, grinned, and said, "not for me in particular, but he would be happy to take me." The hard looks of the porters, and the easy assurance of this man, dispelled the last illusion of my fancied importance.

Before I proceed any further in my narrative of experiences, let me give one of them for the benefit of all future judges. A single judge in a town is like a single policeman or soldier in the streets of London. He must get out of the way of a horse or carriage on pain of being run over; but, if several are together in file, then all carriages must stop. Due respect is paid to them. So, if three judges go to three different hotels, each amounts only to a sojourner at his stopping-place; but if the three go to the same house, they become important, have a room assigned to them, and *the* judges are talked of.

I might still have lived happy in my illusions, and the public would probably have been spared this paper, had any one published some time since the result of their trials, failures, and disappointments as I do now.

It is very difficult for a man to give up at once an importance he has been wilfully believing in and nursing for a week; and during my short ride from the station to the hotel I had easily recovered my equanimity, shall I say my conceit, and had satisfactorily explained to myself all that had occurred.

My comfort was short-lived; I had written, as soon as I was appointed, to bespeak a bed, and had blamed myself for not taking a sitting-room at the same time; it was not, however, necessary. A man, half boots, half ostler, came to take my luggage, and asked me if I was going to stop there. I inquired of a waiting-maid if I could have a private room; I naturally thought the coffee room would be full of townsmen and exhibitors anxious to see the judge, and get into conversation with him. Imagine my surprise when the girl said, "you can have one if you like, but the coffee-room is empty; there is no one there." Common sense here won the contest, and conceit and pride fled to return no more.

My mind was fully made up, seeing I knew little of shows, to hold my peace when in company with fellow judges and officials, and to glean from them all the information I could. But it was written I should be cured of all my false ideas, and that all my previsions should be set at naught.

When the secretary of the show came to me some time afterwards, he told me he was anxiously waiting my arrival to ask my advice relative to some difficulties that had occurred, and which, he doubted not, my practical experience would enable him to remove. I would fain have entrenched myself behind generalities, but he was one of those men who insist on a direct answer, although their questions are put in such a manner as to afford no index to their own opinions. I did my best not to commit myself, but we soon differed, and, as I constantly yielded to him, finding he knew more than myself, I felt I had lost ground in his opinion, and that he rated my knowledge very low indeed. After one of those long periods of silence so painful to all parties, he left, saying he would meet me in the yard at half-past seven. We had not been sufficiently cordial for him to tell me who my colleagues were. I was full of misgivings, had little confidence in myself, and went to bed ill at ease.

Exhibition Fowls.

NO. III.

BY PERMISSION FROM BAILY'S "FOWLS."

HAMBRO' FOWLS.

Pencilled.

COCKS.

Double comb, full of points, ending in a large one at the end turned up. No hollow in the centre of it. White deaf-ear. Ample tail, foundation colour black, but the sickle feathers silvered at the edge. White body, save sometimes a little spotting towards the hinder parts, or a chestnut patch on the wing.

HENS.

Double comb, firmly fixed on the head, not inclining to either side. White deaf-ear. Hackle quite white, without spots. Body accurately pencilled, each feather being distinctly marked. Ample tail.

Gold same as silver, substituting yellow for white, except in the deaf-ear, which should be white in both varieties.

Imperative Rules.

Ample florid double combs; white deaf-ears; taper blue legs. Very cheerful carriage. Size and weight are not essential.

My Uncle Toby's Poultry Yard.

NO. II.

LEAVES FROM MY SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY.

"PRY'THEE, Corporal Trim," said my Uncle Toby, filling his pipe, and eyeing with great complacency the Sebrigt Bantams, "pry'thee, Trim, what success dost thou look for, at the poultry show?"

"None at all, an' please your honour," said the corporal, dejectedly.

"How, why, wherefore?" rejoined my uncle, looking inquiringly at Trim's face. "Thou knowest, corporal, that our breed is of the purest—the birds are unexceptionable—and the tail of each Bantam, Trim, which thou well knowest is the most important as it is the most difficult point to obtain correct, is of a *clear ground colour*; aye, and *well laced* into the bargain: it is,

also, long, and the feathers are of equal length."

"Your honour," replied Trim, "has most correctly described the requisites of a perfect tail, in the Sebright Bantam; yet, I would bet my montero cap to a shilling (Trim's invariable wager), that your honour will see the first prize given to birds the tails of which are splashed, or mottled with black, in two-thirds of the feathers. Such disfigurement is thought nothing of by three-fourths of our judges; although it is as bad as speckled hackles in the pencilled Hamburgs, or white splashes in the tails of black Polish or Spanish. Were I acting as judge, an' please your honour," continued the corporal, with an air of importance at the idea; "I would never permit a foul-tailed Sebright to take a first prize. But our judges care as little or know as little about the tail of a Sebright, as they do about the top-knot of a Polish fowl."

My Uncle Toby never took his pipe from his mouth during the whole of Trim's speech, but smoked away tremendously—his usual habit when hurt in his feelings. "Thou art quite right, Trim," said he at length; "and it is a great pity but that our judges would learn, or pay more attention to, the essential points of those fowls that constitute the smaller (though not the least important) classes. Let us hope, corporal, that they will do so—they are honourable men, Trim, and above prejudice; and may be, this speech of mine may not be without some effect. We will talk to-morrow, Trim, on the appointment of judges," said my Uncle Toby, laying aside his pipe.

The present state of the matter was evidently not satisfactory to his mind, for he whistled LILLIBULLERO as he walked off to the parlour.

Hull.

TRISTRAM SHANDY.

Fair Play's a Jewel.

At the risk of making some of the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," say "Cochin-Chinas again!" I cannot help writing a

column once—only once—more on these grand subjects of discussion, (and formerly of favour), in the poultry world, if only to ask the question whether *we, any one among us, can fairly* give an opinion as to their merits as *useful* fowls.

When these Chinese fowls, which are with about equal incorrectness called Shanghais and Cochinchinas, were first introduced, English amateurs were carried away with wonder-stirring tales, of cocks and hens weighing ten—twelve—twenty pounds each, and those who bred them became dissatisfied if their chickens only about doubled the size of our common poultry. If an amateur had a hen under seven pounds, he never waited to inquire and to test if she were a capital fowl in every useful point, and more likely to be a good layer, and to breed strong, hearty, plump, good-flavoured chickens, than one three or four pounds heavier; no! if fowls or chickens were deficient in the fashionable weight, they must be *made to reach it*. They must eat unnatural quantities of food, and their appetites must be pampered with unnatural kinds of it, until an enormous weight was attained. This was carried on for generations, and then we began to find fault with our favourites. We found that fat collected about the intestines, until the fowls, lazy and thriftless, expected to get their keep *entirely* from their owners, their pampered appetites became unnaturally large, and they were by some found or fancied to be expensive to keep. It was also brought against them that while other fowls were in the prime, they put on an old look and lost their beauty.

After this we got the yellow fever, and the clear buff and silver cinnamon fever. We did not care for a thing except speckless colour, and hundreds have remarked upon the falling off in shape which followed that move. So now we put all these manufactured faults of the poor birds together, and find out that they are a less useful sort than was expected. But may not all this be the result of our own fault in sacrificing useful to fancy qualities, and would

it not be well worth while, for a few of us at any rate, to try Cochín-Chinas *entirely without reference to fancy?* Let good shaped, medium sized, good laying birds be kept; let them have a good range and give them plain food in moderate quantities. Pay attention to *all useful qualities* without reference to size or colour. Treat them as common fowls and fairly test their merits.

We all agree that Dorkings are excellent for the table, but, trusting to them, our market has been insufficiently supplied, and in this poultry-rearing time private families, of moderate income, have bought fewer fowls for their tables than formerly. If Cochín-Chinas, so easy to rear when bred from mature fowls, had the attention they deserve (for table fowls) this would not be. Cochins will do in many places where Dorking chickens would die off by hundreds. Treat them like common fowls, pay no respect to fancy qualities, (keep your fancy birds in another yard, they are very pretty) and fairly test whether, when all advantages are canvassed, our favourites the Cochins will not head the poll as useful, productive fowls.

E. W.

On the Gizzard.

SIR,—I have been from home, or would sooner have thanked "Tristram Shandy," and "J. L." for their information regarding the gizzard. I write to you to gain information, and to get at the truth, and I believe much more may yet be written on this subject.

It has occurred to me that the animals which do not get quit of their acid by perspiration, have strong digestive powers, viz., dogs, pigs, fowls and fish.

The dog is said to perspire by the tongue when taking violent exercise, but very little is got quit of by the mouth, and dogs digest bones. The pig, when driven hard, foams at the mouth, but does not perspire that I am aware of; it has also a first-rate digestion, but is fond of chewing coal or cinder, for what purpose I don't know.

The fish devours its fellow fish, so digests

bones. But it is to the fowl I wish chiefly to direct the attention of your readers:

1st. the Ostrich; it can, according to "Tom Cringle's Log," and other high authorities, digest iron nails.

2nd. The Turkey digests walnut shells, as I learn from a friend of mine, a Captain in the Royal Navy; he informs me that at Lisbon Turkeys are treated in the following manner: the first morning a pip of garlic is given; the second a walnut, the third two walnuts, and so on increasing a walnut every day until you reach sixteen, when the Turkey is in condition for the table; the walnuts are not broken, merely the sharp point filed or cut off. What cruelty! But it appears that this enormous quantity is necessary to clog the digestion, and bring the poor animal into an unnatural state of fatness. Now, am I to suppose that the Turkey has a pair of nut-crackers, and the Ostrich a file, in the stomach? No. I believe an acid is the great dissolving means; and believing that it is capable of dissolving bones, I of course believe it can dissolve starch, but by boiling rice, &c., there is less for the acid to perform, and less chance of the starch being passed off in the dung. I have not at present any geese, ducks, or Turkeys: would some of your correspondents kindly examine the gizzards of these, and inform us if they swallow as many stones as the common fowl? I have not had the advantage of a medical or surgical education, but, on examining some gizzards, I thought more of the power of the hydraulic press, than of a flour mill. Has Tom nothing to say on this subject?

W. S.

[Tom is in Paris; and we fear he has not applied his extensive knowledge to the study of the internal functions of a fowl.—Ed.]

Turkeys, like turncoats, are a poor dependence.

Upon industry and economy does the success of life depend.

'Tis said—"a word to the wise is sufficient."—*American Paper.*

The Editor's Letter-Box.

SUBSCRIBING TO POULTRY EXHIBITIONS.

SIR,—Will you allow me to point out to your readers, and those in particular who have the framing of rules for poultry exhibitions, the bad policy of insisting on the very common regulation that requires exhibitors to be subscribers.

Exhibitions professedly *open to all*, necessarily by such a rule are confined to a few, it being seldom worth while to any, except those who keep several kinds of poultry, to subscribe a sum which frequently amounts to as much or more than the prize sought to be obtained. The far better plan seems to me to be to fix a remunerating rate of entry for those who choose to exhibit without subscribing, leaving those to subscribe who prefer doing so, with the privilege of exhibiting at a smaller rate of entry. A *better* show and greater competition would of course be the result; and I conceive there would be a gain, rather than a loss, of funds.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
O. S. M.

FANCY RABBITS.

MR. EDITOR,—A Constant Subscriber wishes to know if "Alector," or some of the numerous correspondents of your valuable journal, could furnish him with a few hints on the breeding and managing of rabbits for the shows; and likewise the length of ear that took the prizes at the shows held last year at the Surrey Zoological Gardens and at Baker Street.
Z. A.

POULTRY SHOWS.

MR. EDITOR,—I believe it would be productive of much good if an alteration were made in the rule requiring exhibitors to state the age of birds intended to be exhibited, as it must very frequently (particularly where only a select number of birds are bred) prove very prejudicial when the day arrives to be compelled to exhibit the birds originally intended, inasmuch as they may be then in moult, or otherwise out of condition.

If a ticket were affixed to the pen, stating the age, surely that would suffice.
Boston.
C. P.

[As the ages of the birds are not entered in the book which is given to the judges, we see little use in obliging exhibitors to make a statement which may so often be (either from forgetfulness, ignorance, or other causes,) incorrect.—ED.]

RABBITS.

MR. EDITOR,—An Amateur wishes to know whether fancy rabbits may be classed among

poultry, and if so, will some kind correspondent inform him of the best mode of managing and feeding them, and the cause why his does so seldom prove in young.
H. M.

[Where space will permit, without infringing on the prior claims of the more legitimate poultry, we shall be happy to make room for simple, practical remarks on rabbits.—ED.]

FROM A DORKING CHIROPEDIST.

SIR,—It may be advantageous to some of your readers who are fanciers of that best of all feathered birds, the Dorking, to know that the hard formation so liable to appear on the foot of the Dorking may be removed by the knife without injury to the bird. I have a very fine three-year-old Dorking cock, that has been troubled, and greatly so, for a year or more, with a large excrescence on the middle claw, and which quite lamed him, particularly in the hot dry weather we have lately had. I at length determined at all risks to attempt the removal of it, which I did with a sharp pen-knife. The formation came off entire, and the bird did not appear to suffer much. After keeping him in a coop a few days (on short allowance of food) on soft turf, and having applied nothing to the wound but Nature's salve, the bird was quite recovered, and seemed to have experienced little or no inconvenience, save a sound thrashing he got from a younger bird (his former subject) immediately on his re-appearance on "the walk," which I attribute to his loss of blood and consequent weakness. He has now regained his health, but not his position of Cock of the Walk, and has probably obtained a lease of life for another year.

If you think these remarks worthy a place in "The Poultry Chronicle," some of the Fancy may not be losers by the knowledge that the operation is not injurious.

CROSSBRED FOWLS AT SHOWS.

MR. EDITOR, SIR,—I take the liberty of following the example of some of your correspondents, and write this, my first letter, through your admirable periodical "The Poultry Chronicle." I am a great admirer of all the beautiful varieties of poultry. The magnificent plumage, the extraordinary size, the peculiar eccentricities, all command attention and deserve prizes justly; but I am sorry so many of our provincial shows have not offered prizes for crossbreds. All books that have of late years been written, and all comments of our judges, state, that great improvement is attainable by *cross breeds*. The Cochins, Chinas and Dorking or Spanish will produce excellent chickens for table use, being most certainly

better than the ordinary fowls which now fill our markets.

Should this be read by any who have an influence at poultry shows, I beg of them to offer these prizes. Taunton Show offered, and there were none sufficiently good to gain a first prize.

Being entirely an amateur, I should feel obliged to "Tristram Shandy" if he would inform me what the peculiarities of a Sebright's tail should be, when laced. I have some, and wish very much to discover if they are true bred.

I have, Sir, some six kinds of fowls; and at a future time, if it would be likely to interest you, will give you an account of them, and all the difficulties I had to overcome, and the successes attained.—I am yours very truly,

A BANKER'S CLERK.

P.S.—Being my first letter, I enclose my card.

[We shall be happy to hear of "the difficulties." The card was, by mistake, left out.—ED.]

EGGS WITH TWO AND THREE YOLKS.

SIR,—I have an unexampled cock and two hens from Mr. Burnham, of Boston, U.S., such as he presented to Her Majesty the Queen of England; but, to my sorrow, one of the hens invariably lays double-yolked eggs. Is not this a complaint, and can it not be remedied? She is the finest hen, and I want a setting from her. These eggs average 7 half, Bavarian weight; but I have just weighed one 8 half—a quarter of a pound Bavarian; 88 lb. Bavarian are equal to 100 lb. English. A lady, making game of something I had praised, said, "All your eggs have two yolks" (this is an old German adage). I replied "It is true;" and brought her six eggs, and told her to select any one she pleased, which she did. I then made a bet of a forfeit that it had two yolks. It was taken; and when the egg was broken you may judge our surprise at finding three perfect yolks. I maintain I won the bet; the lady declares the contrary, as the egg was triple and not double-yolked. The matter was left to arbitration, and the referee was invited to partake of the eggs fried. I broke another egg, which had two large yolks; and the two yielded more than six ordinary ones.

As I have taken "The Poultry Chronicle" from its commencement, will you kindly publish this? and perhaps you or some friend can suggest a cure for double-yolked eggs. I must add, the hen lays at least six days out of seven.—Yours truly,

PHILIP G.

Nuremberg, Bavaria.

THE ROSE COMB OF THE DORKING.

SIR,—As the poultry exhibitions are coming on, and there is a dispute in this locality as to

the purity of the Dorking, would you be kind enough to inquire through your journal how judges are to decide in the case in dispute?

A strong party here—one that has had the most experience—denounces the rose-combed Dorking as impure, stating that the Dorkings cannot be an exception to all other breeds of poultry, and have either single or rose combs; it must be either one or the other; and asks, "Would it be admitted that a rose comb Game, Spanish, or Cochin China would be allowed as pure; and, on the other hand, a single comb Silver or Gold Pheasant, Black Hamburg, &c.?" Then, if not admitted in any other breed, how can Dorkings be an exception?"

Judges at exhibitions hitherto have not given this sufficient consideration, consequently their decisions have not been satisfactory on this head.

Your eliciting all the information you can on this matter in dispute would oblige,

Yours, respectfully,

W.

[It is generally acknowledged that the Dorking may have either a single or rose comb; but in that, as in other points, the pen must be uniform. Mr. Baily, who is, perhaps, the best judge of Dorkings in the world, in his points of exhibition fowls, says only, "combs uniform." Years back—before many of our present amateurs were born—used not the rose comb to be *the* comb for the Dorking?—ED.]

COTTAGE PRIZES.

MR. EDITOR.—I admit myself surprised by the statement of "R. G.," at page 537 of the "Poultry Chronicle," that "I waive the question at issue" (the propriety of encouraging poultry-keeping by cottagers), and that I have placed "a stigma" on himself; for which reasons he troubles you with a few remarks in self-defence.

I distinctly disclaim the intention of doing the one or the other; but I can not assent to his former direct implication of dishonesty to barnmen and other equally humble labourers, either as the "probable consequence" or "fact positive," resulting from the admission of cottagers' competition at our poultry exhibitions.

Certainly I never assumed that education invariably prevented the commission of crime; for, contrariwise, I enjoyed the fact, "If the human mind is bent on evil, it matters not in the scale of society how high or how low we cast our views, for the results assimilate." I am still convinced, by practical experience, of the advantages of a well-planned religious education of the poor; it is not brought forward as "a panacea," but a *corrective* of vice, by which the minds of both poor and rich may alike be benefited. It certainly

is deeply to be deplored when the educated do evil; but the statistical records of our prisons will bear the most incontrovertible evidence that crime chiefly abounds among the poor, the uncared-for, and the neglected.

It is capable of easy proof, that many first prize birds, at our poultry exhibitions, have been originally raised (for their successful owners) by cottage labourers; indeed, "R. G." himself writes: "as an amateur, I find the system of supplying cottagers with my own poultry answer admirably."

Why not, then, allow the whole profits to rest with the party who takes the toil and trouble of thus raising prize birds for others, by assisting him (when deserving), to become the possessor of such poultry, exclusively on his own account?

I have myself, by pen and purse, endeavoured to the utmost to promote the object "R. G." disapproves; and *time-tested facts* convince me I have not moved in an unwise direction. Very many poultry exhibition committees are now adopting the plan I advocate, several for a second time, and the results have been satisfactory and to me conclusive. I thus feel myself far more inclined to accredit well-proved measures than theoretical presumptions.

To conclude, I most heartily join your correspondent when he states, "I freely accord to others the same liberty of opinion I claim for myself;" and from this cause, therefore (where really deserving), I shall still continue to pursue a plan which experience proves devoid of evil consequences. E. C.

PARTRIDGE COCHINS.

MR. EDITOR,—Will any qualified person inform me what colour the legs of Partridge Cochins should be? I always thought they should be dark-blue or gray, and that a yellow leg would show Buff blood to be in the bird. I have seen the Birmingham prize Partridge hens, and their legs were of the colour I have described, viz., a dark-blue or gray. Will Mr. Fairlie, Mr. Punchard, or Mr. Brydges say how this is? J. B.

GRAY SPECKLED DORKINGS.

MR. EDITOR,—The remarks of "Senex" on the Lincoln Poultry Show are decidedly good; but I would correct an error of judgment in saying that the cockerel in Miss Steele Perkin's pen of Dorking chickens, No. 28, did not match the pullets, and that it was "Cuckoo coloured." The truth is, this bird was of the same brood, and the same parents as the pullets, and all of the same hatch as those which took the first prize at Bath, in June, and were highly commended by the judges; but with these gray speckled Dorkings (which are a breed rather peculiar to Sussex), the male birds are very light in colour

the first year, becoming darker as they moult the second year. They are of a robust nature, and grow and fatten faster than the common speckled Dorking. One of the pullets sent to Lincoln, in pen No. 28, had been disposed to sit, having laid a number of eggs, in consequence of being hatched in January; and this accounts for one being inferior in condition to the other. P.

TREATMENT OF A SICK FOWL.

DEAR SIR,—As the following case may possibly be of service to some of your readers, I will briefly detail it.

On entering the chicken-house, a few days since, I found a Silver Pencilled Hamburg pullet unable to leave the roost, and without power to keep her head upright, but allowing it to dangle below the perch. When placed on the ground her head immediately fell down again; and though by great exertion she raised it occasionally, yet could not keep it up for more than a second. Supposing from this that she was suffering from determination of blood to the head, or something arising from it, I took blood from both wings, though it flowed very slowly.

This appeared to give relief, and towards night I repeated it with better success, giving at the same time a seven-grain jalap pill. The pullet is now perfectly well.—Yours, &c.,

GAME CHICKEN.

STAINED BILL IN THE AYLESBURY DUCK.

MR. EDITOR,—I should feel obliged to any gentleman who has acted in the capacity of judge at a poultry show, to inform me whether the Aylesbury Duck competes at a *great* disadvantage owing to the presence of dark spots on the bill? And if so, upon what theory the rule is founded?

So far as my own experience goes, the spots in question appear to develop themselves in birds of the purest strain, but are much more frequently seen in the female than in the male. Indeed, I may say that out of a flock of forty of the above breed, I find the latter remarkably exempt from such spots; whilst of the former, the heaviest and most beautiful in other respects present especially, if not exclusively, the above appearance.

I think the subject requires consideration. At all events, exhibitors in the Aylesbury class would be saved some trouble and disappointment if they clearly understood which of the two have the best chance of a prize—their largest and best-shaped birds having the dark markings, or those which, though otherwise of somewhat inferior merit, are without them? B.

[We shall be much obliged if some gentleman "who has acted as judge" will kindly reply to our correspondent.—Ed.]

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

The demand for poultry, except at the Crystal Palace, falls off daily. The prorogation of Parliament, and the attractions of grouse-shooting have emptied the West end of London, and that demand has ceased.

We do not feel justified this week in making any quotation of Grouse. At the time when we of necessity go to press, the season has been open but a day or two. The supply is uncertain, and the prices so various in consequence, that no average is possible. We can only impress on such of our readers as send Grouse to market, to send them fresh and young. A better return is secured by a number of small parcels than by one large one.

| | | | | | | |
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| Large Fowls | 5s. | 6d. | to | 6s. | 6d. | each. |
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| Leverets | 4s. | 0d. | to | 4s. | 6d. | „ |
| Quails | 1s. | 2d. | to | 1s. | 6d. | „ |

To Correspondents.

To K. W.—We regret that our kind and valued correspondent's contributions did not reach us in time for a place in last week's number. It is difficult to gain insertion for communications which reach us as late as Monday morning.

M. A. and *An Exhibitor* will receive an answer next week.

J. L.—We have forwarded the letter as directed. Our reason for asking whether the Buckwheat had been asked for as Brank was, that by some corn-dealers it is known by that name best.

An Original Subscriber.—Many thanks for the contribution, and also for the Schedule and promise of advertisements. The Schedule is in type, and will be given next week.

Z. A.—Twenty-two inches (by five or five-and-a-half) was the length of ear of Mr. Clinton's black-and-white buck that took a prize at the Surrey Zoological Gardens. The rabbit was afterwards purchased by Dr. Bennett, of the United States, where, we believe, he has since taken prizes.

We were much obliged to *A Contributor* for an account of the Ripon Show, which would have been most acceptable if we had not had one already in type. "Silver Spangled Hamburg Fowls" next week.

Advertisements.

FOWLS.—By JOHN BAILY. Just Published, the Second Edition of the above work, with which is reprinted the Fourth Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," corrected, revised, and considerably enlarged. It contains descriptive Tables of all the Fowls now exhibited, giving in few words their chief points and qualifications, with copious rules for their selection and management. Price 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.

JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

PRIZE PIGEONS.—To be Sold, cheap, a PAIR of FANTAILES, Prize Birds, at Yarmouth, 1853; commended at Cheltenham and Bath, 1854.

Also, some Pouters, including the Prize Hen at the London Summer Show, 1853; and a Pair of Jacobins. H. H. SWIFT, Purton, near Swindon, Wiltshire.

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PIGEONS.—A TREATISE on the Art of

Breeding and Managing Fancy Pigeons. Also, how to breed the Antwerp, or most subtle, cunning, sharpest-flying Pigeon for Homeing. Carefully compiled from the best authors, containing the whole of the Works of Moore, 1735; Mayor, 1765; Girtin; Boys, Esq's Notes. With observations and reflections, by J. M. EATON, with seven elegantly-engraved coloured Portraits (large as life) by Wolstenholme.

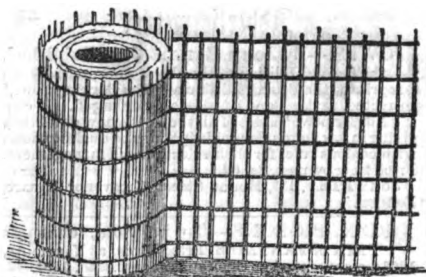
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FANCY PIGEONS.—MR. HENRY CHILD,

Jun., of Poplar Cottage, Sherbourne Road, near Birmingham, has a quantity of Fancy Pigeons to dispose of, including many Prize Birds at the principal exhibitions.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE AND POULTRY SHOW, 1854.—The Sixth Great Annual Exhibition of Stock and Domestic Poultry will be held in Bingley Hall, on the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December next. The Prize Lists, and any further information may be obtained from

JOHN MORGAN, Jun., Secretary.
Offices, 38, Bennett's Hill, Birmingham.



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WIRE FENCING, strong enough to keep
out Sheep, &c., and close enough for Dogs,
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SPANISH AND DORKING CHICKENS
for 1854, bred from the Prize Birds at Bath,
Cheltenham, and Lincoln, and other first-rate Stock;
as also some **BRAHMA POOTRA CHICKENS**, and
WHITE AYLESBURY DUCKS, are now on Sale, and
may be had by Amateurs and others wishing to im-
prove their Stock of Poultry, on application, by letter,
p. p. to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, Spring Grove House,
Hounslow.

WHITE PERUVIAN MUSK DUCKS.—A
Gentleman Amateur can part with a few surplus
Birds of the above sort, from this year's broods.

The White Musk Duck of Peru is very fond of water,
grows to a great size, lays eggs large and plentifully,
is very ornamental, and also profitable for the table.

For particulars apply, pre-paid, to the Rev. C. W. D.,
Post-office, Crediton, Devon.

**THE DORSETSHIRE POULTRY IM-
PROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, OPEN TO ALL
ENGLAND.**—The Annual Exhibition of this Association
will be held at Dorchester, on Wednesday and
Thursday, the 27th and 28th September next, when
not less than Eight Pieces of Plate, in addition to the
Society's Premiums, will be offered for competition.

From and after the 26th July instant, a Prize List
will be forwarded to any applicant, on a stamped
envelope, addressed, and six penny postage stamps
being received by the Honorary Secretary,

G. J. ANDREWS.

Dorchester, 22nd July, 1854.

FANCY POULTRY, &c.—**MR. J. B. MAY**
will **SELL by AUCTION**, on Wednesday, Aug.
16, 1854, at Twelve for One o'clock precisely, upon
the grounds of Egypt House, Cowes, Isle of Wight, a
valuable collection of about Two Hundred First-class
POWLS and CHICKENS, the Stock of Mr. W.
SAUNDERS, including some known birds, and com-
prising Dorkings, Brahma Pootras, Spanish, Game,
Cochin China, White and Coloured, Golden and Silver
Hamburgs, White Spanish, White and Black Bantams,
Ducks, and Rabbits.—Catalogues to be had on applica-
tion to the Auctioneer, Cowes, or Mr. SAUNDERS.

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ampton and subsequent Shows.

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coming and returning easily by the various Steam-
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allowing any one to see his Stock of Poultry; but
some inconvenience having arisen from the visits of
persons altogether unknown, and at unseasonable
hours, those Ladies or Gentlemen who may wish to
see the Birds are requested to favour Mr. DAVIES
previously with their name and address, when a Card
of Admission will be immediately forwarded. In
future no person can be admitted to the Poultry Yard
without producing such a Card; or at any other hours
than those named for the purpose.
Spring Grove House, Hounslow.

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TANNED GARDEN NETTING for Pre-
serving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.;
also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c.

Prices:—1 yard wide, 1½d.; 2 yards wide, 3d.; and
4 yards wide, 6d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide,
for 20s., sent carriage free. Orders by post, with re-
mittance, punctually attended to.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 26.]

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

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Poultry Shows.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries closed on Saturday.

Keighley Agricultural Show, including Poultry, Wednesday, September 6th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq. Entries close August 30th.

Wellington, Salop, Horticultural and Poultry Show. Wednesday and Thursday, September 6th and 7th. Secretary, T. W. Jones, Esq., Church Street, Wellington. Entries close September 1st.

Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Meeting, September 8th. Secretary, H. White, Esq., Warrington. Entries close August 30th.

Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Society, in-

cluding Poultry, at Radcliffe, September 11th. Secretary, Mr. J. Crosse, Market Street, Bury. Entries close August 28th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries closed on Saturday.

South East Hants, at Fareham, Tuesday, September 19th. Secretaries, G. Creed, Esq., and J. James, Esq. Entries close September 1st.

Yeovil, September 20th. Secretary, John Clyde, Esq.

Daventry Exhibition, in connexion with the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society (limited to the county), September 21st. Secretaries, Messrs. Freeman & Sons, Northampton.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wed-

nesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M'C. Swarbreck, Esq. Entries close September 6th.

Dorsetshire Poultry Association's Annual Exhibition, at Dorchester, Wednesday and Thursday, September 27th and 28th. Secretary, G. J. Andrews, Esq. Entries close September 1st.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. Entries close September 1st.

Sparkenhoe Farmers' Club, including Poultry, October 4th and 5th. Secretaries, J. W. Taverner, Esq., Hartshill, Atherstone, and W. P. Deves, Esq., Ashby de la Zouche. Entries close September 1st.

South West Middlesex Agricultural Society, at Southall, Friday, October 6th. Secretary, Mr. John Gotelee, Hounslow. Entries close one calendar month before the show.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. Wm. Thurnall, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

Cambridgeshire, at Cambridge, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of November. Secretary, C. H. Crosse, Esq., New Square, Cambridge. Entries close October 11th.

Norwich and Eastern Counties, at Norwich, Wednesday and Thursday, the 15th and 16th of November. Secretary, C. Oury, Esq. Entries close October 31st.

Salisbury and West Counties' Exhibition of Domestic Poultry. Fourth Annual Exhibition, at Salisbury, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st and 22nd of November. Secretary, T. Pain, Esq. Entries close November 10th.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 28th.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. R. Dombrain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council Rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, the 7th and 8th of December. Secretary, J. Hodgson. Entries close Nov. 13th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties: Sixth Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Nottinghamshire Poultry Association. The Second Annual Exhibition will be held at Southwell, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 19th and 20th of December. Secretary, R. Hawksley, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 21st.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "Monk Barns, Hampstead."

THERE are few circumstances that more forcibly strike those who have long and closely watched the progress which attention to poultry has been making within the last few years, than its extension as a useful rather than merely as a fancy pursuit. Poultry, especially those kinds which are most productive in eggs, have one great advantage over the more important kinds of stock; that whereas they make a return on expenditure only at the end of a certain period, leaving the owner out of pocket for the whole of the intervening time, and generally giving the return only when killed or sold, the poultry-yard may be made (provided the cocks are killed off early) self-supporting as it goes on, and the small capitalist may feed his chickens on *their own eggs*, and realise his profit when he sends his poultry to market.

The importance of poultry to the farmer

(from the above-named circumstance to the *small* farmer especially) is a question which has attracted the attention of those powerful bodies in the community most potent for the encouragement of this, to many persons, new pursuit—the AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

No longer ago than 1852, poultry was for the first time allowed a place in the schedule of the ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND. The collection was, that first year, small, but far from unimportant was the step which encouraged farmers and other producers of provisions to bestow attention on a new and inexpensive manner of realising a large return of delicate and wholesome food.

In a revision of the contents of the "POULTRY CHRONICLE," with reference to an index to our first volume, now so near its completion, we notice that since we had the pleasure of giving the portion of the schedule of the Royal Agricultural Society relating to poultry, in Number 5, a great many of the schedules introduced are those of AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES. What these societies have begun we are sure they will follow up, and the market—the poultry arena which is interesting to the *largest number of chicken fanciers*—will fare much better next year than it has done this.

Let the Spanish fowl wear his white face, the Cochín China his speckless plumage, the Dorking the comb to please the fancy, and the Hamburg the tail to please all (if he can)—let the fancier, by attention to his interesting, health-giving, and harmless pursuit, improve in his favourites the points which please and which give them value as fancy fowls; but it is to the farmers we look, with the

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES to lead them on, to prevent the dearth of poultry in our markets, from which the dealer and the housekeeper alike have suffered this year.

Schedule of the Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Society.

THIS society, which the schedule informs us was formed by the union of the Manchester and Liverpool societies, will hold its annual show this year at Altringham, on Friday, the 8th of September, when a variety of premiums will be given for the best cultivated farms, crops of different kinds, to labourers in the employ of tenant-farmers, to live stock, implements, and poultry.

POULTRY.

One male and two female birds to be shown in each pen.

The poultry must have been the property of the exhibitor two months.

Exhibitors are expected to find their own pens, which it is desirable should be about three feet square, with fronts of wire work.

FOWLS.

| Class. | £. | s. |
|--|----|----|
| 56. For the best speckled, or grey Dorking | 1 | 0 |
| 57. For the best Spanish | 1 | 0 |
| 58. For the best Game | 1 | 0 |
| 59. For the best Cochín China | 1 | 0 |
| 60. For the best golden pencilled Hamburg | 1 | 0 |
| The variety called "Bolton Bays," or "Golden Hamburg" fowl must be exhibited for this premium. | | |
| 61. For the best silver pencilled Hamburg | 1 | 0 |
| "Bolton Greys," "Chitteprats," and "Silver pencilled Dutch" to be shown for this premium. | | |
| 62. For the best gold spangled Hamburg | 1 | 0 |
| "Golden Pheasant," "Golden Mooneys," "Copper Moss," and "Red Caps" to be shown for this premium. | | |
| 63. For the best silver spangled Hamburg | 1 | 0 |
| "Silver Pheasant," "Silver Mooney," and "Silver Moss" to be shown for this premium. | | |
| 64. For the best Poland | 1 | 0 |
| Black with white crests, golden or silver. | | |

- | | 1st. | 2nd. |
|--|------|------|
| 65. For the best of any other breed or cross | 1 | 0 |
| The breed to be stated on entry. | | |

GEESSE.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| 66. For the best geese | 1 | 0 |
|------------------------------|---|---|

DUCKS.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 67. For the Aylesbury | 1 | 0 |
| 68. For the best Rouen | 1 | 0 |
| 69. For the best of any other variety | 1 | 0 |

TURKEYS.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 70. For the best turkeys | 1 | 0 |
|--------------------------------|---|---|

YOUNG POULTRY.

The day on which they were hatched to be stated.

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| 71. For four goslings..... | 0 | 10 |
| 72. For four ducklings | 0 | 10 |
| 73. For four Dorking Chickens (Cockerel and three Pullets) | 0 | 10 |
| 74. For four Spanish Chickens (Cockerel and three Pullets) | 0 | 10 |
| 75. For four Cochon Chickens (Cockerel and three pullets) | 0 | 10 |
| 76. For four Bolton grey Chickens (Cockerel and three Pullets) | 0 | 10 |

EXTRA STOCK.—Any description of cattle or poultry may be entered under this head, and exhibited in the show-yard, subject to the rules of the Society and the directions of the committee or their secretary. The judges may award medals, or commend any of the cattle, &c., as they see fit.

REGULATIONS.

The competition will take place on Friday, the 8th of September, 1854, in a field at Altringham. The entry must be made with the secretary between the 23rd and 31st of August, by letter, and, if for cattle or poultry, by inclosing a regular certificate according to the form. Entries may also be made with the assistant-secretary, Mr. T. B. Ryder, 2, Elliott Street, Clayton Square, Liverpool, on Tuesday, the 29th; at Mr. Geo. V. Ryder's, 100, King Street, Manchester, on Saturday, the 26th August; and at the secretary's office, in Warrington, on Wednesday, the 23rd and 30th August.

Members whose subscriptions have been paid on or before the day of entry, to enter their stock, &c., free of charge; others to pay 2s. per head, or (if sheep or poultry) per pen, and for implements, 1s. each.

The admission to the show-yard previous to 10 A.M. will be 5s. each to all parties, whether members or not; after 10, members will be ad-

mitted free, and non-members, from 10 to 1 o'clock, for 2s. 6d. each; and from 1 to 4, 1s. each. Ladies in the company of members or of parties purchasing tickets, to be admitted free; but no ticket to admit more than one gentleman and lady, or two ladies.

Should the right of any party to a prize be disputed, notice of the same should be given to the secretary, in writing, before 3 o'clock p.m. on the day of show.

Winners of premiums, not being members of the society, will only be entitled to half the prize, except in the case of poultry shown by cottagers, when the whole prize will be awarded.

Any person obtaining a prize of £1. or upwards may have a silver medal in lieu.

For the convenience of exhibitors at a distance the secretary will, if possible, make arrangements for receiving sheep, pigs, poultry and implements into the show-yard the afternoon before the day of show.

Schedule of the Dorsetshire Poultry Association.

THE third annual exhibition of this Society will be held at Dorchester, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 27th and 28th of September.

PRIZE LIST.

A PIECE OF PLATE, value £5, given by the Earl of Ilchester, the Patron of the Society, to the owner, being a resident in the county of Dorset, of the best COCHIN CHINA Cockerel and two Pullets of 1854, and the best DORKING Cockerel and two Pullets of 1854. N.B.—One at least of these lots must have been bred by the exhibitor.

A PIECE OF PLATE, value £2 10s., given by John James Farquharson, Esq., the President of the Society, to the owner, being a resident in the county of Dorset, and the breeder of the best CINNAMON or BUFF COCHIN CHINA Cock of not less than one year old.

A PIECE OF PLATE, value £2 10s., given by J. J. Farquharson, Esq., the President of the Society, to the owner, being a resident in the county of Dorset, and the breeder of the best DORKING Cock of not less than one year old.

A PIECE OF PLATE, value £3, given by Sir Edward B. Baker, Bart., the Vice-President of

the Society, to the owner of the two best pens of DUCKS (Aylesbury and Rouen), each pen to contain a Drake and two Ducks only.

A PIECE OF PLATE, value £5, given by the Lord Rivers, to the owner of the best CINNAMON or BUFF COCHIN CHINA Cock and two Hens, above one year old.

A PIECE OF PLATE, value £5, given by H. K. SEYMER, Esq., M.P., to the owner of the best CINNAMON or BUFF COCHIN CHINA Cockerel and two Pullets of 1854.

A PIECE OF PLATE, value £2 10s., given by R. B. Sheridan, Esq., M.P., to the owner of the best SPANISH Cock and two Hens, above one year old.

A PIECE OF PLATE, value £2 10s., given by R. B. Sheridan, Esq., M.P., to the owner of the best SPANISH Cockerel and two Pullets of 1854.

A PIECE OF PLATE, value £5, given by Gerard Sturt, Esq., M.P., to the owner of the best DORKING Cockerel and two Pullets, of 1854.

The Chickens must all be of 1854.

SPANISH.

| <i>Class.</i> | <i>1st.</i> | <i>2nd.</i> | <i>3rd.</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <i>s.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>s.</i> |
| 1. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 2. Cockerel and two Pullets | 15 | 10 | 5 |

Classes 1 and 2 may be entered for the Plate given by R. B. Sheridan, Esq., M.P.

DORKING (Coloured).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 3. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 4. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

DORKING (White).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 5. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 6. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

Classes 4 and 6 may be entered for the Plate given by G. Sturt, Esq., M.P.

COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon and Buff).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 7. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 8. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

Classes 7 and 8 may be entered for the Pieces of Plate given by the Lord Rivers and H. K. Seymer, Esq., M.P.

COCHIN CHINA (Brown and Partridge Feathered).

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 9. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 10. Cockerel and two Pullets.... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

COCHIN CHINA (Black).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 11. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 12. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

COCHIN CHINA (White).

| <i>Class.</i> | <i>1st.</i> | <i>2nd.</i> | <i>3rd.</i> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <i>s.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>s.</i> |
| 13. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 14. Cockerel and two Pullets.... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

MALAY.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 15. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 16. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

GAME FOWL (Black, Black Breasted, and other Reds).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 17. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 18. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

GAME FOWL (any other colour).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 19. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 20. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

HAMBURG (Golden Spangled).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 21. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 22. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

HAMBURG (Silver Spangled).

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 23. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 24. Cockerel and three Pullets ... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

HAMBURG (Golden Pencilled).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 25. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 26. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

HAMBURG (Silver Pencilled).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 27. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 28. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

POLAND (Black and White Top-knots).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 29. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 30. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

POLAND (Golden Spangled).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 31. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 32. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

POLAND (Silver Spangled).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 33. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
| 34. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 15 | 10 | 5 |

BANTAMS (Gold Laced).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|--|
| 35. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|--|

BANTAMS (Silver Laced).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|--|
| 36. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|--|

BANTAMS (Black, White, or any other Variety).

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|--|
| 37. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|--|

GEESE (of any breed.)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 38. Gander and one Goose..... | 20 | 10 | |
|-------------------------------|----|----|--|

DUCKS (Aylesbury).

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|----|--|
| 39. Drake and two Ducks..... | 20 | 10 | |
|------------------------------|----|----|--|

DUCKS (Rouen).

| Class. | 1st. | 2nd. | 3rd. |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|
| | s. | s. | s. |
| 40. Drake and two Ducks | 20 | ... | 10 |

TURKEYS (of any breed.)

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|----|
| 41. Cock and two Hens | 20 | ... | 10 |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|----|

REGULATIONS.

The ages of the chickens must be stated, and of the others when it can be done. Chickens cannot be shown in classes for fowls.

Exhibitors will be allowed to send two pens only in any class, but they will not be allowed to show the same birds, or any of them, for more than one prize or premium, except where otherwise expressed.

The poultry must be at the show on Tuesday, the 26th of September, by 6 o'clock p.m., and remain there until 5 o'clock p.m. on the Thursday following.

Non-subscribers will be admitted from Twelve o'clock at noon, on Wednesday, the 27th September, on payment of two shillings; and from Nine till Five on Thursday, the 28th September, on payment of one shilling.

Subscriptions are now due, and members are respectfully requested to forward the amount of their Subscriptions either to the Treasurer or Secretary, in order that cards of admission may be duly forwarded.

All entries must be made (on the forms only) with the Honorary Secretary, on or before Friday, the 1st day of September next, after which no entry will be received.

Prize lists, forms of entry, and the rules of the Association, will be forwarded to any applicant on a stamped envelope addressed, and six penny postage stamps being received by

G. J. ANDREWS, Hon. Sec.

Dorchester, July, 1854.

The Dorking Fowl.

FROM the various statements that from time to time appear in the "Poultry Chronicle," and also in other works on fowls respecting the toes of Dorkings, I beg leave to call the attention of all persons that take an interest in this excellent fowl, to inquire into the truth of these statements, and preserve this useful bird intact. I believe that many erroneous statements arise from the want of

proper information, as also from an incorrect nomenclature. The first point to determine is the derivation of the name: on this head there is little trouble, all will readily agree that the town of Dorking, in Surrey, and its immediate neighbourhood, was a few years back famed for its fowls, and that the breed cultivated there was called the Dorking. The next point to be ascertained is what sort of a fowl was that of Dorking notoriety? of this matter amateurs have been exceedingly careless, taking for granted that any large fowl with five toes, must be a Dorking; but this idea is perfectly erroneous, for there are various others that possess this appendage, brought from India, China, Turkey, and elsewhere. The Greeks and Romans had large fowls with five toes, but these could not be *Dorkings*; though it might be possible that the Dorkings and many other fowls, might owe *part* of their origin to birds introduced by the Romans; nevertheless I repudiate the idea that the Dorking is a lineal descendant of Rome: where the poultry breeders in and about Dorking procured their original stock, or if they merely raised this variety, by selecting and careful breeding from the common sorts, is a matter of speculation, but of no value as regards the present subject: suffice it then to be known and borne in mind, that the *old* Dorking! the *pure* Dorking! the *only* Dorking! is the *White* Dorking. The fowl commonly known as the coloured Dorking, is *not* a Dorking at all; it is a Sussex bird, bred from the old four-toed Sussex fowl; it is not the fowl formerly bred at Dorking, nor has it ever gained a settlement in Dorking: the so-called coloured Dorking is simply an improvement on the Sussex fowl, bred at the present time principally in that part of the county bordering on Surrey, and the breeders deny any cross with the old Dorking. How then, I ask, has it any right to the name? It is a very fine fowl, but it is not a Dorking; it may have five toes, or four, or even six, but this will not make it a Dorking; it may be the best of barn-door fowls and revel in any

coloured plumage, with single cupped or rose comb according to the fancy of the time being, and lastly it may have the finest breast, be the most compact fowl, and stand on the shortest white legs, and yet have no claim to be called a Dorking. Much confusion and misunderstanding have arisen from this fowl being so called, and I recommend to the notice of all poultry show committees, the desirability of having a correct nomenclature, and by their setting the example the name will come into general use: to prevent confusion, they can easily insert in parenthesis the present name on their prize list; the best name would be Sussex fowl, as there it has been known a very long time. I must now return to the real old Dorking, which is now by all accounts difficult to be obtained in the place of its birth and the county of its fame; white Dorkings are frequently to be met with, but they often bear traces of neglect and cross breeding: the perfect birds should be of good size, compact and plump form, with short neck, short white legs, five toes, a full rose comb, a large breast, and a plumage of spotless white.

J. C. of Dorking, has lately well described the true Dorking in the "Poultry Chronicle," and has also warned its readers against the admixture of Shanghai blood; so that I need not repeat a description in every way similar; but there is one admixture which is very prevalent, which J. C. has omitted, namely the Game cross: this practice of crossing with a Gamecock was much in vogue with the old breeders, to improve a worn-out stock (which however would have been better accomplished by procuring a fresh bird of the same kind, but not related); this cross shows itself in single combs, loss of a claw, or an occasional red feather, but what is still more objectionable, in pale yellow legs, and a yellow circle about the beak, which also indicate a yellowish skin; these then are faults to be avoided. As regards size the White Dorking is generally inferior to the Sussex fowl (or "Coloured Dorking"), but in this respect it only requires attention and careful

breeding; their beautiful white plumage makes them very interesting objects, and for the same reason their feathers are more valuable. White fowls are by some considered more delicate than dark; albinos I am aware are generally tender; but I am not aware that an established white race is less hardy than any other colour, provided it is equally well bred, that is, not bred from relations, and bred from mature fowls.

Some writers mention that Dorking cocks should be double spurred, but though two spurs on each leg, independently of the double hind claws, do sometimes happen, yet their appearance is too rare to constitute a decided point in the breed; still I should certainly give preference to a bird thus decorated, provided he was equally good in other respects.

The points of a Dorking may be briefly summed up as follows: comb rose, square shaped, evenly sprigged, and terminated in a single pike behind, and not falling on either side. Gills or wattles moderate, ear-lobe whitish ("mouldy"), beak, shanks and toes white, shanks short, toes five in number, the hinder ones being double, well defined and raised slightly on the shank, plumage spotless white, neck short and full, wings and tail ample, back broad, stout across the loins, breast full and large, and the nearer the body of the bird approaches a parallelogram the better.

The Dorking is an excellent farm-yard fowl, being a good layer, a close sitter, and an attentive mother; the chickens grow rapidly and are *most excellent* on the table. The pure White Dorking may be also considered as fancy stock as well as useful; because they will breed true to their points, but the Gray Sussex, or Surrey, often sport.

In conclusion I beg those who may differ from me to inquire carefully for themselves, and if when they have so done they find me in error, I shall feel obliged for their friendly instruction, but I feel convinced they will, after a careful examination of all the facts, arrive at the same conclusion that I have done. To the breeders and admirers of the so called "Coloured Dork-

ings" I would say, continue to improve the fowl of your choice, but let him be known by his right title, do not support him on another's fame, nor yet deny that the rose comb or fifth toe is essential to a Dorking, because your favourites are not constant to those points; the absence of the fifth claw to the Dorking would be a great defect, but to the Sussex fowl (erroneously called a "Coloured Dorking") it is my opinion it would be an improvement, provided the leg did not get longer with the loss.

B. P. B.

Buying and Selling Live Stock.

SEEING a paper, signed "W. W.," on Disappointments, in "The Poultry Chronicle" of 2nd August, I am induced to further offer a few remarks for insertion, which, although dry, will, I hope, be practical and useful to those who intend to purchase live stock of any description.

The subject is on Sales; and I feel persuaded that it is of great consequence that the seller and buyer should both understand their several rights and liabilities. As this paper is intended for general readers on poultry matters, and not for lawyers, it must not be expected to be more than a few very simple sentences.

In regard to a sale, it is clear that there are three distinct species: 1st, an unqualified sale; 2ndly, a sale with a representation; and lastly, a sale with a warranty.

Now, the 1st is the common mode of sale, I presume, adopted by poultry dealers. It consists of selling the bird, or other article, as it stands, for better or for worse, at the purchaser's own risk. In such a case a purchaser who has been deceived by his own want of judgment has no remedy against the seller. The law cannot be called upon to protect a man from the effects of his own ignorance. *Caveat Emptor*—"Every man for himself," is the motto; and in all cases the inexperienced should resort to a friend acquainted with the particular class of live stock, and rely on his friend's discretion rather than his own.

2ndly, A sale with a representation is where a vendor says; "I sell the fowl as he is; but you may rely on his being a first-rate pure-bred bird," &c., or "that he is descended from a particular stock," or similar representations. In this case the seller is not bound by his representations, unless the purchaser can prove *that at the time when the vendor made such a representation he knew it to be false*; then an action will lie against the vendor; otherwise the buyer must take his own risk on his shoulders, and pocket his loss as best he can.

3rdly, A sale with a warranty. A warranty of a fowl that *it is sound and perfect in all respects* would, I think, be the best one to take and to give, where resort was had to a mode of dealing so qualified. The soundness means that the bird is what it purports to be, in full health, pure-bred, &c. I say "pure-bred" advisedly; for anything that tends to interfere with the usefulness of the bird is a breach of a warranty of soundness; and I conceive that if a bird be cross-bred this is such an interference with its usefulness in breeding a pure stock as to render it a breach of the warranty. "W. W." has such a remedy, therefore, if he bought with a warranty; but not otherwise; for the seller's representation in that case, that the Partridge Cochin was the best cock in his yard, may be, and very likely is, true. It can surely never be contended that a cross-bred bird, sold as pure-bred, is not useless for breeding—nay, worse than useless. Pure blood is an essential part of soundness, if at the time of the sale the buyer states his object to the vendor is to get a pure stock; because the mixture of other blood destroys the usefulness of the bird for the purpose for which it is bought; and it is idle to say a warranty is to extend to some objects, and not to those stated by the buyer as his requirements at the time of the purchase.

Perfect *in every respect*, does not include a patent defect, such as is plainly evident at the time of sale, as the loss of an eye, lameness, &c., or any glaring injury; for

the law presumes every man to have a competent judgment when he goes to buy, and will not protect him from his own indiscretion.

A warranty is literally construed. The rule of law is *expressio facit cessare tacitum*. Therefore if any material point be left in silence, the buyer must infer from such silence a defect on that point.

A. I. H.

The Raven and the Heron.

I WAS sometime since staying with a gentleman who kept a tame raven. Returning home one afternoon I heard his well-known croak in the air, and looking up saw him engaged in mortal combat with a heron. I need not say my attention was rivetted on them immediately, as it was one of the most exciting sights I ever saw. I had no idea of the quickness of flight of the raven before. He always kept above the heron, who tried now to escape by flight, now to transfix his opponent, but his wary foe always escaped him. The cries of both were audible, and sometimes when within some yards of the ground, it was curious to see the heron with his legs hanging down, his eyes and beak directed upwards, while the raven hung over him in the attitude of a bird of prey about to pounce. Both would then fly upwards till they were comparative specks in the air. The encounter had lasted about half an hour, and the heron was evidently getting weak, when the raven appeared thoroughly roused, and struck him repeatedly. Then their screams were heard almost painfully, the blue feathers fell and flew in numbers, and the triumphant raven brought him to the ground, breathless and bleeding, but not dead.

Differences of Utility of several Kinds of Poultry.

At the commencement of the year 1845, it was well known that a taste for the proper cultivation of poultry was followed

by few persons; fashion had not rendered it a popular movement; and though a few of the ardent ones carried on "the fancy," the *utility* of the matter seemed altogether neglected—this is not the case now, the public interest is excited to procure the most valuable breeds, and the utmost care and attention and every effort are exerted to render them still more useful. Knowing how much more dependence is to be placed on facts than on mere theory, or even on "chance recollections," I have endeavoured to elicit from many of the agriculturists with whom I am acquainted, a fair debtor and creditor account of their poultry for the year ending Midsummer, 1854, as far as circumstances would allow it to be faithfully recorded. From possessing the friendship of a large circle of country acquaintances, these statements have been somewhat extended, and occasionally a little conflicting; still as a whole, most highly calculated to suggest what plans are the most productive of profit to the proprietor. In a condensed form, therefore, I drop a few hints therefrom to aid your numerous readers.

Even where the same varieties were kept, (and bred too from the same original "parent-stock,") there have been many discrepancies in these reports, consequent no doubt in a great degree, on the locality and suitableness of the soil, out-buildings, &c., but of course still more so, on the care and management bestowed on the fowls. I find by careful comparison the following facts may be adduced:—That the kinds kept chiefly for laying, have proved decidedly the most remunerative; and that early chickens have not been nearly so easily procured this year as usual: indeed I think the fact will be at once acknowledged that eggs are in most general demand, and are also produced with *far less* contingent risk and expense.

From this spring having been unusually severe at its commencement, no doubt many (I had almost said the bulk) of the earliest chickens, were destroyed, or their maturity so delayed as to be far less productive of high prices, than usual as early *table* birds;

a matter which it is fair to mention, when we are considering eggs versus chickens.

To commence with the variety that usually heads our prize-lists, the Spanish, I find every report concurrent as to the great difficulty experienced this season in raising *early* chickens—*where the parent birds were of superior closely bred stock*, in almost all cases, all the chickens hatched prior to the 22nd of May, dwindled away one by one, and scarcely left a single youngster from many clutches. Of second rate (but not indifferent) specimens, on the other hand, many were raised, proving at once, *both* these facts: that pure Spanish are excessively tender to rear, and again, that the less closely bred of this kind will struggle through difficulties that are inevitably fatal to their more purely descended relatives. In January and February this kind produced but few eggs; their laying season commenced in March, and till the middle of July they have continued to produce a free supply, but now moulting approaches, (I am writing on August 8th.), the amount has naturally diminished. Thus March, April, May, June and part of July, have proved their productive months.

In Cochín China chickens, though some were lost by the severity of the early Spring, most of them endured it well, and the bulk were reared. The parent birds laid freely (being *themselves* of the year 1853,) during November, December, January, February, March and the early part of April; the amount of eggs numerically considered, were about the same as those of the Spanish, but from being produced at a time when other eggs were not generally to be procured, they were marketable at *double* the amount of those laid in after months; from their indomitable desire for sitting the present supply is indifferent.

In Dorkings, "situation and out-buildings" have evidently a far greater influence than on any *other* of the stocks to which I shall have to allude. In one instance, of a very dry sub-soil, plenty of ricks, and a large straw-yard, very fine early chickens

were abundant; in another (from *equal brood stock*), not a single early chicken survived the rigours of the Spring; in these two cases, the statements of their owners as to eggs are equally conflicting. Dorkings, in most of the cases that have come to my knowledge, laid well, but not very freely, from about the 20th of February, to the beginning of July. In each instance I do *not* allude to the White Dorkings, my statements being confined exclusively to the Grey variety.

The Golden Spangled Hamburgs commenced laying about the middle of January, but discontinued altogether for about a fortnight or three weeks, during the inclemencies of the commencement of February; and then recommencing, have laid well up to this time. In their case, incubation not interfering with the production of eggs, they have supplied a constant and almost unvarying return; but many of their eggs placed under other hens, produced chickens that did *not* do well until soon after the beginning of May.

Of Polands, I have heard but little; those few statements have, however, agreed, that "chickens till May were unattainable; and the first broods even then dropped off at about a *month* old, but after-clutches were successful. These varieties laid well during April, May, June and July.

The early Game broods were decidedly unfortunate; the late ones have done pretty well. The fowls laid very regularly in March, April, May, and till the middle of June: then nearly ceased altogether, and are now in very deep moulting.

Of "Anconas," I have only heard one report; these "laid freely (excepting a couple of weeks at the commencement of January) from the beginning of December until May, *since then badly*; not one chicken has survived, though more than forty were hatched."

I have thus placed before the public special records in the cases of seven of our *principal* varieties; all the subdivisions, as relating only to the colour of the plumage, in the Cochins, Polands, and Game, I have

completely waived, and have classed them all together; both the buff and partridge-coloured of the first kind, the silver and the golden of the second, and the duck-winged and black-breasted reds of the latter varieties, tending to almost identical results as to both eggs and chickens. Bringing this matter, then, to the unerring test of £ s. d., eggs have undoubtedly paid well, in almost all cases; chickens contrariwise, but very rarely; the latter especially, being no doubt *unusually* influenced (as before stated) by the peculiarly changeable weather during the first few months of the present year.

I am aware, all statistical facts are somewhat tedious in the perusal, a result that cannot possibly be avoided in their detail; but I hope some of the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," who may now be considering the expediency of "poultry-keeping," or hesitating as to a change of their present stock, may find these condensed authentic records both serviceable and explanatory. E. C.

Rawcliffe Agricultural Show.

THE second annual exhibition of the Rawcliffe Agricultural Association took place at Rawcliffe, on Monday, August 7.

At the first show of the society, held last year, the competition was confined to one or two branches of agricultural stock; on the present occasion the exhibition embraced foals, cows, poultry and pigs, the total number of entries being between fifty and sixty, which was more than double the number brought into the field last year.

The "Yorkshire Gazette," in supplying a notice of the show, has the following remarks:—"The establishment and success of minor agricultural societies of this description sufficiently attest the spirit of emulation and improvement which characterises the agriculturists of the present day, and is one of the best symptoms of the progress which that branch of industry is spontaneously effecting in the most important of all articles of production—food for

man and beast. It may be a question whether district or village associations most effectually answer the purpose in view, but it is a striking proof of the vigorous spirit of Yorkshire farmers that they have not only village and district, but county associations too. A year or two back we had to record the expiration of two or three societies in this neighbourhood, which appeared to fall victims to the adverse influences of the memorable 'transition' period; but we now find the scale once more turned, and local societies springing up almost as fast as mushrooms. The new Selby and Tadcaster Society held its first meeting last week, and we hear an effort is to be made to bring Doncaster within its field of operations. The Rawcliffe Society comes out this year with redoubled spirit and vigour; and similar associations in other parts of the district are, we understand, on the point of revival."

The following is a list of the prizes awarded for

POULTRY.

- COCHIN CHINA, best pen of (cock and two hens), 10s., awarded to Mrs. Beachell, Rawcliffe Lodge.
- BLACK SPANISH, 10s., to Mr. Guest, Goole.
- DORKING, 10s., to Dr. Wightman, Swinefleet.
- GAME FOWLS, 10s., to Mr. T. Nuns, Rawcliffe.
- GOLDEN PHEASANT, 10s., to Mr. Richardson, Thorne.
- SILVER PHEASANT, 10s., to ditto, ditto.
- BANTAMS, 10s., to Mr. Singleton, Howden.
- CROSS BREED, 10s., to Mr. George Lee, Rawcliffe-bar.
- GANDER and GOOSE, 10s., to Mr. W. Hinchcliffe, Moorends, Thorne.
- DUCKS (Drake and two Ducks of the same breed), 10s., to Mr. Thompson, Knaedlington, Howden.

The Poultry-Judge.

(Continued from page 581.)

I NEED not add I did not sleep. I was called early, looked at but did not eat my breakfast, and drove to the show-yard. I was met at the door by one of the committee whom I had not seen before, and who, taking me aside, begged I would be

more than usually particular in my decisions, as there had been many complaints the previous year, and that was their reason for sending for me, a new man from a distance. He stated, he was sorry to say they were disappointed in the arrival of my colleague in time to begin with me, but he doubted not he would be soon enough to render me considerable assistance. He added, he hoped I would use my best exertions, as there were nine hundred pens to judge, and the public were to be admitted at twelve.

If I was discouraged before, what were my feelings now? I dreaded my duties in company; now I was alone. I knew my shortcomings in knowledge of many classes, and I trembled. I know not that in the course of a long life I ever felt so lonely as when the book and pencil were put into my hand, and I stood alone surveying my scene of labour. Here let me observe that many will smile at this, but I assure them, it is much easier to walk round nine hundred pens after the awards are put up, and to criticise them, than it is to make them in the first place. Many a man who considers himself a good judge would be nervous if placed in my position. I had four short hours to do my work, to please one hundred, and to displease, or at least disappoint, eight hundred people.

As I walked round, the number of good birds in every class increased my trouble.

Oh! those Spanish, thirty entries of more than average merit. One had the best cock, another the best hen; as a set, the next were the most even; others were in the best condition; decidedly I would leave the Spanish till my colleague arrived. Then the Dorkings! What looking for claws, what scanning of colour, what estimation of weight. Twenty good pens out of thirty. These, too, must wait. One hundred and twenty entries of Cochin China chickens. Here my spirits rose, as I effaced from my book the numbers disqualified by clean legs, drooping combs, and incongruity of colour. Here, thought I, I shall at last come to a decision; but

alas! after leaving out the faulty pens, there remained thirty to claim the three prizes I had in my gift. These, again, I left for my colleague.

It was so throughout, I must tell the truth; I was frightened, and I could not decide. About eleven the same committee-man I had seen before, came to me in great tribulation, to say my expected colleague could not come, and to beg me to make the most of the hour that remained before the admission of the public. What an hour! How I wished myself at home, and quit of the unpleasant distinction I had so much and so long coveted. I had made my remarks with a view of submitting them to my expected colleague, but I was now obliged to go over them and to decide alone.

Cervantes relates, that Don Quixote twice made his helmet, and on trying a sword-cut discovered each time it was worthless as defensive armour. He mended it a third time, and without submitting it to any task, declared it perfect. So I, after judging and re-judging my fowls, and constantly altering my awards, hurriedly gave the prizes, and persuaded myself that as a judge appointed by the committee, I could do no wrong. My first decisions gave me some uneasiness for the moment, but long before I had reached the end of my forty-two classes, I had persuaded myself all was right, my qualms had disappeared, and I gave in my awards with confidence, receiving the thanks and congratulations of the committee as my well-earned deserts.

Decidedly, after all, it was not so difficult, and I had tormented myself for nothing. I walked to my hotel, ate a good meal, and after the necessary ablutions, returned to the show.

Most persons have experienced the jarring sensations of stepping off two steps, when they imagined there was but one—the surprise, the shake, the momentary tremor,—but what must it be to step off five? Nothing, I am sure, to my astonishment when, on entering the committee-room, I

saw only blank and angry faces; the first belonging to officials, the latter to exhibitors. One of the former, at his wit's end to pacify a very noisy man, caught sight of me as I entered, and said, "Here is the judge."

Old officers say there is little dependence to be placed in men who keep looking behind them. I confess I looked at the door, and had it been open I think I should have run away; but it was only for a moment, pride came to the rescue and said, "Are you not the appointed judge?"

With a smiling face and a beating heart I advanced into the middle of the room, and avowed my office as the awarder of the prizes.

Doubtless many of my readers are acquainted with the clever French history of Robert Macaire. When that talented individual had the shareholders of The Royal Ambulatory, Soup, Refreshment, and Omnibus Association, called together to hear a statement of its affairs, he stood before a green baize curtain behind which his retreat was secured, and placed a large table between himself and the audience. As the enormous expenditure on carrots, coppers, meat, plates, spoons, and omnibuses, was detailed, his auditory closed in upon him. When he stated the receipts were "nil," and the balance in hand "zero," there was a rush at the table. He vanished through the curtain, and was soon out of reach. As I surveyed the excited faces in that room, how I longed for such a convenience. The committee had been teased enough, they withdrew, and an angry circle was formed around me, every member of which demanded information or explanation respecting decisions in the class in which he was an exhibitor. "Gentlemen," said I, "I cannot explain to more than one at a time. I am willing to go with any one to his class." All claimed first right, but it was at last settled the first number should have first attention. When we reached the complainant's pen, I was not known as the judge till the altercation brought people round us. I begged him to speak low, as it made

things so unpleasant to me, but as he warmed, he screamed rather than spoke his complaints. I was directly beset by a crowd, every member of which wished to "have a word with me." It was in vain I explained that I had promised my attention to several gentlemen in the committee-room, I was hurried along from class to class and pen to pen, the number of my followers increasing every minute till I had a tail the late Daniel O'Connell might have envied. As I stopped at each complaining number to dispute, and looked round on those about me, I sought in vain for one friendly or sympathising face.

I have never been in India, but I have read of the glare of the eyes of a wild beast when he first marks a man as his prey, and is preparing to spring upon him. I have also read that even these will quail before the human eye, and that the blood-thirsty tiger suspends his spring till the victim's eyes are for a moment closed or turned away. Sixty eyes, all full of anger, were turned on me, I looked in vain for kindness or support, and I was so reduced, I must add, pity, from any of them. Oh! the ingratitude of successful exhibitors. Where were those to whom I had awarded the prizes, and for the sake of whose honour and distinction I had incurred all this misery. They were nowhere,—I did not know one of them, and yet I was accused of partiality.

(To be continued).

COMPOSITION OF MILK.—Milk, according to the analysis of Henri and Chevalier, is composed as followed:—

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Casein, pure curd | 4.48 |
| Butter | 8.13 |
| Milk sugar | 4.77 |
| Saline matter | 0.60 |
| Water | 82.02 |
| | 100.00 |

All breeders appreciate the value of milk to young growing things.

Anecdotes of Poultry.

IN the autumn of 1853 I had a small brood of Spanish Chickens. The mother hen left them when very young, and roosted with the other fowls. Thus deserted, a Cochin Cock took to them, brooding them under his wings with the greatest care, both by night and by day.

A BLACK HEN TURNED WHITE.—I had a black hen without a coloured or white feather about her. She laid very well; sat twice during the summer, and brought up one lot of eleven chickens. She was kept up in the stall of a stable until the chickens were near three months old. She then began to lose her feathers, and when the new feathers came, half of them were perfectly white; her bill and feet, which had been dark-coloured, became also white. She resumed laying, and brought up chickens. I then parted with her to a friend in the country, who now informs me that she has changed her coat, and is perfectly white. I cannot myself account for such a change, unless it was with being kept up so long with the chickens that she was deprived of procuring the proper food required for colouring the feathers.

A. W. Z.

Flooring for Stables—Walks for Open Cisterns, &c.

THOSE who live easily accessible to cities, or where gas-tar may be obtained, may make a hard and water-proof coating, by a mixture of gas-tar and coarse sand. We have seen compact, floor-like walks in gardens and pleasure-grounds, made in this way, at a moderate cost, and on sloping surfaces it possessed the eminent advantage of never being liable to waste. As the water does not enter it is not cracked nor affected by frost. Water-lime cisterns answer a good purpose for retaining water, where the frost cannot reach them; but one freezing completely ruins them. This is not the case with the tar and sand; hence it may be used for open reservoirs, small ponds in

ornamental grounds, &c. Impervious stable floors may be made in the same way, which will possess the advantage of carrying off without waste all the liquid portions of the manure to tanks, reservoirs, or absorbents placed for this purpose. Common tar would probably succeed better than gas-tar, but is much more costly. We have known where a small portion of tar had escaped from a barrel on a bed of sand, a compound formed as hard as sandstone, and which was not in the least affected by the freezing and thawing of successive winters.

Ornamental Geese.

FROM a chapter on Ornamental Geese in the "Ohio Farmer," by Mr. Giles, of Connecticut, the well-known poultry fancier, we extract the following:—

The Egyptian Goose.—Among the truly ornamental, the Egyptian goose stands first. They are a part of the hieroglyphics of the Egyptians, a favourite article of food for the priests, and their eggs are considered of delicious flavour. They are hardy, and easy to raise; laying seldom over seven eggs at one time. They are very pugnacious over their nest and young, and woe be to the intruder. Three broods can be brought off in one season, by setting their first and second laying of eggs under a hen.

The plumage of the Egyptian goose is most beautiful; the base of the bill, and the space surrounding the eyes, is a chestnut brown; cheeks, crown, chin, and throat, yellowish white. The neck is yellowish brown, paler on the forepart, and on the back reddish brown; the upper part of the back, the breast, and flanks, pale yellowish brown, minutely waved with a darker tint; centre of the breast and belly nearly white, with a dark patch (a horse-shoe) of chestnut brown, where these parts may be said to join, vent and under tail coverts buff orange; the lower back, rump, upper tail coverts, and tail, black; wings as far as the greater coverts, pure white, the latter having a deep, black bar near their tip;

the scapulous or wing feathers and tertials chestnut red, with grayish brown colour on the inner webs; secondaries black at the tips, and with the outer webs, a brilliant, varying green.

They are a rare bird, hard to be obtained, but when obtained, easily kept. Their weight is about twelve pounds the pair. They stand high on the legs, which are of a pink colour.

Hens Eating their Eggs.

FROM THE BOSTON AND LOUTH GUARDIAN.

SIR,—As I observe that you devote a column of your most interesting journal to articles connected with poultry, will you oblige me by informing me of the best means to prevent the fowls eating their eggs? For a week or two past I have been much astonished at getting no eggs, but the other day, happening to be in the yard just after a hen had laid, and hearing a great noise amongst the fowls, I went to look, and found them all (the mother amongst them) fighting for the new-laid egg. You will much oblige if you will give me a hint on the subject.

Yours, R. G.

[The Editor's reply is:—Our hint will be very cruel and uncompromising. R. G. may pen his fowls up for fattening as soon as he pleases. Excepting in the hands of the cook, they will never be of the slightest profit to him. We speak from experience. Two years ago our entire ornithological establishment, consisting of a dozen Dorckings, was condemned in like manner. We fear that we had taught the fowls habits of cannibalism by giving them the shells of their own eggs to eat. We tried mild curative measures first. We gave them boiled eggs, scalding hot, and after a first taste they cooled their bills in the gravel, turned the egg over and over a few times with their feet, and then, when it was ready for eating, fought and scratched over the dainty morsel, and swallowed it before our eyes. The cockerel, who, as the father of a family ought to have known

better, and set a good example, strutted about as if he highly approved the transaction, and occasionally selected a dainty morsel of the yolk for himself, thus becoming worse than an accomplice in the infanticide. After this we adopted another expedient. We got an egg blown, and filled the shell with a composition of mustard, vinegar, aloes, salts and other horrible associations. The fowls got one good dose, and ran up and down the walk, chattering, and shaking their heads, with an expression of intense disgust which was very ludicrous to witness. Like Mr. Samuel Weller at the Harrowgate Spa, they only tasted the liquor *once*; but the punishment was useless, as we got no more eggs. "R. G." may try the above means; we can suggest nothing better; but we fear that capital punishment will alone be successful in removing the evil.]

Poultry and the "Poultry Chronicle."

FROM AN AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY.

THE "Poultry Chronicle," of which we spoke a month or two ago, comes regularly to hand, and is always read by us with much interest. In a late number the editor talks very sensibly upon the *Poultry Mania*, as they dignify it in England, but which we in this free and easy country call the *Hen Fever*. Although some of the remarks may seem rather queer to our readers, in this country, where the very poorest of our population partake of "chicken fixens" at their pleasure, still the inferences and deductions are as appropriate and important with us as with our friends across the water. Let no one sneer at the efforts making to improve the poultry of the country, for aside from the direct good it is accomplishing in adding to our productive resources, it is also doing an immense deal of good in exciting the ambition and the interest of the children of the farmer, and adding another strong item to the number of home pleasures which spring up around the homestead and dispel the

mistaken notion that a farmer's life is a life of toil and drudgery. A coop of superior chickens will, in this respect, have an influence which no parent should lightly esteem.

A Ramble on the Banks of the Witham.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "POULTRY CHRONICLE."

ALLOW me to take you by the button of your coat and quietly tell you a few matters connected with another ramble of mine, along by the green lanes, and the banks of the river Witham, endeavouring to profit both in bodily and mental powers by a stroll away from the noise and impure atmosphere of the town, believing that the roaming along river-banks and beside placid waters gives rise to the most refined intellectual enjoyments, and that the contemplation thereby afforded, has a direct tendency to elevate the mind and subdue and purify the heart.

I confess I have some diffidence in trespassing upon your columns, but presuming that the "Chronicle" was established mainly that we might be enabled to throw our sayings and doings and gleanings into one common stock, to aid the "*vagaries*" of the poultry fancy—I cast in my mite too.

It may be said that the following remarks apply to angling rather than to poultry, yet I cannot see why the poultry-fancier should differ from the rest of mankind, who are in fact angling in one direction or another through the various walks in life; and it is perhaps beyond a question that the angler, poultry-keeper, or other lover of nature, is more harmlessly or intellectually employed than most of the others. The poultry fancy has lately rapidly extended amongst all classes of persons; and we believe it to be calculated to exercise a beneficial influence, and to give the mind of the younger part of the community a really right direction, notwithstanding the ridicule that has been

thrown upon the poultry *mania*. The angler's amusement too, has frequently been ridiculed, and his vagaries as they have been termed, have often been the theme of heavy jokes and leaden sarcasm, by the grave, slow-blooded, calculating, sober, jog-trot plodders of this world, the totters-up, the patient seekers of pelf, the dot-and-go-one-men, who universally indulge in this species of merriment. But we retort upon our opponents, that "*vagaries*" are not confined to anglers nor poultry-fanciers. If you want them in perfection, you must go elsewhere. You must go to the grave formal treatises put together by the plodding, the diligent, the calculating, the scientific; you must go to engineers without wigs, and doctors with them—to calculators of levels, distances, diameters, and forces—to chemists and laborators and manipulators of all kinds—to men, in short, of grave physiognomies, dirty hands, and begrimed countenances, who never were in love with anything but cog-wheels, high pressure engines, convex rails, furnaces, horizontal chimneys, retorts, spirit levels, theodolites, and spinning jennies. In fact if you want to see the "*vagaries*" of the human mind on the "*high ropes*," in the highest state of rankness, you must go to a *patent* office, or a parliamentary agency establishment. There, together with the rarest efforts of human ingenuity, you will find a strange admixture of extravagancies, beyond the dreams of madmen, the exaggeration of the poet, or the speculations of the philosopher.

Trudging along by the river side, listening to the murmurings of the stream as it rippled along towards the sea, and to the tinkling of the bells in St. Botolph's Tower, announcing the hour of evening prayer in that magnificent and venerable pile, I came up to a disciple of Isaac Walton, whose avocation somewhat puzzled me. He was sitting upon a bank with a spade upon his knees, mixing some gunpowder with water into a fusee, which having completed to his satisfaction, he rolled up in a piece of paper into the form of a cartridge; he next got

into the ditch and dug a lump of clay, and then proceeding cautiously to a hole in the bank, fired his fusee, and forced it into the hole, which he immediately closed with the clay. He then began vigorously digging that part of the bank away, and following the curling of the smoke, he in a few moments reached the end of the passage and discovered the nest of the common wasp (*vespa vulgaris*), which he took for bait for the finny tribe. It immediately occurred to me that the contents of the nest would prove delicious food for chickens; I therefore accompanied him on his search, and in about half an hour he had taken seven nests weighing many pounds, several of which he kindly gave to me for a feast for my chickens, and the following morning they made an excellent breakfast. The fusee was also used to stupify the wasps, and probably a tobacco-fumigating bellows as used by gardeners would be a more convenient mode of taking them; there appeared to be little risk of being stung, which would otherwise certainly be the case. Some may object to the taking of the nests, on the ground of cruelty, but they must remember what it is they sympathise with; the robber of the sweet of the hive, and the greatest pest that we have to endure amongst the insect tribe; and besides: the numerous tenants of the nest would most of them perish when the severity of weather sets in, with the exception of a few females destined to continue the race, which upon the approach of Spring, issue forth, each taking her separate way, to be the solitary foundress of a busy colony. The nests are formed in holes in banks, in thatch, under roofs of buildings and similar situations, which when occupied are readily discovered at eventide, if you can see only a solitary wasp in the air, as it is then on its road home. The nest is made of paper manufactured by the insect from the fibres of wood, and contains several tiers of hexagonal cells of the same material, where the eggs are deposited and shortly become larvæ, which are fed by the wasp until they assume the pupa state, and in a few days

come forth a crowd of labourers, ready to assist the solitary female in enlarging the nest. According to Kirby and Spence, "the number of cells in a vespiary sometimes amounts to more than 16,000. Each cell serves for three generations in the year, which, after making allowance for failures and other casualties, will give a population of 30,000." Externally the nest is of an oval form, and the layers of cells are, in the perfect nest, from twelve to sixteen in number, and placed horizontally. It is about three feet in circumference, and frequently with its contents weighs from eighteen to twenty-one pounds, and is never used a second year. My angling friend last year, took two hundred and seventy-six of these nests, and if a lad or two were occasionally employed in this way, what an immense quantity of food might be obtained for poultry, and at very small cost, during the whole of the Autumn.

The food would consist of the maggots, gentles, or larvæ which are found loose in the cells, and serve for immediate use, and the pupæ (the larvæ changing from the maggot to the winged state), which are contained in cells sealed or covered over. The latter by being baked in an oven until the cells turn brown, will keep several months, and serve for winter store.

Boston, Aug. 12.

C. P.

Exhibition Fowls.

NO. IV.

BY PERMISSION FROM BAILLY'S "FOWLS."

THE SPANISH.

COCKS.

Large erect single comb. Perfectly white face from the comb to the gill. Long, pendant, white ear-lobe, quite free from any mixture of red. Ample tail. Erect carriage.

HENS.

Very large, pendant comb, hanging over one side of the face. Face perfectly white everywhere. Full breast. Body tapering to the tail, which should be ample, and carried erect. Rather long than short legs.

Imperative Rules.

Unmixed white face and black plumage. No red, white, or coloured feathers. Leaden-blue legs. Large combs. Upright carriage. Metallic lustre on the plumage.

These birds should be exhibited in capital condition. The red comb, white face, and black plumage, should at once strike the spectator.

The white face is the chief point, and no qualities can compensate for the absence of it; but if size can be united with it, it is desirable.

Pigeon-flying in Belgium.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POULTRY CHRONICLE.

SIR,—I have taken the liberty of forwarding you accounts of the great flying-match from Marseilles to Brussels. I believe there are many pigeon-fanciers who read your valuable "Poultry Chronicle," who may not have seen the account, but who would feel deeply interested in it, particularly the gentlemen of the flying fancy. For myself, I believe it is true. I have heard it said that pigeons have done two thousand miles, which I do not believe, owing to the difficulty of practising them; for, however well the birds are bred, they will not home without practising them. I have heard that fanciers on the Continent take as deep an interest in their extraordinary birds and matches as some persons take in this country with their race-horses and the Derby. What will our brother flying fanciers in this country say to this homeing match? Simply, "It is a fly with a vengeance."

Should you in your judgment think it worth recording in your valuable "Poultry Chronicle," I shall feel grateful. A brother fancier,

JNO. MATTHEWS EATON.

7, Islington Green.

[FROM A WEEKLY PAPER.]

A sweepstakes for a fly of eight hundred miles (from Marseilles to Brussels) came off on Sunday, the 16th instant, but, owing to the extreme severity of the weather, did not prove as satisfactory as some previous ones. There were eighteen prizes, the first

three of which were taken on the 19th, the others not until the 24th. The 1st prize was gained by M. Deheneffe, of Namur; 2nd, by M. Simonis, of Liège; 3rd, by J. Vanhaellen; 4th, by M. Deheneffe, of Namur; 5th, by M. Delorge, of Namur; 6th, by M. Defoux, of Namur; 7th, by do.; 8th, by M. Chantraine, of Namur; 9th, by M. Bridt, of Namur; 10th, by M. Engelen, of Antwerp; 11th, by M. Mitchell, of Kockelberg; 12th, by M. Laurent, of Namur; 13th, by M. Winterainken, of Antwerp; 14th, by M. Deneyer, of Brussels; 15th, by M. Putaert, of Molenbeck; 16th, by M. A. Coopers, of Brussels; 17th, by M. Decock, of Boom; and the 18th, by M. Mertens, of Antwerp. During the event it blew a perfect hurricane for a great portion of the time; and the weather has been so bad throughout the entire season that many of the fanciers have lost all their birds in training. From the foregoing it will be seen that the Namurians were particularly fortunate, having gained nearly half the prizes.

American Brahmas.

FROM THE "NORTHERN FARMER."

WE would respectfully inform our English friends and readers of the "Farmer," that the idea prevalent to some extent in England, that Brahma fowls existed there previous to being sent over by Dr. Bennett, is a mistake. Mrs. Hosier Williams, of Eaton Mascott, near Shrewsbury, received direct from Dr. B. the first pair introduced into England, and her acknowledgment of the same shows that, at least, she had never heard of that breed, nor had she ever seen any like them before, although an extensive fowl-fancier, and acquainted with all the breeds favourably known in England.

The ORIGIN of these fowls can never be traced further than has already been developed, true or fabulous, and at this late day it is quite useless to attempt to arrive at any new facts pertaining thereto. We profess to know about as much in regard to

their origin as any one, having heard the views and statements of all parties from the beginning to the present day. We, therefore, are prepared to make the following statements, and we challenge any man to prove us in error.

1st. That no Brahma Pootra fowls have ever been imported into the U. S., or any other country from China or Asia, since the alleged importation of three pairs to the city of New York in 1850, from ONE of which it is alleged all the Brahmas have originated, now in this country or in England.

2nd. That no such fowls are known to exist in China, or Asia, at the present time.

When we say BRAHMA fowls, we do not mean GRAY SHANGHAES, as it is quite probable that certain gray fowls may have been imported from China; but we refer to fowls with cream-white bodies, dark wing and tail tips, and neck hackles of the same hue.

It is of no consequence now how they ORIGINATED, as a knowledge of that matter cannot change them in the least; but it is certain that a PURE Brahma fowl was never seen in England till sent there from the U. States.—Ed.

How the Public can see a Sebright Bantam.

YOUR "Poultry Chronicle" is very acceptable and interesting, I assure you, every Wednesday morning; different to the "Times," which reports no progress in the East. In yours, we have fresh comments, fresh arguments, and fresh anecdotes, interesting and amusing to the poultry world: and I find non-fanciers take a great interest in your journal.

The last two or three weeks we have been amused by the quibbling upon the Sebright Bantam's tail; this week, the Hamburgs, perhaps the next we shall have the Brahma Pootras, and no final agreement upon what constitutes a perfect, pure

tail after all: a pity but the Southern and Northern could settle it.

I would wish just to make one remark upon the Sebright's tail (my author I will give by and by). No Sebright bird is ever spangled anywhere; their tails should be pencilled, destitute of sickle feather, and it is doubtful whether any one could get a perfect pencilled tail above one bird out of fifty: they would be smeared or irregular in some way. The feathering of the body, I think, has been described in your past Chronicles.

Their weights, cocks one year old, should not exceed 21 oz.; hens, 18 oz.; and very erect: in fact, I have seen the first of the class at Sir Thomas Sebright's so upright, that they would shake like a fantail pigeon. The real specimen of the Sebright Bantam has, I believe, never been exhibited to public competition yet. My informant, C. Hamilton, Esq., who, with the late Sir John Sebright, took such great pains in originating such a bird, informs me that the late Baronet and he have walked and sat together for two and three days, examining, consulting, and disputing upon which were the best of five or six birds.

I have intimated, Why not show with us at these public competitions? They reply: You don't suppose I would risk my birds, some I value at £20 or £30 each, for the honour of 20s. and 10s.

I suggest, Mr. Editor, that, to gain the public a fair view of these, the most ornamental of poultry, subscriptions be asked (and especially as there are so many prize-holders) for a gold or silver cup or plate, subject to the rules and regulations laid down by the Sebright Club. Show at Birmingham, London, or elsewhere, for the Sebrights alone: then, and not till then, will you see the Sebright stars come out; and then will the public have an opportunity of knowing what a pure Sebright Bantam is without quibbling about their tails.

I hope these leisure lines may not be intruding too much on your columns; but some friends and I would be happy to for-

ward you our subscriptions. Upon this, would some spirited person or correspondent, such as "W. W.," draw out a system.

Herts.

H. F.

The Silver Spangled Hamburg.

PRODUCE OF EGGS.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that a statement has been courteously handed to him for publication in "The Chronicle," showing the extraordinary productiveness of the Silver Spangled Hamburg fowls. The stock was eleven hens and one cock, the hens being of various ages. From the 1st of February to the 1st of August in the present year the number of eggs collected was 1,527, being 58 per week, and 19 over, or within two of 139 eggs from each hen. The fowls are kept separately, at a good walk, having been nested in the way usual with farm poultry. Our correspondent adds that the return may be relied upon as perfectly accurate; and he expresses a hope that similar statements, equally well authenticated, will be communicated to us from time to time. Such information being in the highest degree interesting, and useful in enabling the amateur to form correct opinions as to the value of any particular variety.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

CHEAP FARES TO POULTRY SHOWS.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir, Your well-timed remarks in the 23rd number of the "Poultry Chronicle," respecting cheap trains, &c. in connection with poultry shows, were not lost upon us at Southampton. Applications have been made to the authorities, and although not successful this meeting we hope to be able to announce it next year. However, the London and South-Western Railway have arranged to convey all birds free of charge on their return from the forthcoming exhibition on the 30th and 31st of August, which, by the way, I am happy to say, from the number of entries in the names of some of the most distinguished breeders of poultry and pigeons, pro-

mises to eclipse its previous success. The show will take place this year in the extensive Antelope Cricket Ground, under a spacious marquee, with the extra attraction of the military band of the North Hants Yeomanry Cavalry.

ONE OF THE COMMITTEE.

[Poultry amateurs are much indebted to railway authorities, who aid exhibitions with such valuable assistance as either the free carriage of the birds, or facility to visitors in getting return-tickets.—ED.]

THE GAME FOWL AT WELLINGTON.

TWO correspondents—"M. A.," who states that he is not an exhibitor, and "An Exhibitor, but not in the Game Class" (who favoured us with their cards, not for publication) write concerning the first prize to Game fowl at Wellington, Somerset, which they say that they and many others consider to have been given to birds not the most deserving of it. As it is always best to go to the fountain-head for information, we sent one of the letters (containing the substance of both) to the gentleman who officiated as judge on the occasion—Mr. Hewitt, of Birmingham, of course submitting it to his courtesy whether he would like to explain his reasons for the decision in question. With his permission (of course) we publish his reply:—

MR. EDITOR,—I unhesitatingly comply with the request of your correspondent who signs himself "An Exhibitor, but not in the Game Class," at the Wellington, Somerset, Poultry Show, of whom (though he has enclosed you his card, as I find stated at the foot of his letter) I myself have not the slightest knowledge.

I certainly feel a little surprised that such remarks should be applied to my decision; but will leave each of your numerous readers to form his own opinion as to the aptitude and justice of such a course, after hearing my reason for giving the disputed prize. Your correspondent quotes a rule of the society, "that beauty of plumage, height of condition, and purity of race, would be preferred to mere size, &c." My answer to this implied allegation is, the immediate admission that the fowls in another pen were decidedly the larger and more weighty fowls, in comparison with the successful ones. Great size and weight, however, are not by any means necessarily essential features of the Game fowl; the trait of character desired is, contrariwise, the greatest possible amount of physical power and endurance, combined with the most vigorous, "clever," and elastic motions; to these must be added a hard, closely-lying feather, with a general appearance perfectly devoid of all coarseness. I also admit the winners were just commencing their moulting,

as all adult fowls naturally are at this season of the year, and as was necessarily the case, more or less, in every pen throughout the whole class; but most decidedly quite another month must yet elapse before they are in "*the midst*" of it; and in regard to their being "out of condition," the only possible reason I can assign for such an assertion, arises from the fact that your correspondent could never have "handled" the birds, or he could not, if at all conversant with poultry, have come to such conclusion; their "condition" (for the time of year) being unexceptionable.

To the query "Why I gave them a first prize, or a prize at all?" my rejoinder is simply: Because they were undoubtedly, at the time being, both the most pure in appearance (I believe also in fact), and more, *they were the only well-matched pen in the whole class.*

Further, to justify the award, I beg to state that this pen of fowls has been exhibited on eight different occasions, and on these eight *only*, viz., Cheltenham, Torquay, Bath and West of England, Bristol, Taunton, Wellington, and Exeter. At seven of these they have taken *first prizes* against all competitors; at the remaining one (Torquay), where I *alone* adjudicated, they were adjudged the *second* premium. This is the only instance, it will be seen, in which they failed to secure the first prize, when subjected to the rigid scrutiny of most of the best poultry judges in the kingdom; and yet I am accused of a "mysterious," "partial," and "improper decision."

I will not here allude by name to the numerous body of gentlemen whose opinions have proved concurrent in favour of these birds; reference to the abovementioned Prize Lists will, at a glance, show your readers that they embrace almost every one of our principal and well-known poultry judges, and therefore if sinning (?), I am happy to be found in such excellent and well-informed company. My *only* "partiality," Mr. Editor, is for the best pen of fowls, at the time present to win, see them where I may at an exhibition, *utterly regardless* of their past achievements, or future prospects of success, and equally so as to who may be their possessor.

I will briefly add, that my knowledge of the gentleman owning the winning fowls, in the instance referred to, is extremely limited, and has never been extended beyond a "How do you do?" or a nod of recognition. I have therefore no interest in that gentleman or his poultry, present or remote. The "mystery" attached to my decision I have now openly explained; the best fowls *undoubtedly*, as to truth of feather, condition, and general character combined, received the premium; and, so long as I continue to adjudicate, to the best of my knowledge and belief this shall still ever remain my undeviating rule.

There is still, however, a little "mystery," that some amateurs, together with myself, think in this case should be "cleared up." Coming forward as a public and *personal* accuser, we think your correspondent in *fairness*, if he confided in the rectitude, truth, and justice of his statements, should have given his name.

EDWARD HEWITT.

Spark Brook, Birmingham.

[The writer of the letter, which was not enclosed to Mr. Hewitt, considers that a prize should not have been withheld from a pen of single-combed Brahmias. Now, we beg to submit in reply, the comb of the Brahma is a disputed point. We believe the greater number of connoisseurs, and some of the most influential, favour the pea-comb, although others prefer the single. While, therefore, this is a disputed point—an open question—those who exhibit Brahmias must recollect that it is a *matter of opinion*, and must be content to submit to the *opinion* of the judge or judges. Shall we be accused of harping on one string too much if we say the great fault is, where it is *judge*, and not *judges*. It is to this question that exhibitors should address themselves—ED.]

CAUSE OF DEATH IN A HEN.

SIR,—A Spanish hen of mine, after laying four eggs, seemed to be afflicted with diarrhoea, and, after a few days, was found dead. I noticed on the floor of the henhouse a white substance, in shape like two eggs joined at their ends, but flat and flabby. About a week after, a valuable Cochin hen seemed to be labouring under the same complaint; and I noticed the same substance again on the floor. She then began to lay soft eggs (they were found broken) regularly every morning, and became very thin, and died in three weeks.

Can you or any of your correspondents tell me what was really the matter with these fowls, and what could have been done to save them? There is plenty of chalk about, a small garden run, and they were fed regularly on meal and barley; and the other fowls continue healthy. I gave the Cochin hen chalk and a little sulphur in her food the last few days.

Will you also kindly tell me if there is any objection to letting a hen, with her chickens a week old, run free with the other fowls when they show no disposition to molest them? Will she be more likely to desert them sooner; and do they suffer meanwhile from want of warmth? I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A SUBSCRIBER.

Liverpool, 14th August, 1854.

[We think a hen running with the other fowls likely to leave her chickens earlier than if cooped

or kept apart with them. The hens which died, must have had some inflammatory complaint in the egg passage for which we have never found a cure; some of our readers may be more fortunate. We have tried calomel with tartar emetic without success.—ED.]

HAMBURGS COMMENCING LAYING.

DEAR SIR,—Will you or either of your readers be so kind as to inform me, by means of your valuable and much-read publication, as near as possible, at what age Silver Pencilled and Spangled Hamburgs commences laying; and also when you think some Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, hatched March 28, will first lay? Hoping next Wednesday to receive an answer, I remain yours truly,
S. P. H.

[Will some connoisseur of the Hamburg fowls kindly give "S. P. H." the information she requires?—ED.]

ANSWER TO REFORMER'S SUGGESTION IN NO. 24, ABOUT A LIST OF EXHIBITORS TO POULTRY SHOW CATALOGUES.

THE same suggestion was made last year by me to the Committee of the Birmingham Show; but as it was not acted upon, I suppose there was some objection.—The numbers of sold pens ought to be exhibited every half hour.—Will any correspondent inform me whether he has found the conjunction of a Gold Laced Bantam cock and Silver Laced hen produce *more regular lacing* than when the pair are of the same colour?

THOMAS PRATER.

[If it produced good lacing, would it not interfere with the ground colour?—ED.]

ASPHALT FLOOR.

A. M., a subscriber to "The Poultry Chronicle," would be much obliged to the Editor if he would let him know the easiest, cheapest, and best way to make an asphalt floor, and how long it will take doing, and what are the proper things to make it with?

[In our neighbourhood large quantities of brick earth have been baked for roads, railways, &c. We bought a quantity, and had it sifted. With the coarse portion a deep foundation was made in the henhouses. The fine was mixed up with cinder-ash, quick-lime, and water, and laid on with a trowel. It is better to leave it a week to dry. We hope some correspondent will kindly give a better asphalt floor. We have just met with a passage in an American work, "Flooring for Stables," which may be useful to our correspondent.—ED.]

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE supply during the past week has been large, and the demand but moderate. Grouse have come in plentifully from the English moors. The Scotch birds are neither numerous nor fine.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------|------------|-----------|
| Large Fowls | 5s. Od. | to 5s. | 6d. each. |
| Smaller do. | 3s. | Od. to 4s. | Od. " |
| Chickens | 1s. | 9d. to 2s. | 6d. " |
| Geese | 6s. | Od. to 6s. | 6d. " |
| Ducks | 3s. | Od. to 3s. | 3d. " |
| Leverets | 4s. | Od. to 4s. | 6d. " |
| Pigeons | 0s. | 9d. to 0s. | 10d. " |
| Rabbits | 1s. | 4d. to 1s. | 5d. " |
| Quails | 1s. | 3d. to 1s. | 6d. " |
| Grouse | 1s. | 9d. to 2s. | 9d. " |

To Correspondents.

To B. We have been obliged with the following reply to "B."—We have always thought, and we believe still, judges are not justified in disqualifying Aylesbury ducks because they have *spots* on their bills. But they must be only spots, not patches. We agree with our querist in saying some of the best specimens we ever saw had these spots.

H. C. We hardly venture to answer your question, as it would seem like giving a hint, which we do not wish to give. We publish the Schedule of every show, and give notice of it at the first page, with the Secretary's name, and the date when the entries close. It is quite true it forms part of the information our readers require; but we think more than this should be paid for as an advertisement.

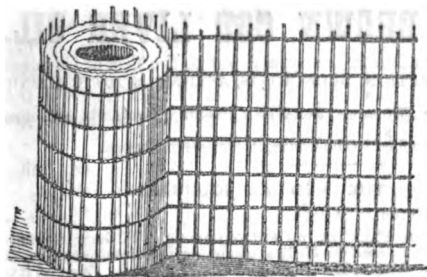
S. T. G. The idea of giving a table of the price of corn was suggested to us by our correspondent, "J. L.," in a letter inserted in No. 23; and we are endeavouring to make arrangements for commencing this useful feature with our second volume.

The Ripon Show. Among other prizes for Reports, one of £5 was offered "for a Report on the best method of fattening poultry." We and one of our correspondents would be much obliged if any one could inform us whether the prize was competed for, and if so, who was the winner, and also if the Report is likely to be published?

W. M. is respectfully informed that the "Chronicle" is ready, at Messrs. Bradbury & Evans's, every Tuesday, in time for the post. "W. M.'s" agent can therefore be supplied, if he apply, without difficulty.

C. I. W., Newport. Our Correspondent is rightly informed about Mr. Hewitt's ducks. We would recommend him to write to Mr. H. upon the subject. The address is, C. Hewitt, Esq., Spark Brook, Birmingham.

Tavntonensis. The beautiful little "Duckwing Bantams," which won a prize and so much admiration at the Show in Baker Street, were exhibited by W. S. Forrest, Esq. of Greenhith, Kent.



Advertisements.

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For the reason of parting with them, and other particulars, apply to **Mr. FORD**, Ide, near Exeter.

FOWLS.—By **JOHN BAILY**. Just Published, the Second Edition of the above work, with which is reprinted the Fourth Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," corrected, revised, and considerably enlarged. It contains descriptive Tables of all the Fowls now exhibited, giving in few words their chief points and qualifications, with copious rules for their selection and management. Price 2s.; by post, 2s. 6^d.

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PREPARED for Medicinal Use in the Loffoden Isles, Norway, and put to the Test of Chemical Analysis. The most effectual remedy for CONSUMPTION, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, GOUT, CHRONIC RHEUMATISM, and all SCROFULOUS DISEASES.

Approved of and recommended by BERZELIUS, LIEBIG, WOEHLER, JONATHAN PEREIRA, FOUQUIER, and other distinguished Scientific Chemists.

Prescribed by the most eminent Medical Men, and supplied to the leading Hospitals of Europe.

EXTRACTS FROM OPINIONS OF THE MEDICAL JOURNALS.

"THE LANCET," JULY 29, 1854.

"IN THE PREFERENCE OF THE LIGHT BROWN OVER THE PALE OIL WE FULLY CONCUR. We have carefully tested a specimen of the Light Brown Cod Liver Oil prepared for Medical use under the direction of Dr. de Jongh, and obtained from the wholesale agents, MESSRS. ANSAR, HARFORD, and Co., 77, Strand. We find it to be genuine, and rich in iodine and the elements of bile."

"THE MEDICAL CIRCULAR," MAY 10, 1854.

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Gentleman Amateur can part with a few surplus Birds of the above sort, from this year's broods.

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for 1854, bred from the Prize Birds at Bath, Cheltenham, and Lincoln, and other first-rate Stock; as also some BRAHMA POOTRA CHICKENS, and WHITE AYLESBURY DUCKS, are now on Sale, and may be had by Amateurs and others wishing to improve their Stock of Poultry, on application, by letter, p. p. to Mr. H. D. DAVIES, Spring Grove House, Hounslow.

THE DORSETSHIRE POULTRY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, OPEN TO ALL ENGLAND.—

The Annual Exhibition of this Association will be held at Dorchester, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 27th and 28th September next, when not less than Eight Pieces of Plate, in addition to the Society's Premiums, will be offered for competition.

From and after the 26th July instant, a Prize List will be forwarded to any applicant, on a stamped envelope, addressed, and six penny postage stamps being received by the Honorary Secretary.

G. J. ANDREWS.

Dorchester, 22nd July, 1854.

MR. H. D. DAVIES has much pleasure in allowing any one to see his Stock of Poultry; but some inconvenience having arisen from the visits of persons altogether unknown, and at unseasonable hours, those Ladies or Gentlemen who may wish to see the Birds are requested to favour MR. DAVIES previously with their name and address, when a Card of Admission will be immediately forwarded. In future no person can be admitted to the Poultry Yard without producing such a Card; or at any other hours than those named for the purpose.

Spring Grove House, Hounslow.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines (about 50 words) 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday. To prevent delay, advertisers are requested to enclose a remittance with their advertisements.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 13s.; half-yearly, 6s. 6d.; quarterly, 3s. 3d.; payable in advance.

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The Poultry Chronicle.

No. 27.]

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1854.

[PRICE 2D.]

☞ THE Editor respectfully informs the readers of the "POULTRY CHRONICLE," that the printing and publishing will henceforth be conducted by Messrs. BRADBURY & EVANS, 11, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, to whom all Orders and Advertisements must in future be addressed, and to whom Post-Office Orders should be made payable.

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Poultry Shows.

South Hants Poultry Association, Second Annual Meeting, at Southampton, Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th and 31st of August. Secretary, J. D. Barford, Esq. Entries are closed.

Keighley Agricultural Show, including Poultry, Wednesday, September 6th. Secretary, Wado Smith, Esq. Entries close this day.

Wellington, Salop, Horticultural and Poultry Show. Wednesday and Thursday, September 6th and 7th. Secretary, T. W. Jones, Esq., Church Street, Wellington. Entries close September 1st.

Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Meeting, September 8th. Secretary, H. White, Esq., Warrington. Entries close this day.

Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Society, including Poultry, at Radcliffe, September 11th. Secretary, Mr. J. Crosse, Market Street, Bury. Entries closed August 23th.

Malvern, in the Promenade Gardens, September 13th and 14th. Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. McCann, Graham House, Malvern. Entries are closed.

South East Hants, at Fareham, Tuesday, September 19th. Secretaries, G. Creed, Esq., and J. James, Esq. Entries close September 1st.

Yeovil, September 20th. Secretary, John Clyde, Esq.

Daventry Exhibition, in connexion with the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society (limited to the county), September 21st. Secretaries, Messrs. Freeman & Sons, Northampton.

Thirsk Poultry Society, First Annual Exhibition, in conjunction with the Thirsk Floral and Horticultural Society, in the Castle Yard, Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st. Secretary, Charles M'C. Swarbrick, Esq. Entries close September 5th.

Dorsetshire Poultry Association's Annual Exhibition, at Dorchester, Wednesday and Thursday,

September 27th and 28th. Secretary, G. J. Andrews, Esq. Entries close September 1st.

Vale of Aylesbury Poultry Association, open to all England. The First Show will take place October 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1854. Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. T. Wootton and J. D. Muddiman, Judges' Lodge, Aylesbury. Entries close September 1st.

Sparkenhoe Farmers' Club, including Poultry, October 4th and 5th. Secretaries, J. W. Taverner, Esq., Hartshill, Atherstone, and W. P. Dewes, Esq., Ashby de la Zouche. Entries close September 1st.

South West Middlesex Agricultural Society, at Southall, Friday, October 6th. Secretary, Mr. John Gotelee, Hounslow. Entries close one calendar month before the show.

Bedfordshire Second Annual Exhibition, in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, Tuesday, October 31st and two following days. Secretaries, Mr. Wm. Thurnall, Mr. J. T. R. Allen, Bedford, and Mr. C. Howard, Biddenham, near Bedford. Entries close October 1st.

Cambridgeshire, at Cambridge, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of November. Secretary, C. H. Crosse, Esq., New Square, Cambridge. Entries close October 11th.

Norwich and Eastern Counties, at Norwich, Wednesday and Thursday, the 15th and 16th of November. Secretary, C. Oury, Esq. Entries close October 31st.

Salisbury and West Counties' Exhibition of Domestic Poultry. Fourth Annual Exhibition, at Salisbury, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st and 22nd of November. Secretary, T. Pain, Esq. Entries close November 10th.

Reading Show, Wednesday, November 29th and the following day. Honorary Secretary, Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading. Entries close Saturday, October 28th.

Dublin Amateur Poultry Society. The Third Annual Exhibition will be held (under cover) Dec. 5th, 6th, and 7th. Honorary Secretaries, J. B. Dombain, Esq., and W. B. Selwood, Esq. Council Rooms, 112, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. Entries close Nov. 4th.

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, the 7th and 8th of December. Secretary, J. Hodgson. Entries close Nov. 13th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties : Sixth

Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, jun., Esq. Entries close November 11th.

Nottinghamshire Poultry Association. The Second Annual Exhibition will be held at Southwell, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 19th and 20th of December. Secretary, R. Hawksley, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 21st.

Isle of Wight Society's Show, at the Queen's Rooms, Newport, January 16th and 17th, 1855. Secretary, H. D. Cole, Esq. Entries close January 1st.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Committees of Poultry Shows will favour us with early impressions of the Schedules. These, and all other communications for the Editor, to be addressed to "The Editor, Monk Barns, Hampstead."

EACH season brings its pursuits and occupations. The orders to our publishers, substituting country for town addresses, the increased sale at the railway stations, the deserted streets of London, the alteration in the nature of the advertisements that appear in our columns, all tell us that we have entered on another period of the year.

Even to those who are fortunate enough to possess both town and country residences, that time which is called the season is of necessity a period of restraint if their tastes lean to a country life; and many are the plans formed when in durance in London, which are to be worked out and matured when leisure permits to reside in the country.

No one suffers so much as the poultry amateur when, spite of flying visits to see his favourites from time to time, the weekly post brings only the record of deaths and disappointments. How he wishes he were on the spot to superintend

and to remedy. Now he has it in his power to do so, but it is in human nature to neglect those things when possible, which were so apparently important when unattainable.

There are, however, exceptions, and to such we would address ourselves, begging them not to be disheartened at the appearance of their yards. It has been an unusually trying season in every respect; and the blight that has fallen on flowers and fruit, and most vegetable productions, would almost appear to have visited the poultry.

It is wisely ordained that knowledge shall be the result of experience, and it is certain that the greatest and most useful discoveries have been made in the attempt to overcome difficulties which at one time seemed insuperable. Many an amateur and exhibitor will now visit his stock only to be disappointed. His first impression will be one of discouragement, but it will be a passing feeling, if he will take the trouble to manage for himself. He will then find how much may be done, and we think we may, with some degree of honest pride, say that many of the suggestions of our little weekly sheet will now prove that our writers are practical men, and that their advice carefully carried out will substitute satisfaction for discontent, and in some instances give success where there was previously no hope. Poultry and poultry shows are now the necessary adjuncts to a country life, but it may be that some exist who have tried neither. It may be this number will fall into the hands of some one who has not kept any, being deterred by imaginary difficulties, and

frightened at the idea of much trouble with no return.

This is wrong; the most confirmed slug-gard in town rises earlier in the country; the habits of a city life have to be shaken off, and new ones adopted. Among these few will be so inexpensive as fowls, and none will afford more healthy amusement. They have to be liberated in the morning, to be shut up at night; eggs are to be sought after, and what a triumph is the discovery of a stolen nest! With what relish do we eat for breakfast the egg we have found. They have to be fed and tended, they afford amusement, and give employment for stated hours. This is relaxation, and we are sure that those who can at this season visit the country, for even a few weeks, will enjoy it the more by keeping fowls; and during their after confinement of many months in London, will think with regret of their feathered favourites, and long for the time when they may again indulge in them. There is a delightful Turkish saying, which, when expressing any great and much enjoyed pleasure is, "I have gathered a rose without pricking my fingers with the thorns." We believe those who keep a few fowls may say so; if they have children, they will enjoy them only the more. They will have a pure, inoffensive, and inexpensive pleasure; and while they carry it out, they will have peace and rest, and will lay in that store of health which they seek, and which will nerve them for the troubles inseparable from their London life.

◆

Perseverance, with labour, conquers all things.

Schedule of the Wellington (Salop) Poultry Show.

A HORTICULTURAL and poultry show will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, the 6th and 7th of September, in the Town Hall at Wellington, and on the Bowling Green adjoining. In the horticultural department premiums are offered for flowers, plants, fruit and vegetables, both to subscribers and to cottagers. There are also fourteen additional prizes to cottagers and servants.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES.

| | |
|--|----|
| To the Labourer having the neatest Cottage and best Pig..... | 40 |
| To the second best | 20 |
| To the Servant who can produce the best character from his employer, for industry, honesty sobriety, and length of servitude..... | 20 |
| The above are the gifts of ST. J. C. CHARLTON, Esq. | |
| To the Agricultural Labourer having the best cultivated Garden, the gift of T. C. EYTON, Esq. | 20 |
| To the second best, the gift of the HON. MRS. HERBERT | 20 |
| To the Working Collier, Miner, Forgerman, or other Labourer employed in the Works, for the like description of Garden; the gift of MR. SLANEY | 20 |
| To the second best; the gift of ditto | 10 |
| To the Cottager having the most useful Pen of Poultry; the gift of EDWARD HEWITT, Esq. | 20 |
| Each Garden not to be less than Six Roods; and persons intending to compete to give a week's notice to the Secretary. | |
| To the Gardener who, in the opinion of the Judges, has made the best display of Flowers, Fruits, and Plants | 20 |
| Second prize..... | 10 |
| To the Gardener who, in the opinion of the Judges, has produced the best collection of Vegetables | 10 |
| Second prize | 5 |
| A Sweepstake for Dahlias, of 2s. 6d. each (open to the County), for the best pan of 12 distinct Blooms—added by the Society | 30 |
| A Sweepstake of 1s. each, for ditto—added by the Society | 15 |

Competitors to give their names to the Secretary before 10 o'clock on the morning of the Show.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.

| Class | | 1st. | 2nd. |
|-------|-------------------------------|------|------|
| | | s. | s. |
| 1. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 2. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

DORKING (Coloured).

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 3. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 4. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

DORKING (White).

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 5. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 6. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

COCHIN CHINA (Cinnamon and Buff).

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 7. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 8. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

COCHIN CHINA (White).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 9. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 10. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

COCHIN CHINA (Partridge or Dark and Black.)

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 11. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 12. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

GAME (Black-breasted and other Reds).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 13. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 14. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

GAME (Duckwings and other Grays and Blues).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 15. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 16. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

MALAY.

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 17. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 18. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

HAMBURG (Golden Spangled).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 19. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 20. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

HAMBURG (Silver Spangled).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 21. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 22. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

HAMBURG (Golden Pencilled).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 23. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 24. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

HAMBURG (Silver Pencilled).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 25. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 26. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

POLAND (Golden or Silver).

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|
| 27. | Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 |
| 28. | Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 |

POLAND (White Crested).

| Class. | 1st. | | 2nd. | |
|-----------------------------------|------|----|------|----|
| | £. | s. | £. | s. |
| 29. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 30. Cockerel and two Pullets..... | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

FOWLS OF ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| 31. Cock and two Hens | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 32. Cockerel and two Pullets | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

BANTAMS (Gold or Silver Laced).

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 33. Cock and two Hens | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|

BANTAMS (Black or White).

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 34. Cock and two Hens | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|---|

TURKEYS.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| 35. Turkey Cock and two Hens..... | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 36. Ditto hatched in 1854 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |

GEESE.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| 37. Gander and two Geese | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 38. Ditto hatched in 1854 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |

DUCKS (White Aylesbury).

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 39. Drake and two Ducks | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
|-------------------------------|----|---|---|---|

DUCKS (Rouen).

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 40. Drake and two ducks | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
|-------------------------------|----|---|---|---|

DUCKS (Any other Variety).

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 41. Drake and two Ducks | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
|-------------------------------|----|---|---|---|

PIGEONS.

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| 42. For the best pair of Carriers, Pouters, Trumpeters, Barbets, Owls, Jacobins, Fantails, Turbits, Tumblers, and any other variety, 7s. 6d. each. | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|

FROM THE REGULATIONS FOR THE POULTRY SHOW.

Entries must be made on the certificates which are now ready, and will be supplied by the Secretary on application; and no entry can be made after the first day of September next.

The specimens must have been *bona fide* the property of the exhibitor for two months previously to the exhibition.

To entitle a person to exhibit, he must be a subscriber of not less than 10s., and will be allowed one pen free of charge, and four tickets of admission; a subscriber of 20s., three pens and eight tickets of admission. All additional pens required will be charged for; 2s. for poultry, and 1s. for pigeons. Cottagers may exhibit without being subscribers, but must pay for pens.

All the specimens intended for the exhibition must be in the Show Yard by eight o'clock in the evening of September 5th, or they will not

be admitted. Baskets, hampers, &c., to be addressed to the Secretary; and the carriage, in every case, to be previously paid by the exhibitor. All eggs laid will be destroyed.

Letters addressed to the Secretary, requiring a reply, to contain a fully-directed stamped envelope.

The greatest possible attention will be paid to ensure the health, safety, and comfort of the birds, and also the provision of food; but the committee will not be responsible for any unavoidable accident or misfortune.

Exhibitors must state the price at which they will sell their specimens. A prohibitory price can of course be named; but the sale must take place if an offer is made to purchase at the price specified.

The whole of the specimens will be offered for sale, by auction, precisely at three o'clock, on the first day of the exhibition; but must remain till five o'clock on the second day. Ten per cent. will be deducted from all sales towards defraying the expenses of the exhibition. No sale allowed except through the Secretary.

The show will, on the second day, be closed at five o'clock, and all birds will be despatched to their destination the same evening.

The Hall will be opened to the public at one o'clock. Admission from one to four, 2s. 6d.; from four to six, 1s. On the second day, from twelve to five, 6d.

By the kind permission of St. J. C. Charlton, Esq., parties visiting the show may inspect the beautiful grounds and gardens of Apley Castle, by ticket, which may be had from the Secretary, T. W. JONES.

Church Street, Wellington.

The Advantages of Discussion.

THERE is little doubt that one of the greatest advantages of a publication like this, is, that it affords a field for the discussion of those disputed points in poultry which have hitherto had neither space nor opportunity for their due elucidation. Many arguments that would almost degenerate into bitterness at exhibitions, may have their stings withdrawn by being cleared up in a friendly controversy in these columns.

Take, for instance, the tails of Spangled Hamburgs. Hen tails and cock tails are the Capulets and Montagues, the Guelphs

and Ghibelines of the class. But we hope they are not irreconcilable. Hen cocks are accidental varieties, and the best authorities, men who have dissected in order to discover the causes, have decided that they are produced by disease of the ovary. Often on dissection of one of these anomalies, a rupture is discovered in the ovine parts, and all the internal parts of the body are saturated with yolk of egg. When this takes place, the comb and gills take an unusual development, the tail feathers increase in length, and although still round-topped, they have a tendency to turn over at the ends: semi-hackles and saddles show themselves, the spurs grow, the monster crows, and becomes the bane and torment of every hen in the yard. They are not so uncommon as may be at first imagined. Every sportsman knows how frequently they are met with in coverts among pheasants.

If these hen-tailed cocks are to be correct and desirable in a pen of Spangled Hamburgs, we shall not be long before we find the real and accidental hen-cock usurping the place of the male, *she* will be a better specimen than *he* will.

But woe to the unlucky wight who purchases them, he will have a cuckoo note all the year round of, "plenty of eggs and no chickens."

If it be not a hen-cock, but a hen-tailed cock only, disappointment in most cases will be the result. They are bad stock birds, as the breeders of Sebright Bantams can vouch.

Our old fanciers were wiser; they chose cocks with ample tails, hackles, and saddles; and decided that

A whistling girl, and *crowing hen*,
Were neither fit for yards nor men.

On Influencing Colour by Inoculation.

In a recent number of "The Poultry Chronicle" "W. W." suggests the possibility of altering the colours of fowls by some external application to the skin. As I fear his endeavours to rear blue Cochins,

green Games, &c., will be utterly vain, I will inform him how far I think he may be able to succeed. A natural weakness of constitution in a nestling will often be attended with a deficiency of the colouring matter in the feathers, from whence result those very common cases of piebald and white rooks, blackbirds, &c.; and, doubtless, this albinism may be induced by a sudden shock of terror (Jesse, I think, mentions a case where it was induced in a blackbird which was suddenly seized by a cat; and we have all heard similar cases of its effect upon the human frame), or by a certain amount of local injury to the gland whence the feather proceeds, such as may be very likely brought on by the application of some corrosive liquid; such as that secreted from the skin of a toad, which, as Mr. Wallace says, the Indians of the Amazon use. But here you will say, the colour induces a yellow, not white, which would seem to indicate some other process than the mere inducing of albinism. Now, it is a curious fact, and one not generally known, that yellow feathers are never, or very rarely, affected with albinism; and, more than that, that when a bird is thus diseased, whose natural colour is composed of yellow with some other primary colour, that colour will disappear, and the yellow be left. I might mention one or two curious instances of this, but they would extend my paper to too great a length; suffice it to call to "W. W.'s" recollection the common Canary, green in the wild state, yellow, not white, in the domesticated, the blue being discharged. Mr. Wallace says, *blue* or green feathers are thus treated; but most of the parrot blues are green blues. I believe, therefore, that "W. W." might, by certain experiments, produce white feathers on a black fowl, if he thinks it desirable, or even change the orange of a duck-wing Game into yellow; but further than this I do not think he can go, nor do Mr. Wallace's accounts justify us in expecting to do more than induce an albinism, perfect where there is no yellow in the original colour, imperfect where

that colour exists alone, or in combination with others.

In contradistinction to albinism stands melanism, a darkening of the original colour, which is produced in certain birds by stimulating food. It is not *impossible* that he might succeed in inducing this, though, as far as I have observed, it has been confined to small birds, some of which, the Bullfinch especially, are very liable to it. Curiously enough, I have never seen but one instance in a Goldfinch; and there the yellow quills retained their original colour, while the rest of the plumage was jet black.

Altogether, I think that "W. W." will find that, till he can get some better clue to guide him than is afforded by Mr. Wallace's account, or by the everyday occurrence of black Bullfinches, he will be as much at a loss how to begin his experiments as I should be were I to set to work to discover the philosopher's stone; but if he persists, I wish he may succeed; and should be glad of a seat of scarlet Bantam's eggs when he has any to spare.

CORVO RABIOR ALBO.

Notes by "Alector."

MY late contribution on eggs has been productive of two communications upon the subject, both in confirmation of the theory that I then advanced. A lady writes word that "she has found the eggs of Spanish fowls eat woolly." Now as this is not a general complaint, I can only conclude that the peculiarity was occasioned by the diet. Another correspondent states as follows:—"I have always found the yolk of any egg of a richer flavour and a darker yellow when fowls, which are kept in a confined space, have had a daily feed of 'chopped grass.'" As the writer has placed the words "chopped grass" in inverted commas, it is just possible that he alludes to something more than they ordinarily imply; but, if he simply mean green food, I can well understand that the eggs would be improved thereby. He then goes on to say, "I know a person

in a neighbouring village who lost all sale for his eggs, and also his own appetite for eating those returned to him. He imagined that by giving them large doses of scrap cake (what is that?) he could make them lay at any time. His hopes were realised, but now for the result; his mother, a shop-keeper, endeavoured to eat some of these scrap-cake eggs, but could never get beyond the first spoonful; while, to crown the whole, the customers brought back half-eaten eggs, in order to show the loathsome materials of which they were composed." "J. L." winds up with stating, "I saw, last winter, a quantity of duck eggs, composed of parts of amphibious animals."

This latter assertion is one that surprises me, and the more especially as the component parts of the eggs in question form the natural and common food of all ducks. I am not one of those who immediately discredit everything opposed to my own observation and experience; when one of your correspondents questioned the fact of a white Spanish chick crowing at a fortnight old, I did not join, and was rewarded by finding the statement subsequently confirmed. I should like, however, to have "J. L.'s" fact confirmed, my own experience going no farther than having occasionally found a black spot or discoloration in the yolk, which I have fancied was the first sign of decay; I may, however, mention the somewhat analogous case of persons being afflicted with an emission of foreign substances (as pins or needles) from different parts of their bodies, who at the same time were, in some instances at least, wholly unable to account for their presence. The most singular fact of the kind on record occurred some fifteen years ago to a sailor of the Royal Navy. The man had been in hospital for some time with a severe pain about the region of the neck and shoulder. Something hard having been discovered underneath the skin, an incision was made, and ultimately an iron fork, minus one of its two prongs and the usual bone or wooden handle, was extracted. The patient denied ever having entertained any ostrich-like

propensities for such articles of diet, and sagaciously remarked that he "could not have swallowed it without knowing it." His mother, too, was unable to account for its presence, but Jack's philosophy was not to be baffled, so he came to the conclusion that his "grandmother must have swallowed it;" if so, it was a queer way of handing down family plate.

"W. S." seems to have a theory of his own about "gizzards," which he is apparently unwilling to relinquish. The molar action of that organ is a long established principle, and at one time was turned to an account which beats cramming turkeys with nuts all to fits. I may observe, *en passant*, that this is not so cruel an operation as it seems, turkeys in their wild state frequently feeding upon nuts. But, to return, the Italians, in order to give the appearance of antiquity to their modern cameos, used to cram poultry with them, and after a certain number of hours they were found to be triturated down to the required condition. This object is now effected by aids.

I am sorry that I cannot assist "Z. A." about "fancy rabbits." My experience has been chiefly limited to the common sorts, and I do not feel equal to giving advice to any person above 14 or 15 years of age.

Tottington Poultry Show.

THE meeting of this society which is held in connection with the agricultural gathering, took place on Friday the 18th inst., and although only the second time that poultry have been mentioned in the list of premiums offered for competition, there was a very first-rate exhibition—especially in some classes. The day was very fine, and the company numerous, including most of the "fanciers" from the surrounding country. The poultry were exhibited in wooden pens with wire-work fronts, the bottom of the lower pens being about three feet from the ground, which enabled the visitors to see and examine the birds without inconvenience.

The exhibition of *Cochins* was very good, there were fourteen entries for the 1st prize (cockerel and three pullets) and all good birds. Mr. Edward Ashton, of Holcombe, carried off the *first* and *second* prize, with birds which were the admiration of every body. Mr. Brookhouse, of Manchester, exhibited a choice pen of *Bramah* Pouteras, which were highly commended, as also were several others in this class.

In Dorkings, though the pens were numerous, the birds were poor samples of this favourite variety, and although the prizes were awarded, the judges considered the birds of very little merit.

The show of *Spanish fowls* was of a first-class character, both in old and young birds, there was not one bad pen or even a second-rate one. Mr. Eden, of Salford, was the successful exhibitor, and took 1st prize in both lots. Mr. Openshaw, coming second with *very good* birds.

The *Game fowls* were considered by the judges, to be of a very first-class character; it was some time before they could form a decision as to which were really the best birds: they were principally *black* and *brown breasted reds*, and the stock here exhibited would disgrace no exhibition, however extensive. Mr. James Fletcher, of Ringley, a well-known Game fancier, carried off the 1st prize for young birds, with a beautiful pen.

Pheasant and Hamburgs: in this class were some tolerably fair birds, but nothing in quality to compare with some of the other classes.

Bantams: Mr. Ormrod, of Newchurch, carried off the 1st prize with a beautiful pen of white birds. Captain Snell, of London, exhibited a pen of *Golden Laced Bantams*, which were by some much admired; also a pen of the same variety, exhibited by Mr. Walker, of Bury.

The *Rouen* ducks were good, but the *Aylesbury* very poor; only one pen of the latter meeting with the approbation of the judges.

Geese were only of a middling quality, nothing worth comment. The judges were

John Williams, Esq., of Fallowfield Lodge, near Manchester, and Mr. Thomas Roscoe, of Knowsley, Prescott.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

CLASS 1.—COCHIN CHINA (best cockerel and three pullets): 1st prize 15s. to Mr. Edward Ashton, Holcombe. 2nd prize of 5s. to ditto. Best cock and two hens: 1st prize 7s. 6d. to Mr. Edward Ashton, Holcombe, near Bury. All this class very highly commended.

CLASS 2.—SPANISH (best cockerel and three pullets): 1st prize of 15s. to Mr. Peter Eden, Salford. 2nd prize of 5s. to Mr. Henry Openshaw, Cheetham Hill, Manchester. Best cock and two hens: 1st prize 7s. 6d. to Mr. Peter Eden, Salford. This class also very excellent.

CLASS 3.—DORKINGS (best cockerel and three pullets): 1st prize of 15s. to Mr. George Potter, Manchester. 2nd prize of 5s. to ditto. Best cock and two hens: 1st prize of 7s. 6. No merit. This class inferior to the preceding ones.

CLASS 4.—GAME (best cockerel and three pullets): 1st prize of 15s. to Mr. James Fletcher, Ringley, near Bolton. 2nd prize of 5s. to Mr. Richard Gorton, Tottington. Best cock and two hens: 1st prize of 7s. 6d. to Mr. David Henderson, Shuttleworth. Several pens in this class very highly commended.

CLASS 5.—PHEASANTS OR HAMBURGS (best cockerel and three pullets): 1st prize of 15s. to Mr. Thomas Wood, Radcliffe, near Bury. 2nd prize of 5s. to Mr. James Fletcher, Ringley. Best cock and two hens: 1st prize of 7s. 6d. to Mr. James Fletcher, Ringley.

CLASS 6.—BANTAMS (best cock and two hens): 1st prize of 10s. to Mr. G. S. Ormrod, of Newchurch. (White Bantams).

CLASS 7.—DUCKS (Aylesbury or White varieties, drake and three ducks of any age): 1st prize of 10s. to Mr. David Henderson, Shuttleworth. 2nd prize of 5s. No merit.

CLASS 8.—DUCKS (Rouen or dark varieties, best drake and three ducks of any age): 1st prize of 10s. to Mr. David Henderson, Shuttleworth. 2nd prize of 5s. to Mr. Edward Ashton, Holcombe.

CLASS 9.—GEESE (of any variety, best gander and two geese): 1st prize of 10s. to Mr. David Henderson, Shuttleworth, near Bury. 2nd prize of 5s. to Mr. Charles Whowell, Tottington.

The Cleveland Agricultural Society.

THIS Society held its twenty-first annual meeting for the exhibition of farming stock, produce, and implements, at Middlesbro', on Thursday, August 17th, and Friday the 18th, when there was gathered a very large assemblage of the landed proprietors and tenant-farmers of the Cleveland district and surrounding neighbourhoods. "The society's show this year" observes the "Yorkshire Gazette," "has been a very excellent one in almost every point of view. Cleveland has long been particularised for the production of an invaluable breed of horses—a breed which, for producing hunters, coaches, hacks, and animals for agricultural purposes, cannot be excelled in any other part of the kingdom. There was therefore, as usual at the meetings of this society, a magnificent show of horses, (nearly two hundred); and as this district borders so closely upon the home of the short-horns, it followed, as a natural consequence, that there was considerable competition in this department of the exhibition, though the entries were not so numerous as those of last year. There were more sheep than last year, but not quite so many pigs. In each of these classes, however, much improvement was apparent, as regards quality. Of poultry there was a numerous collection, and the efforts that had been made to secure a good show of implements proved very successful. With such an array of things agricultural, nothing but a good attendance could be wanting to render the present meeting highly satisfactory in its results; and this was fully accomplished, for the show-ground on Thursday, but still more so on Friday, the principal day, was thronged by large numbers of inquisitive and intelligent visitors, who doubtless would not only derive from the exhibition much valuable information for themselves, but will also become the means of diffusing that information with the most beneficial effects, throughout a district which, alike in an agricultural and a commercial point of view, is assuming an increasingly important position.

"Very rapid and effectual strides in the paths of extension and improvement have been made by the Cleveland Agricultural Society during the last three or four years; so that now when it has arrived at the period for celebrating the attainment of its majority, it occupies a proud position among the oldest and best of these district societies, which are year by year making such marked and vigorous progress, and gradually diminishing the distance which has hitherto necessarily existed between them and their great prototype—the Yorkshire Society."

The same writer, referring more particularly to the show of domestic poultry, says:—

"The pens or coops comprised considerably upwards of one hundred, including Spanish, Dorkings, Cochin Chinas, Malays, Game, Golden Pheasant, Silver Pheasant, Chittoprats or Corsicans, Polands, and Bantams; also turkeys, geese, ducks, pigeons, rabbits, &c. There were altogether about thirty classes, most of which were well, though not to say numerously, filled; and in several instances the quality was very excellent. The Bantams were the most numerous, and among them there were some of the most compact little birds we ever saw at any of these exhibitions. The whole class was greatly admired."

The following is a list of the

POULTRY AWARDS.

SPANISH (the best three chickens), £1 to C. C. Oxley Esq., Redcar.

DORKING (cock and two hens), £1 to Mr. T. Stockdale, Hilton; the Rev. G. Hustler, Appleton, Tadcaster, highly commended: three chickens, £1 to Mr. Watson Dickson, Marton, bred by Mrs. T. Parker, Astley Hall, Chorley; Miss Wetherell, Kirkbridge, highly commended.

COCHIN CHINA (cock and two hens), £1 to the Rev. C. Hustler, Appleton; H. Marshall, Esq., Durham, highly commended: H. F. Bolckow, Esq., Marton Hall, commended. Three chickens, £1 to the Rev. G. Hustler, H. Marshall, Esq., Durham, highly commended.

MALAY (cock and two hens), £1 to H. W. F. Bolckow, Esq., Marton Hall. Three chickens, £1 to Mr. John Dodsworth, Seamer.

GAME (cock and two hens), £1, three entries. No award for want of merit. Three Game chickens, £1 to Mr. Charles Holt, Mount Pleasant, North Allerton.

GOLDEN PHEASANT (cock and two hens), £1 to Mr. W. Miller, Ainderby Steeple—bred by the Rev. J. C. Raw; ditto, highly commended, for birds bred by himself. Three chickens, £1 to Mr. W. Miller; Mr. C. Holt, commended.

SILVER PHEASANT (cock and two hens), £1 to Mr. David Hume, Marton, no competition. Three chickens, £1 to C. G. Oxley, Esq., Redcar; Mr. C. Dearlove, Preston Junction, highly commended.

CHITTEPRAT or CORSICAN (cock and two hens), £1 to Mr. Watson Dixon, Marton; the Rev. H. Graves, Yarm, highly commended.

POLAND (any variety, with or without ruffs, cock and two hens), £1 to H. W. F. Bolckow, Esq., (white). Cock and two hens, any breed or cross, not eligible to compete in any of the above classes, £1 to Mr. J. Richardson, Lanbarugh (golden spangled); the Rev. G. Hustler, Appleton (Bramah Pootra, one year old), highly commended. Three cross-bred chickens, £1 to Rev. G. Hustler (Bramah Pootra) two months old; three silk fowls of Japan, four months old, Mr. D. Hume, Marton, highly commended.

BANTAM (cock and hen, of any distinct breed), £1 to Mr. D. Hume, Marton, (silver laced); Mrs. W. Fidler, Stokesley Mill (white), highly commended; Mr. C. R. Titterton, 6, Snow-hill, Birmingham, gold laced Bantam cock and hen; and Mr. J. S. Ormesby (white), three years old, commended.

GEESSE (gander and goose), £1 to Mr. Thos. Stockdale, Hilton; Mrs. James Storry, Seamer (gray), highly commended; ditto (white), commended; Young goose, 10s., to Rev. I. F. Newton, Kirby Vicarage; Mrs. James Storry, Seamer, highly commended.

TURKEY (cock and hen), £1 to Mrs. James Storry. Young Turkey, 10s., to Mrs. James Storry.

DUCKS (drake and two ducks, of any distinct breed), £1 to Miss Wetherell, Kirkbridge, Darlington (Rouen); Mrs. W. Fidler, Stokesley Mill (white Aylesbury), highly commended; Mr. J. Richardson, Lanbarugh (black velvet), commended. Couple of young ducks, 10s., to Mrs. W. Fidler, Stokesley Mill (white Aylesbury); Miss Wetherell, Kirkbridge (Rouen), highly commended.

PIGEONS (three couple of fancy pigeons, each

couple of a distinct variety), £1 to Mr. Watson Dixon, Marton (variety carriers, jacobins, and turbits); Mr. C. R. Titterton, Birmingham; and Mr. H. Child, jun., Sherbone Road, Ballsall Heath, Birmingham, highly commended.

RABBITS (couple of fancy rabbits), 10s., to Mr. W. Dixon, Marton; Master J. W. Storry, Seamer, commended.

EXTRA POULTRY.

COCHIN CHINA (a pen of white fowls), H. Marshall, Esq., Durham, highly commended; a black Cochin China cock, Thomas Hustler, Esq., Acklam Hall, commended.

The judges of the poultry were T. H. Travis, Esq., York; and W. Torr, Esq., Aylesby Manor, Lincolnshire.

Prescot Poultry Show.

A CORRESPONDENT has favoured us with the prize list of the Prescot show.

SPANISH (cock and two hens).—1st prize of £1 to Mr. Wm. Copple, Knowsley. 2nd prize of 10s. to Mrs. Elizabeth Cooke, Ecclestone. Highly commended, Mr. R. Pilkington, Middle Hall, St. Helens. **CHICKENS** (1854, cock and two pullets).—1st prize of 15s. to Mr. R. Pilkington, Middle Hall. 2nd prize of 7s. 6d. to Mr. George Fell, Spring Field, Warrington. Highly commended, Mr. Wm. Lyon, Knowsley.

COCHIN CHINA (Buff or Cinnamon, cock and two hens).—1st prize of £1 to Mr. Wm. Copple, Ecclestone. 2nd prize of 10s. to Miss Charlotte Hughes, Sherdley Hall, St. Helens. **CHICKENS** (1854, cock and two pullets).—1st prize of 15s. to Miss Charlotte Hughes. 2nd prize of 7s. 6d. to Mr. R. C. Whitenay, Irwell House, Runcorn. Highly commended, Mr. E. Lyon, Ecclestone Hill.

COCHIN CHINA (White, cock and two hens).—1st prize of 15s. withheld; 2nd prize of 7s. 6d. to Captain W. W. Hornby, Knowsley Cottage, Prescott. **CHICKENS** (1854, cock and two pullets).—1st prize of 10s. to Mrs. W. Wright, West Bank, Runcorn. 2nd prize of 5s. withheld.

DORKING (cock and two hens).—1st prize of £1 to the Earl of Sefton, Croxteth. 2nd prize of 10s. to Mr. John Hammill, Denton's Green, St. Helens. Highly commended, Mr. William Copple, Cottager, Knowsley. **CHICKENS** (1854, cock and two pullets).—1st prize of 15s. to Mr. John Copple, Ecclestone; ditto highly commended for two other pens. 2nd prize of 7s. 6d. to Miss

C. Hughes, Sherdley Hall. Commended, the Earl of Sefton.

GAME (cock and two hens).—1st prize of £1 to Mr. A. W. Cooke, Knowsley. 2nd prize of 10s. to Mr. John Jones, Prescot.

HAMBURG (Golden Pencilled, cock and two hens). 1st prize of £1 to Mr. W. C. Worrall, Knotty Ash. 2nd prize of 10s. to Captain W. W. Hornby.

HAMBURG (Golden Spangled, cock and two hens), 1st prize of £1 to Mr. Thomas West, Ecclestone. 2nd prize of 10s. to Mr. George Fell, Warrington.

HAMBURG (Silver Pencilled, cock and two hens), 1st prize of £1 to Mr. Edward Worrall, Knotty Ash. 2nd prize of 10s. to Lady E. Hopwood, Knowsley Parsonage.

HAMBURG (Silver Spangled, cock and two hens).—1st prize of £1 to Mr. Edward Worrall. 2nd prize of 10s. withheld.

POLAND (Black, with White Crests, cock and two hens).—1st prize of £1 to Mr. Thomas Beesley, Ecclestone. 2nd prize of 10s. to ditto.

POLAND (Golden, cock and two hens). No exhibitor.

POLAND (Silver, cock and two hens).—1st prize of £1 to Mr. James Beesley, Yewtree Cottage, Prescot. 2nd prize to Mr. Elias Lyon, Ecclestone. Extra prize to Mr. Hopkins, Latchford, Warrington.

BANTAMS (Gold Laced, cock and two hens).—1st prize of 10s. to Mr. G. W. Moss, Liverpool.

BANTAMS (Silver Laced, cock and two hens).—1st prize of 10s. to Mr. G. W. Moss, Liverpool.

BANTAMS (White, cock and two hens).—1st prize of 10s. to Mr. H. Yates, Halsmeed Colliery, Prescot.

BANTAMS (Black, cock and two hens).—1st prize of 10s. to Mr. G. W. Moss, Liverpool.

GEESE (gander and two geese).—1st prize of 15s. to Captain W. W. Hornby. 2nd prize of 7s. 6d. to Mr. W. Mather, jun., Finch House, Knotty Ash.

DUCKS (White Aylesbury, drake and two ducks).—1st prize of 15s. to Mr. Henry Worrall, Knotty Ash. 2nd prize of 7s. 6d. withheld.

DUCKS (Rouen, drake and two ducks).—1st prize of 15s. to Mr. Henry Worrall. 2nd prize of 7s. 6d. to ditto.

TURKEYS (cock and two hens).—1st prize of 15s. to Captain W. W. Hornby.

DUCKLINGS (1854, three).—1st prize of 10s. to Mr. Henry Worrall.

GOSLINGS (1854, three).—1st prize of 10s. to Captain W. W. Hornby.

ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED OF FOWL (cock and two hens).—Prize of 15s. withheld.

JOHN D. ALLEN, Secretary.

A Short Chapter on Digestion and other matters.

"W. S." is quite right as regards the acid (muriatic) in the stomach of either fowls or fish. I refer them to "Combes's Anatomy of Digestion," and Dr. Beaumont's (American) work.

I once took nineteen very large acorns out the crop of a wild pigeon that I shot (besides other vegetable matter).

Swine, if confined, and then let out, in general make for the coal-heap, and are not satisfied with a small quantity of it. If it should contain salts of copper it is fatal. In fact, I have known parties that could never keep fowls alive if they had access to the coal-heap. Coal contains carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen, alkaline, earthy and common salts, and sulphuret of iron.

The king-fisher no sooner swallows a fish than the bones are vomited, deprived of all flesh; and the whole of the hawk tribe vomit the quid almost immediately after the food is swallowed. There can be no doubt of the high digestive powers of fishes from their living as it were in acid (muriatic), which is well known to dissolve bones in double quick time. "Tom Cringle" must be infallible; the gastric juice acting upon iron nails, in the stomach of the Ostrich, would form muriate of iron, which pharmaceutical mixture would endow the bird's digestive organs with extra gastronomic powers.

The kernel of walnuts contains oil, albumen, &c.; and the shell, lignin, tannin, &c., which is also tonic, and consequently the bird fattens upon highly concentrated vegetable food.

"S. P. H." enquires the age at which Silver Hambro's begin to lay? Silver Pencilled Hambro's generally commence lay-

ing when eight or nine months old, but the temperature of the season has an influence if they run at large. If you wish to *force*, you have nothing more to do than give the male bird an extra good feed in the afternoon (say three to four o'clock), and let the pullets have plenty of flesh-meat in some form. Those hatched on the 28th of March, would lay in November, or December by the above method, some of the pullets a little earlier.

To a "Liverpool Subscriber," page 609, I beg to state that in these cases, I have seen dozens cured by the following method: An incision is made in the crop, the contents taken out, and the crop well washed with tepid water, keeping the fowl up and allowing soft meat for two or three days. I know of one farm where they could not rear calves, I know another where they cannot rear a chick, and another where the ducks all die, and all in consequence of "picking up" poisonous matter. The ducks swallowed barytes instead of quartz for the use of the gizzard. J. L.

Exhibition Fowls.

NO. V.

BY PERMISSION FROM BAILY'S "FOWLS."

THE POLAND.

Black with White Top-knots.

COCKS AND HENS.

Pure black plumage. Top-knots as white as may be honestly, that is, without trimming. Lead blue legs. Prominent breasts. Ample tails. Straight backs. Even hip bones.

Silver Spangled

COCKS.

HENS.

Ample top-knots. Top-knot shaped like Hackle and saddle a cauliflower, every white, heavily shaded feather laced with black with black. Tail black, intermixed with white. Breast spangled. Wing feather tipped with accurately laced. metallic black. Wing laced. Tail tipped with black.

Gold, same as silver, altering one colour for the other.

Imperative Rules.

Blue legs; coloured top-knots; laced wings; very full breasts; correct spangling; and absence of patchiness in colour. Cheerful carriage, and straight backs, hips, and tails.

Some of these birds are bearded, some are not. Size is not essential, but it is a desirable point.

MANY years since, when the ducks and geese for the London market were fed near town, principally in Essex, there was a meeting of coach proprietors to take into consideration the price of oats, then extravagantly dear. When they assembled they found a stranger among them, who introduced himself by saying, he was interested in the question, as he consumed the grain in feeding ducks and geese. It caused a hearty laugh among those regularly summoned, as one of the party said what he consumed would not make much difference. On comparing notes it was however discovered, he was the largest consumer in the room. J. B.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

ROUEN DUCKS AND SEBRIGHTS.

SIR,—Would you be kind enough, in your next, to give me a correct description of the Rouen duck, including colour, weight and bill?

I beg to state that I heartily agree with "H. F.," in his excellent article on the Sebright bantam, when he states that the only way to bring a really perfect bird before the public would be, to get up a show in which no birds but the Silver and Golden Sebright would be allowed to compete; and also to offer prizes of value sufficient to call together the very best and purest birds the kingdom contains. I, for one, Mr. Editor, if such a plan was put into execution, should be happy to forward my subscription to any person named to receive it. I remain yours truly,

AN EXHIBITOR OF THE SEBRIGHT.

Could any of your readers give me any information about the Sebright Bantam Club?

[Our correspondent will find a full account of the Rouen duck in No. 8 of "The Poultry

Chronicle," page 165; and we are sure the author will kindly answer his questions. In reply to the second item we will give an extract from a private letter:—"Some of the young *drakelings* have weighed upwards of seven pounds *when dressed*, and the ducklings above six. . . . The four old ones once weighed 34 lb., but this was when they were fed up foolishly; for it did them an injury." We once saw six Rouen ducklings (drakes) weighed in August; they were not owned by the gentleman above quoted: the weight was 32 lb. Early in our next volume (to commence next week) we hope to give information about the Sebright Bantam Club. The exhibition is held in February. We heartily wish we could assist in forming anything so *pretty* as a bantam show would be.—ED.]

THE POISON OF MONKSHOOD, ETC.

SIR,—Many of your readers and correspondents may not be aware that the seeds of the monkshood, and I believe other parts of the plant also, are a deadly poison to poultry. This I proved to my cost the other day, for, on the person who usually feeds my poultry gathering some of the seed near where they are fed, some of it was shed, and eaten by the fowls, which caused the death of them in a very short time, and without any warning. I see that the plant is described as poisonous, and that it acts upon the nervous system, and especially the brain, producing a sort of phrenzy. And such were just the symptoms displayed in these fowls. There was no premonitory drowsiness, or other symptom to admonish that all was not right, but the fowls seemed quite well one moment, and carried off in a kind of fit the next. Possibly some of your correspondents may be able to suggest what might have proved a remedy under such circumstances.

Let me also take the liberty of suggesting a consideration altogether unconnected with the present subject, and that is, whether your "Poultry Chronicle" might not also become a bee-keeper's manual. This seems to me a subject most fitly connected with that at present contemplated in your periodical; and our present war with Russia, from which country, it is well known, our chief supply of honey is derived, may make this a subject of greater commercial importance than it is at present, and be a means of introducing an improved plan of bee culture upon that which is at present generally practised in England. W. N.

[We should be delighted to make "The Poultry Chronicle" a bee-keeper's manual, for it is a subject which would not require more space than we could spare, by a little economy. It appears likely that care might render the supply of honey

more abundant than it is at present; and we would be very much obliged to "W. N.," or any of our correspondents who could send us plain directions for the management of bees, and instructions which would be useful to those who are anxious to commence keeping them.—ED.]

ON THE GIZZARD.

SIR,—For the information of your correspondent, "W. S.," I beg to state that the most elaborate and satisfactory investigation "regarding the gizzard" was undertaken, many years since, by the celebrated Spallanzani. The extraordinary results which he obtained were published by him in a work (the title of which I do not remember) that can doubtless be seen in the library of the British Museum. Tom.

AGE OF CHICKENS.

MR. EDITOR,—I remember to have seen in one of your late numbers, probably the last, a letter on the subject of mis-statements of the ages of poultry for exhibition; and I fancy that in commenting upon it you expressed yourself to the effect that the practice of enforcing such statements ought to be abandoned, as they are seldom correctly given, and in fact are no guide to the judges, to whom it would appear they are not submitted. May I be allowed to say a few words on each of these points?

First, I am unwilling to believe that such mis-statements are so common as you suppose. Poultry exhibitors belong, for the most part, to a class who have too much self-respect to forfeit their good faith by a delinquency of this kind. Cases to the contrary are happily exceptional ones; and it is less mischievous to the interests of poultry societies that an unprincipled exhibitor should take a prize by dint of a falsehood, than that the principle of requiring the statement in question should be abandoned. I mean, of course, if those statements enter at all into the matter of adjudicating. If they do not, they are simply nugatory, or rather operate merely as a temptation to some people to speak falsely.

But let me ask, is it a fact that they are no guides to the judges? If such be the case, it appears to me that no fact could be stated more disadvantageous to the cause of poultry exhibitions. In the infancy of such associations, when ill-bred or otherwise inferior birds were sent to compete, because their owners kept no better, the question of age might be comparatively unimportant; but at the present time, when the points required are so well understood, the question of age is certainly a most material one. Indeed, it seems, in cases of equality in other respects, to be the only fair criterion remaining. The mere

fact of *weight*, too frequently resorted to, is not always the true test, and, in this instance, would probably mislead. To decide absolutely by *weight* would be, for the most part, to select the *oldest* birds, which are frequently not the *best*. The province of a judge then is, not to decide a doubtful case simply by the rule of *weight*, which any man can do, but to balance the fact of *weight* with the assumed fact of *age*, which every man cannot do.

To set aside this test is to sacrifice one of the primary advantages of poultry competition, viz., to secure the greatest perfection in the shortest time, and therefore at the smallest outlay. Weight can almost always be gained with an unlimited allowance of time, but it will be gained at the sacrifice of utility. The purpose of competition will, as a natural consequence, be diverted into another channel. If it is ruled that age is nothing, and size or weight, whensoever attained, is everything, poultry fanciers may amuse themselves in pampering their birds from one end of the year to the other; but poultry managers will be discouraged, and the public not benefited.

I have only to add one word to poultry judges. Let them give a true verdict according to *all* the facts, not awarding prizes to pens which *primâ facie* would be more likely to please the eye of a spectator, but to those which *cæteris paribus* are best entitled to them on the ground of good management.

The perfection of skill in feeding and tending is to anticipate in some measure the processes of time, and when it succeeds, it ought in all fairness to be rewarded. B.

[Our reason for doubting the use of entering the ages of the birds at shows is not founded on a suspicion that exhibitors would misrepresent *intentionally*, but from the probability of mistakes, arising from the extreme difficulty which every amateur who rears two or three hundred chickens, in which the broods are, at a certain age, generally turned into one run, must find in picking out each brood, and consequently in knowing the exact age of each chicken. We should be much obliged if some gentlemen who have acted on committees at poultry shows would tell us if we are right in the supposition that the ages of the fowls in all the pens are not handed to the judges before commencing their task.—ED.]

HAMBURG PULLETS AND THE SEBRIGHT CLUB.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to the question of "S. P. H." in the "Poultry Chronicle" of to-day, with regard to the Hamburg pullets, I think "S. P. H." may be certain of their beginning to lay in October, if not earlier; but this, of course, it is needless to say, depends greatly upon the

manner in which the birds are treated. Pullets having a good grass run will always lay sooner than those that have not the same privilege.

If you could find space in your valuable paper, many of your readers would, I think, feel greatly obliged by your publishing the rules of the Sebright Bantam Club. Yours faithfully,
GAME CHICKEN.

UTILITY OF THE "POULTRY CHRONICLE."

MR. EDITOR,—I had hardly finished reading the letter of your correspondent, "Game Chicken," relative to his "treatment of a sick fowl," when a white Dorking pullet was brought up from my yard in a precisely similar state to the Silver Pencilled Hamburg he described. I at once bled the pullet in both wings. It seemed relieved directly, and the next morning was much better. Two days on soft, cooling food, completed the cure without any medicine. Now, had I not seen your correspondent's letter, I should have given physic, as I have often done before, but in all likelihood without success. I hope the "Game Chicken" will, therefore, accept my thanks, and continue to use the "P. C." as the medium for communicating his "experiences."

THOMAS PRATER.

SILVER HAMBURGS.

DEAR SIR,—Though I have been so uncourteous as not to respond to your wish (at present) to give a second article on my "white Dorkings," I cannot be so ungallant as not to send your fair correspondent, "S. P. H.," a reply to her question about her Hamburgs: tell her we have some here hatched about the 24th of February, and one of the pullets commenced laying about ten days ago from this date. She can draw her own conclusions. I am, dear Sir, yours truly,
J. C., of Dorking.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE absence from London of all the principal consumers of poultry, and the influx of large quantities of grouse, have had a visible effect on the market, in diminishing the demand for poultry in general. The history of the supply and sale of grouse is always the same—it varies according to the arrivals from Scotland. Many thousands come in by every steamer; and, while the picked birds realise good prices, the old, small, and mutilated are difficult to sell at a J. We cannot too strongly impress on senders that small lots of fresh young

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To Correspondents.

Alpha.—The tail of a Silver Pencilled Hamburg cock should be black, edged with silver. The black should be the dominant colour. Such a bird as you describe is worth every care, as they are exceedingly scarce.

To an American Contemporary.—A fair correspondent to an American journal writes: "May not Dorking fowls have yellow legs? Some of your correspondents say they *must* be white. Among my schoolday recollections is the image of

'An old white hen with yellow legs,
That laid her master many eggs.'

She has ever been my beau ideal of a perfect hen; and the impression was doubtless strengthened by seeing my mother invariably prefer such for the table. When some of my own beautiful white Dorkings appeared, supported upon golden pedestals, provided with the requisite number of toes, I smoothed their little downy heads with more than ordinary satisfaction, and considered them quite the aristocracy of the brood. Am I now to be told that they are not Dorkings? I have thought of writing a book upon poultry, so as to be deemed authority; but unfortunately I must say (just under my breath of course), that I have nothing else to put in it, for I do not know a Shanghai from a Cochinchina. So in my perplexity, Mr. Editor, I appeal to you, and if it has never been permitted before, do grant a dispensation to Dorking fowls to wear yellow legs.—*ALLA DU PAYS.*" To which the Editor replies: "We should be glad to solve our correspondent's problem, but a consultation, held in our library, shows so much disagreement on this subject among the doctors, that rather than take the attitude of umpire ourselves, we beg leave to refer to the Editor of 'The Poultry Chronicle' for a solution of the difficulty."—We are much flattered that our opinion stands so high among our transatlantic brethren, and we are very sorry our first verdict must dispel an illusion. However the golden colour mentioned may rejoice the eyes of a "digger," or be sought in California or Australia, when found on the continuations of a Dorking fowl it is to our mind an unmistakable proof of a *faux pas*. We do not accuse the present inhabitants of our fair querist's yard with being the actual culprits, as it is notorious that the effect of a *mésalliance* that took place years ago may only now show itself. We regret we cannot grant a dispensation for this Malvolio-like fancy or propensity.

Advertisements.

FOWLS.—By JOHN BAILY. Just Published, the Second Edition of the above work, with which is reprinted the Fourth Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," corrected, revised, and considerably enlarged. It contains descriptive Tables of all the Fowls now exhibited, giving in few words their chief points and qualifications, with copious rules for their selection and management. Price 2s.; by post, 2s. 6d.

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