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1855

THE
POULTRY CHRONICLE.

VOLUME III.

FROM THE 7TH OF MARCH TO THE 15TH OF AUGUST, 1855.

Being from No. 54 to No. 77.

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THE PROPRIETORS OF "THE POULTRY CHRONICLE" TO ITS READERS.

Most brides cry when they leave the paternal roof; the parents cry, and an old friend of ours who attended a wedding said, it was exactly like a funeral, only the people were gaily dressed. But when the bride is gone, each member of the company draws a long breath, the parting is forgotten, and joy appears. The loss in the circle is compensated by the introduction of one who, it is hoped, will be a new and valuable member. In a few days things are restored to their former state, the bride returns a wife; she is not less one of the family, only she appears with new, and at first strange associations. The fact of their being strange makes them sit uneasily; but by degrees all become reconciled, the novelty wears off, and Time, that great soother and teacher, renders the new things familiar; all goes on as usual, save that now and then a sigh is tempted to rise when the early days are thought of. The truth is, that new pleasures do not make us forget old ones. That blessed and hallowed feeling of hope has not to do with the past, and even those most favoured in life *must*, on looking back, feel sadness when they put the hopes of youth and the experiences of after years in juxtaposition. To continue the simile we have chosen, the parents of the bride feel sorrow when their child leaves their house; it is, however, only a passing shade—they have confidence in the choice she has made and they have approved. She has found new ties, but she has not shaken off the old ones, and some fine day, when all are again seated round one table, the last clouds disappear, the new connections are become old ones, and the union of all parties is real.

The "Poultry Chronicle" is now about to form an union, which will take it from home, and its parents are anxious to smooth down any difficulties, and to make such arrangements that neither it nor its friends shall suffer from the change. Their first care has been to select a proper partner; their next is, to invite all the old friends to assist at the ceremony. Ample provision has been made of every thing necessary, and there will be accommodation for all. Their presence is particularly asked, because it adds to the comfort of every one; and most persons can estimate the luxury of two or three well-known faces among a company of strangers.

In our new place we hope we shall meet familiar faces, and be constantly in communication with a party of correspondents too numerous to particularise. To name a few would be invidious: we cannot name all, our limits are like those of the late George Robins's advertisements, "they will not allow" it.

The postscript is generally the important part of a letter, and painful information or inconvenient requests are always kept for the conclusion. Persons in the habit of receiving many letters on all subjects know how often when a man writes expressly to borrow money, it is only at the conclusion of a "sight of soft sawder" he recollects that he has forgotten to ask for it. Others, when pressed to return sums they have borrowed are equally oblivious, and can only add at the end of a long epistle treating of every subject and all men, that they will attend to your last.

The truth is, all defer that which is painful or unpleasant. He who has realised fortune abroad, and returns to the humble home of his youth, mourns over every change, and yearns for its identity with his early recollections. Its very poverty had charms.

There is much to be learned from the Shepherd become Grand Vizier, who retired every day to a private room, where he spent his time surveying the clothes he wore, and the utensils he used when minding his flocks.

We have deferred speaking of our change till now. We cannot help experiencing some regret, but it is a passing feeling.

We address the Readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," as a separate publication, for the last time. Good friends, subscribers and contributors, we have trodden pleasant paths together. It is true we have sometimes chased the beautifully tinted balls that shone like globular rainbows in the sun, and when we have clutched them, we have found they were but bubbles. Our profits were of that nature, as a talented writer of the day, and who has gone into Poultry, has said, "They might be summed up in the emphatic Persian word "bosh."

Till our little publication appeared, the Poultry World had no organ. Nooks and corners were awarded to it in several papers. It was doubted whether the subject would supply matter enough to keep up interest. We have solved this question, and it has shown it can not only fill, but it *must* have a space for itself. It will have this in the "Cottage Gardener." Space will be allotted to it, some of its many talented writers will resort to its pages, and we trust the same subscribers and contributors will be there.

We do not say adieu, but "*au revoir*." The first word would be indeed painful. It would speak of rending asunder ties rivetted, we hope, by mutual respect, during an acquaintance of eighteen months' duration. We gladly utter the second; it promises a continuance of that which has been a pleasurable pursuit, which has made us many friends, which has helped a pursuit in which we delight, and which, we hope, may continue many years.

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Poultry Shows.

Windsor first Exhibition of Poultry, under the patronage of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, in Windsor, on Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st.

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Society will hold a fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, on Friday the 24th of August. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson and J. Newsome, Esqrs.

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close Saturday, November 10th.

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."

THE first poultry show of the past year was the Aylesbury Local Show, which

took place on the 12th of April. In May and in June a few others followed in the track. In July the annual meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society was held at Lincoln, and after that—and not until after that—exhibitions became more and more plentiful, until, in the Autumn, we have sometimes reported four or five in one week, and they have occupied as much as half the columns in our weekly number. The earliest which we have at present entered for the coming season is to be held at Windsor towards the end of June. The space in our columns occupied by the poultry shows last year was very small indeed until the end of May. To reckon for the future by calculations from the past, we shall certainly have a few columns to spare for the next three months. It is our wish to make the "Poultry Chronicle" as extensively useful as we can: to fill these

extra column—nay, to fill them with amusing matter—is no difficult task, but we would do more than merely fill our pages; we would condense, we would make our weekly sheet a useful and valuable text book of all things appertaining to country pursuits and home enjoyments. To this end we shall devote one column to HOME AND THE HOMESTEAD, and another to FLORICULTURE, and on these subjects we solicit the assistance and co-operation of our friends and contributors. What we desire is short, plain, useful, practical papers. We shall become the medium of communication for those who wish to exchange ideas, and we hope to see the time when our usefulness shall be as great in treating these subjects as we trust it is now in the poultry world.

But some may speculate on how we shall manage when poultry shows become rife again. In reply, we ask only our readers' confidence: we will meet that difficulty as we have done others. Our readers and the poultry question shall not suffer.

The Poultry Yard.

MARCH 7.

THE frost-bound earth we spoke of when we last considered the doings in the poultry yard is now soft enough beneath the tread. We may hope that our fowls will lay plentifully, and we must go forward briskly in the arrangements for the breeding season. All supernumerary fowls *must* be banished from the now sacred precincts of the hen yards. Any runs which can be left at liberty may be laid down in turf, or sown with grass seed, and where the earth is soft and rotten from the effect of frost and thaw, it should be gravelled and rolled, leaving a portion of plain earth

to fork up from time to time for the amusement of the fowls. The hens will become broody, and great attention must be paid to the eggs, on which the names of both parents should be written in order to know about the relationship of the chickens.

We take it for granted that the laying nests are kept sweet and clean.

Much has been written about nests for setting; the following are good:

1. A nest hollowed out in the earth, such as a hen makes for herself; but this would not do so early in the season as this, nor we believe at any time on a cold soil: a little later in the season, and on a gravelly or any genial soil it is good.

2. Half fill a nest-box with broken up peat earth, and place above a nest of well rubbed straw; this is very good.

3. Have your nest-box above a foot deep: rub *plenty* of straw; pack it in and press it down until the box is full, and set your hen. She will be above the box at first. The straw will soon drop a little from the pressure, but the eggs will still be high enough to have no jumping down upon them. From nests made in this manner we have had seven chicks from eight eggs, even during the late frost. A bed of cinder ashes and many other plans have been named, but we recommend everyone to use that which he has found to answer best in his own peculiar circumstances and locality. As we may still have severe frost, we would still give the hens no more than nine eggs each at most, and it would be well to set them where they could be protected from frost in case of its return.

Ducks' eggs should be looked after, and the ducks induced to lay where the eggs would not be lost, and where they may sit in safety when they choose to do so.

A correspondent recommends a few broken beans to be given to geese. If the sweepings of the pigeon loft were thrown to the edge of the water, they would get clean and soon be appropriated.

Hens which have been abundantly fed, but which do not begin to lay, may be getting a little too fat; this should be seen to.

SUMMARY.—Arrange and re-gravel the runs, and lay down in grass any which can be spared for a time. Save eggs with great care. Prepare nests for setting. Look after the ducks.

Another Show Pen.

TAKING for granted that it is very desirable for poultry to travel and be shown in one and the same enclosure, I have been trying to invent a fit thing for both uses.

My description of it may be more intelligible if I first say, that its double usefulness is intended to result from its having one side *double*, a contrivance like that by which the travelling wild beasts are shown in their caravans; the *double front* of their dens, as we have often seen, both showing them and shutting them safely up out of sight.

It is partly, too, for the sake of the precedent afforded by the practice of such "successful exhibitors" as Messrs. Wombwell and Co., that I have referred to their shows.

But let us leave the wild beasts in their pens of wood and iron, and attend to our fowls, which I wish to enclose in dens of willow basket-work; nothing else is so picturesque and appropriate. Suppose the basket, when shut up to be a cube, with close-worked top, bottom, and sides, one side *double*; the *outer part* of it, only fixed to the basket by hinges at the bottom, when its upper fastenings are unloosed, will open downwards to show the birds through the very *open* willow work that forms the *inner side* or *show-front*.

The entrance for the fowls to be by a door (opening inwards) in the *lower* half of the back of the cage, so that they may walk in; and they *might be* locked in, until they get home to walk out again.

Perhaps a very small door at the right-hand corner of the show front would be useful at the times of cleaning, sanding, and feeding; through it the water-can might be taken out and re-hung outside.

The straw-bedding might be twisted into

a wisp, and tied behind the down-hanging front, ready to be restored when again wanted for the journey. The top and bottom of the basket should be of close work alike, so that when two rows of birds are shown one over the other, its top will serve for a bottom, if the basket is turned (gently) in order that the *outer front* may open *upwards* at such times. The birds will presently comprehend that *they* are not to be exhibited topsy-turvy, and will make use of their understandings accordingly. Of course there will be abundant *exterior* distinction between the top and bottom. I think enough at once has been said by

BASKET PEN.

[Would not a *wooden* tray or false bottom which could draw out for cleaning be an improvement, as the wicker would get very dirty, and from its inequalities be difficult to clean.—ED.]

Local Shows.

SEVERAL articles and letters have appeared in the "Poultry Chronicle" on the subject of the pecuniary difficulties of certain shows, with suggestions for rendering them remunerative: the object of these observations is to point out one or two of the chief apparent causes of failure, leaving it to committees to draw their own conclusions from the facts stated.

By a reference to various numbers of the "Poultry Chronicle," it will be seen that in England alone, in the 33 weeks commencing May the 18th, to the end of December, 1854 (for it must be concluded that three held in January, 1855, were driven there by the crowd in December), there were no less than fifty-six exhibitions, nearly two a week; in many cases, no less than two or three in the same or adjoining counties, taking place in the same or succeeding weeks, and often even on the same days.

The subjoined table will show at a glance the close proximity of different shows; it has been divided into two districts to facilitate subdivision by committees.

THE POULTRY CHRONICLE.

North of Great Western.	Dates.		South, or Line of Great Western.	Total.
Holmfirth.....	May 29	May 18	Exeter	2
		June 7	Bath	6
		14	Cheltenham	
		20	Farningham	
		27	Taunton	
		27	Bideford	
		27	Plymouth	
Harrowgate	July 5			3
Lincoln	17			
Great Yarmouth	25			
Ripon	Aug. 2	Aug. 4	Wellington	8
Keighley	15	30	Southampton	
Cleveland	17			
Tottington	18			
Burnley	21			
Holmfirth (2nd)	25			
Wellington, Salop.....	Sep. 6	Sep. 13	Malvern.....	10
Radcliffe, Bury	8	19	Fareham, very small	
Manchester and Liverpool.....	8	20	Yeovil	
Thirsk	20	27	Dorchester	
Daventry	21			
Blackburn	27			
Aylesbury	Oct. 3	Oct. 6	Southall	6
Ashley de la Zouche	4			
Bridgnorth	12			
Sowerby Bridge	27			
Bedford	31			
Cambridge.....	Nov. 8	Nov. 3	Plympton	10
Norwich	15	21	Taunton	
Gloucester.....	22	21	Salisbury	
Shrewsbury	28	21	Reigate.....	
Derby	30	29	Reading	
Darlington	Dec. 7	Dec. 11	Bath	11
Nelson, near Burnley	7			
Birmingham	12			
Southwell	19			
Kendall	21			
Colchester	29			
Manchester.....	29			
Liverpool	Jan. 17	Jan. 16	Newport, Isle of Wight	
Doncaster	24			
				56

On looking over this list, it appears to an eye acquainted with local divisions and interests, that an amalgamation of many of these shows into one DISTRICT EXHIBITION, would have produced beneficial results both to the finances of the committee, and to the class of fowls exhibited. It does not appear to the writer of this note, that Local Shows confining their exhibition to the locality, produces a good collection; on the contrary, the Amalgamated District Exhibitions should be open to all comers.

Nor does the difficulty rest merely with the committee, who suffer from the pressure of a multitude of neighbouring exhibitions; the following incident may illustrate a dilemma to which exhibitors are frequently exposed.

Mr. Barker, an amateur of some celebrity, residing in the neighbourhood of Bairham, sat in his easy chair, contemplating the rules of the Balfern Show; he glanced over the two classes in which he was peculiarly strong, and inwardly awarded himself first prize in each; the Balfern Show though held at some distance from Mr. Barker's residence, was *the* show of the month, and he was particularly anxious to sustain his increasing reputation at it.

Mr. Barker rang the bell, and desired his poultry-keeper to be sent to him. Now John the poultryman knew that Mr. Barker had taken a very active part in the formation of the Bairham Poultry Society, or rather in having it tacked as an addition to the pig-show; it was, therefore, with a pleased and smiling face, that he entered into the merits of the various broods Mr. Barker had to select from, and adjourned with him to the poultry yards, where, after due deliberation, a pen in each of Mr. Barker's favourite classes was selected: it so chanced that to his fastidious eye only one pen of each variety was good enough, and consoling himself with the reflection that one pen was sufficient to win one first prize, he retraced his steps to his arm-chair, still accompanied by his follower, whom he thus addressed.

"Well, John, I think we are sure of two prizes?"

"Yes, sir, quite; there'll be nothing at Bairham touches them pullets."

"Bairham, John; what do you mean? I intend sending them to Balfern; Bairham will not be for a month."

"Oh! yes, 'tis, sir; and the secretary came to day and said the meeting was fixed by the agriculturals for the 20th, and it must be then, and I was to tell you, and say he was very sorry you was not at the meeting." Now the Balfern show was on the 18th.

Poor John, had he known what passed in his master's mind! to him Bairham was *the* town, its poultry show *the* show, and its honours *the* honours. To Mr. Barker it was a pig-show, with a few classes for fowls added on to it; why, then, the difficulty? Stay, reader; Mr. Barker had outwardly taken the greatest interest in this little show,—indeed, felt some, and had pledged himself to support it with his name and best birds. Could he not send a second pen? No; there again, a rival exhibitor, a neighbour, who had actually stated that his birds were as good as Mr. Barker's, would exhibit, and perhaps beat him. Unhappy Barker, what was to be done!

John, seeing how matters stood, suggested one pen to each show; no, all or none, was Mr. Barker's motto, and it ended in his sending his birds to Bairham, taking the prizes, of course, but having the mortification of seeing that the coveted prize at Balfern—won amidst the loudest flourish of trumpets—was by a pen of birds he had drafted out from his own stock. So much for shows following closely on each other.

(To be continued.)

The Brahma Prize Birds at Birmingham.

MUCH has lately been said in disparagement of the awards in certain classes at some of our large poultry shows; and in good sooth it is a fertile theme—and one which the accumulating evidence of each succeeding year, proves more and more uncontestedly the necessity there exists for

some important modification in the unsatisfactory relations which at present subsist between exhibitors of poultry and their judges.

I have long been a close observer of the decisions at some of these shows; and the more I see the more am I convinced that many of the complaints so commonly heard at them, are not—what it may be convenient for some to affect to believe—the mere fretful ebullitions of disappointment, or the groundless invectives of fancied grievance; but too often the honest expression of indignation at the instance of real and palpable injustice, the result of mal-adjudication. Is it any matter of wonder, that in such a case—finding no possible chance of remedy—no court to which he can appeal for redress—the feelings of the individual so aggrieved should change from indignation to disgust; or that in this temper he quits the show not a better but a wiser man—wiser in having learnt what exhibitors are very fast indeed learning—that success at poultry shows, any more than on the world's wide stage, is no necessary or invariable test of desert?

If I have myself hitherto refrained from rushing into print with examples of this evil, it has certainly been from no want of abundant topic; but rather because—like some others I know of in like circumstances, who are slow to use their undoubted privilege as Englishmen of grumbling upon all likely occasions—I have preferred to submit quietly to abuses, for which there seemed to be no likelihood of remedy. I have, however, lately read and heard so much that coincides with my own experience, particularly with reference to awards on Brahmas, that I am anxious to add my voice to the swelling chorus; and I am not without hope, that a number of protesting voices in concert may attract that attention in the proper quarter, which an occasional solo might fail to do.

In a short but most just criticism on the decisions in the Brahma classes at Birmingham, in a former number of the "Poultry Chronicle," the writer—who signs himself "Observer,"—says he saw a good many

people making notes on this part of the show, and asks to be favoured by any who did so with particulars touching the combs. Perhaps when he saw what he here describes, the well-known couplet from "Burns" was running in his mind:

"A child's among you takin' notes—
And, faith, he'll prent it."

At any rate I was one of those who took notes on that occasion; for hardly able to credit the reality of what seemed to me so extraordinary a perversion of judgment as these awards presented, I was anxious to carry away with me a record, in black and white, of a few of the specialities which distinguished them; and as I think they will be considered rather a curiosity in their way, I have no objection—with your kind help and permission—to "prent" them. Here they are:—

COCK AND THREE HENS.

PRIZE.	PEN.	SEX.	DESCRIPTION OF COMB.	COLOUR, ETC.
1	827	Cock	Single.	Light. All more or less dark. Two with rusty coloured feathers on the breast. All scantily feathered legs.
		Hens	One irregular Pea. One Single. One Sprigged.	
2	826	Cock	Semi-Pea, Semi-Sprigged.	Very light. Darkish. One with a crooked toe.
		Hens	One Single. Two Sprigged.	
3	823	Cock	Irregular Pea. One Single.	No note taken of colour. All badly feathered legs.
		Hens	Two irregular Pea.	

CHICKENS OF 1854.

1	850	Cock	Single.	Darkish. Very dark indeed. The hinder half of their bodies being almost sooty black, and the legs having a stain of black overlying the yellow.
		Pullets	All Single.	
2	839	Cock	Indescribable Pea. Two Single.	All light.
		Pullets	One Sprigged.	
3	857		No note taken.	Dark mottled.

Such, Mr. Editor, is a faithful transcript of my jottings at the show—made with every care to ensure accuracy; and such is a “catalogue raisonnée” of the self-stultifying medley of points, which on the high authority of the first show in the kingdom, we are expected to accept as our guide in forming our ideal of this breed—the Brahma par excellence—the real Simon Pure. But this is not all—nor by any means the worst of the matter—for had all the competing pens possessed the same character of mixed combs and colours, one would only have had to wonder that the whole of the pens so characterised were not disqualified; knowing as we do—what every tyro in poultry matters now knows so well—the immense importance all rule and precedent attach to uniformity in these points. But when I state it as an open fact, that a large proportion of the competing pens *had* uniform single combs, and perfect uniformity of colour and markings; and that several of these were, I do not hesitate to assert, superior in shape, size, and feathering of the legs to any of the prize pens, (I will here except in favour of size the two hens in pen 827, with rusty tinged feathers in the breast—which were perhaps the largest of their class), your readers, who were not there, will be able to form some idea of the mockery of justice involved in these decisions. To those who were there and examined closely into the facts of the case, I appeal with confidence for confirmation of the truth of what I have alleged.

When I speak of the superiority in shape of several of the unsuccessful pens—I mean with reference to their possessing the approved characteristics of the Shanghae shape and make, and the absence of the distinctive features of the Malay; but I wish it to be understood, that I do not urge this superiority of shape as a ground of complaint: for I am aware that there are many who still maintain that Brahmans are something more than a sub-variety of Shanghae, that they are in fact a distinct breed, and that there is therefore no reason

why they should not be legitimately entitled to the Malayish character, (I believe myself that they are in one sense “*legitimately*” entitled to it), which so many of the irregular combed birds present. Nor, supposing there had been equivalent merit in the contending pens, should I have had any title—in the present unsettled state of the Brahma question—to complain that the prizes were given to pea combs in preference to single, or to dark mottled and sooty plumaged birds (which I confess are my *bêtes noires*) in preference to light-coloured birds, with their elegantly contrasting black pencilled shawls, black edged wings and tails, for which, to make a clean breast of it, I may as well confess I have an especial weakness.

It is on the score of none of these optional points—these anomalies of taste and fancy, as I have the misfortune to consider them—that I complain; but what I do quarrel with, and what I believe every unbiassed person will reprobate and condemn is, that seven judges at the most influential poultry show in the kingdom should sanction with their judgment, or indorse with their authority, a series of awards in manifest contravention to the plainest conditions, usually insisted on in all similar decisions; and, as “Observer” well expresses it, “in open violation of the rule which points to uniformity of combs and markings as essentials.” And this too, be it remembered, when there was present in the same classes, an ample choice of pens in strict conformity with every condition or requirement of that rule.

But where, Mr. Editor, are we to look for a remedy for the yearly recurring instances of this nature; or are the decrees of poultry judges—be they ever so unjust, as unjust they will sometimes inevitably be, as long as judges are of the same mould as other mortals—to be accepted in all cases with unquestioning submission; or would the committees of poultry shows have us believe, that in investing amateurs or dealers with the office of judge, the important functions of that office invest

them also with such infallibility as to exempt them from all question of responsibility.

But I must here drop the subject, which perhaps, in a future number, I may resume with the view to state my own opinion, and canvas that of your readers, as to the direction in which we should look for a cure, if possible, for this obvious evil. Meanwhile I should much like to see the subject taken up by those who have been in the habit of acting as judges, as it is one that concerns them equally with exhibitors; and confident as I am that as a body they would wish to "let the right thing go forward," I am persuaded they would not object to, and might do much to promote, the establishment of a general regulation, which would confer on exhibitors the right of testing the justice of awards in such cases as the above.

W. C. G.

Court of Common Pleas.

(Before Lord Chief Justice JERVIS and a Special Jury.)

STAFF V. FELLOWES.

Mr. Serjeant Byles, Mr. Hawkins, and Mr. Parry were counsel for the plaintiff, and Mr. Keating and Mr. Pigott for the defendant.

The plaintiff is a tent and marquee maker, in Lawson-street, Great Dover-road, and was employed last November by a committee of gentlemen, one of whom was the defendant, to erect three tents of large size for the purpose of holding a cattle and poultry show at Reading, on Wednesday, the 28th of November, and on the following day. The contract price was 160*l.*, and the tents were to be ready on the previous Saturday. They were not, however, completed till Tuesday; the one for the poultry was used, and a payment of 160*l.* made on account of it, so that the question in dispute turned on the goodness of the tents for the cattle. According to the evidence of the plaintiff's witnesses, the workmen of a Mr. Lowe, who is much skilled in

erecting tents, were on Tuesday afternoon strengthening a tent by building inside "towers of strength," one of which was placed in the centre, and a half one was to be placed at each end of the tent, when Mr. Clacy, an architect at Reading, who took much interest in the success of the Agricultural Society, entered, and desired the half-towers of strength not to be erected, as they looked unsightly, and suggested the placing of poles outside to strengthen the tent. Mr. Clacy did not recollect making any such objection, but wished the tent to be strengthened as much as possible, and made some suggestions for placing gye ropes for that purpose. The workmen put up neither the half-towers of strength nor the poles outside. On the night of the 28th a hurricane had the effect of blowing down one end of the tent in which the men had been at work the evening before, and a portion of the rafters of the other cattle tent. There were at that time in the tents a great number of cattle and pigs, who were much frightened, and therefore the managing men of the committee, instead of allowing the plaintiff's men to repair the damaged tents, thought it more prudent to pull them down altogether. The show proved a failure in consequence of this mishap, and the plaintiff now claimed 100*l.* for the tents, according to the contract, or such a sum as the work done was worth, on the assumption that the contract was broken on the plaintiff's part by the non-completion of the tents on Saturday. The defendant paid 10*l.* into court as a sufficient compensation for the work, and relied on the above facts as proving that the tents were not properly erected, and were not sufficient to withstand the effect of November weather.

The CHIEF JUSTICE directed the jury that they were to consider whether the plaintiff's workmen were stopped in strengthening one tent in consequence of Mr. Clacy's objections, or through the lateness of the hour, as the men might have intended to finish the work on the following morning. The jury had further to consider whether the plaintiff was entitled to the value of both

the tents for cattle, or either of them, or of neither of them, and in the last alternative whether 10*l.* was enough for the use of the materials.

The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for 75*l.*, including the 10*l.* paid into court.

[We are not lawyers, but we cannot help thinking the Reading Committee was hardly dealt by in having to pay so large a sum *in addition to their loss of a large portion of the receipts of their show*, arising from the mischance to the beasts' tents. Mr. Clacy states above that he did not recollect making objections to the "towers of strength," and it is clearly stated that his advice regarding strengthening poles outside was not followed. A question may also arise whether if the tents had been delivered on the Saturday, according to contract, the committee would not have discovered their inefficiency in time to remedy the evil before the show?]

Columbarry.

NO. I.—THE SCHWAB, OR SUABIAN SPANGLED PIGEON.

THE Suabian Spangled Pigeons, or as they are called in Germany, "Schwaben Tauben," are, I consider, the prettiest variety of Toys. They are doubtless the origin of all those pretty spangled Toys occasionally seen in England, and known by various names, as Porcelains, Hyacinths, Ermines, &c.

The Suabian Pigeons are about the size of Nuns, in shape and make, and much resemble the Dove-house Pigeon in their manners, have generally a turned crown, gravel eye, and clean feet. They are rather shy, sharp flyers, and easily learn to find their food in the fields, as indeed, is the case with nearly all the varieties of toys, unless incapacitated for walking on the ploughed land by the long feathers on the feet, which a few of them have, with which exception it may be taken as a rule that all the pigeons to be described in this section, are good "fielders," or caterers,—and consequently well adapted for country

amateurs,—while the fancy pigeons generally require to be house-fed, and therefore belong more particularly to the town-fanciers.

The chief, if not the only property of the Suabian Pigeon consists in its beautiful spangled plumage, the ground colour of which resembles that of a dark chequered dove-cot pigeon; the feathers on the head and neck are tipped with cream-colour, or a soft whitish stone-colour; the tail is a dark slaty-colour barred with black near the extremity; the flight feathers are of the same hue, but they have a small whitish spot at the extremity of each, like the white spots on the pinion of a goldfinch; the secondary wing feathers, as also the primary covert feathers of the same, have a large whitish spot on their outer web, which causes the wings to have two white bars, a feature much prized on the continent by amateurs, when introduced into the colouring of any of the darker Toys, and one of very rare occurrence in any English pigeons: the whole of the lesser covert feathers of the wing shoulders, and the back or scapular feathers have the white spots on both of the webs, which when large cause the feathers to appear almost all whitish with gray down, a black shaft and a small triangular bluish or slaty spot at the extremity, resembling ermine marks in heraldry, thus at a little distance the general plumage of the bird seems of a soft creamy white, slightly speckled with dark, but on closer inspection it is very beautifully and regularly marked—the whitish over colour on the lower part of the neck across the crop gives place to a crescent-shaped band of an orange brown shade, the rump and hinder parts are slaty gray; in the young birds these white markings are of a brownish or brindled colour, known to the fancy as "kite" or "hawked," but this colour only remains so long as they maintain their nest feathers, and they lose it with them and attain the creamy white shade at their first moult.

If these pigeons are bred to a darker shade, either by crossing with a black

pigeon or selecting the darkest for two or more generations, they present a very pretty appearance, becoming almost black, with two white bars across the wings, and the shoulders being spangled (not "mottled") with white pearl-like spots.

The Germans have also what they call a Red Suab, or "Roth Schwaben," the ground colour of which is a brown red, but the whitish spangling is not so clear on their shoulders, having a very faint pinkish tint, and being slightly marbled with red; the few I have seen of this variety had white upper mandibles, and also the crown of the head white, and a black iris.

The French have several sub-varieties, more or less spangled, some on a black ground, others on a clear blue, which are very pretty, some of them are spangled with buff, fawn, or red brown, instead of the creamy white; some of the French birds are much larger than the German, and seem as if they had been crossed with other large birds. These varieties are all, as yet, but little known in England; I believe I was the first to bring the true Suabian Pigeon to this country from Germany in 1843.

B. P. B.

JACOBIN PIGEONS.—"G. W." wishes to know what colour the eyes of white Jacobins should be? The fancy demands pearl eyes in these as well as Jacks of any colour. The primitive colour of Jacobins, or Cyprus Pigeons, I believe to have been red or black bald-headed, and the white plumage is most probably the effect of crossing at some time, with other white pigeons, by which means the dark eyes, by far too often seen in these pretty birds, is a circumstance to be accounted for, but a blemish not to be tolerated.

The so-called Jacobins of the present time are comparatively but degenerate examples of the beautiful short-faced Jacks of former writers, and if "G. W." or any one else wishes to excel in the reproduction of exquisite Jacobins, they must by careful matching and in and in breeding, reduce the best of the present Jacks to the former

standard of excellence; a small pigeon, short beak, and close compact hood, with the chain reaching to the shoulders (perhaps a slight admixture with a clean marked short-faced bald-headed Tumbler if judiciously used, would be advantageous in this matter); but, as the in and in breeding, if carried to any extent, will weaken the birds and reduce their prolificness, the advantage derived must be in the enhanced value of the produce.

B. P. B.

G. W.—White Jacobins should have pearl eyes, though they are difficult to get, I have a pair with three pearl eyes between them, the fourth being what is termed broken colour. I know of two other pair all having pearl eyes. I have to apologise to "B. P. B." for answering a question addressed *only* to him. A RED BEARD.

Home and the Homestead.

DAIRYMAN'S COW.

YOUR correspondent "T. W." asks for advice. Most willingly will I assist him as far as lays in my power, though, perhaps, I could have done so better had he mentioned his whereabouts, as so much depends on locality. I am, perhaps, somewhat differently situated to himself, but I will just state how I have generally managed. I endeavour to buy my cows in the Autumn, preferring those that have had one calf, viz. a three year old off heifer, likely to calve about February in her fourth year, and to meet with such I make a point of attending most sales of farmers' stock within an easy drive, always being on the look-out for the sale of a reputed breeder of good stock, though I do not mean fancy stock; on looking back to my books I find that I have bought cows of this description at from 9% to 13% each, with tolerable success. I give a decided preference to the short-horned breed, or what some people call the improved Durham, always selecting those of a good frame, with thin head and neck, clean

chops, deep but not over round carcase, wide hips, the tail rather sunk towards the root, a good-sized udder, the teats pointing forwards, and set on square, and a large and visible milk vein—of course roan coloured ones would be preferred, and white rather avoided. I never buy a black and white cow, and prefer those with white noses, as straight in the back as you can get them, and with a good dewlap; their hides should handle well and feel soft and flexible to the touch. As I rear calves, it is a great object with me to have good milkers, I, therefore, keep such as turn out well until they are in their 7th or 8th year, but if butter were my object I would part with them sooner, as it is a well-known fact that young cows produce more butter with a smaller quantity of milk, than old cows yielding a larger supply. I am afraid that "T. W." will find the style of heifer I have described very dear this season—about my neighbourhood they find a ready sale at from 17l to 18l. I have refused 21l. for some of mine. I would on no account advise the purchase of one in low condition—the more flesh an incalving heifer has on her the better. A WORCESTERSHIRE FARMER.

KOHL RABI.—The seed of the turnip cabbage, Nol-Kohl or Kohl Rabi, may now be bought at almost any seed-shop in London and other large towns. The Messrs. Sutton of Reading have given much attention to this root and sell the seed at 3s. per lb. It is dangerous to presume on taste but generally price is a criterion. The dearest, therefore the most valued vegetables, are asparagus, artichokes, and (except in the height of the season) green peas, and these are the only kinds to which the Kohl Rabbi is not superior. The upper half is better than the lower, a fact which may be turned to advantage without loss where there are beasts to consume the rejected halves. It is recommended to sow in February, or as early as the weather will permit, and afterwards monthly until the end of May. The bulb should be eaten

before it arrives at its utmost growth, as later it becomes strong. It is best to avoid transplanting, as the plants grow irregularly afterwards.

WHEAT FLY.—It is said in the "American Agriculturist" that one bushel of unslacked lime, ground to a fine powder, sowed to an acre, in the Spring just after the frost has disappeared, will effectually prevent the ravages of the fly. Is it worth trying?

COMPOSITION ROOFS.—These are cheaper than tin, better than shingles, are perfectly tight, and almost fire-proof against sparks, when made as follows:—

Sheet the rafter with close boarding up and down. Cover this with felting paper, laying the sheets to break joints, with one third exposed, just as you would courses of shingles. Fasten the courses to the boards by nailing thin strips of lath, and also upon the eaves, sides, and all exposed edges. The whole is now covered by the "composition," which we believe is just such as caulkers use, that is, boiling pitch. It saturates the paper, and sticks the sheets together, and to the boards. As fast as one man puts on pitch enough, another must cover it with clean gravel, dried by heating in a very hot sun, or an iron pan over the fire. Make a complete gravel surface in the hot pitch, and your roof will be very tight and durable.

PLANTS IN ROOMS are recommended as purifiers of the atmosphere, their leaves giving off abundantly the oxygen we need for respiration, and absorbing the carbonic acid gas, which is thrown off from the lungs. The only precaution needed is to remove from sleeping-rooms plants while flowering.

On Bees.

THE proportion of wax contained in honey or sugar being small, it will be evident that a considerable quantity of these substances is requisite to enable the bees to construct combs. In order to

ascertain whether the saccharine principle was the real source of wax, Huber confined three swarms in glass hives, and fed them respectively with honey, refined sugar, and dark brown sugar; the result of the experiment proved that honey produced the least wax. A pound of refined sugar produced ten drachms fifty-two grains of wax, while an equal weight of dark sugar produced twenty-two drachms, or nearly one-sixth of the weight. Honey was also analysed for the same purpose by Liebig, who found that one pound of honey yields one-twentieth of its weight of wax, and that one ounce of wax builds the number of cells required to contain one pound of honey.

From these experiments the proportion of wax cannot be *definitely* stated, as it appears to vary according to the quality of the honey or sugar, but they are sufficient for the purpose of impressing upon my readers that a very large drain on the supplies takes place when the combs have to be formed; such a drain as in no case can be made during the early part of the season, when the collectors are few, and all the honey which is gathered for some time, is required for the sustenance of the daily augmenting brood, over which a considerable number of workers too must cluster in order to maintain a hatching temperature, and consequently cannot be spared to construct comb. Bees cannot exist in a hive destitute of comb, for they would be deprived of all their resources, the warehouses of the honey and pollen, and the cells for rearing the young. Hence experienced bee-keepers seldom take second swarms, and never retain a hive as a winter stock which is not well furnished with combs. I have heard of apiarian novices, who, in ignorance of the habits of bees, have proposed placing a family in an empty hive early in spring, imagining they might prosper in such a situation. Little do they know the trouble and attention such an attempt would entail. I speak from experience, having once raised a houseless family (and it was a desperate case, caused by accident), in the beginning

of March, to a state of great prosperity. At this season however, my motto is, *Nil desperandum*; I would make the best of everything, with a resolution to surmount all obstacles.

The spring work of the bee-keeper is now close at hand, although while I write, a frost holds the earth in an iron grasp, more rigid than has often been experienced in England; and with the uncertainty of the length of its duration, and with the difference of temperature in various counties, the apiarian must rather be guided by circumstances, than regulated by time in his proceedings. As long as the frost and snow continue, the hives should be left in perfect repose, protected well by outer coverings: they will consume little food; though in hives in which breeding has commenced, I fear some bees *must* die, yet to assist them by feeding, would only tend to increase the evil. I make a rule not to interfere till I see pollen carried, and always find a few warm days the beginning of March, when this occurs. Then on a calm morning, with the thermometer at about 50° in the shade, I gently break up the hives from their adhesion to the floor-boards, and turning them up, make a thorough examination of their condition. The bees will be found very peaceable, and an idea may be formed of their numbers, by passing a feather gently through the clusters. The quantity of honey will be judged of by the weight. Young bees may also be observed. The floor-board should be thoroughly cleaned, and rubbed with a dry cloth, as also the inner edges of the hive, where the larvæ and spawnings of a small moth will generally be found located. Those hives which are low in provisions should at once be fed, giving the syrup warm, and in small quantities for a few days, and then bestowing it liberally; for as Mr. Golding judiciously observes, feeding by dribblers is never to be recommended. However, I give all my hives, rich as well as poor, a taste; it stimulates the queens, and renews our friendship.

At this time, especial observation ought to be made of any peculiarity in the hive, such as—

- The appearance of drones ;
- The condition of the queen ;
- And of the brood.

Such statements will be gladly received as an aid in forming a course of observation. I for one, hope to gather useful information from the communications which will appear in the "Poultry Chronicle" during the approaching season. A.

Floriculture.

FIRST WEEK IN MARCH.

THE intense severity of the past winter—we *hope* we *may* speak of it in that tense—has proved a severe trial to our flowers. The evergreens appear to have suffered less than we feared they would, a circumstance arising from the fine *dry* weather which preceded the late frosts. It is to be hoped that all delicate roses and other tender plants have been duly protected. Now that this pleasant change *has* taken place, that in the neighbourhood of London a registering thermometer scarcely protected from the open air marks two degrees above freezing as the extreme degree of cold during the night, and that out of doors, with no sunshine, on this last day of February, it stands at 46°; the florist will wish the days longer for the sake of all the work which will be awaiting his attention.

If the weather continue open, Auriculas should receive top-dressing. Those which have filled the pots with root must be shifted with care, not to break the earth or injure the rootlets. When a little of the surface soil is removed from the larger plants for earthing up, take off the offsets by pressing them downwards, *not with a knife*. Fill the holes caused by removing the offsets with pounded charcoal, and take care to earth up the plants to the foliage.

The offsets, when potted, must be placed in a frame. Prepare flower borders and have them made neat, ready for planting and sowing with various seeds. Overlook beds of Pinks, and fasten plants where the worms may have loosened the roots. Look over the carnations preparatory to planting out, and renew decayed or lost marking sticks. Auricula and Polyanthus seed may yet be sown, and Mignonette and Ten-weeks Stocks in pots, to produce sweetness and gaiety for rooms and conservatories, as well as for the borders; these should be placed in a frame. We must still be on our guard against frost, and keep mats and other protections at hand. Carnations must be shielded from heavy rains.

Exemplary Mothers.

I BEG to send a description of the most exemplary mothers I ever met with in a poultry yard. As mine consists of Spanish, I require a few hens which will incubate frequently, and remain long with their chickens. First, I tried Dorkings, but they were not to be depended on, as they sometimes continued laying till the summer. Cochins came next, but they are often clumsy in hatching, and desert their chickens too soon. My *ne plus ultra* is between Cochin and Spanish; they are ugly, excellent creatures, lay nearly as well as the Cochins during winter, sit almost as frequently, are more active, and I think more sensible, with much of the placid disposition of the Cochin, and remain double the length of time with their chickens. One of these hens hatched a brood in April, and in two months exactly began to lay, when they parted by mutual consent. Her sister reared her brood in June—eleven, from twelve eggs—remained with them precisely the same time, and seemed to leave them with regret. There was no cross peck to give notice of a dissolution of partnership, a hint which the *ci-devant* darlings of a Cochin hen sometimes receive to their excessive astonishment. A.

The End of "Sir Oracle."

I DID hope I should not have to write any more for the "Chronicle," but what can I do? But man gets accustomed to everything, and my ill-nature is gradually leaving me. The pleasure of being ill-tempered would cease, if it could last uninterruptedly for three weeks: and I have been amused this morning. First, I imagined to myself the sort of person, any one who read my "Ill-natured Scraps," would take me to be; that is, if they took the trouble to think of me at all. Tall, thin, bilious, yellow, hungry-looking fellow, with a small fire in my grate, and a shabby inkstand before me. No such thing, I am comfortable looking, have a good fire, and when not ill-tempered, am a good sort of man. But my table is covered with papers, and casting my eye on a French one, I was delighted, for I met a congenial spirit. A writer, speaking of the commencement of the gay season in Paris, laments the change that has come over the people; at a late masquerade he saw two "Pierrots" seated in deep conversation; using the license of such places, he crept up to listen,—they were talking gravely of the Crimea. Soon after he observed two "Paillasses" gesticulating, and casting furtive glances around lest there should be listeners; he cautiously approached, suspecting some trick of which he would be the victim, but cheerfully exposing himself for the sake of a little mirth; what was his disgust,—they were talking seriously of the late loan. But this was not all. Everyone knows the old frequenters of masquerades, who, for all disguise, put on a nose. Truly, no other is needed; add but two inches to a nose, and you cannot be recognised. These are generally the choice spirits of the place; others may go incognito for intrigue, &c., but these go for *fun*. Well, all these men had colds in the head, and the noses were perpetually being removed for sneezing, &c. What, says the writer, can be the cause? Are people altered, or is it the weather? I

could not be thoroughly ill-natured any longer. It is certain that if a dozen people were all ill-tempered together in a room, the redundancy of the evil would cure itself, and finding some one as annoyed as myself, I felt I was getting better. I had written thus far when I came across the "word" addressed to me by "Observer," and that restored me quite. Let me assure him I do not wish my ill-nature to be painful to anyone. I will try another style, and shall be happy to meet him when next our opinions clash. If he imagines there is the slightest shade of unkindness intended in anything I have written, he is mistaken. I agree with him the decisions of the judges are open to criticism, and when that ceases, farewell to their value; but those criticisms must be correct. I saw the pen of Brahmas in question, and detected nothing against their matching. I hope to see them again at Birmingham next year, and shall look well at them. Till then, as I like an able and honest antagonist, I shall be well pleased to break a friendly lance, when occasion offers, with "Observer," but now and ever disclaim the intention to lack courtesy, or say one word that can be construed into unkindness.

On Hybrids.

I AM pleased it is in my power to supply the information your correspondent desires.

The hybrid between the male common Pheasant, and any variety of domestic fowl, proves *invariably* unprolific, whether it be afterwards mated with a fellow hybrid, or an entire specimen of either of the species from which itself was originally produced. As an amateur, I have for years entertained a taste for raising pheasants, both of the Golden, Silver, and common varieties, which also naturally led me for several seasons to pay *unusual* attention in endeavouring to obtain "cross-breeds." The product between the Chinese Golden cock pheasant and the hen of our common English pheasant, is *certainly one of the*

most resplendent birds as to plumage that can be placed in an aviary. It is of far larger size than either of the parent birds, but they are quite sterile, either among themselves, or in connection with either of the original varieties. The males will not copulate, neither do the females produce eggs, even though kept perfectly tame for many seasons, and enjoying all the advantages prudence and experience can bestow on them.

The product of the Silver Chinese Pheasant and an English one, is equally unique and beautiful. In the male bird, all the delicate perfection of pencillings existent in the purely bred male Silver, are as perfectly developed; the ground-colour, however, varies considerably in different specimens, but generally assumes that golden hue an amateur of Sebright bantams could not fail to covet and approve; the hen hybrids (thus produced) approach, however, very closely in plumage to the feather of the "grey-hen" (or female of the black Grouse); both sexes, as in the former instance, are unproductive, highly prone to pugnacity, and the most indomitable "egg-eaters" that any fancier can be plagued with; they never seem at ease with any other description of poultry (though they live comfortably enough among themselves); indeed, either fowls or any of the varieties of pheasants scrupulously avoid coming near them, even within the limited confines of an aviary. The hybrid, a commixture of the English pheasant and fowl, is generally exceedingly dark in its plumage; the markings, which add so greatly to the beauty of the common pheasant being only partially represented. This bird, even when raised between a pheasant and a bantam, is much larger than either parent, its colour however is somewhat dependent on the variety of hen from which it may be produced, and I have seen female hybrids of this class that were self-coloured without any markings whatever. In conclusion, I am fully assured, no amateur will ever raise "hybrids" with ultimate satisfaction to

himself; and unhesitatingly affirm their re-production with other poultry of any kind, is simply a popular delusion. These birds are also very difficult to produce, most of the eggs incubated (where the cross is first attempted) will prove barren, and the few chickens that are at length obtained, are far less hardy to rear than either Pheasants or poultry; therefore, I would not advise any one to attempt their production, unless it be purely as an unremunerative "hobby," or for the especial beauty of their plumage in an aviary devoted exclusively to their reception.

EDWARD HEWITT.

Eden Cottage, Spark Brook,
Birmingham.

The Birds and the Severe Weather.

To the immediate neighbourhood of Penzance, especially westward, and extending quite to the Land's-end, a vast quantity of various birds, both land and water, indigenous and migratory, have resorted, having been driven instinctively to these more southern climes, to avail themselves of the chances of procuring their several means of subsistence. This is the reason why snipes and other wading birds—swans, geese, and the different species of the duck family—are found in severe winters in the southern districts of England. Most of the duck tribe live and breed in the northern regions; some are more Arctic than others, and those found in the more Arctic regions are the last and fewest in their visits southward. Thus, the wild swan, bean goose, white fronted goose, eider duck, velvet scoter, long-tailed duck, golden eye, scaup duck, are more rare than other ducks that are distributed more southward, such as the mallard, widgeon, teal, shovelers, tufted duck, and some others. Great quantities of ducks and mallards, widgeon and teal have been brought to Penzance market, and several tufted ducks, shovelers, pochards, and a few scaup ducks. Only one golden-eye has made its appearance, and strange to say, no pintail ducks have been offered for sale. Wild swans

were observed flying over Penzance, westward, on Thursday. Among the land birds the most conspicuous were the different species of the thrush family. A large number of the mountain finch have been captured, and pewees and golden plovers have been tolerably plentiful. A very unusual quantity of bittern have been offered for sale, and appear to have been regularly distributed over all the district. —*Cornwall Gazette.*

Brahmas at Birmingham.

I THINK there is much truth in the observations of "P. P." and "Observer;" it is evident that colour alone has carried the day at Birmingham and other places of late. The third prize pen of chickens at Birmingham were sold lately at Stevens's rooms: they all had single combs. The cockerel was a pretty little mottled bird, the pullets dark pencilled; but for size or form certainly below mediocrity. I cannot believe that there were no larger and better birds of the light colour which competed with them, for I certainly would not give 10s. a-piece for them. I have always thought, that in Brahmas as in Cochins, *form* and *size* are the great objects to be kept in view, and that *colour* is subservient to these; but it is impossible to shut one's eyes to the fact, that colour has in this bird been placed first. I consider this very unfair to breeders of the light—when in other respects better—birds.

It is evident from the distribution of the prizes, that comb is of very trifling importance; surely colour cannot be of more consequence than this feature. I am a disappointed exhibitor; I admit it. I showed a pen of chickens of the light colour at Colchester, perfectly matched, first-rate in form, heavily feathered, with yellow beaks and legs, and uniform in comb; and though hatched in April, weighing, the cock 11½ lbs. and the pullets 7¾ lbs. and 7½ lbs. respectively; but these birds were not even noticed—their colour condemned them—whilst the second prize was given to a pen

of dark birds with various combs, and which were inferior to them in size and form, at least as far as I could judge without actually weighing each lot.

I am unwilling to appear censorious, but I think that the dissatisfaction that the awards in this class have given should be expressed, that judges may have an opportunity of seeing the opinions of amateurs as to the points most sought after in this breed. Judges must learn that they cannot with impunity make every point bend to a particular shade of colour. What spoiled the Cochins of 1853 but this very thing? breeding for colour! to the utter neglect of every characteristic of that fowl: don't let us repeat this folly in Brahmas.

Talking of breeding for colour in Cochins, when were *good* lemon hens so scarce as now? and yet this is the very colour that everything was being sacrificed for. Then as to the comb of the Brahma I cannot for the life of me understand why the rule as to the uniformity of comb is relaxed in the case of these birds more than for Dorkings; good pens uniform in comb can be exhibited, but as long as exhibitors know that the rule is a dead letter with regard to Brahmas they will not trouble themselves about this (non?) essential point. I would suggest that at Birmingham there should be four classes for this breed, two for pencilled adults and chickens, and two for the light adults and chickens: judges would thus have an opportunity of informing themselves as to the colour most liked, which might influence their awards. I think it should be imperative that each pen should be uniform in comb; whether this feature should be pea or single will not be settled till more is known of the actual purity of the breed; therefore, both should be permitted, but not in the same pen.

ZENAS.

Portable Pens.

MESSRS. GREENING & Co. seem convinced that circular pens are the desideratum for poultry exhibitions. I unfortunately am

one of those prejudiced persons whom they cannot convince. Two remarks in their letter only call for a reply from me.

First, I wish to inform them that it is not at all necessary that the divisions in the box pens be air-tight; such a thing, next to being almost impossible, would be useless. All that is required is to have the joinings sufficiently perfect to prevent the birds pecking each other through them. As to draughts "passing across the back of every pen," the injury done to fowls from this cause is too absurd to notice, and one I never before heard advanced.

Second, Messrs. Greening & Co. deny "*advisedly* and *deliberately*," that any birds were injured by the wire-work of their pens, either at Manchester or elsewhere. Unfortunately I had two cocks whose tails were broken by these pens at Manchester; a thing which never occurred to my birds before, and I have exhibited about a dozen times last year, and I saw others in the same condition.

In pens, however, we exhibitors want the opinion of disinterested persons, and the experience of exhibitors and committee-men. I believe the circular pens have only been used at Manchester, and two or three other places, (of course I am open to correction). Have Messrs. Greening ever had their pens praised by any of the various committees where they have been? This would be some test as to the very great advantages we are assured they possess over the square ones. At Manchester I know many of the committee were against their adoption. After the show I do not believe there were two committee-men who did not condemn them as being most uncomfortable for fowls, and taking up all the "snug corners" which Messrs. Greening assure us are really "*worse than useless*." If circular pens are the best, by all means let us have them; but first let us have all their advantages and superiority explained to us by known exhibitors and committees. Until then I must remain a prejudiced

SQUARE PEN.

P. S. Let Messrs. Greening get the sig-

natures of the Manchester committee, to see if they approve of these pens, and publish the result in the "Poultry Chronicle." Come, let us have a list *pro* and *con*.

The Hamburgs and Pheasant Fowls.

MANY thanks to "B. P. B." for his information when answering my query—what is a Hamburg? in No. 51 of the "Chronicle." It was concerning the exhibitions which I alluded to in the statement about the four varieties, and the established nomenclature of Golden and Silver Pencilled and Spangled. Eleven varieties are enumerated by "B. P. B.," but I think it likely we may yet add one or two more,—the White, and the Silver Laced Pheasants or Hamburgs.

An ancestor of mine, above fifty years ago, had the former in great perfection; and I have almost succeeded in breeding the latter, though not quite perfectly laced. Some eggs were presented to me last year as having been sent from imported birds, which only produced a pair;—having all the points of the true Pheasant Fowl or Hamburg. Plumage of the cockerel of a glossy black, interspersed with silvery lacing on the neck, wings, and tail,—the two large sickle feathers beautifully so. Hen with more black feathers upon her, but the secondary coverts, primary coverts, primaries and secondaries all white, with very beautiful lacing; tail light gray, with perfect lacing.

There is, however, very little resemblance of these birds, more especially the Golden Spangled Hamburgs or Pheasants to the true Pheasant (Phasianus Colchicus of naturalists). This latter bird I have sometimes viewed alive with admiration at a very short distance, when in full plumage in the winter season, the sun's rays at the same time glittering upon his splendid form. Surely the poet must have seen him in similar circumstances:

"Splendid his form : his eyes of flaming gold,
Two fiery rings of living scarlet hold ;

His arching neck a varying beauty shows,
Now rich with azure, now with emerald
glows.

His swelling breast with glossy purple shines,
Chestnut his back, and waved with ebon
lines.

To his broad wings, gay hues their radiance
lend,

His mail-clad legs two knightly spurs defend."

Fearing this may be too lengthy for your
"Chronicle," I conclude, hoping it may
not put you to inconvenience.

Cumberland.

R. G.

Ducks.

THE writer of the following article having been frequently successful in obtaining the highest premiums at poultry shows, and that too where the competition was the most severe and extended in the classes for Ducks; ventures at the request of one of your correspondents, to offer his past experiences for the guidance of commencing amateurs.

I have not a doubt, that the variety called Rouens are the most profitable, and at the same time the most HARDY of any of our domesticated ducks; indeed I know persons who are, at this very time, successfully raising ducklings of this species, although partially exposed to the severe test of the late inclement weather; and under these adverse circumstances they are commencing their change from down to feathers, both rapidly and favourably. When it is taken into consideration how early the parent birds must have commenced laying, and the vicissitudes of the weather, I think it needless to adduce any farther proof of their hardihood.

The next most useful kind I believe to be the Aylesbury; though my conviction from frequent tests is, that the flesh in point of flavour of the Rouens is better, and for the production of eggs or ducklings during *severe* spring months, the Aylesbury variety bears no comparison; still in mild seasons they do well, lay freely, and with proper care are easily reared, though na-

turally much less hardy. Comparing them with other descriptions of poultry, the short time required to render ducks fit for the table is a chief cause why the profits from keeping them are greater than arise in general to the house-wife from poultry rearing; and is a reason also that renders ducks especial favourites, or at least tolerated by agriculturists themselves, as when at liberty they eat an almost inconceivable amount of slugs, and other depredators upon our corn crops. When free, they may be always seen at day-dawn with measured tread, engaged hastily yet stealthily, gathering up immense quantities of such insectile matter, until their crops being vastly extended, they relapse into a kind of lethargy for several hours, or float idly about on some adjacent pond till towards evening, when they arouse themselves to renewed exertions in again collecting much of the like favourite food, being thus engaged not unfrequently till long after *other* descriptions of poultry have retired to their roosting-places.

The benefits they thus produce on lands much infested with the dew-worm, slug, or even the wire-worm are very considerable, nothing of this nature coming amiss to them; and singularly enough, though voracious to excess, it very rarely happens when thus allowed to follow the free impulse of their natural desires, that they will not at once immediately and voluntarily abandon the food offered them, to obtain that (if near at hand) of the description I have just alluded to.

Ducklings are very easily reared; and even though hatched under a hen, instinct at once directs them to their favourite element, utterly disregarding their foster-mother's anxious admonitions, and to a young unpractised pullet, not unfrequently cause serious alarm from their (*to her*) inconceivable folly. On these occasions I have been both astonished and somewhat interested to see the untiring efforts made by the hen, to recall recently-hatched ducklings from their headlong course; and I once knew a young hen become so rest-

less and infuriate as to dash desperately forward, and herself vainly attempt the rescue of her progeny. She afterwards gained the bank with much difficulty, whilst from the excitement thus sustained she finished her career from vertigo.

(To be concluded in next number.)

◆
TO DESTROY GRASSHOPPERS.—Those who wish for a mode to prevent grasshoppers destroying the foliage of young fruit trees, vines, &c., may find an easy, safe, and sure, and at the same time profitable one, by just putting two or three old hen turkeys with their broods of young in the infested enclosure. The young turkeys are very fond of grasshoppers, and soon become dextrous in capturing them, upon which they grow and fatten rapidly. I have known an old hen with thirteen young ones, the past season, when grasshoppers were unusually numerous, that kept a five acre lot well cleared of them.—A. C. J.

ORIGIN OF POTATO OATS.—Upwards of half a century ago Mr. Daniel Jackson, of Greenhill, Arkleby, Cumberland, purchased some potatoes for seed which were supposed to come from abroad; when they came up, amongst them were found a few heads of corn resembling the oats then grown in this country, but of larger growth, and differing in appearance, showing a great superiority over the common oats. The seed was carefully preserved every year; soon a sufficient quantity was produced to offer for sale to the neighbouring farmers, and from the circumstance of having been originally found growing among these foreign potatoes, it was called Potato Oats.—*From the Illustrated London News.*

◆
The Editor's Letter-Box.

GOLDEN-SPANGLED HAMBURGS.

SIR,—What could be done without "The Poultry Chronicle?" We, amateurs, owe a debt of gratitude to you which is it not easy to pay. I believe that your valuable publication has done and is doing more to improve the

several breeds of poultry than even the Birmingham show itself. The opportunity afforded for interchange of opinions on the several points of excellence in the different varieties of fowls is invaluable; and I yet expect to see in consequence greater perfection than has ever yet been witnessed at our poultry shows. I am a lover and a breeder of the Golden-Spangled Hamburgs, and have observed with some interest the various opinions that have been expressed in your pages upon this valuable class of birds. The hen-tailed cocks and the sickle-tailed have each their admirers. I cannot say that I admire the square-tail, but we must have well-spangled cocks. The question is, cannot we have cocks hen-feathered, with the exception of the tail? I answer, certainly. It has been my fortune to breed and to have seen many such. And these birds produce chickens infinitely superior to cock-feathered birds. I have tried both. Neither have I ever been disappointed by barrenness in any of these cocks. The thing to aim at then seems to me to be a cock well-spangled all over him, with a nice flowing tail. There is another point to which I would refer. A good deal has been said by some of your correspondents about this class of birds not being winter layers. There must be bad management somewhere when this is the case. During the whole of this winter, and previous winters, I have always had a good supply of eggs from my favourites. I will not yield even to Shanghais in this respect. My next door neighbour keeps the latter sort, and I have had to supply him with eggs constantly from my yard. Hamburg pullets hatched in March or April begin to lay in October, and continue laying until the moulting season. The older birds when well kept will commence laying very soon after moulting, and continue until moulting again; and you would be surprised at the number of fine large eggs which I get, even this very severe weather. I am afraid I have trespassed too long upon your time already. I will conclude by recommending to the notice of your correspondent "T. W." a little handbook published by Orr & Co., price one shilling, "On the Cow," by the late lamented M. M. Milburn, Esq.—I am, Sir, yours gratefully,
 W. R. H.

A COTSWOLD FARMER

ASKS what is a good cross. Take six large Dorking pullets, throw a white-legged red Game cock to them. As years go on cross backwards and forwards to preserve the stamp wanted. Another, larger. Take six Brahma pullets, throw a medium sized gray Dorking cock to them. As years go on, and if the Dorking element overcomes the Brahma, cross in with a Brahma cock—in all selections of chickens taking care to keep

those of the stamp required. These birds will make excellent table fowls, be hardy and pay well; but as no brood will ever be a true brood, even of "cross-breeds," it is useless to look upon them as exhibition birds—for this reason, and as affording no sure criterion of the remainder of the stock, cross-bred birds are not suited to exhibition. One of our best judges on coming to this class is said invariably to pass by, remarking, "I don't judge those things."

BLACK COCHINS.

DEAR SIR,—I find in your paper this week a letter from W. Wanklyn, in which he states that he feels it his duty to inform your readers that I do not possess any of the stock from which he bred his Black Cochins. Now, sir, I have not said one word about his stock; the advertisement to which he alluded is very simple, it merely states that; I have some Black Cochins to dispose of, bred from same stock as first prize birds at Birmingham, Manchester, and several other places. Now, as W. Wanklyn did not take a first prize at Birmingham, and not both first prizes in Blacks at Manchester, I would ask how it is that he is disposed to question the correctness of my statement, and endeavour to make it appear that my advertisement does not contain facts. I think it now becomes *my duty to inform your readers* that it does contain facts, and that I have no wish to mislead them by what he is pleased to term an ambiguously worded advertisement.—I am, dear sir, yours respectfully,
Ludstone. WM. BROUGH.

NEST EGGS.

SIR,—I can inform your correspondent "W. H. E." that *Pot* eggs can be bought in York at 1s. 6d. per doz., which are quite equal to glass. I have used them for some years, as being superior to those made of chalk or wood, and from my own experience think that a *chalk* one is a dangerous substitute, as the hens *peck* them, and are thereby taught to break their own, and consequently learn to eat them.

For several years I have tried crossing almost every variety of fowls, and have found a produce from a Gray Dorking cock, and a Partridge Cochin hen, very splendid birds, quick growers, hardy and large; they were mainly gray.

For a farmyard, I don't think there is any pure breeds superior, if equal, to the cross between Dorking and Golden-Spangled Hamburg.

A few years since I exhibited a cross-bred cock, from a Black-breasted Game cock, and Dorking hen, which was superior to any I ever saw in size and majestic bearing; the colour was very like the Game, and size like the hen.

Will some of your correspondents inform me the use of the fleshy protuberance which grows from the Turkeycock's forehead, also the use of the bunch of coarse hairy substance from the breast of the same?—Yours, &c. SALVIA.

SPANGLED HAMBURG COCK.

SIR,—In the "Poultry Chronicle" of the 31st January last you express a wish that a subscriber would say what, in his opinion, constitutes a hen-tailed cock, as you did not think the Birmingham prize birds were so. In the first place I think some confusion has arisen from the fact that the birds in question are sometimes called hen-tailed and at other times henny-feathered; if the former be the correct name, and if, as it implies, the cock should have a square tail like a hen, you are right and the birds were not hen-tailed, if, on the other hand, the latter be the correct title (and I think it is), then I say you are wrong, for the prize birds, with scarcely an exception, were most decidedly henny-feathered. These birds are, I believe, entirely confined to the Yorkshire breed of Golden-Spangled Hamburgs, and, as the name indicates, are cocks feathered like hens (as in the Sebright Bantam), with Spangled back, saddle, breast, short hackle, both neck and rump, with square tail, or with only a slight attempt at sickle feathers. The birds at Birmingham were evidently of the breed, but with the tail and hackle better developed. A genuine Mooney cock is as heavily furnished as a Game cock, both with tail and hackle, and is never Spangled, either on the back or saddle. The withholding of the first prize in Class 3 at Birmingham was abominable, as I am sure neither the judges, nor anybody else, ever saw a better, if as good, a lot of birds brought together for competition. "MOONEY."

P. S. Are Brahma Pootras Gray Shanghais?

[We say they are not. Many amateurs say they are.—ED.]

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

Monday, Feb. 26th.

	BRITISH.	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	72 to 78
" " red	65 .. 70
" " Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	66 .. 70
BARLEY, Maltng, new	31 .. 32
" Chevalier	32 .. 34
" Distilling	30 .. 31
" Grinding	29 .. 30
OATS, English, feed	26 .. 30
" Scotch feed	29 .. 33
" " potato	33 .. 34
" Irish, white	26 .. 29
" " black	25 .. 27
RYE	44 .. 46

	Shillings per qr.
BEANS, Mazagan	37 .. 41
" Ticks	37 .. 42
" Harrow	38 .. 42
" Pigeon	40 .. 46
PEAS, White, boilers	38 .. 44
" Maple	38 .. 40
" White	26 .. 38

IMPERIAL WEEKLY AVERAGE.—Wheat, 69s. 1d.; Barley, 31s. 5d.; Oats, 25s. 6d.; Rye, 41s. 1d.; Beans, 43s. 3d.; Peas, 39s. 8d.

To Correspondents.

H. F.—The queries shall be answered next week.

J. H., near Newport.—We have forwarded the letter. *J. H. R., Jersey,* would be much obliged if some of our correspondents, who are pigeon fanciers, could tell him from what country the best high-flying, rolling Tumblers came, and whether they are better in France and Germany than in England, where he is sorry to find they are getting scarce.

S. T. G.—We are at liberty to give the address requested, for the purpose named, if our correspondent "S. T. G." will send us his address. A journey of three hundred miles would certainly be a trial to eggs intended for hatching; but if perfectly fresh and packed with care they might do very well. We have known hen's eggs hatch well after as long a journey, and that partly by sea.

A Novice "would be much obliged if any reader who has tried *both kinds* would tell him which is the best layer, the Spanish, or the Black Hamburg or Pheasant?" The Spanish lay the largest eggs; the Hamburg the greatest number.

P. Boulton "wishes to know how he can quicken the growth of three Cochins cockerels, which are not quite so large as he wishes?" We can only recommend abundant and varied feeding, taking care that they do not get in such high condition as to get out of order, which would throw them back. Give wheat and change the food very often.

T. Turner wishes for a cure for "fatty disease of the liver." When we have suspected its presence we have given Jalap with *Hyd. cum cretd*, giving five grains of Jalap and three of *Hyd. cum cretd* every alternate night for a fortnight, and the fowl has recovered. If the complaint is of long standing we fear it is hopeless.

Cleaning Fowls for Exhibition.—In this as in most other things, there is nothing like the natural process; give fowls a good run where they may keep themselves clean. Some dirt may be taken off by rubbing the feathers the right way with a sponge; but by all means give them a run in the grass, and if while there they are caught in a shower of rain, so much the better; then put them up in a house with plenty of clean straw. If this is repeated for many days, dirty fowls will get much cleaner.

To W. N.—We forwarded the communication immediately, and heartily hope the hive may yet be saved.

A Subscriber.—The suggestion of "Subscriber" shall receive attention; the table he mentions would certainly be very useful to exhibitors.

A Columbian and others among our pigeon fancier

friends, are much disconcerted to find pigeons omitted in the Windsor Schedule; and hope that these attractive birds, which add so much to the pleasures of a poultry show, will not be overlooked in the committee's arrangements for the forthcoming season. In reply to a statement of these hopes, the secretary of the Windsor poultry show obliged us with the following communication: "The matter was considered by our committee; but as the introduction of pigeons would increase the space required, and demand a heavier prize list, the committee decided that for this first year, no prizes should be offered for pigeons. I hope that next year we may feel at liberty to do all that your correspondent wishes, and more."

P. J. in reply to a correspondent, has favoured us with the following: "I perceive a correspondent in the last 'Poultry Chronicle' asks one or two questions of me; will you kindly inform him that the material I use for my 'gusting' baths, is sifted lime rubbish, or old mortar; I think it best for the purpose.

"The baths are about 4 to 5 feet in length, by 2 feet wide; open at front and ends, excepting a narrow board round the bottom, 5 or 6 inches wide; the roof with a good pitch, and over-hanging a little all round to keep out the weather."

Harry will find the information he requests in our present number.

B. P. B. would feel obliged if any reader of the "Poultry Chronicle" could give some information respecting Curassows and Guans from South America, as to their mode of nidification and adaptability for domestication. A correspondent in an early number of the "Poultry Chronicle" mentioned that he had a pair of the crested Curassows; we should like to know if he had any success with them last season.

B. T. S.—The question is so difficult to answer, "Who is an amateur, and who a dealer?" that we see little use in that rule at our poultry shows, which is made nominally to exclude the latter from exhibiting.

Anne.—We should very much fear that some fowl in the yard described has acquired the villanous trick of plucking and eating the feathers. Let the fowls be very closely watched until the delinquent is discovered, and (if she were our own fowl we should say) killed. Do the bare places proceed from the scurfy skin disease called white-comb?

C. D., Southampton, says, "that in stating the case of his pullet, page 570, he omitted to mention that a considerable quantity of blood was taken from her head, which he considers might have been the most important part of the treatment."

An Hon. Sec. possesses the shell of an egg similar to that mentioned, page 570, which was laid by a Cochins hen (in 1853) belonging to the late Jedediah Strut, Esq., of Belper. It was cooked for breakfast, and, on breaking it, was found to contain an inner egg which held the yolk, the white only being in the outer egg. He adds, "I have mislaid the paper of particulars, so cannot give the weight or size, and, as the thick end was broken off, I cannot measure it. Both shells were alike in colour, but the outer one was rough and had a puckered appearance."

A General Exhibitor wishes to know who exhibited the Pencilled Hamburg Hen-tailed cock in the single cock class at Birmingham, and we cannot inform him either from memory or inquiry. He hopes the secretaries of poultry shows will not fail to include pigeons.

Advertisements.

FIRST PRIZE DORKING FOWLS at the Colchester Show.—Two sets only of Eggs (of nine each) certified from these birds will be sent out this season. For terms apply to the owner, Mr. WILLIAM A. WARWICK, Donyland Lodge, Colchester.—Pure Dorking Eggs, from Mr. Baily's celebrated Stock, will be sent out this season in rotation of order, at 12s. 6d. per dozen, including basket. Apply as above. Two Cocks, own brothers of the Cock in Lot 2, for sale, One Guinea each.

EGGS.—Dorking, Spanish, and Cochins, from Prize and Silver Cup birds at Birmingham and Liverpool, to be sold at the yard of Mrs. Donno, Oswestry.—Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry. Dorking and Spanish fowls from above birds on sale.

MR. EDWARD TERRY, WALTON TERRACE, AYLESBURY, is prepared to supply Eggs from his various Stocks of Prize Poultry, as under. Dorking eggs from birds that have taken prizes at all the shows where they have been exhibited, price, 21s. per dozen, Spanish, 21s. per dozen, Cochins China, 8s. per dozen, Silver Pencilled Hamburg, 8s. per dozen, Aylesbury Ducks, 8s. per dozen; packages included. May be had by sending a Post Office Order, payable at Aylesbury.

SAMUEL HARROP, 13, Cooper Street, Manchester, Bird and Animal Preserver to the Manchester Museum, will have Black Spanish EGGS for Sale during the season, at £1 10s. the Setting, which includes the box and packing. The stock is the property of an Amateur, who has taken first and second prizes in 1854, at all the Shows where he has exhibited, including Holmfirth, Harrogate, Birmingham, and Manchester. The birds have been carefully penned for breeding, and are first-class birds, with large White Faces and Large Bodies. The Stock can be seen, and further particulars will be given by applying as above.

N.B.—S. HARROP begs to inform purchasers, that the Eggs will be forwarded, carefully packed according to the dates of the orders, and a private seal will be placed on each box before leaving the yard.

PRIZE POULTRY.—Mr. J. K. FOWLER, Prebendal Farm, Aylesbury, having been successful during the past season at many of the best Shows, more especially with the Aylesbury Ducks, begs to call the attention of the public to the following advertisement for Eggs during the next spring. The prices named will include the package, and the greatest care will be taken for their safety. The orders will be completed according to priority of application. A Post-office Order must accompany each letter, payable to JOHN K. FOWLER, White Hart Hotel, Aylesbury. Dorkings, per setting of 12, £1 1s.; Spanish, £1 11s. 6d.; Aylesbury Duck (Aylesbury Silver Cup and Colchester First Prize birds), £2 2s.; Rouen Ducks, £1 11s. 6d. N.B.—Mr. Fowler has a few Drakes and Ducks of his celebrated Aylesbury breed to dispose of at £2 2s. and £1 1s. each.—January 6, 1855.

FOR SALE a Gray Game cock and hen, first prize birds at Birmingham, 1853, and at the Metropolitan and Farningham, 1854, price two guineas the pair. Apply to ROBERT B. STEWART, Esq., Lydiard House, Swindon, Wilts.

SERAI TAOK, OR THE SULTAN'S FOWLS.—Eggs from these beautiful rarities at 21s. for nine. Also, from very handsome adult Ptarmigans, at 15s. for twelve; and from White Cochins and Brahimas, as hereinbefore advertised. Safe packing, in box and hamper, included.—W. DAWSON, Upper House, Hopton, Mirfield, Yorkshire.

PRIZE POULTRY. JOHN ROBINSON'S Celebrated breed of "Golden-Spangled Hamburgs," or "Mooneys" (the "grand beauties of the whole golden race, and almost unceasing egg-producers"); carried off 1st prizes at both Manchester and Liverpool exhibitions in 1854, and 1st and 2nd in the present year, and have taken prizes and received various commendations at many other of the leading exhibitions throughout the Kingdom. Eggs from 1st prize birds, £1 1s. for 13. Orton Hall, Westmoreland, and 115, Deansgate, Manchester. N.B.—All Letters and Post-office Orders please address to, and make payable at, Manchester.

HAMBURG AND GAME FOWLS, &c. EGGS from the Yard of the Rev. T. L. FELLOWS will be sold during the spring. These birds gained twenty-five prizes in 1853; and prizes have been taken in 1854, at Birmingham (3), Cambridge, Norwich, Colchester, &c. Mr. Fellowes's Pile Game Fowls took 1st prizes at Birmingham in 1853; Metropolitan, 1854; Bath, 1854, &c. Aylesbury and Rouen Ducks, 1st prizes at Norwich, &c. Black Norfolk Turkeys, 2nd prize at Norwich. The following rates will be charged, including box and packing. Hamburgs of each class, 12s. per dozen. Game Fowls, 15s. per dozen. Aylesbury and Rouen Duck, £1 11s. 6d. per dozen. Norfolk Turkeys, £1 11s. 6d. per dozen. 1 Pen (Cock and 2 Pullets), of good birds of each class of Hamburgs now on Sale. Brighton Rectory, Acle, Norfolk.

MR. V. WILKINSON, Mansfield Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, is prepared to supply EGGS from his White Cochins, 10s. 6d. per dozen, that have taken the first prize at the Great Northern Poultry Exhibition at Doncaster, 1855, and second prize at the Nottinghamshire Poultry Exhibition, 1854.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork, Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market, London.

MR. JOHN R. RODBARD, of Aldwick Court, Langford, near Bristol, has eggs to part with from prize stock during the season; Spanish at £1 15s. 6d.; White Cochins China, at £1 1s.; Buff do., at 10s.; Partridge do., at 6s. per Dozen. Black-breasted Red Game, from birds that have taken nine first prizes; and Grey Do. Silvery Game, from birds that have taken 16 prizes; and Black Bantams at £1 1s. per Dozen. Post-office Order made payable at Wroughton.

PRIZE POULTRY.—**JOHN ROBINSON'S** breed of "ROSE-COMBED WHITE DORKINGS," have never yet been beaten, and have within the last seven weeks stood against twenty-eight competitors (exhibiting no less than ninety-eight birds), in the first exhibitions in Great Britain. They are supposed to be the heaviest White Dorkings in existence. Eggs from the prize birds £1 1s. for 13. Orton Hall, Westmoreland, and 115, Deansgate, Manchester. N.B.—All Letters and Post-office Orders please address to, and make payable at, Manchester.

FOR SALE.—Pure Brown Single-Comb Dorking Eggs, £1 1s. per dozen. Coloured do. do., 10s. 6d. per dozen. Pea-combed Brahmans £1 1s. per dozen. Single do. do. 10s. 6d. per dozen. Many of the above are prize birds. Apply Rev. F. THURSBY, Abington, Northampton.

EGGS FOR SETTING, all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:
 Dorkings, Brahma Pootra (Pencilled and Light). Spanish (Rake's), Cochins, Buff and White.
 Hambros, Gold and Silver Pencilled and Spangled; Polish and Bantams.
 Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers. Pheasants and Partridges' eggs in any numbers.
 All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.
JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

SERAI TAOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan. A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 2s. for Nine.
BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from First-rate Pea-Combed mature birds, at 2s. the Dozen.
 Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barnes, Hampstead.

EGGS FROM THE YARD OF MR. H. D. DAVIES, are now on SALE.—The following is the rate of charges, which includes box and packing.

	The Setting.		
	£	s.	d.
Dorking	2	2	0
Spanish	2	2	0
Brahma	2	2	0
Rangoon	3	3	0
White Cochins	1	11	6
White Aylesbury Ducks	1	11	6
Toulouse Geese	2	2	0

Mr. H. D. Davies, having had the advantage of selecting from the best Spanish birds of Mr. Rake's yard, will now dispose of two or three of his Adult Spanish, all prize birds.

Also a few Spanish and Dorking Chickens of all ages for sale.

Remittances, by Post-office Order, to be made payable to **GEORGE KERBLE**, the Ballif, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, where the birds may be seen.

EGGS FROM THE WHITE COCHIN CHINA CHICKENS that gained 1st prize at the last Birmingham Show, and from their parents. These birds produced 1st prize chickens at Bath, Plymouth, Taunton, and Birmingham, £1 1s. the dozen. Apply with Post-office Order to **John Day**, Northbrook, Exeter.

FOWLS BY JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest, Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a Chapter on the Bramah Pootra Fowl, the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s., or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or, Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Paternoster Row.

SUBSTANTIAL POULTRY HOUSE, 12 feet by 4, for 4L, consisting of house 4 feet square, and covered run for fowls 8 feet by 4. The above is painted, and delivered free within four miles of London. Drawings of several sent free. Large enclosures for fowls and pheasants very cheap.—**R. RICHARDSON**, 21, Tonbridge Place, New Road, London.

N.B.—The above are portable, and can be erected by any ordinary labourer.

GEORGE BOOTHBY has a few Settings of EGGS to part with from the following birds, which have all taken several 1st and 2nd prizes. Ptarmigan, 12s. 6d. per dozen; White crested Black Poland, 15s.; Andalusian, 10s. 6d.; Black Spanish, 10s. 6d.; Chusan, 10s. 6d.; Indian Game, 10s. 6d.; Cossacks, 12s. 6d.; Buff and White Cochins, 5s.; Jet Black, and extra fine Black do., 10s. 6d. A few pair of thorough good White-faced Black Spanish, at 30s. per pair; and a pair of lovely White Cochins for One Guinea. Buff Cochins, 10s. 6d. per pair.

MR. JOSEPH TATE can supply EGGS from his celebrated prize stock of White-faced Spanish, having in addition to his own, the entire stock of the late Mr. Barry, of Preston; also the entire stock of Mr. Parsons, of Curden. J. T., having taken great pains in breeding and selecting his stock, can confidently recommend them as first-class birds. Terms, Two Guineas per dozen. He can supply a few sittings of Eggs from his celebrated Brahma Pootra Fowls, at One Guinea per Dozen. Address, 9, Syke Hill, Preston, Lancashire, where the birds may be seen.

SPANISH FOWLS EGGS FOR HATCHING, 10s. per dozen, from birds of the first quality. The cock is perfectly white-faced and an erect comb, bred by E. Simons, Esq., from his Birmingham prize birds, the grandisire a marvellous fine Capt. Hornby cock. The hens also from prize birds and perfectly white-faced, bred by Lady Macdonald, Mrs. Lydia Stow, E. Simons, Esq., &c. Post Office Orders payable to **GEORGE HINTON**, 31, High Street, Bloomsbury, London.

FOR SALE.—A handsome Dorking Cock, eighteen months old, price 21s., and one ten months old, price 15s., both single-comb. One Spanish Cock, ten months old, price 15s.; and two Hens, 7s. 6d. each; one has the comb falling over the eye. Address, D. B. R., Post-office, Reading.

FOR SALE, first-class White Crested Black Polands; cock and two hens, price 3l. 3s., from stock that have taken several first prizes; may be returned if not approved of. Apply Z., care of Mr. R., Corner's Library, Wellington, Somersetshire.

PRIZE WHITE SHANGHAE.—A few

EGGS from the above fine birds, which have taken 1st prizes at Derby, Doncaster, and Nottinghamshire Poultry Associations, may now be had by applying to NATHAN WATERS, Southwell. Price 10s. the setting. The Hens weigh nearly nine pounds each. N. B.—A Cockerel and two Pulletts for sale.

WHITE TURKEYS.—For Sale, Five or Six

First-class White Turkeys, hatched 1854, bred from Prize birds, £1 each. Several pairs of White Aylesbury Ducks, of the same hatch as the Second Prize Ducks at the Great Northern Show, 10s. each. Also Eggs, 10s. the setting, from Dorkings and Black Game, Second Prize Birds, at the Great Northern Show, 1855.—Apply to Mr. EDMONDSON, Denton, Otley, Yorkshire.

PRIZE POLANDS AND HAMBURGS.—

Mr. CHARLES COLERIDGE, of Eton, will supply Eggs from his prize White, Gold and Silver-bearded Poland, on and after April 1st, at One Guinea a dozen. Mr. C. Coleridge has obtained first and other prizes during the last year, at Torquay, Honiton, Cambridge, Reading, and Manchester, and has added first prize and other birds from the yards of Messrs. Vivian, F. and C. Edwards, Hazlewood, Perkins, Jones, and other celebrated breeders, to his stock. Mr. Coleridge will also supply eggs immediately from his prize Silver and Golden Spangled, and Black Hamburgs, at 12s. a dozen. Mr. Coleridge has improved and increased his Hamburg yards greatly by purchases of birds from Messrs. Whittington, Cannan, Dixon, Edwards, Venn, and Mrs. Foukes. Post-office Orders payable at Windsor. All orders will be executed in rotation. N. B.—The prize Golden Spangled Hamburgs at Cambridge for sale. Price £2 10s.

PRIZE HAMBRO' AND DORKING EGGS.

From each variety of the above, which have won more than 70 prizes, at 10s 6d. per dozen, 1s. box. Twelve pens of Hambro's were exhibited at Wellington last September, when 7 first and 5 second prizes were awarded them. See "Poultry Chronicle." "Best collection of Hambro's ever exhibited by one person." See "Poultry Chronicle's" advertisement, in No. 51. JOSIAH B. CHUNE, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire. N. B.—A few good Cocks and Hens of the above breed for disposal.

FIRST-RATE COLOURED DORKINGS.

The owner, having to change his residence in May, will Part with EGGS from his Stock Birds; consisting of Four beautiful Pulletts, from seven and a quarter to seven and three quarters pounds each; own sisters to 1st prize and to "highly commended" chickens at Birmingham; and a Cock, with black breast and silver hackle, which gained 2nd prize at Birmingham. 30s. per dozen, including box. Also a few cockerels and Pulletts, 15s. each. Apply to Rev. HERBERT S. HAWKINS, Henny Rectory, Sudbury, Suffolk.

WIRE FENCING, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 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.

SOVEREIGN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. 49, St. James's Street, London.

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The Right Hon. Lord de Mauley.
Sir Claude Scott, Bart. | Henry Pownall, Esq.
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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.

"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,600, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d., have been received for new premiums.

"These items, when compared with the business of the preceding year, display an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

"While the income of the Company has thus received so large an accession, the office has only been called on, during the same period, to pay £1,663 10s. 10d. for claims, a sum which bears a remarkably small proportion to the mortality which might justly have been anticipated. This feature in the career of the company has thus been maintained to the ninth year, and the Directors trust that such a fact evidences the care with which the business of the office has been invariably conducted."

The office presents:—
The security of a large paid-up capital.
Very moderate rates for all ages, especially young lives.
No charges whatever, except the premium.
Policies indisputable.
Prospectuses, copies of reports, forms, and every information can be obtained at the office, 49, St. James's Street, London.

HENRY D. DAVENPORT, Sec.

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Six Lines 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.
Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 17s. 4d.; half-yearly, 8s. 3d.; quarterly, 4s. 4d.; payable in advance.

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The Poultry Chronicle:

A JOURNAL OF

POULTRY, PIGEONS, BEES, FLORICULTURE, AND THE
HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 55.]

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1855.

[PRICE 3D.

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Poultry Shows.

Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham Show at the Corn Exchange, Newcastle, April 11th and 12th. Honorary Secretaries, J. S. Challoner, Esq., and W. Trotter, Esq., of Bywell.

Windsor first Exhibition of Poultry, under the patronage of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, in Windsor, on Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st.

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Society will hold a fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, on Friday the 24th day of August. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson and J. Newsome, Esqrs.

Bedford Poultry show in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. B. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close Saturday, November 10th.

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."

THE future is a sealed book to man, but the past forms a lesson from which he may glean the knowledge that shall enable him to avoid many of the quicksands and rocks in after times, that impeded his career in by-gone days.

Although men differ in their modes of pursuing excellence or pre-eminence, yet all aspire to it. Although the majority are perforce compelled to remain with the undistinguished many, yet all wish to be of the fortunate few who reach the goal of distinction. But the wish alone will not confer the necessary qualifications, and they are wise who, when they fix the summit of their hopes, are content to take

a moderate view, and not to strain their gaze to a height almost unattainable.

It is a laudable attempt to point out the means by which a legitimate ambition may be prudently indulged, and to divest the subject of some of its difficulties.

Although everyone is now interested in poultry, yet all are not poultry keepers; some are deterred by imaginary difficulty in getting rid of surplus stock; others by expense, and many who do keep fowls, are vexed by the same complaints.

Poultry exhibitions are become general: there are few who have not been competitors, and now that really handsome pieces of plate form part of many prize lists, still larger numbers will enter the arena.

A prudent general will calculate the risks and probabilities of an engagement before he offers battle to the enemy; and so the intended winner of cups, goblets, &c., will scan the capabilities of his establishment before he makes his entries, and sets his hens. However good the parent stock may be, *all* the produce will not be worthy of them. It is necessary to breed a great many to get a few good ones, if by the word good, we mean prize birds. Now, it is always important to give the greatest care to those birds on which the hopes of success rest. To compass the desire of distinction, if four birds are necessary, at least sixteen should be early selected and cared for in every possible way. They should also have the best and largest run in the place. No great knowledge is necessary to select these birds; the strongest chickens, chosen with due regard to points and colour. There will always be faulty ones, and these may either be killed at

once, or sent away to some other place. The question then arises, what is to be done with them?

Last year, during the London season, we had but one continual report of scarcity, and consequent dearthness. It seems an anomaly that now that every one keeps poultry, the supply of that article of food should be less than when few persons kept it: but it is so. We believe the cause is this: every one keeps all his fowls for exhibition, and then when the "gems" are selected, the cry arises, that there is no sale for the leavings. They are too old for the table, where they should have appeared months before. The very circumstance that causes them to be rejected by their owner, makes them unsaleable to others. Dorking chickens with four claws, four-toed breeds with five, crooked-breasted, and faulty birds, should be devoted to purposes of food while young, and he who breeds many, without the conveniences of rearing them, should at from ten to fourteen weeks old send them to market.

There is no question of a return, and a satisfactory one; but dissatisfaction and disappointment should not be the result of a *first* failure.

Few things come intuitively to man; and in order to sell a few chickens advantageously, the lesson must be learned. Poultry must be more or less a question of food, and the first thing to be got rid of is, the notion that it is derogatory to sell it. Why should it be so? The noblest, best, and richest in our land, breed, fatten, and sell the oxen and sheep that we feed upon. We freely admit the difference between

these animals and the feathered tribes, which are our peculiar province. We do not expect to see amateurs taking their stands in a market, but this may be done by proxy. It should be known how to feed, kill, and send poultry to market. This will be a work of time. Judging from appearances, the present will be a season of scarcity for poultry in London, and probably many thousands of fowls will be sold at high prices. But let us take a moderate average; say they will make five shillings each; how preferable it will be to sell for six or nine pounds, or even five, the two or three dozens of chickens which, kept till later in the season, would become annoyances rather than otherwise, and instead of making an early return, have considerably swelled expenses. We write for all classes. Some wish to be successful who have but small means. To them we particularly urge attention to these remarks; the faulty birds—and there must be such—will continually meet the current expenses inevitable in the production of prize birds. We would not say one word in disparagement of sales by auction. They form the safety valve, and to many have lent a helping hand in disposing of surplus stock when no other market offered. But birds deficient in claws, and faulty in feather, will not sell even there, and these should be eaten.

We would not deceive any one, fowls with dark legs, as Hambros, Spanish, and Polands,—with yellow, as Cochin Chinas,—will not make the prices we have named; but Dorkings will. Other breeds, however, will sell well enough to remunerate their owners. In this, as in every other scheme,

care and painstaking will turn into money; the fatter the fowls, the better they will sell. If any adopt our advice, let them recollect **THEY MUST BE YOUNG**. No degree of fatness, no possible management will do away with the disadvantage of being rather too old. They should be killed at about fourteen or sixteen weeks old. Some courage is necessary to doom pets to destruction. We are prone to be indulgent to our own, and we are apt to think after all they will be better than we imagine, and the consequence is, when they are grown up, and too old for the table, we find they have not realised our anticipations, that they are worthless as show-birds; that there is no sale for them; and too late we lament the weakness that hindered us from turning them to account while they were marketable, and before they had consumed food for which they will make no return.

—•—

We continually hear of poultry amateurs who were ignorant of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle," until it was named to them by some friends, and who were glad to take it in as soon as it came to their knowledge. We have been advised to advertise it extensively. We have already done so, but apparently without bringing it under the notice of all the parties to whom it would be acceptable. We shall feel particularly obliged to all our friends if they will kindly make it known amongst their acquaintances.

—◆—

PRIZE ESSAY ON FATTENING POULTRY.
—We are requested by Mr. Tegetmeier to state that his "Prize Essay on Fattening

Poultry" will be published in the first instance in the forthcoming number of the "Journal of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society" (London: Ridgway, Piccadilly), and that it will not be republished in a separate form until after an interval of some months.

The Poultry Yard.

MARCH 14.

WE must now, with all convenient speed, get into the very heart of the spring work, and the sooner we can have eggs set, from the *choicest* fowls we have, the better. Most amateurs sell the surplus production of their poultry yards: eggs at the present season, chickens later. Many persons keep the eggs from the best hens and sell from the worst. We do not sanction this, when eggs are offered at a high price, and all are willing and glad to pay well for eggs *on which they can depend*. But, as "self-preservation is the first law of nature," we would provide for home sitters first, and then sell. In this, of course, each owner must please himself. If any particular one of the best hens is lazy in beginning to lay, let her have a little warming food, for it is now high time to get forward the prize chickens of all kinds which require many months' growth. We think *all kinds* except Spanish, which, from being very delicate while fledging, do better hatched later. Nature seems to tell us the same tale; for these fowls begin laying late.

There is much difference of opinion respecting the goodness of Cochins as mothers, and, as at the present season most of our broody hens are Cochins, it is a question especially interesting to those who aspire to become possessors of the various pieces of plate looming in the future. Is it not what Katty Macane calls "the beautiful nature" that tells the Cochin to throw off her chickens early, for are not these hardy chicks injured, rather than benefited, by too much brooding. The Cochin China fowl, as well as being a winter layer, and

an excellent layer, is of a gentle, tractable, inoffensive disposition, and this disposition is one which may be turned to excellent account in rearing prize chickens. It has been said, his mother's milk alone will not rear the prize short-horn: then why should not we give the prize chickens the advantage of two mothers. We have Cochins in our own stock which we could lift from the eggs they are brooding, and place among a lot of chickens three weeks old with perfect confidence in their brooding them, and becoming capital mothers (instead of sitters) forthwith. But we would not *recommend* such an experiment: we would "bamboozle" my lady a little. Amuse her for a few days with two or three eggs; then, at night, slip one of the three weeks old chickens under her wing. She must be watched, as possibly, not probably, she might turn cross. For every chick take away an egg, and so give her all the brood. Next day, to carry on the deception with the hen, leave or place all in a large nest-box. Afterwards all will go right, and the change will secure the chickens a brooding mother three weeks longer than they would have her without. If the mother hens are kept apart from the stock they will care for their chickens longer.

Continue improvements in runs,—new gravelling and turfing, where practicable; and take care that sitters are supplied with food without loss of time.

Ducks will be proposing to sit. Many persons say, "let hens hatch the ducks' eggs," but we see no reason for depriving the duck of her vocation that way. It is urged against the duck that she is a fidgetty sitter, and is easily disturbed, to provide against which we would set her in an out-of-the-way quiet place, and take care *that she is not disturbed*. We do not admit that the duck is a *careless* sitter: she is rather an over-careful—over tantrummy sitter: witness the careful manner in which she covers up her eggs, if you only place the hay and straw handy for her. Then she rushes out in a great state of excitement, and expects to have food

and water; and, if she is not immediately supplied, she rushes back again, and probably breaks some of the eggs! When the duck leaves her nest to feed all the house must know it, unless it be a very large one. It is a good thing if she happen to be in a place where she can be shut in from interruption from her companions, with a few hurdles, and supplied with food and water to go to when she likes. If she sits in the duck's house, care must be taken to give her plenty of food and water directly she leaves her nest. It is advisable to shut her away from the pond, not because the wet would do harm, but because she would waste too much time there. With a pan of water she will wet herself thoroughly, but it does no harm to the eggs. If she is inclined to stay away from her eggs too long, after the first or second day, she must be gently driven back to them.

SUMMARY.—Get on with setting the hens and arranging the runs, and pay especial attention to prize chickens. Take care that sitters are supplied with food. Let ducks sit on ducks' eggs; give them plenty of food and water when they leave the nest to eat, and notice that they do not stay off too long.

Schedule of the Bedford Poultry Show.

THE Committee of this popular show has appointed the next annual exhibition to take place early in November. The prize list is greatly augmented, both in the number of classes and in the amount of the prizes.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Each Pen will contain a Cock and two Hens.

		DORKINGS.	
Class.		1st.	2nd.
		£.	s.
1.	Fowls	60	40
2.	Chickens. A Silver Vase of the value of	105	40
3.	Cock, any age	20	
4.	Hen, any age	20	
		SPANISH.	
5.	Fowls	60	40

Class.		1st.	2nd.
		£.	s.
6.	Chickens	60	40
7.	Cock, any age	20	

GAME.

8.	Black Breasted and other Reds	60	30
9.	Chickens	60	30
10.	Any other Variety	60	30
11.	Chickens	60	30
12.	Cock, any age or colour	20	

COCHIN CHINA.

13.	Cinnamon and Buff	40	20
14.	Chickens	40	20
15.	Any other Colour	40	20
16.	Chickens	40	20
17.	Cock, any age or colour	20	

BRAHMA POOTRA.

18.	Fowls	40	20
19.	Chickens	40	20

HAMBURG.

20.	Gold Pencilled	40	20
21.	Chickens	40	20
22.	Silver Pencilled	40	20
23.	Chickens	40	20
24.	Gold Spangled	40	20
25.	Chickens	40	20
26.	Silver Spangled	40	20
27.	Chickens	40	20
28.	Cock, any age or colour	20	

* * A Silver Cup, of the value of Five Guineas will be given, instead of a money prize, to the best Pen of Hamburg Fowls, of any of the above-named varieties.

POLANDS.

29.	Golden	20	
30.	Silver	20	
31.	Any other Variety	20	

BANTAMS.

32.	Gold Laced	20	
33.	Silver Laced	20	
34.	Any other Variety	20	

ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.

35.	Cock and two hens	30	15
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DUCKS.

36.	Aylesbury	40	20
37.	Rouen	40	20
38.	Any other Variety	20	10

GEESE.

39.	Gander and two Geese	20	10
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TURKEYS.

40.	Cock and two Hens	40	20
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PIGEONS.

41 to 48. Best pair of Carriers, Runts, Fantails, Black Barbets, Pouters, Almond Tumblers, Jacobins, and any other Variety each 10s.

In addition to the above prizes, a Silver Cup, of the value of six guineas, will be given for the best general collection of useful poultry, consisting of not less than six pens, exhibited by any amateur residing in the United Kingdom.

Regulations Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8, are the same as Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11 in the Birmingham Schedule. (See "Poultry Chronicle," No. 48.)

5. All the specimens must be *bona fide* the property of the exhibitor and must be sold in person, not divided.

9. Entries to be made on the forms issued for that purpose. The entries close the 16th of October.

10. The poultry must be in the place of exhibition the day previous to the exhibition. The baskets, hampers, &c., addressed to the Poultry Show, Bedford; the carriage in all cases being previously paid by the exhibitor.

11. Subscribers of 10s. will be allowed to exhibit two pens of poultry free of charge; two additional pens at half the charge to non-subscribers; and will have two tickets of admission to the exhibition. Subscribers of 1*l.* will be allowed to exhibit four pens free of charge, and any additional number not exceeding six at half the amount of entrance-fee paid by non-subscribers, and will also be entitled to four tickets of admission to the exhibition; but subscribers whose names shall not be received by the secretaries on or before the 25th of March next, will be excluded from the advantages offered by this regulation.

12. Subscribers of 10s. per annum, not being exhibitors, will be entitled to six tickets of admission to the private view; and of 1*l.* or a larger amount, will be entitled to tickets in the same proportion; every subscriber will be entitled to free admission during the other days of the exhibition.

13. The charge of entrance for non-subscribers, which must be paid at the time the entry is made, or the pens will not be allowed to compete, to be in classes 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 39, and 40, 6s. per pen. In the Pigeon classes, 2s. 6*d.* In all the other classes, 5s. per pen.

14. Subscribers will have the privilege of nominating one cottager to exhibit; the charge

for pens to such nominee will be reduced one-half.

15. 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.

16. Exhibitors will not, under any pretence, be allowed to enter the place of exhibition until after the prizes have been awarded.

17. 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.

Subscriptions may be paid to either of the secretaries.

J. T. R. ALLEN, } Hon. Secs.
F. A. LAVENDER, }

Fixed Exhibition Pens.

A POINT of great importance in reference to the above subject has been overlooked by all the able correspondents in the "Poultry Chronicle," and that is, provided a suitable pen could be determined upon, how would you get *all* exhibitors to use them? It is perfectly true that those who have entered into the poultry trade to any extent may easily be induced to buy one, two, or three pens, but it is equally obvious that those who engage therein to a very limited extent will always have an objection to expending anything for a pen which might only be used once in a lifetime, and to compel an exhibitor of this sort to buy a suitable pen would not only be a hardship, but would also be eventually ruinous to one half of the smaller provincial meetings, where a considerable majority of exhibitors are of this class.

The immense sums of money which at many places are charged for fitting a poultry exhibition are certainly sufficient cause for attempting to adopt some more economical system, but there are grave doubts how far the present movement will meet the objections; it would hardly be desirable to make exhibitions monopolies for large breeders to the utter exclusion of

the "small fry;" this would certainly make the cure worse than the disease.

At the South Durham and North Yorkshire show held at Darlington in December last, there were 500 pens of poultry exhibited, the pens were square wooden pens, *fronted* and *topped* with wire, and the expence of putting up and taking down was under 15*l*. This is surely low enough for anything, and as the contractor has the sides and backs still on hand we expect next season it will be still lower; and this is the way it was done:—

The wood work was advertised to be let, specifications to be seen at the secretary's; the contractors were informed that there was no necessity to finish the wood work as if it were for cabinet purposes, all the committee required were secure pens. Consequently, they contracted to make them out of *waste* boards, and all that they asked was pay for *time*, the material being in fact worthless for any other purpose; and the praises of good judges at the show sufficiently testified that the pens were all that was required, one gentleman who had visited the best exhibitions in the kingdom stated to the committee, "that it was the best fit-up show he had ever seen." All that was paid for the wire-work was for the time fixing, the committee granting the owner the privilege of exposing in one part of the room samples of his manufacture.

Now, I fancy, if this can be done at such a place as Darlington, surely Birmingham and poor unfortunate Manchester might do likewise, and instead of spending hundreds of pounds, tens ought to be quite sufficient. By a little managing, one shilling a pen should fit up the largest and best show in England—the above example being considerably under that.

Let committees set to work in right good earnest, and there is no doubt they will find means considerably to decrease the overwhelming expenses which hitherto have rendered all their best endeavours (pecuniarily speaking) abortive—and they may rest satisfied that it will be more to

their advantage if they can keep expenses down to erect their own pens in preference to any other sort, however good they may be.

R. B.

Wood Pigeons.

I NOTICE in the "Poultry Chronicle" of February 7th, that one of the subscribers appears to be a declared enemy of these handsome birds. I gather so from his statement, that 937 grains of wheat, besides 94 tares, were found in the crop of one bird. I do not for one moment deny that statement; but I think that the writer would alter his opinion if he were more intimately acquainted with these birds, and he would find how very great is their utility at other periods of the year, *when they cannot* get at the corn.

Perhaps I cannot do better than refer your readers to "Mr. St. John's Wild Sports of the Highlands," a very nice edition of which is to be found in "Murray's Home and Colonial Library." They will there find a very good account of the habits of the Wood Pigeon; and Mr. St. John particularly mentions his being spectator (with an Agricultural friend) of an immense flock of Wood Pigeons, busily engaged (apparently) on a field of young clover, which had the last season been under barley. Mr. Agriculturist asks, "You constantly say that every bird does more good than harm; what good are those birds doing to my young clover?" On this, in furtherance of his favourite axiom, "that every wild animal is of some service to us," Mr. St. John determined to shoot some to see what they were actually feeding on. He shot eight, and on examination found that every bird's crop was as full as it could hold of two of the worst weeds in the country, *the wild mustard*, and *the ragweed*, which they had found remaining on the surface of the ground; these plants ripening and dropping their seeds before the corn is out.

Now no amount of *human* labour and search could have collected on the same

ground, at that time of the year, as much of these seeds as was consumed by each of these five or six hundred Wood Pigeons daily, for two or three weeks together. You very justly ask the question, "Where did the pigeon that was shot in the neighbourhood of Canterbury get the corn, as pigeons do not scratch?" The corn she eat would have been wasted, and it seems hard not to allow that which would have been food for other "and perhaps worse" animals, to be eaten by a bird which is so useful, at other times, as the Wood Pigeon. I hope your correspondent will not become an advocate for the annihilation of these birds; but rather, when he understands them more, do all he can to preserve them in his neighbourhood. B. T. S.

[The account of the Wood Pigeon referred to, was an extract from a newspaper.—Ed.]

The Brahma Prize Birds at Birmingham.

I HAVE seen some letters in the "Poultry Chronicle," blaming the decisions of the judges at the late Birmingham Show. I am one of those who believe that *such* judges as there were there, know more about the the merits of the different breeds of fowls, and consequently are better able to adjudge the prizes, than those people who are so eager to find fault with their decisions.

No one for a moment would presume, I imagine, to question the *integrity* of the judges, or their *efficiency* either; and it is quite clear to me, that they never came to a decision without duly weighing the pros and cons, which I imagine some of your correspondents have neglected to do.

I was unable, from illness, to attend the show myself, and I am only induced to write this by a letter which appears in your number for March 7th, signed "W. C. G." In describing the old Brahmas at Birmingham, 3rd prize, pen 823, exhibited by Mrs. Thursby, he says the cock has an irregular pea comb; one

hen single, and two irregular. In this I beg to state *most decidedly* that "W. C. G." makes a very great mistake; a more clearly defined pea comb than the cock has, it is impossible there should be! and the hens likewise all had *regular*, not irregular, pea combs. The same birds took the first and only prize at Lincoln. At large shows, it is more difficult to get prizes than at small ones; and when amateurs have won several prizes at local shows, they feel disposed to find fault with the judges when they are beaten at more important ones. I fancy "W. C. G." has a curious idea of pea comb. What does he mean by *indescribable* pea (pen 829), 2nd prize for chickens? I hope other owners of prize Brahmas will justify the decisions of the judges. FREDERIC THURSBY.

Abington, near Northampton.

Live Goose-coat Feathers.

YOUR columns have lately been so fully occupied with valuable and interesting matter that I can scarcely ask you to insert the following remarks.

The other day I took up the "Poultry Book" and read the following (p. 282), on geese feathers, "but we cannot refrain from shuddering when we read a passage like the following—the feathers plucked three times a year, and the quills twice; and most heartily do we assent to the disgust expressed by Mr. Hewitt in reference to such atrocities. The system of plucking live geese adopted in Ireland, and also in some parts of Lincolnshire, is truly abhorrent to any well-ordered mind, and furthermore defeats its intended purpose, pecuniary gain; since the exhausted birds require infinitely more fattening, and when killed never dress so well in colour as those that are not treated in this most inhuman manner. The feathers so taken are certainly more expansive, and thus gain some preference among dealers, &c." The editor then goes on to say, "the galled cab-horse, nay even the costermonger's donkey are protected by the stringent Acts of Parliament, and

plucking geese alive should be a misdemeanour of the same class." Residing within sound of the bells hung in the tower of the Cathedral of the Fens—the far-famed Boston Church—and in the centre of one of the districts alluded to by Mr. Hewitt (the fens of Lincolnshire), which have produced hundreds of thousands of geese, and which still, notwithstanding the inclosure and drainage thereof, send annually many thousands to the metropolitan markets alone, I made enquiries relative to the system here followed in procuring live goose feathers, and find the following to be almost universally adopted. As the early-hatched goslings and adult geese commence their moult in July, the poultry-woman *plucks* from her geese the feathers *about to moult*, and continues so to do every six weeks or thereabouts, until they are fattened for the market. I have frequently been present at the *pulling of geese* in my boyhood, and then understood it was a matter of course; and the plucker being skilful at his work it appeared to me then no more cruel than the shearing of sheep in the summer, which simply causes the animal uneasiness through its restraint, and certainly not so cruel as the universal practice of shearing fat sheep *during the winter* previous to sending them to stand for hours in the market for sale. It is nevertheless true that I have seen instances where immediate profit has been sought, like the killing of the goose for its golden eggs, and the poor birds have then presented a most lamentable spectacle, being almost entirely stripped, and trailing after them their broken and bleeding wings—but such is not the usual practice. The object attained is a larger supply of feathers, by the saving of those which would otherwise be lost in moulting; and a supply of down for the manufacture of those beautiful so called *swan's-down* boas, &c., which form so large an article of export from this district. I do not *advocate* the system but simply state what I have seen, and if such feathers only are taken as are moulting, the skin round the shafts by

which they were attached to the animal having shrivelled for want of nourishment, whereby they become more loosely fixed in their sockets, I do not see any cruelty as they would ultimately fall out, and that such is the fact is proved by the rudiments of the incipient quills forming in the sockets, whereby the bird becomes what is called penny. If our Lincolnshire sheep were not annually clipped, a considerable portion of their long wool would be lost, and though they are sadly mangled at times by the *bunglers* who clip them I never heard an outcry raised against sheep-shearing *alive*. I must, however, demur to the argument that plucked birds require more fattening and are deficient in colour, because no geese feed so rapidly as our Lincolnshire geese, and none have a better appearance when dressed for the table, and to settle that point I ask for the opinions of those London salesmen who receive the supplies of geese from this district, whether they are or are not fine specimens of Christmas geese. C. P.

Boston.

Columbary.

No. II.—THE NUN.

OF all the toy pigeons, the Nun is perhaps the best known and most cultivated in England. It is much admired for its pretty appearance, and the contrast of its colours; it is with me a very favourite pet, from the fact of its having been the first I ever had to call my own; nevertheless, I regret to see it take precedence, as it sometimes does at our shows, of such birds as Jacobins, Turbits, or Barbs, which have many properties, while the pretty Nun is truly a toy, having but one, namely, feather.

The Nuns are about the size of common dove-house pigeons, but stouter made, and rather more elegantly shaped; the beaks are long and dove-shaped; the eyes should be pearl-coloured, though occasionally gravel, but a black eye is a great fault.

They are merry, active and good breeders; they are clean-footed, and being sharp flyers, are capable of finding a part of their food in the fields. Their plumage is beautifully white, the extremities only being coloured; the crown of the head, face, and a small portion of the upper part of the throat is dark, and at the back of the head is a nice white turned crown, which gives the bird the appearance of wearing a dark veil and white hood, from which circumstance it derives the name of Nun. The twelve tail-feathers, and a few of the tail-coverts, as also from seven to ten flight feathers in each pinion are dark of the same colour as the head, either black, blue, red, or yellow; and they are designated black-headed, or yellow-headed Nuns, as the case may be; but black-headed Nuns are by far the most common; the body should be perfectly white; any dark or "foul" feathers, among the white, or white where they should be black, are fatal blemishes; the hood too should be perfectly white, so as to contrast well with the dark visage, and not lined with dark feathers, as is sometimes the case.

The German Nuns differ from the English in having white flights, and are there called, "Bard Tauben," or Beard Pigeons. B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

A FEW WORDS ON GOOD BREEDING.

WHATEVER animals we wish to breed there are five rules which will hold good, whether it be a short horn or a Cochin China, a pig or a poodle. 1st. Breed from sound and healthy animals. 2nd. Choose for both parents those most perfect in form, and take especial care that both have not a tendency towards the same defect. 3rd. Let the beasts have distinct and positive characteristics, to ensure a certain description of offspring. 4th. Select the *very* best males; for the offspring inherit most of both good and bad from the sire. 5th. In crossing take one cross only, and then return and adhere to the original breed.

Many persons who rear blood stock, intending them for exhibition, place the young animals, shortly after they are weaned, in close quarters and feed them up excessively. They continue fat and the owner is satisfied; but the treatment has an injurious effect. It lessens the size of the lungs, and other organs necessary for nourishing the animal. It may produce a breed which will fatten and come early to maturity; but however good it may be for the butcher, we want better qualities in the living animal. We want weight of muscle, strength of constitution, and strength for reproduction, and for all these things a different system must be followed.

The proper growth and development of the muscles depends on the use which is made of them. Cattle should have just enough exercise to keep all their functions in healthy action, and to prevent their getting too fat, not enough to harden the muscular fibre.

Feeding an adult animal does not increase its muscle, but its fat; which, *with* the fleshy fibre, forms food for man.

Daily experience proves the impolicy of neglecting *young stock of any kind*, but such neglect is especially injurious to animals whose value lies in size, symmetry, and constitution. These are promoted by good shelter, and a liberal supply of food during the first two years of the animal's life, as the muscle is formed during that time.

I am fond of animals, and confess to the weakness of feeling a thrill of delight at the neat-headed beauty of a promising young short-horn, although I must sign myself
NO PRACTICAL FARMER.

POTATOE PLANTING AND OTHER MATTERS.

THINGS are changed: this is true as regards the weather; it is true as regards the appearance of our domestic pets, be they Spanish or Cochins; and it is likewise true as regards the face of Old Mother Earth.

Gardens are sadly in arrears, and many

a wet shirt must atone for the unavoidable neglect of the last few weeks, though I think in the end we shall be no losers from the severity of the weather; the frost always seems to me to be such a purifier of the over-cropped, ay, and (smile if you like) the overmanured gardens. Can anyone deny that over-manuring has had a good deal to do with the—I hope I may write late—potatoe disease? Having tried it myself to some extent in the field as well as the garden, let me ask your readers to save themselves trouble in digging the land for potatoes, and let them just simply place the sets in rows on the top of the ground, already sweetened by the frost; and then draw the earth over them with a hoe, so as to leave a ridge similar to that drawn to the potatoe plant in May or June. Try a few rows in the middle of your plots, and if the plan does not answer, let the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle" have a laugh at the expense of "Observer."

If a word or two on simple country matters would be of the least use to any of the readers of the "Chronicle," I should be glad to furnish a scrap now and then, (that is health permitting); but a confirmed invalid, who has to turn his back upon his former pursuits and trust to a few Cochins for amusement when he can get out of doors, is not the man whose promise can be depended upon.

Before concluding, let me put a question to my fellow-readers, (I will not pen fellow-writers lest some second "Oracle" should feel as much offended at my vulgar familiarity as the former "Sir Oracle" did at my bit of Latin); I want to ask—Have you done all in your power to gain a wider circulation for "Our Chronicle?" I write "our," for as poultry breeders, whether for amusement, health, or profit, you must remember it is the only exponent of our opinions,—the only record of our victories.

I can write the more freely upon this subject for I neither know nor am known to the editor, printer, publisher, nor any one of the staff, except as a scribbler. We must remember the "Gardeners' Chron-

icle" is now all but silent on poultry matters; and the "Cottage Gardener" only reports a few of the poultry shows. WE MUST HAVE A FIELD FOR DISCUSSION; WE OUGHT TO KNOW ALL THAT TRANSPIRES IN OUR "own little world;" and rest assured that we are ignorant of a great many important facts, and we take for granted a great many erroneous opinions, because the "Poultry Chronicle" is not more circulated. Were there more readers, we should have more contributors,—men who could tell us plain facts in plain words, and enlighten us all. OBSERVER.

AMMABROMA, OR SAND FOOD OF SONORA.

—It is mentioned in the "American Agriculturist," that A. B. Gray, Esq., in his explorations connected with the railway to the Pacific, discovered a remarkable parasitic plant, a large and fleshy root. Professor Torrey, of New York, pronounces it "a new genus of the small group or family represented by the little known and anomalous *Corallophyllum* of Kunth and the *Pholisma* of Nuttall; in the floral structure and the scales more like the latter, from which it is distinguished by its woolly plumose calyx, and its singular cyathiform inflorescence." It was found in abundance through a range of naked sand hills skirting "Adair Bay," near the head of the Gulf of California, furnishing an isolated band of Papigo Indians with an important article of food. The fresh plant is cooked by roasting upon the hot coals, and resembles the sweet potato in taste, having much saccharine matter. It is likewise dried and mixed with less palatable kinds of food, such as musquit, beans, &c. It is represented to be a very delicious vegetable, and could it be transplanted, Mr. Gray believes that it would constitute an important acquisition to the table, probably not second in demand to the sweet potato or asparagus. Professor Torrey, however, thinks it cannot be grown elsewhere, unless the root or shrub, which is entirely under ground, &c. (to which it attaches itself), can be also transplanted. Professor

Torrey is now preparing for Mr. Gray, a botanical description of this interesting plant, under the name of "*Anmabroma Sonora*," which signifies Sand Food of Sonora.

On Bees.

At last we have seen the end of the storm, and a soft air and bright sun this first morning of March enable us to make an inspection round the gardens, and survey the extent of injury. We pass by browned evergreens and drooping vegetables, bearing witness to the blighting hand which has been upon them, and reach the apiary, not without some forebodings of evil, for till to-day the hives have been screened from the glare caused by the snow, and we have not ventured to examine them. What a joyful sight! Thousands of bees disporting in the sun, and rejoicing in their release from long imprisonment. What is the burden of their song to-day?

"Ye know not, ye who are always free,
How precious a thing is liberty."

The inference to be drawn from the condition of the bees at the end of such a season as this has been, is this, that they suffer little or nothing from excessive cold, if properly provided with food, and tolerably well covered and secured from moisture. These bees, so merry and healthy, have stood a temperature of 30° below freezing point, whilst it has varied from 10° to 20° day after day, and this in a shed, of which the lower part of the front is open. But low as the temperature of +2° appears, it has been exceeded in other places in the North of England. The lowest I have heard of is where the thermometer has indicated -10°. It will be interesting to receive reports of the condition of hives in different situations, and under the various systems of management, for we cannot have a season which would more fairly test them.

There is another point of view in which the season has been a trying one, for in the early part of the winter the mild weather

caused great consumption of food, and breeding having commenced, the heat of the hive was raised, the bees filled their honey bags, and, as I have already explained, wax had to be formed for sealing up the brood. At this stage they were overtaken by the frost, and day after day bees might be observed leaving the hive, or dying at the entrance, with swollen bodies, falling to the ground, never to rise again. "Bees void nothing in the hive, unless compelled by long necessity. This is the point at which disease commences; indeed the retention of their fæces sometimes occasions death." So writes Mr. Taylor, in the "Bee Keeper's Manual," and thus the numbers in some hives become considerably diminished. This, I believe, is the true solution of the idea that bees are affected by a disease analogous to dysentery, and these appearances are removed as soon as a mild air enables them to fly with safety.

To recommend the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle" to feed liberally those hives which are found to be light, will, I trust, be quite unnecessary; but the extreme cold has presented another difficulty. Honey exposed to frost is very liable to candy, and in this state cannot be used by the bees; thus a hive may weigh well, and yet its inmates may starve from hunger. In the hives which are mostly used, the combs cannot be taken out and examined, but the bee-keeper may observe at the mouth of the hive, the granulated honey which the bees have removed from some of the cells, and when this is found, I can only say, feed them well. A novice may feel discouraged by the suggestion of so many difficulties, but we and all the world have but just had a too painful example to teach how disastrous are the results where difficulties and obstacles are not anticipated and prepared for; and even in such trifles as the care of bees, the same rule holds good. On the management at this season depends much of the success of the year; poultry-keepers know that their fowls ought always to be in good condition, and in like manner the prudent bee-keeper

always has his hives ready to seize a favourable opportunity.

To those who have not made pets of their bees, I recommend a trial now. By a gentle quiet manner they may easily be led from a morsel of honey near the entrance, to the finger of their master, who will soon have a grateful party of guests taking it off his fingers, and very good-tempered they will be found; only a warning must be given not to leave a drop of honey or syrup about the hive, as it would attract strange bees, and cause much fighting. A word of advice in setting a hive on its board. Care must be taken not to crush any bees, and it is best to prop it on a little bit of stick for a few minutes till the bees have ascended, and there is an oscillating movement with which it should be set down, warning the bees to escape, or some will be crushed to death, and others linger in torture. Kind reader, let us be merciful, even to insects which appear to have no value, much more to the most valuable.

A.

Advice to the Owner of a Weakly Hive.

IN WHICH HE CONSIDERED THE BEES TO BE SUFFERING FROM DYSENTERY.

I GLADLY comply with your correspondent's request, to advise about the hive with as little delay as possible, for there is not an hour to be lost. I suspect the reason the bees don't eat the food is, because they don't like it. I always find them very shy about taking syrup, in which there is not the proportion of 1 lb. of sugar to 1 pint of liquid, with a little honey besides.

Why not have followed the recipe given in No. 35, "Poultry Chronicle;" or Mr. Golding's, in "Bevan," p. 206. But the best food is pure honey; if too thick it might be diluted with a very little hot water, and a little rum or brandy added. And next, how has it been presented? It is always a difficulty to induce a weak family to leave the combs and take food;

therefore the hive should be turned up, and a few drops of the warm honey be sprinkled among the bees, and if this rouses them then it should be poured into the combs. With a bright sun and mild air, I think I would use artificial heat, warming the room in which the hive is placed. When the hive is turned up, the room window should be opened, that the bees flying out may find the usual entrance to their hive.

I have always been sceptical as to the existence of such a disease as dysentery among bees. The appearances described seem the effect of long confinement, aggravated probably by previous feeding, on which you have some remarks in the paper for the "Poultry Chronicle." Can the entrance to the hive have been choked up by dead bees and refuse? I should say, clean and dry the inside as much as possible; but to fume the bees in their enfeebled state, would I fear be fatal and fail in its object. I never ventured such an attempt; on the contrary, before fuming out a family for a union in November, I fed them well for a few days previously, so as to ensure vigour.

It would be well to place cotton wool closely against the outside of the windows, to prevent condensation of vapour as much as possible. The best thing for the hive would be to find another in as bad or worse plight, and join the two, for the number must be small. A neighbour sometimes has a queenless stock, which he is leaving to die at its leisure, and such bees might set all to rights.

It will benefit the hive to keep it warm by closing the entrance at night; and as the bees will be weak, some will fall when first going out, and should be picked up and placed on the board. I sometimes fill my hand with benumbed bees, and when the heat revives them they buzz and lick me. My friends say the first salutation to them would be a *prick*. The entrance must be kept very small, for such a weak hive would certainly become the prey of robbers.

A.

Floriculture.

SECOND WEEK IN MARCH.

In making the borders neat, it will be found that many plants have been killed from the severity of the frost. To make the garden gay, the following roots may be planted out either in beds or patches: American cowslips, asters, (some species), Auriculas, campanulas, carnations, cranesbill, daisies, violets, valerian, gentianella, hepaticas, lily-of-the-valley, London pride, peony, pinks, polyanthus, primroses, ranunculuses, rocket, rose campion, saxifrage, the large double red and white scarlet lychnis, stocks, (many sorts), veronicas, wall-flowers, single, double, and bloody.

Wall-flowers may be common, but in spite of that we say, let the borders be well stocked with them; for they are gay for so long, and what can compare with their sweetness. Lychnis, rose-campion, garden saxifrage, and rocket, last long in flower. From lilies-of-the-valley we must not expect much the year they are planted; but when once they take, they will every year increase in growth and sweetness, and in the modest beauty of their flowers.

Tender annuals may be sown on hotbeds. Cover the dung (when ready) with *four inches and a half* of rich garden mould. Draw aside a portion of the mould, and scatter the seeds carefully; then sift over them the removed earth—a quarter of an inch thick. Sow in this manner balsam, French and African marigolds, China-asters, amaranths, and any tender annuals.

Plant out the carnations; some in pots, some in beds, either singly or in patches of three in the borders. Let them be sheltered from heavy rain.

Anemones, ranunculuses, and other choice flowers should be hardened to the open air on fine days, but sheltered at night by mats drawn over hoops.

For carnations to flower in pots, use light rich compost made of pasture earth, pond mud, old cow dung, and a little soot. Take them up with mould about the roots, snip

off the ends, and drop in the earth gently so that it gets well about the roots. Give a little water, and set the pots in a spot open to the south-east and defended from the north. They may stand there two months, occasionally moving the surface-earth and watering them once in four days.

Garden paths must be rolled and made neat, and the edgings made good.

Protect tulips which are showing the spear, either with mats and hoops or by covering the spear with a little dry soil.

Rule for uncovering and covering.—If the air is mild, uncover early; if frosty, uncover when the rime melts on the herbage. When there is frost in the air, cover up at half-past three; but if the day is open and mild, leave open until dusk.

The purchase and planting of any new roses that may be required must not now be delayed.

Flowers for our Bees.

THERE is but one step between the apiary and the flower garden, and having the Editor's permission, I will follow the example of my little pets, and take a look round among the flowers. To-day I will do as they have been doing, try and find where pollen and honey are to be gathered. Alas! the search is almost a vain one. The earliest flowers have been unable to rear their heads through the mass of snow with which they have been covered. It is unnecessary to say how valuable the very earliest blooming flowers are to the bees, for the pollen that was unused in autumn, has been in requisition for some weeks past to nourish the brood, and is almost exhausted. The first offering of Flora appears as the Christmas rose, *Helleborus Niger*, raising its white blossoms even above the snow, and is greatly prized by the bees. Then follows the crocus, rich in pollen; and the delicate colours of the hepatica are rivalled by their tempting sweets, *but they must be the single kinds.* Another very

valuable flower is the white arabis, it blooms for many weeks during spring, and its evergreen leaves, and close habit of growth, not rising above three inches from the ground, render it peculiarly well adapted for rock-work; it has likewise the advantage of being exceedingly hardy, and is easily propagated by cuttings. A few of these plants in the neighbourhood of the apiary would be a great assistance to the bees, and are all easy of cultivation (except perhaps the hepatica, which in some places is petted and will not thrive); and as they are propagated by division of the roots, they might even now be transplanted, if care is taken to have a good ball of earth about the roots. After these flowers many others follow in rapid succession, and it may be useful to enumerate some of those which deserve cultivation, for the benefit they afford our little favourites. A.

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WILD FLOWERS OF AMERICA.—Mr. W. Flagg, in a periodical, called "Hovey's Magazine," says, "our summers are so much brighter, longer, and warmer than those in England, that some of our indigenous plants can only be cultivated there in a green-house. The *Sabbatia stellaris*, common in all our wet meadows, from New Jersey to Massachusetts, was exhibited among the varieties of the season last year, at the Chiswick show. There are many very beautiful flowers in our woods and swamps not yet domesticated. Here is a rich field open to our florists, that might yield gems, as fair as any thing brought from the distant shores of China and Japan."

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Local Shows.

(Concluded from page 5.)

ANOTHER cause of pecuniary difficulty results from many of the shows, with a limited subscription list, emulating those better established in the amount and number of prizes; doubtless some of the committees of the smaller exhibitions have shown a judicious prudence, and been re-

warded accordingly; for (although certainly it is pleasanter to receive £2 than 10s. for a first prize) it must be distinctly borne in mind that exhibitors, as a class, strive only for the honour and satisfaction which attend the possession of a prize, and that to most the amount of money is no consideration whatever—often unknown till received: viewing the matter from this point, *unamalgamated* committees, whose funds present only a small balance, may fairly readjust the amount of prizes. Again, in the number of classes, frequently the pruning-knife is much wanted. The Birmingham rules have served as a model for many, but what is correct at Birmingham would be folly at Bairham, and by reducing the classes where it can be fairly done, much extra expense will be saved.

A further source of failure frequently may be traced to the apathy and indifference of the committee; there are few members who have not some influence or interest, however small, with farmers, and looking upon them as the greatest poultry breeders, it would not be unfitting for members of the committee to ascertain what stock was kept, what was most suited to the locality, and what most required, and by advice, persuasion, and assistance, to endeavour to draw their agricultural friends into an abandonment of their present system, for an improved and more profitable one; it is *perfectly startling* to consider the number of eggs and fowls imported into the kingdom from abroad in the course of the year.

The above are causes of failure; one other neglected source might be one of profit, *viz.*, making the exhibitions *actually* what they *profess* to be.

Nearly every list of regulations contains the following:

"One of the main objects of the exhibition is to afford an opportunity to poultry-keepers to improve their collections at a time when they are best able to form a correct opinion of the various kinds," &c. But this is rendered of no effect, as sales desired by both parties often are impossible

from the would-be seller having placed too high a value on his pen (from ignorance of their value) and not being present to alter it. A moderate reserved price, with an auction, of birds for sale, would be beneficial to all parties; at the same time space might be set apart where breeders could send neat baskets, containing a limited number of fowls, on payment of a small fee, to be sold in the usual manner by auction: that this would be a boon to breeders and disperse good birds at fair and moderate prices through our farm districts there can be little doubt. The rule made at Birmingham of allowing a cock to be sold separate from the hens is a step in the right direction, and will no doubt be universally adopted. A summary of these remarks to committees may be stated as—

1. Amalgamation of various small into one large show.*
2. Revision of amount and number of prizes.
3. Individual exertion and influence in bringing good stock into districts.
4. The better carrying out of the objects stated in the rules, by rendering sales more easy.

Ducks.

(Concluded from page 19.)

I AM myself by no means an advocate for the raising of "BROOD STOCK" from the incubation of duck's eggs by a hen, as the male birds, when they are at length adult, become a very annoying pest in the poultry yard—to this I never yet knew one single exception; but for female birds, or for the purposes of the table, no doubt the success is FAR GREATER than when the natural mother is permitted to carry out her broodiness.

Ducks are frequently very indifferent

* The exhibitions of the Royal Agricultural Society are held year by year at different places; of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at different towns in the county. So might the district Poultry Shows move from town to town.

negligent sitters, and sometimes abandon their nests if only very slightly molested; they show too but very little natural affection for their young, simply taking them to the water, leaving them almost self-taught and neglecting the newly-acquired charge, in the thoughtless pursuit of self-gratification. The best plan therefore is, to allow any duck when sitting very free access to a vessel of offal corn, oats, or barley; and when the ducklings are produced, as *easily attained* and generous diet to prevent her straying propensity, as the consequences of free indulgence would be the dragging of her progeny, and their most probable ultimate injury or loss.

I also myself approve of the TAIL-down being cut away somewhat closely with sharp scissors, to prevent trailing in the mud, more particularly if while yet young, the weather should prove damp and chilly; but care must be ESPECIALLY taken not to cut into the open QUILL, as it will sometimes cause inflammation; neither should the down upon the apron of the duckling be meddled with, as it is vitally essential to keep up the required warmth of these birds while yet but a few days old. The best plan is certainly to house ducklings on clean, dry litter till nine or ten days old; this must be frequently changed, and never permitted to become damp or much soiled, otherwise cramp is the inevitable result, a disease most fatal to the young brood; a little care, however, will certainly prevent it coming on, as it is cold and damp alone that produce it. All birds, it is well known, derive their habits rather from nature than education; ducks more particularly follow their appetites not their tutor, and thus attain their varied perfections without any guide save nature: for though the arts of mankind are the result of accumulated experience, those of the inferior animals are in general self-taught, being not acquired by imitation.

Ducklings will thrive well on crumbs of bread, mixed with any kind of meal (till nearly friable) at the onset; they require but little variation of food, their appetites

seldom failing them. Good fresh grains from the brewer mixed well with meal, is excellent diet as they progress to maturity ; but I am perfectly convinced, the most profitable plan will be found to feed liberally from the first, and that the expenses incurred will be trifling in comparison to those *where low diet is at length superseded by profusion* ; besides which, experience proves the flavour of such birds to be better, and they will tell at the same age (whilst in first feather) more weightily in the scales. If thus carefully provided for, the ducklings will in nine or ten weeks from the time of hatching, be well grown, and but little if any inferior in size to the old ones.

S. B.

MR. STEVENS' SALE.—On Tuesday March 6th, a few blue, black, dun, and silver Carriers, from the well-known stock of Mr. Haynes, were offered for sale. The birds were offered singly ; the blue sold for from £1 10s. to 8s. ; the silver Carrier, one bird only was 16s. ; the black were from £1 5s. to 7s. 6d. ; the dun from £1 8s. to 11s. There were also some pigeons, the property of W. G. Vivian, Esq. A pair of Archangels, £1 4s. ; two pairs of Hyacinths, 10s. and 12s. respectively, and some other kinds.

History of One of the Maniacs.

PART III.

LET it not be supposed I was discouraged by mishaps at the outset ; I felt at every new disappointment I was gaining experience, and went cheerfully on. No one will be surprised, when I say that the more I learned the more I discovered my ignorance, and have often since wondered at my presumption in attending the first sale alone. It was lucky for me I bought no more on that occasion, for all my purchases soon returned to the sale-room ; and such was the excitement at that time, that they lost me but half the money I expected to sacrifice.

I can only compare my anxiety about

my first chickens to that of a young mother with her first child. Early in the morning and late at night I was with them ; and if unavoidably absent for a few days, my first visit, on reaching home, was to my poultry-yard. They paid me for my care ; and, spite of gapes and other maladies to which chickens are subject, the beginning of June found me the owner of a numerous and thriving yard. I entered for competition wherever I heard of a show, and at last the time came when they should meet all opponents in a neighbouring town.

Knowing that my friend and poultry Mentor was himself an exhibitor, I did not, from feelings of delicacy, ask his assistance, but determined to select my own. I had no idea of the difficulty. Running about in the yard, they all appeared perfect, but when caught up and examined, even with my imperfect knowledge, every bird had a fault. I was perplexed ; but there was one cock which both my man and myself decided to send. Nothing so disturbs a yard as catching some of its occupants, and even Cochins will resent and avoid handling. I was getting excited, and almost tired of my occupation. No bird was yet caught, and in order to make a beginning, I determined to catch the cock, but as though he knew my intent, he ran all over the yard. My man and his wife were both assisting, and the latter, making a grasp at him as he passed, pulled out four tail-feathers. I was vexed, and gave vent to my displeasure.

"It is only an accident, sir," suggested the man.

"But it disqualifies the bird," said I.

"Not if it is properly represented," remarked my man.

I did not agree with him, and ordered him to catch another. Now, there were several we before thought almost, if not quite, as good as this, but from the moment he was disqualified he seemed to me the only bird in the yard fit to send. So strongly were we impressed with this idea, that after due consultation we determined

to send him, and, as my man said, to "risk it."

We were perfectly satisfied with the pullets, and proceeded to pack them; but to our discomfort the basket was not half large enough. My friend has always told me packing was half the battle, and I had left it to my man to have a proper basket made; he left it to the basket-maker, just telling him the shape, and that it was for three fowls. An old wine hamper was soon found, but I confess my pride was hurt when my man started with such a basket in the cart, instead of a smart white wicker hamper decorated with my initials. I had promised my man a present for every prize he took, and I was delighted to see him return with a radiant face. He had taken his birds into the show, he had seen the others, and he was sure of success. Although I had endeavoured to school myself into a cool and dispassionate view of my mania, and, above all, to be a good loser, I must confess I was elated at the account he gave, and placed every confidence in his report.

As it was advertised that the public would be admitted at one o'clock, I was there punctually. Need I say, I went straight to the Cochins. I looked not at Dorkings, Spanish, Hambro's, or Bantams; I heeded not their prize tickets, but measuring distance with my eye, and comparing with my catalogue, I could see a placard on my pen, or very near it. At length, through a crowd of people as interested as myself, I reached it, and looking found "disqualified" written thereon. What could be the cause? I went to the committee-room, where the judges were revising some of their later awards.

"May I ask," said I, "why pen 212 is disqualified?"

One of the judges, a tall, mild looking, gentlemanly man, dressed in black, with white neck-tie, and one of the ablest and best of his class, immediately said, "The cock, sir, is trimmed; his tail has been pulled out."

The truth flashed on me in a moment.

"I assure you, sir," said I, "it was purely an accident in catching him."

Laughingly he replied, "It is not the less a disqualification."

"Tell me, sir," said I, "would they have had the prize but for that?"

"Probably a prize, but not *the prize*," was the answer.

Although my first hopes were thus destroyed, I laid the flattering unction to my soul that my failure was accidental, and therefore returned to my class to study the lesson I was determined to learn. Opposite to the first prize pen, I found my early poultry friend; he was the owner of them. "Don't laugh," said I, as I caught sight of his good-humoured, smiling face, "at my first failure."

"I cannot help it," said he, laughing aloud. "To be unsuccessful is bad enough, but to be disqualified for trimming the first time you exhibit is such a bad start."

I then detailed all the accidents and mishaps of this my first expedition, which afforded him no small amusement. "I have gone through it all before you," said he; "and although it amuses me, do not think I take pleasure in it. Under any circumstances I should have beaten you, but I should not like to owe my triumph to an accident." I did not like his easy way of making sure of success, and asked him his opinion of my birds. It was a decidedly favourable one, and he considered them likely to be successful against any but very first-class competitors. I think this, the first show I ever attended, taught me more of judging and matching, and points, than any books or lessons could have done.

Now, I have always objected to being laughed at, and had often remarked the ridiculous prices put on pens, 500*l.* or 1000*l.*, I therefore determined to put 20*l.* on mine, and as I was sure to be among the first admitted, I intended to claim them; but in my vexation at being disqualified, I had forgotten to do so. On going to the office an hour later, I found

they had been long sold. This annoyed me much.

I shall never forget the mixture of feelings visible in the face of my man; indignation at being disqualified for an accident which he said might happen to any one; and joy at having sold a pen for 20*l.*

"I would not stand it, sir; me and missus will both swear it was an accident, and then they cannot disqualify them, and you saw it yourself. But only think, sir, sold for 20*l.* What a world of money our chickens must be worth. Why, the first prize was only 2*l.*, and you have got 20*l.*; we have done better."

I now saw his drift, and said, "But you know you did not win the prize."

"I hope it will make no difference, sir, for you have done better."

This was the conclusion of my first attempt at exhibiting, and I still look back on its various emotions with interest, and on its lessons with gratitude. Spite of disqualification and disappointment, I was flattered that my birds should be claimed at a large price, and I think the balance of the day was in favour of pleasure.

Hamburg Markings.

THE Silver-Spangled Hamburg cock is spotted (if truly bred) on the breast, crop, and thighs, similarly to the hens: the tail is also "moonied," or spotted, at the ends of all the sickle-feathers distinctly. In the so-called "hen-tail'd" cocks, the neck, back, and saddles are also spotted as in a hen; these latter birds however are *not* approved by experienced breeders, nor do they prove successful at our poultry exhibitions in obtaining premiums. The Silver-Pencilled cocks are *not* pencilled on the breast and body as the hens; though here it is well to mention that *very rarely* a male bird thus marked is raised from birds *not* themselves possessing such characteristic; and it has been repeatedly proved, that crossing with such a cock, tends to reproduce distinct pencillings, where "breeding-out" or indistinct markings

are assumed by the parent-stock; for this reason, they are highly valued by many, but *not for exhibition purposes*. The Spangled varieties of Hamburgs are more hardy fowls than the pencilled ones: they lay a very much larger egg, but it is questionable whether in greater numbers, for all the Hamburgs are first-rate *summer* layers, and are more productive than either the Golden or Silver Polands. The cross between the Cochin China and Spanish is an exceedingly useful description of poultry (but *only the first* cross) for table purposes, and they are hardy. The cross between the Cochin and Hamburg we have never tested, but imagine they would not be either so remunerative, or even approach the before-mentioned cross, in general attractiveness. S. B.

Spangled Hamburgs.

YOUR correspondent, "R. B." (No. 52, p. 586), has anticipated me in a few remarks which I had written for the "Poultry Chronicle" on Spangled Hamburgs. I agree generally with his statements. That great dissatisfaction was given at the last Birmingham Poultry Show, by the decision of the judges in the Golden Spangled class, there can be no doubt. All amateurs in these classes are desirous that the committee of the Birmingham Show should—and that *without delay*, as the breeding season is now commencing—with the assistance of their judges, or a committee of judges and amateurs, decide *what are the points and markings which they consider most perfect, and by which they intend judging these birds*. At Doncaster, the prizes (I am informed) in the Golden Spangled class were awarded to *real* hen-tailed birds: and birds which had obtained first prize at Manchester, and the Cup at Liverpool, and other first-prize birds, were not even commended. There must be something wrong here—at least there wants to be more uniformity in the decisions of judges. Now, if the Birmingham Committee—the leading Show in the kingdom

—would publish their rules for these classes, doubtless other provincial societies would be guided by their decision: or if not, they should state this in their rules. The principal points to be settled, I think, are these:—

- 1st. Should the Golden Spangled cock have saddle-hackle feathers?
- 2nd. Should he have a sickle-tail?
- 3rd. Should the saddle-hackle feathers of the Silver Spangled cock be spangled, or perfectly white?
- 4th. What should be the colour, and the markings of the Silver Spangled cock's tail?

These are the questions—there may be others—which I wish to see settled. Your correspondent has described the Golden Spangled cock prize birds at Birmingham, as “go-betweenes;” and a well-known Yorkshire amateur described them to me as “*bad* hen-feathered! a little bit approaching to the saddle-feather, and yet neither one thing or other.”

I really hope that the Birmingham Committee will comply with the wishes of so many amateurs, who are now, like myself, quite at a loss to know what kind of Golden Spangled to breed.

I have no prejudice either way. I only wish to have some fixed standard of perfection to aim at.

I will only add that I was not an exhibitor in the Golden Spangled classes at Birmingham. T. L. F.

Diseases.

I AM induced to send a scrap for your medical column, in the hope of contributing a mite towards its usefulness. I was told not long since, by a poultry-keeper, that a disease was very prevalent, the cocks mostly being attacked, and that they were carried off in a few days. I sympathised, but did not fear, for my own were very blooming. But a few days after, a spirited cockerel did not present himself as usual; he was not in his place at the breakfast, but I found him on the perch, out of spirits, and the comb dull. A dose of castor-oil

was forthwith administered. Instead of improving, he became worse; the comb turned soft, and of a leaden hue, he had no appetite, the food appeared to digest slowly, and the feathers were raised on the back, a symptom I always observe in hens when there is inflammation of the ovarium. This suggested a trial of the medicine which is so effectual in allaying that complaint; and following the instructions of the author of the “Poultry Pentalogue,” ventured on the “two scruples, calomly and jalaply.” The change produced in a few hours by the first grain of calomel was surprising; after the second grain, administered in forty-eight hours, the worst symptoms had disappeared, and then a dose of castor-oil, succeeded by a course of Baily’s pills, restored the bird to perfect health. Probably some derangement of the liver was at the root of the evil, affecting the digestive organs. An amateur near me was less fortunate. A fine Spanish cockerel, but of a late hatch, appeared to be suffering from some affection of the throat or lungs. There was difficulty in breathing, and the voice was hoarse. His owner gave him cod-liver oil and tonics, but after lingering a few weeks, he died. A *post-mortem* examination showed that very considerable enlargement of the heart had taken place.

A.

The Editor’s Letter-Box.

REPORT OF A POULTRY YARD.

SIR,—As I know that poultry-yard reports are interesting to amateurs, I take up my pen in an idle moment to give you my experience during the last two months. I have thirty-five hencelwelve Dorkings, eight half-bred, between Cochins and Dorkings, and the remainder Cochins.

During the eight weeks of January and February I had five hundred eggs, these being laid by about twenty hens; the other fifteen being more or less occupied in hatching and rearing chickens. Seven of these hens are now sitting. From the other eight hens I have had thirty-six chickens from forty-two eggs; ten of these I sold immediately, and six I have lost by accident; probably the severity of the weather made them weakly.

These hens, except five Dorkings which have lived in an empty stable, have been kept in wooden houses by no means sheltered from either frost, snow, or cold winds. I should like much to know how fared my companions in the poultry fancy during the same period. A. A.

[Our own fowls, about fifty, are more healthy than usual. They have, most of them, passed the winter in wooden houses. From Brahma—no eggs. From Serai-Täook—a few. Cochins—a good supply.—Ed.]

HENS EATING EGGS.

SIR,—It is the fashion of some people to abuse the Cochin fowls, and among other faults it is said, *they especially* are apt to eat their eggs. The truth is, any hen will eat a broken egg; so I blame the keeper, not the hen. My birds lay sometimes very early in the morning, before daylight, so can't find their way to the nests, consequently drop their eggs from their roosts. I therefore now place the roosts about three-and-a-half inches from the floor (viz., the height of a brick laid on its broadest side), and strew a little sawdust or other soft material under the roosts, which saves the eggs from being broken. I further expect, from this plan, that when a hen leaves her chickens, they will be able to mount their perch without the use of their wings; indeed, Cochins of all ages ought to be able to mount their perch without the use of their wings.

I have for some time used nest eggs made of scycamore wood, but finding them too light I have loaded them with lead. I intend to try the nest eggs advertised by Mr. Baily. Yours, truly,
W. S.

GEESE OF WHAT SPECIES?

SIR,—If, from my unscientific description, you can give the name of my geese, I should be much obliged. Size, about the same as common geese; colour, grey and white; legs, deep orange red; stands higher on the leg than the common goose; soars high in flight, which is easy and rapid; gander extremely vigilant and fierce.

But the most extraordinary peculiarity is the enormous size of the eggs. Since the middle of January the goose has laid 19 eggs, 12 of which weighed 5lbs. 9oz. being an average of 7oz. 5-12ths each.

I was told that the stock originally came from the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park; but, from my description, the curator of that establishment, on application, was unable to determine the species. W. A. S.

Donyland Lodge, Colchester,
March 3, 1855.

[Is it not the Chinese goose?—Ed.]

MR. STEVENS' SALE.

SIR,—Mr. Stevens' Sale on Tuesday the 6th instant, included some good birds of different kinds. One basket, containing three Poland fowls, sold for 30s. Mr. Leno's Bantams sold, one at 25s., and others at various prices. Mr. Vivian's Polands, 16s. to 20s. per pair. Mr. Haynes' Carriers were good, and Mr. Parkinson's Spanish fowls were very superior: one lot (three fowls) sold for £2 15s. The Sale was considered a good one. Your obt. Servt.,

W. WOODHOUSE.

To Correspondents.

To A. Z.—Communications which reach us as late as Monday morning, cannot be inserted in the number then in hand. There are also two circumstances which sometimes occasion delay: first, when our correspondents send communications which are intended for the editor, to the publishers, Messrs. Bradbury and Evans; and second, when advertisements or instructions to the publishers are sent to the editor, Monk Barns, Hampstead. The last mistake has occasionally prevented the insertion of an advertisement which would otherwise have been in time.

A General Exhibitor.—A correspondent informs us that the silver pencilled hen-tailed cock, exhibited at Birmingham in the single cock class, was the property of Mr. Dixon, of Bradford.

A. G.—We hope the time will arrive when we can follow our correspondent's suggestion. Press of matter obliges us to delay publishing the letter until next week.

Some Remarks on the Windsor Schedule, and several other matters, are unavoidably deferred until next week.

A Poul Fancier will find his queries answered in the paper signed "S. B.," and in others which have appeared lately. Spangled Sebrights are said to be only the laced kind degenerate. We do not know the address which is requested. The rose and the pea comb need only be seen to make their complete difference apparent. The pea comb is a triple comb, somewhat resembling three small combs joined at the root. All the Polands are good layers under favourable circumstances. We have known the Golden sub-variety lay a surprising number of very fine eggs, and the Black and Silver are often as good.

R. R.—The characteristics of all Game cocks are the same, and the rules by which they are judged. They vary in weight from three-and-a-half pounds to five pounds. The latter is a great weight.

Advertisements.

FANCY PIGEONS AND RABBITS.—On sale, a quantity of first-class Fancy Pigeons. Also, a few prize Rabbits. Apply, by letter, to Mr. HENRY CHILD, Jun., Poplar Cottage, Sherbourne Road, near Birmingham.

PURE WHITE-FACED SPANISH FOWLS' EGGS; One Pound for Thirteen. C. JONES, 51, Bridge Street, Birkenhead.

POULTRY SHOW.—Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham Society for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry. The Great Annual Exhibition of this Society will be held on Wednesday and Thursday in Easter Week, (April 11 and 12), in the Corn Exchange, Newcastle. The Prize List is now ready, and may be had of the Honorary Secretaries,

J. S. CHALLONER, 27, Dean-street.
WILLIAM TROTTER, Bywell.

EGGS.—Dorking, Spanish, and Buff Cochins, from really first-rate birds, including 1st prize and Silver Cup birds at Birmingham and Liverpool; to b: sold at the yard of Mr. Donne, Oswestry. Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry. Dorking and Spanish Fowls from above birds on sale.

SAMUEL HARROP, 13, Cooper Street, Manchester, Bird and Animal Preserver to the Manchester Museum, will have Black Spanish EGGS for sale during the season, at £1 10s. the Setting, which includes the box and packing. The stock is the property of an Amateur, who has taken first and second prizes in 1854, at all the Shows where he has exhibited, including Holmfirth, Harrogate, Birmingham, and Manchester. The birds have been carefully penned for breeding, and are first-class birds, with large White Faces and Large Bodies. The Stock can be seen, and further particulars will be given by applying as above.

N.B.—S. HARROP begs to inform purchasers, that the Eggs will be forwarded, carefully packed according to the dates of the orders, and a private seal will be placed on each box before leaving the yard.

PRIZE POULTRY.—Mr. J. K. FOWLER, Prebendal Farm, Aylesbury, having been successful during the past season at many of the best Shows, more especially with the Aylesbury Ducks, begs to call the attention of the public to the following advertisement for Eggs during the next spring. The prices named will include the package, and the greatest care will be taken for their safety. The orders will be completed according to priority of application. A Post-office Order must accompany each letter, payable to JOHN K. FOWLER, White Hart Hotel, Aylesbury. Dorkings, per setting of 12, £1 1s.; Spanish, £1 11s. 6d.; Aylesbury Duck (Aylesbury Silver Cup and Colchester First Prize birds), £2 2s.; Rouen Ducks, £1 11s. 6d. N.B.—Mr. Fowler has a few Drakes and Ducks of his celebrated Aylesbury breed to dispose of at £2 2s. and £1 1s. each.—January 6, 1855.

PRIZE POULTRY. JOHN ROBINSON'S Celebrated breed of "Golden-Spangled Hamburgs," or "Moonneys" (the "grand beauties of the whole golden race," and almost unceasing egg-producers); their parents carried off 1st prize at Manchester exhibition in 1854, and 1st and 2nd in the present year, and have taken prizes and received various commendations at many other of the leading exhibitions throughout the Kingdom. Eggs from 1st prize birds, £1 1s. for 12. Orton Hall, Westmoreland, and 115, Deansgate, Manchester. N.B.—All Letters and Post-office Orders please address to, and make payable at, Manchester.

GEORGE BOOTHBY has a few **Sittings of EGGS** to part with from the following birds, which have all taken several 1st and 2nd prizes. Ptarmigan, 12s. 6d. per dozen; White crested Black Poland, 15s.; Andalusian, 16s. 6d.; Black Spanish, 16s. 6d.; Chusan, 10s. 6d.; Indian Game, 10s. 6d.; Cossacks, 12s. 6d.; Buff and White Cochins, 5s.; Jet Black, and extra fine Black do., 10s. 6d. A few pair of thorough good White-faced Black Spanish, at 30s. per pair; and a pair of lovely White Cochins for One Guinea. Buff Cochins, 10s. 6d. per pair. Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire.

MR. JAMES MONSEY intends to dispose of a limited number of Eggs for setting, from his own prize birds that have taken the number of prizes as under: Gold and Silver Laced Bantams, 13 prizes; Black and White Bantams, 22 prizes; Silver Polands, 1 Silver Medal and 3 prizes; Game Fowls, 29 prizes. Terms for eggs: Gold and Silver Laced Bantams, 2s. per dozen; Silver Polands, 15s. per dozen; White Faced Black Spanish, and Game Fowls of every colour, 10s. 6d. per dozen. A few Gold and Silver Laced Bantams; also, a few first-rate Game fowls for sale. Address Mr. JAMES MONSEY, Thorne Lane, Norwich.

FIRST-CLASS POLAND FOWLS and EGGS for sale or exchange. One excellent Buff Poland cock and one or two pullets; three Golden Poland cockerels and two pullets; one cock, one cockerel, (both first prize birds) and eight pullets of the White Crested Black Poland breed. Eggs from all the above varieties, and also from splendid White and Silver Spangled Polands, at 13s. per dozen. A prize cock in every yard. Also, one Golden Pencilled Hamburg cockerel and two pullets; one Brahma Poetra cock and hen; and two Dorking pullets. Wanted, two first-class Silver Spangled Poland hens or pullets, (bearded). Address, Mr. E. W. HASLEWOOD, Solicitor, Bridgenorth.

EGGS FROM PRIZE POULTRY.—HENRY BEDON, Prospect Place, Eccleshill Moor, near Bradford, will supply Eggs from his prize birds at the following rates: Golden Polands, (bearded) 10s. 6d. per dozen; Silver Spangled or Pencilled Hamburgs, 6s. per dozen. Also, on sale or exchange, two Golden Spangled Hamburgs, cockerels, 15s. each. Silver Pencilled Hamburg, cock and two hens, 30s. the set. All prize birds; or would exchange for Black East India, or Rouen Ducks.

SPANISH EGGS to be disposed of through the season, from thorough White faced birds up to the base of the comb; they being purchased regardless of expense from Stow and Davis's yards, and have taken prizes wherever shown. 12 eggs for £1 1s. The stock on sight on application to Mr. O. NICHOLSON, Adelaide Place, Farnham, Hants.

SERAI TÁOOK.—Eggs from these fowls at 21s. for nine. Eggs, during the rest of the season, from Ptarmigan, White Cochins and Brahmans, at 12s. per dozen. See former advertisements by W. DAWSON, Hopton, Mirfield, Yorkshire. Pea-fowl, young and old, on sale.

FOWLS BY JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest,

Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a Chapter on the Bramah Pootra Fowl, the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s, or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or, Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Paternoster Row.

MR. JOSEPH TATE can supply EGGS

from his celebrated prize stock of White-faced Spanish, having in addition to his own, the entire stock of the late Mr. Barry, of Preston; also the entire stock of Mr. Parsons, of Cuerden. J. T., having taken great pains in breeding and selecting his stock, can confidently recommend them as first-class birds. Terms, Two Guineas per dozen. He can supply a few settings of Eggs from his celebrated Brahma Pootra Fowls, at One Guinea per Dozen. Address, 9, Syke Hill, Preston, Lancashire, where the birds may be seen.

JAMES DIXON, Bradford, Yorkshire, will

dispose of Eggs, during the season, from his first class Hamburg Fowls, Bearded Golden, and Silver Polands, and Black Spanish, Black, White, and Gold-Laced Bantams; also, from his Aylesbury and Black East India Ducks. The price, 10s. for fifteen eggs, including package, except the Silver Polands and Ducks; the former 1s. 6d. each egg, the Ducks, 6d. Most of the above Fowls have taken several prizes.—In 1854, J. D. had awarded to him seventy-five prizes, besides a great number of commendations. At the late Birmingham Show, the Silver Vase was awarded to him for Silver Pencilled Hamburgs; also the third prize in the same class, and second in Silver Spangles; in the present year at Manchester, four first prizes; at Liverpool, first and second Silver Pencilled, first and second Silver Spangled, second ditto Chickens; at the Great Northern, first and second Silver Pencilled, and first ditto Chickens; second Silver Spangles, besides several commendations. The Hamburgs are both Golden and Silver Spangled, and Golden and Silver Pencilled.

J. D. has to dispose of a few Black Bantams.

SERAI TAOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan.

A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 21s. for Nine.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from First-rate Pea-Combed mature birds, at 21s. the Dozen.

Apply to **Miss E. WATTS**, Monk Barnes, Hampstead.

MR. C. M. MOTTRAM will sell Eggs from

his Prize Black Breasted Game Bantams at last Cambridge Show, 1s. each. Also from his Buff and Cinnamon Cochlin China Fowls, Prize Birds at the last Colchester Show, 1s. each. Also from Buenos Ayres Ducks, 1st prize at last Norwich Show, at 1s. each; and from Large White-faced Spanish, at 1s. each. A few Pulletts and Cockerels of the above breeds for sale. 1s. charged for package. N.B. Dorking Eggs, Speckled and Gray, at 6s. per dozen, from very large birds.

FOR SALE.—Two first-class Golden Spangled Hambro' Cocks; beautifully mooned, hen-fostered, with sickle tails. For price, &c., apply to **Mr. T. JOLLY**, Londonderry, Bedale, Yorkshire.

EGGS FROM THE YARD OF MR. H. D., DAVIES, are now on SALE.—The following is the rate of charges, which includes box and packing.

	The Setting.	
	£	s. d.
Dorking	2	2 0
Spanish	2	2 0
Brahma	2	2 0
Rangoon	3	3 0
White Cochlin	1	11 6
White Aylesbury Ducks	1	11 6
Toulouse Geese	2	2 0

Mr. H. D. Davies, having had the advantage of selecting from the best Spanish birds of Mr. Rake's yard, will now dispose of two or three of his Adult Spanish, all prize birds.

Also a few Spanish and Dorking Chickens of all ages for sale.

Remittances, by Post-office Order, to be made payable to **GEORGE KEMBLE**, the Bailiff, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, where the birds may be seen.

EGGS from the **WHITE COCHIN CHINA**

CHICKENS that gained 1st prize at the last Birmingham Show, and from their parents. These birds produced 1st prize chickens at Bath, Plymouth, Taunton, and Birmingham, £1 1s. the dozen. Apply with Post-office Order to **JOHN DAY**, Northbrook, Exeter.

FOR SALE.—Pure Brown Single-Comb

Dorking Eggs, £1 1s. per dozen. Coloured do. 10s. 6d. per dozen. Pea-combed Brahmans £1 1s. per dozen. Single do. 10s. 6d. per dozen. Many of the above are prize birds. Apply **Rev. F. THURSVY**, Abington, Northampton.

HAMBURG AND GAME FOWLS, &c.

EGGS from the Yard of the Rev. T. L. FELLOWS will be sold during the spring. These birds gained twenty-five prizes in 1853; and prizes have been taken in 1854, at Birmingham (3), Cambridge, Norwich, Colchester, &c. Mr. Fellows's Pike Game Fowls took 1st prizes at Birmingham in 1853; Metropolitan, 1854; Bath, 1854, &c. Aylesbury and Rouen Ducks, 1st prize at Norwich, &c. Black Norfolk Turkeys, 2nd prize at Norwich. The following rates will be charged, including box and packing. Hamburgs of each class, 12s. per dozen. Game Fowls, 15s. per dozen. Aylesbury and Rouen Duck, £1 11s. 6d. per dozen. Norfolk Turkeys, £1 11s. 6d. per dozen. 1 Pen (Cock and 2 Pulletts), of good birds of each class of Hamburgs now on Sale. Brighton Rectory, Acle, Norfolk.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork, Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market, London.

MR. JOHN R. RODBARD, of Aldwick

Court, Langford, near Bristol, has eggs to part with from prize stock during the season; Spanish at £1 15s. 6d.; White Cochlin China, at £1 1s.; Buff do., at 10s.; Partridge do., at 6s. per Dozen. Black-breasted Red Game, from birds that have taken nine first prizes; and Grey Do. Silvery Game, from birds that have taken 16 prizes; and Black Bantams at £1 1s. per Dozen. Post-office Order made payable at Wrington.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.

TANNED GARDEN NETTING.
 Serving Fruit-trees from Frost, Blight, Birds, &c.; also as a fence for Fowls, Pigeons, Seed-beds, &c. Prices:—1 yard wide, 2d., 2 yards wide, 5d. per yard, 100 yards, 2 yards wide for 3s. Also repaired Tanned Netting for the above purposes: 1 yard wide, 1½d. 2 yards wide, 3d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 18s. 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.**

FIRST-RATE COLOURED DORKINGS.

The owner, having to change his residence in May, will Part with EGGS from his Stock Birds; consisting of Four beautiful Pullets, from seven and a quarter to seven and three quarters pounds each; own sisters to 1st prize and to "highly commended" chickens at Birmingham; and a Cock, with black breast and silver hackle, which gained 2nd prize at Birmingham, 30s. per dozen, including box. Also a few cockerels and Pullets, 15s. each. Apply to Rev. **HERBERT S. HAWKINS, Henny Rectory, Sudbury, Suffolk.**

FANCY POULTRY AND PIGEONS.—

Periodical Sale.—**Mr. J. C. STEVENS** will sell by Auction, at his Great Room, 38, King Street, Covent Garden, on Tuesday, 20th March, at 12 o'clock precisely, a Collection of Choice Poultry from the yards of Mrs. Herbert, of Powick; Rev. S. Donne, Oswestry; Mr. Vorley, Holbeach; and others, comprising Dorkings of first-rate quality, Cochins, Spanish, Poland, Hamburgs, &c. Also, the entire stock of Pigeons of the late Mr. H. E. Morey, one of the oldest fanciers in London, consisting of Almonds, Black and Yellow Mottles, &c.; and a Cantelo's Hydro-Incubator. Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to **Mr. J. C. Stevens, 38, King-street, Covent Garden.**

CUCKOO, or Grey Speckled Cochins China Fowls.—Messrs. **JESSOP, Brothers**, (who possess nearly the whole stock in this country) will this season supply Eggs from the above new and beautiful variety at 30s. per dozen. The Annual Priced List of Eggs from their general collection, may be had on application, The Aviaries, Cheltenham.

EGGS FOR SETTING, all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:

Dorkings, Brahma Pootra (Pencilled and Light). Spanish (Rake's), Cochins, Buff and White. Hamburgs, Gold and Silver Pencilled and Spangled; Polish and Bantams.

Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers. Pheasants and Partridges' eggs in any numbers. All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.

JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS, from one of the earliest imported and most successful prize stocks in the kingdom, at one guinea per couple. Eggs from prize birds of the same breed, at 15s. per dozen.—Apply to **W. C. G., Sandbach, Cheshire.**

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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.

"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,600, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d., have been received for new premiums.

"These items, when compared with the business of the preceding year, display an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

"While the income of the Company has thus received so large an accession, the office has only been called on, during the same period, to pay £1,063 19s. 10d. for claims, a sum which bears a remarkably small proportion to the mortality which might justly have been anticipated. This feature in the career of the company has thus been maintained to the ninth year, and the Directors trust that such a fact evidences the care with which the business of the office has been invariably conducted."

The office presents:—

The security of a large paid-up capital.

Very moderate rates for all ages, especially young lives.

No charges whatever, except the premium.

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The Poultry Chronicle:

A JOURNAL OF

POULTRY, PIGEONS, BEES, FLORICULTURE, AND THE
HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 56.]

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1855.

[PRICE 3D.

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Poultry Shows.

Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham Show at the Corn Exchange, Newcastle, April 11th and 12th. Honorary Secretaries, J. S. Challoner, Esq., and W. Trotter, Esq., of Bywell. Entries close March 31st.

Windsor first Exhibition of Poultry, under the patronage of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, in Windsor, on Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st.

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Bedford show in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Exhibition, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th.

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."

WE agree with our contributor "Observer," that the decisions of the Judges are open to discussion, and we are sure there are none who will more readily concur in this than the Judges themselves. Fair and honest discussion elicits truth: the Poultry Judges do not proclaim themselves infallible, and perhaps, in all the country, there are none who would be more willing than they to give attention to fair argument, and to be influenced by it, WHEN THEY ARE CONVINCED. We cannot help feeling, however, that the extreme difficulty of pleasing must be a little discouraging to them. We know that the frequency of

complaints is so to us, and to Poultry Show Committees. What can any Committee do more than that of the Birmingham Show has done in choosing SEVEN JUDGES from different districts,—some of the localities being as widely separated as the confines of England could well admit? And yet in how many classes there, have the decisions failed to give satisfaction.

There is one class especially, that of the Brahmas, which has created two parties, and when we say what we consider a good Brahma should be, we may possibly differ from both, for we would not include in our own stock a fowl without the full brow, which is by some persons denounced in the Brahma Pootra, because it indicates a relationship to the Malay. But let this question rest. As surely as tastes will differ on disputed points, so surely must we expect to find the awards of the Judges often differ too, and as surely also must we, as amateurs, submit to this diversity when it occurs.

We have not many Poultry Judges; but if they are all to be led to the same way of thinking respecting the colour and comb of the Brahmas, the marking of the Hamburgs, and the form of crest of the Polands, how is this end to be brought about? The Poultry convocation, or meeting of the Judges, proposed by some of our contributors, would be an arrangement too difficult of accomplishment in other matters besides expense; for how could these gentlemen—clergymen from their parishes, gentlemen from their estates, medical men from their patients, lawyers from their clients, and men in business from their trades, dwelling in far distant localities—

meet at one time, in one place, to carry on lengthy discussions.

Nothing which lies in OUR power shall be wanting that may conduce towards producing uniformity of opinion on these disputed points; and if the leading Judges will favour us with their opinions minutely yet concisely set forth—will honour us by holding their poultry convocation in our pages, we will publish their opinions with the greatest pleasure. But then arises another question: Would amateurs be guided by the result of such discussion?

We believe in minor differences and in disputed points, exhibitors *must* concede their own opinions (often biassed by the amateur's most natural love of his own birds) to the fiat of the Judges; admitting, on the other side, that no pen containing birds with two distinct characters of comb, or other equally important point, equally diverse, should be considered eligible for a prize.

The Poultry Yard.

MARCH 21.

ON the principle that prevention is better than cure (and generally not only better, but much easier), this is the best time to wage war against those pests of the poultry yard of the insect tribe, which, if allowed to get the upper hand, will interfere with all its arrangements, disturb the sitters on their nests, make fidgety, bad mothers of hens which would otherwise prove good ones, and finally occasion even the death of many chickens. Choose the earliest, warm, sunny day, to thoroughly cleanse and lime-wash the hen-house. Let only one be done each day; as it should be done quite early, to allow plenty of time for it to get dry. Wash, clean, and, if necessary, repair the floors. If it is not thought

desirable to go to the expense of new gravelling the runs, those which have been firmly laid down in the first place, may have the surface pared and removed, which will leave it clean and pure. Especial care must be taken to keep nests well washed and cleaned, and if the dust baths are supplied with fresh dust—wood ashes if they are to be had—the fowls will clean their feathers, and save much trouble and disappointment later in the season, for there are few things more injurious to poultry, than being infested with vermin. When the hen-houses are set to rights, the rats should be looked to, caught if possible, and their holes stopped to prevent their depredations among chickens and ducklings.

It is best to get through the business of setting the hens as soon as practicable; it should not be delayed beyond this month and the next: late chickens generally prove *very* unsatisfactory, but some of the finest we have known have been hatched in April, and even in May.

When the hen hatches, leave her pretty much to herself: interference vexes her, and seldom does good. When the hatching has gone on some time, if the hen gets fidgety upon the eggs which are ascertained to be good, from care of the chicks, they may be taken from her, fed and kept warm; but unless she slights the eggs, it is better to leave her her chickens. Place a cup of crushed barley, with a little round oatmeal, in the corner of the nest, and some water in a shallow pan, and she will know when to invite her young ones to their first repast. When the hatching is over, and the chickens dry and brisk, they may be removed into a clean nest, warmed, to avoid the insects which may possibly infest the sitting nest. When the chickens run about the nest, the hen may be put down under a coop, and the little ones fed on a good change of food; hard-boiled egg and bread crumbs, crushed barley, pearl barley boiled, barley-meal, and other things which have been recommended by good judges. We do not like either groats or rice, nor have

we found any advantage in the use of oatmeal worth its additional cost. It is best to put the hen in a wooden coop, which will shelter her and her chickens in case of a shower, and on wet days keep them in altogether.

Ducklings must be kept from the water, and from getting wet. If a jar is given them to drink out of, with straight sides, they will drink and wash their breasts, but cannot get wet to injure themselves. The old duck may have a pan or tub with high, straight sides, so that the ducklings cannot get into it, which can be given to her once or twice a day, and then taken away. This care to have the ducklings kept dry, penning the duck on a dry spot, and having her constantly supplied with her limited quantum of water, has been found very successful in rearing ducks without any deaths. They will eat almost incessantly, and grow very fast. It is necessary to feed them very often, as they are greedy, dirty little fellows, and leave what they do leave, very dirty. They will eat barley-meal porridge, crushed-barley, and after a few days, oats.

SUMMARY.—Whitewash the houses. Pare or new gravel the runs. Give the fowls the opportunity to clean their feathers. Continue to set the hens. Take care of young chickens, and keep the ducklings from getting very wet.

Schedule of the Newcastle, Northumberland and Durham Society.

THIS Society for the improvement of domestic poultry will hold their Fourth Annual Exhibition in the Corn Exchange, Newcastle, on Easter Wednesday and Thursday, April 11th and 12th.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

COCHIN CHINA.

Class.	1st.		2nd.	
	£.	s.	£.	s.
1. Cinnamon or Buff.....	30	...	15	
2. Cock and one Hen	10	...	5	
3. Partridge or Brown	30	...	15	

<i>Class.</i>	1st. s.	2nd. s.
4. Cock and one Hen	10	5
5. White, Cock and two Hens	30	15
6. Cock and one Hen	10	5
7. Cockerel and two Pullets (Hatched 1854)	20	10
 BRAHMA POOTRA.		
8. Cock and two Hens	30	15
 SPANISH.		
9. Cock and two Hens	30	15
10. Cock and one Hen	10	5
11. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	10
 DORKING.		
12. Coloured, Cock and two Hens.....	30	15
13. Cock and one Hen	10	5
14. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	10
15. White, Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
 MALAYS.		
16. Cock and two Hens	20	10
 GAME FOWL.		
17. Cock and two Hens	20	10
18. Cock and one Hen	10	5
 HAMBURG.		
19. Golden Pencilled, Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
20. Cock and one Hen	10	5
21. Silver Pencilled, Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
22. Cock and one Hen	10	5
23. Golden Spangled, Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
24. Cock and one Hen	10	5
25. Silver Spangled, Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
26. Cock and one Hen	10	5
 POLANDS.		
27. Black with White Crests, Cock and two Hens	20	10
28. Cock and one Hen	10	5
29. Golden, Cock and two Hens	20	10
30. Cock and one Hen	10s. & 7s. 6d.	
31. Silver, Cock and two Hens	20	10
32. Cock and one Hen	10	5
 ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED NAMED.		
33. Cock and two Hens	20	10
 BANTAMS (COCK AND TWO HENS).		
34. Gold Laced	10	5
35. Silver Laced	10	5
36. White	10	5
37. Black	10	5
38. Any other Variety	10	5

 ANY OF THE ABOVE BREEDS.		1st. s.	2nd. d.
<i>Class.</i>	39. Cock and four Hens.....	20	10
 GEESE.			
40. Gander	20	10	
 DUCKS.			
41. Aylesbury, Drake and two Ducks..	20	10	
42. Rouen, Drake and two Ducks.....	20	10	
43. Any other Variety, Drake and two Ducks	20	10	
44. Muscovy, Drake and two Ducks... 10	10	5	
 TURKEYS.			
45. Cock and one Hen	20	10	
46. Cock	10	5	
 GUINEA FOWLS.			
47. The best Pair	10	5	
48. EXTRA STOCK, to deserving speci- mens of which prizes will be awarded.			
49. To the COTTAGER, rent not more than £8, who exhibits the best lot in any of the above classes.. 15	15	10	
Third best	5		
No entrance required for this class.			
 PEA FOWL.			
50. Best Peacock	10	5	
 PIGEONS.			
51 to 65. Best pair of Carriers, Almond Tumblers, Balds or Beards, Nuns, Turbits, Archangels, Jacobines, Fantails, Trum- peters, Pouters or Croppers, Barbes, Runts, Dragons, Blue Rocks, and Turtle Doves... each			5
 RABBITS.			
66. Long Ears.....	5		
67. Other Varieties.....	5		
 EGGS.			
68. Best 12 Hen Eggs	5s. & 2s. 6d.		
69. Best 12 Duck Eggs.....	5s. & 2s. 6d.		
 BUTTER.			
70. Best lb. of Sweet Butter	7s. 6d. & 5s.		
The Society will award three Silver Cups, viz. one for the best pen of Cochin Chinas, in Class 1, 2, 3, 5, or 7; one for the best pen of Spanish, in Class 9—11; and one for the best pen of Dorkings, in Class 12, 14, or 15. The money prizes will be withheld from the pens which receive the cups.			

REGULATIONS.

1. The Judges will withhold the prizes where the specimens are inferior.

2. All specimens must be *bona fide* the property of the exhibitor.

3. When known, the ages of the specimen must be stated.

4. The exhibitor who advances any false statements as to ownership, age, &c., shall be excluded from this and all future exhibitions of this Society.

5. This Society having for one of its objects the introduction of superior breeds of poultry, it is a condition that all specimens must have a price attached to them (to be stated at the time of entry). Any parties claiming the lots are to report the same to the secretaries; and until so reported, the lots will remain open to be claimed by any one. Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales—the proceeds to go to the Society.

6. Exhibitors to pay 2s. per lot entry; Cotagers and Members 1s. per lot.

7. Exhibitors who are at a considerable distance, or who cannot have their lots at the Exchange by 8 o'clock on the morning of the exhibition, are requested to forward their specimens on the previous evening, addressed to the secretaries, carriage paid.

8. The committee undertake to provide experienced feeders and packers, and will return the birds, in cases where it is inconvenient for servants to remain, provided the packages are properly directed, and instructions sent how they are to be returned.

* * The directors of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway have kindly consented to carry free all poultry for this exhibition when accompanied by the exhibitors; but when sent alone, to carry them for one fare; they have also granted return tickets to visitors by the first train from Hexham, and by the first train from Carlisle each day.

To prevent mistakes, it is particularly requested that intending exhibitors will carefully read the above rules.

The Secretaries are, Mr. J. S. Challoner, Dean Street, Newcastle, and Mr. W. Trotter, Bywell; of whom certificates of entry may be procured. No entries will be received after Saturday, March 31.

Subscribers' cards are now ready, and will be forwarded by William Trotter, on receipt of 10s. 6d.

Admission to the exhibition, private view, 2s. 6d., from 10 to 1 o'clock; from 1 to 6, 1s. each; and from 6 until 10, 6d. each; and on the following day from 9 until 2 o'clock, 6d. each, when the exhibition closes. Subscribers of 10s. 6d. and upwards will be supplied with a card of admission for both days.

No sticks, umbrellas, or dogs, will be allowed in the exhibition.

WINDSOR POULTRY SHOW.—We published the schedule of the first Windsor Poultry Show some weeks since, and we would now draw attention to a few circumstances connected with it. There was a strong opposition on the part of many members of the committee to the introduction of chicken classes at so early a period of the year, as they feared, from the severity of the weather, that those classes would be but badly represented. That, however, will offer a stronger inducement to those who *have* early chickens to exhibit them, and the liberal prize—a 5l. cup—to the successful exhibitor of young birds will, no doubt, attract a full entry. There are no prizes for chickens in the game classes, as the committee consider that no game fowl is fit to be shown until he is fit to be dubbed. The prizes for adult birds are, as our readers will remember, on a very liberal scale, and we were pleased to notice an extra class for Polands, and five prizes for "any other distinct breed." Rule 2 the committee have adopted, thinking it hardly fair that the same sum of money should be divided between perhaps 5 pens of white Dorkings, as between 50 or more coloured, and the same in other classes scantily represented. The offer of a ten guinea cup to the most successful exhibitor of adult birds will draw many entries. It is not difficult for fanciers in a large way to show from 20 to 50 pens each. The committee, by rule 13, have done their utmost to prevent the dishonest system of letting out subscribers' tickets by the hour, a practice said to have been largely adopted by unprincipled

adventurers at Birmingham. We are truly glad to see the announcement in rule 17 that a fresh turf will be put in each pen—a boon to the birds, which cannot be too highly estimated. The committee at present have settled nothing about either building or pens. The price asked for the hire of tents is very high. Until we read of the action which arose from the accident at the Reading Show, we had no idea that so large a sum was paid for the use of a tent. Might it not answer the purpose of some manufacturer to keep a convenient building—a sort of miniature Crystal Palace—to let out for poultry shows and other exhibitions of a like nature. It is hoped that the Windsor Show will be held in the Home Park—a more beautiful or convenient locality could hardly be chosen; it is to be under the immediate patronage of H. R. H. Prince Albert; he will doubtless be an exhibitor, and the committee hope that both her Majesty and the Prince will honour them with their presence. The Great Western Railway has promised to run excursion trains. The opportunity for sale in a neighbourhood so thickly and so nobly populated, will be good. We cannot help noticing with regret that in a show so conveniently placed for London amateurs, the committee could not extend their arrangements to the inclusion of Pigeons, but in spite of this little drawback we hope and have little doubt that it will merit the appellation of a Royal Show.

The Brahma.

IN giving our opinion of what we think a good Brahma Pootra fowl should be, we do not set that up as law; but we wish to promote discussions by which we may all attain to some more definite and more uniform idea as to what this large, beautiful, hardy, and valuable fowl should be.

The Brahma should be a large and weighty fowl, of a free, majestic bearing, alike removed from the waddle of the Cochin China, and the upright carriage of

the Malay. Short in the leg and neck, wide and full in the breast, and wide and deep in make.

Legs, yellow and *well* feathered, but not smothered in feathers like the most admired specimens of Cochins.

Head, with a slight fullness over the eye, which gives a certain breadth to the top of the head. We admire a full pearl eye; but it is far from common.

Tail, short, but otherwise full in size and spread; that of the cock opening into a fan.

Comb, either a small single comb, or a pea-comb.

The leading characteristic of the peculiar comb, named by the Americans the pea-comb, is its triple character. It may be developed and separated almost like three combs, or nearly united into one; but its triple form is always evident. What we think most beautiful, is, where the centre division is a little fluted, and slightly serrated, flanked by two little side combs. The degree of the division into three, varies, and the peculiarities of the comb may be less perceptible in December than when the hens are laying; but the triple character of the pea-comb is always evident. It shews itself in the chick at a few days old, in three tiny, parallel lines.

Colour we name last, because, in large useful fowls like the Brahmas, we think the SHADE OF COLOUR a matter of minor importance: but the precision with which they breed in this particular, pronounces them not to belong to the Cochin family. Cochins never breed invariably true to colour, while the Brahmas from Dr. Bennett, which we have had an opportunity of watching, as invariably keep to their mixture of black, white, and gray: the lightest are almost white; the darkest (and in spite of our own bias in favour of a white back, we must acknowledge the handsomest), a full gray, with light pencillings on back and wings.

The shade of colour (provided there is no mixture of a salmon tinge), and the kind of combs which take the prizes

provided the pens are well matched), are points in which we believe we amateurs must for the present submit to some little variety of opinion in the different judges.

Whether the Brahma is a distinct sub-variety of some kind of fowl, or a made variety, commenced with a cross, and established by careful breeding, is a question which does not bear upon the subject of their points as exhibition fowls.

Nest Eggs.

Eggs for hatching of all kinds figure weekly in our advertising columns, occupied no doubt in many instances by future recipients of silver medals and prize cups; but some eggs are now presented to our notice, which, however delightful they may appear to the broody hen, will never fill prize pens with poultry. These nest eggs, however, have a merit which first-prize chickens at Birmingham can only equal—they are the best of their kind! Our readers may have noticed the mention of the nest-eggs in our advertising columns; the merit there attributed to them, that they get warm immediately under the hen's breast, is quite correct; they are, for the purpose for which they are made, the best imitation of real eggs which we have seen. We believe they are manufactured by Mr. Churchill, of Gloucester, and they are sold in London by Mr. Baily, of Mount-street.

Show of Hamburgs.

THE more I read your publication the more interested do I get, and congratulate you on affording useful information to many who would otherwise be much in the dark.

I readily endorse B. P. B.'s sentiments, in No. 51, and wish it may be deeply impressed on the understanding of every poultry fancier, that "it is not for one person to find fault with those that fancy any other variety because he does not know it or admire it himself."

May I add to B. P. B.'s remarks, that

besides the diversity in markings there is a difference in the ground colour of the golden-spangled: one a real golden, the other red or coffee colour; and, I may say, the deep marking on the golden cocks, in my idea, is more beautiful than on the red.

There are very few hen-feathered cocks which have a full tail that are spangled regularly on every feather of the saddle; now and then you find a long feather not so perceptible at first sight, but plain on close observation.

The only way that I see of getting the Hamburg class properly divided and named, is for all breeders of the different varieties to agree to have a show at a place equally distant, at a suitable time, when the birds are in good plumage, and let every one exhibit his best birds which shall be well matched in marking; when they are placed in the pens, let the oldest breeders put them into their different classifications, and give in their awards as to the most meritorious birds in each class. And should anything very improper in judgment occur in any class or in any division, which shall be considered so by many breeders, then the jury shall be requested to state their reason for such judgment, and if imperfectly viewed, then such judgment to be revoked and the other substituted.

Minutes of the markings, colour, &c. of the bird could be kept, and could, if a complete show, be published at a small figure, or in the "Poultry Chronicle."

Respecting awards so much could be subscribed for expenses and prize-money, and the amounts ranging accordingly.

May or April would, I think, be the best period.

Lettuces are far preferred by poultry to grass, and when they are in a confined space they should be supplied with them the year round.—Yours truly, A. G.

Crested Fowls.

NO. I.

THE first family of Crested or Top-knotted fowls to which I wish to call

attention, I believe to be of Persian origin. They appear to have been some long time ago well known in Europe, and even to have come occasionally to England; but have been for some time lost or unnoticed here, until recent importations have again brought them hither from Turkey. The name Poland, Polander, or Polish, doubtlessly originated from one breed only; but those terms do not now refer to any particular breed, but simply imply that the fowl is polled or has a top-knot.

The Persian breed of Crested fowls is, I consider, the most ancient of the top-knotted fowls known to us; the pure breed I believe to be quite white, long-bodied fowls, without combs, but having large top-knots, beards, or muffles, feathered feet, and five toes. Dr. Bechstein mentions the large bearded white fowl among his "Haüben Hühner," (top-knotted fowls). Moubray also says, "Perhaps the purest of our Poland fowls are always five-toed;" and hints that the White Dorking may have been derived from them. Other writers have spoken of their former abundance in Egypt: but the best specimens of this breed with which I am acquainted, are in the possession of Miss E. Watts, of Hampstead, who recently imported them from Turkey as "Fowls of the Sultan;" but, I understand from that lady, that the breed is now nearly extinct there. These, I consider, as the original race of this family of Crested fowls, of which however there are doubtless many sub-varieties, the probable effects of accidental or intentional cross-breeding, and which time has constituted fixed varieties.

If any of the top-knotted fowls can lay claim to the name of Poland, these I think are most probably the true aspirants; not that there is any proof on record of these fowls having been brought from Persia through that country, but merely from the probability that as Turkey and Poland have for ages had intercourse both hostile and commercial, such a supposition is not without reason; but as regards the other crested breeds, the St. Jago and Hamburg,

there is not the slightest reason to suppose (as far as I have been able to discover), that they were ever known in that country, and only obtained that name because of their top-knots; in this conclusion I am borne out by their continental names.

The sub-varieties of Persian Crested, or Sultan's Fowls as they are now called, which I have seen or heard of, appear to me to be the following:—first, the Buff Persian, differing only in the colour of the plumage; second, the Tailless Crested Persian, of which some specimens were lately exhibited as recently from Wallachia; they resembled this breed except in being of black plumage and destitute of tails; thirdly, a curious variety I have heard of by the name of Guelderlands, without either combs or top-knots, but in other respects resembling this breed; and fourthly, the common Turkish fowl, called also Ptarmigans, or Grouse-footed Polands, which I understand are the common breed of Constantinople; and which are without doubt, the descendants of the true Sultan's fowls, though from some cause they have considerably diverged from the points of the true breed.

This I give as a short explanation of my ideas of this family, and shall next express them respecting the St. Jago Crested breed.

B. P. B.

What a Golden Mooney Cock ought to be.

OUR correspondent "Mooney" (who has been for many years an amateur of the Lancashire Golden Mooney, and who adds to his own experience that of two old men who have noticed them all their lives) has sent us the following account of what a Golden Mooney cock ought to be:—

- 1st, Comb. The best double or rose and the best spike behind.
- 2nd, Earlobes. The largest and best white.
- 3rd, Neck. The best green black in the middle of the feather, and edged with red.

4th, Breast. The best spangled and clearest from tipping with white at the end of the moon.

5th, Back and Saddle. The darkest red, and on the saddle presenting the appearance of plush or velvet.

6th, Rump. Hackle, like the neck, with the red at the edge of the feather brighter, very long, and pendant.

7th, Wing. Three parts: 1st, the bars, to have two bars of the brightest and clearest green black moons, and the best red from the moon to the bottom colour. 2nd. The Flight. The clearest and best red. 3rd. The lacing feathers, or the top of the wing above the flight largest, clearest, brightest, and best green-black moons (or spots) on the end of the feathers, and the best and clearest red from the spot to the bottom colour.

8th, The Tail. The brightest, darkest, and best green-black. To be very heavily feathered.

9th, Legs. Best and clearest blue.

General appearance animated and lively; carriage erect and proud; the combination of colour beautiful, and one of the very few birds which can in any way compete with the Game cock in beauty.

The same correspondent writes:—

“In the ‘Chronicle’ your correspondent W. R. H, says, ‘We must have well-spangled cocks, and that these birds produce infinitely superior chickens to the cock-feathered birds,’ and as it seems desirable to have all the evidence we can on such matters, you will perhaps excuse my troubling you with my experience. In the spring of last year I purchased one of these cocks from the best breed in Yorkshire, and a splendid bird he is of the sort, and anticipated some first-rate produce from him, and four first prize ‘Mooney’ hens, birds which I had proved and bred first prize chickens from with my cock-feathered bird—and the result of the experiment has been, that at the close of the season, I had not a single pullet fit to send to a show, and only one cockerel of

any merit, and I have discarded every bird of last season’s breeding—in fact have just lost a year—I have the testimony of two of the best breeders in England, confirming the above results from similar trials, and am perfectly convinced that the introduction of henfeathered blood amongst ‘Mooneys,’ will end in nothing but disappointment; the two breeds are so distinct, that the attempt to mix them spoils both, and my own opinion is, they ought not to enter into competition in the same class.”

Our correspondent does not wish to say anything in disparagement of the Yorkshire breed, and is not surprised that they should have their admirers; but he does complain that the two breeds should be mixed together, and that Lancashire Mooney hens should be exhibited with Yorkshire Henny cocks, which he reckons about as wrong as it would be to show a White Cochin cock and Buff hens.

For the last sixty or seventy years, shows have been held in Lancashire for Hamburgs, but one hen only is shown, and the cocks are not put in competition.

Portable Poultry Pens.

SEEING in your impression of last week a letter from Mr. Warwick, of Donyland Lodge, mentioning having seen a Portable Poultry Pen, which he considered well adapted for poultry shows; I feel called upon to make a few remarks upon the subject, as the pen alluded to by him has been constructed by myself. The reason I first took the subject up was in consequence of being one of the Committee of the Colchester poultry show; and experiencing the many difficulties which arose in carrying out the arrangements for it, as well as the heavy expenses attending it, quite enough to deter almost any committee from hazarding a repetition.

It then struck me much expense and trouble might be saved, if a pen suitable for exhibiting fowls in, could be invented and let out for that purpose at a moderate

charge. I immediately set to work, and after some trouble and expense have constructed one, which I fancy will answer the end wished for. It is made of wood and galvanized iron wire; internally fitted up to conduce as much as possible to the comfort of its intended inhabitants, having a perch which can be moved during the day with perfect ease, and the corners made quite snug, for the accommodation of the timid birds, if there should be any. All that is required in the way of preparation, is to have a sufficient number of benches at any height from the ground or floor you please; or merely *inch* boards, three in number on tressels, will do. Each pen can be fixed ready for the birds in *one minute*, and packed up after the show in the same short space of time. This advantage will be very great where the show is held in a corn exchange, or other building, which is required once in the week for its original purpose.

These pens fold up into a small compass like a shallow box, everything belonging to them being enclosed therein. I will not enter further into this subject now; if it is favourably received, perhaps I may trouble you with some additional particulars.

Some of your correspondents have advocated the use of pens for conveying birds to shows and exhibiting them in the same; it would be a capital plan, if exhibitors could be induced to use them. I have a plan under consideration to effect this object; if I can bring it to bear, I will give you an explanation of it.

P. P. P.

Columbary.

No. III.—THE PRIEST PIGEON.

THE Priest, or "Die Pfaf-fen Taube" of the Germans, is a variety of the Toys but little known in England, but a few may be met with among the collections of the curious amateurs, though in some parts of Germany they are very plentiful. These

pigeons are a little larger than the common dovehouse pigeon, which they much resemble in build; they are equally quick and active, and field well; they have broad turned crowns, and their feet are generally somewhat feathered; their colour is various, their chief property is their white head; the upper mandible is flesh-coloured, and the white of the scalp reaches down in a line from the corners of the mouth across the eyes, while the under mandible, the hood, and the whole of the remaining plumage should be dark, except in the few that are spangled on the wings. The irides are gravel-coloured, but often appear half dark and half light. They derive their name from their white head bearing some resemblance to the tonsure of a Romish priest.

Herr Gottlob Neumeister enumerates five subvarieties as follows:—

1st. The Black Priest Pigeon; both with and without the white wing bars, and occasionally with the spangled shoulders of the Suabian pigeon cross.

2nd. The Blue Priest Pigeon, with either black or white wing bars; also occasionally spangled like the foregoing.

3rd. The Brown-red Priest Pigeon; these rarely have the white wing bars, but when they do, the flight and tail are usually strawberry coloured. The chief point is to have them of an uniform dark brown red.

4th. The Yellow Priest Pigeon; has markings similar to the red, and are equally rare with white wing bars.

5th. The Stock Dove, or wild blue Priest Pigeon; their colour is a light or mealy blue, with the white head, like all the others, but without any other mark whatever, not even the black wing bars, so common to blue pigeons. These are, however, not very plentiful. The White-tailed Priest Pigeon, or Pilferer, may be mentioned here, as it scarcely requires a separate notice, it having all the same colours and markings of the foregoing, with the addition of a white tail, but it is rarely so accurately marked. Mr. Neumeister considers it a cross between the Priest and Monk.

B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

A FEW WORDS ON GOOD BREEDING.

(Concluded.)

SOME breeds of beasts lay on fat externally, others internally, and some deposit it in layers between the muscles, making what is called marbled meat. It has been noticed that animals which fatten readily show the following points:—A small head, a long face from the eyes to the point of the nose, a broad front, fine muzzle, capacious nostrils, and a short neck. They have a full, clear, and prominent eye, and a back which is straight from the shoulders to the tail. The tail should fall perpendicularly, the chest should be wide and deep, the ribs deep and circular. The hips should be wide apart, and the loins and back well filled up with muscle; the quarters full and large, the flanks deep and well filled out, and the bones small and flat, but not so fine as to indicate a delicate constitution. The hide is a very important point; it should be rather thin, expansive, mellow, and covered with fine soft hair. These characteristics indicate the facility for secreting the fatty tissue. They extend to all our domestic animals—the horse, the ox, the sheep, the pig, the dog, and the rabbit.

Among our animals those which reach the greatest weight with the least consumption of food are the Herefords and Durhams. At two years and a half old, Herefords may be made to weigh 1000 lbs. This is a year beforehand with other breeds.

The well-known Bakewell, to establish his breed of cattle, selected and mated the best animals he could find of their respective kinds. In breeding from them he devoted his attention to the perpetuity of characteristics which he thought good, and to properties indicative of a disposition to fatten. It was a saying of his that "all was useless which was not beef." Following out his plans, he produced a large cylindrical body, with small neck, head, and extremities, and with what is called

fineness of bone. The properties which he kept constantly in view were early maturity, aptness to fatten, little offal, and plenty of meat on all the best joints. He always chose the best animals for both parents, and paid little heed to a large supply of milk, as he thought that interfered with the production of meat.

The Collings studied the Durham breed. Like Bakewell, and all good breeders, they made size subordinate to beauty, utility, and good fattening properties. When once they realized the properties they had worked for, they bred in and in.

C. Colling's improvements began with a young bull, bought by chance of a poor man, from a cow fed by the roadside. He perceived the value of the young animal, and he obtained the cow, but she, on removal to a good pasture, became so fat that she did not breed again. The calf inherited the same property, and when he grew up he became so fat as to be useless as a bull. He was named "Hubbuck," and was the sire of the celebrated "Bolinbroke." He tried various crosses, among which the most successful was between his short horn, "Bolinbroke," and a beautiful Galloway cow. The produce, a male calf, was matched with "Johanna," a short horn. The produce, again a male calf, was put to a true-bred short horn, named "Lady," and she, with her descendants, 48 lots, brought at his sale, in 1810, the sum of 7115*l*.

One of the earliest improvers of the Durham breed was Michael Dobson. He visited Holland for the purpose of selecting bulls. His stock reached great size; they were coarse, great eaters, and did not fatten early, but produced much internal fat. They are, however, good for the dairy. The district of Holderness was distinguished for dairy stock, and cows of this variety are yet to be found there more or less mixed with the Durham breed. The cross has improved their form but impaired their milking properties; nevertheless the modern Holderness breed ranks high among dairy cows, and the great London dairies are often supplied by it. No PRACTICAL FARMER.

THE SIZE OF FARMS.—Seven acres was enough for a Roman farm. In Flanders two acres and a half is reckoned sufficient to support a man, with a wife and three children. In England we have farms of all sizes. Three or four hundred acres is a large size, and we have them of all sizes above and below that. In America the farmer is master of a vast tract of country. A correspondent writes:—"I ought to inform you that I did not write the article on Wild Turkeys you asked for; my brother, L. F. Allen, wrote it, he having more leisure than myself. He has a fine farm of a thousand acres or more, at the head of Grand Island, in the Niagara River, where he keeps flocks of different kinds of poultry, short-horned cattle, the North Devons, and other kinds. He has about a hundred acres of orcharding—pears, apples, cherries, plums, &c., principally apples, however. If you could happen there in strawberry or raspberry time, you might gather them by the bushel, with cream by the pailful. His farm is just seventeen miles above the famous Niagara Falls. You will hear them roar there all day long, and in the morning see the mist rise over them, up to the blue heavens, like a cloud. I have seen this cloud distinctly sailing on Lake Erie, at least thirty miles from the Falls. 'Tis a glorious place—the Falls I mean—in summer. The view from Brock's monument, below the Falls, is unique and grand—the majestic river, the high banks, the blue Ontario, Toronto on the opposite side, and a carpet of high forest trees spread out before you like green velvet, for sixty or seventy miles. But I must stop. I have written all this in a most hurried manner in the midst of business. A. B. A."

HEADING OF CABBAGES AND CAULIFLOWERS.—We see it stated in some of the papers, that if cabbages and cauliflowers, are transplanted twice, with an interval of some two weeks between, it will cause them to head much better than without this treatment. It is easy enough of performance, and may be worthy of trial; it is possibly true that this may be the result.

On Bees.

THE surest token of the prosperity of a hive, is the early appearance of young bees. They proclaim the strength of the family and the health of the queen. I was cheered by a flight of young bees from my strongest hive on the second of March, therefore they had been hatched when the hive was standing out in a temperature of 30° below freezing point; the heat of the bees could not have been less than 50° above it, making a difference of 80° between the inside and outside temperature of the hive.

I recommend all bee-keepers to be able to distinguish the young bees, as their presence often determines the state of the queen, when it may have been doubtful. The worker arrives at the state of a perfect insect on the 20th day, counting from the moment the egg is laid. She cuts with her mandible through the covering of her cell, and in half an hour succeeds in escaping from her prison. "On quitting her cradle, she appears for a few seconds drowsy and listless, but soon assumes the agility natural to the race; and on the same day on which she has emerged from her prison, sets out with her seniors to engage in the labours of the field."* Very interesting and industrious indeed this appears, commencing the labours of life on the day of her birth; but close observation leads me to a different conclusion. It is not till the third day after the hatching of the workers, or maturing of the queens, that they leave the hive. The former remain on or near the comb from whence they have issued, in their turn supplying the heat required, and relieving the older bees from their attendance. About the middle of the day, when the air is mild and the sun warm, notice seems to be given to the youngsters that they may safely make their début into the world. The apiarian will remark the plump and sleek bees, whose down is of a lighter colour

* Naturalist's Library.

than that of their seniors, walk an inch along the board, then turn half round as if to retreat, then turning again, and with this circling pace at length they reach the edge of the alighting-board. They may be supposed to be taking a first lesson in waltzing, and to be rather silly. But no, they are exhibiting one of the highest of their instincts or faculties. That the bee with unerring precision should be able to retrace its flight home, has been an insurmountable difficulty with many naturalists. Even thus writes the philosophical Knight, "A young bee when she first issues from a hollow tree in the midst of a wood, is as unerring in her return, as the fall of a stone to the earth, in obedience to laws of which we are, and must ever remain, ignorant. It seems to be simply an act of her will." And another author writes, "Rogers has supposed the bee to be guided back to its hive by the recollection of the sweets it passed in its outward flight; a beautiful instance of the pleasures of memory. Whether this be the true solution or not, her return to her hive so straight is very curious." *

The resemblance between the flight of the bee and that of the pigeon, has not failed to present itself to the minds of those who have been considering the means by which the carrier retraces its homeward course over hundreds of miles. The training which is requisite before such feats can be accomplished, seems plainly to point to the solution of the difficulty; and the whole subject is ably discussed in the charming volume of Mr. Dixon, "The Dovecote and Aviary." It may be that the carrier, and also the bee, owe this faculty to a full development of the organ of locality; but who can doubt that it is by the simple act of *homing*, taking them short distances at a time, and then increasing by degrees, that they become acquainted with the outlines and landmarks of the country over which they are to direct their course. And it is precisely

the same with the bee. It has measured every inch of the alighting-board, and now it flies off. But mark,—at about the distance of a foot it turns round, then it flies forward and makes another circle, then another, each time increasing the radius, till it has advanced and risen many yards, then in the throng of its companions it is lost to view. But it does not go far, and it measures its return in the same manner. I have often amused myself by testing its accuracy, and puzzling the wanderer. Taking up a young bee before it has left the board, I have liberated it at the distance of a yard or two from its hive. It marked the place from which it flew, and returned in about two minutes with as much precision as if it had been the hive. It has been asserted that the flight of the queen is less rapid than that of the bees, and that her wings are shorter. They are so only in *proportion* to the size of the body, being exactly the same length as the workers. An old queen leading a swarm, distended with eggs, and not knowing her way, is deliberate in all her movements; and a young princess, practising the art of *homing*, likewise proceeds with caution. But see the flight of a young queen well acquainted with the locality; rising from the hive, she circles once over-head, and then darts into the sky with the rapidity of lightning. But she learns her course in the same manner as the workers; and her size and colour enable a quick eye to trace all her evolutions, on at least the first day of her flight.

Once I nearly lost a young queen, owing to a singular accident. At the moment of rising from the board, her foot became entangled with a worker which was eagerly pressing near, and both fell to within an inch of the ground, when she rose, and I observed marked that spot as the starting-point. Foreseeing the consequences, I watched anxiously her return; in two minutes she was hovering round the very spot where she had fallen, and though she sometimes passed within an inch of the entrance to the hive, it could not attract

* Quarterly Review.

her. My whole care was to prevent her entering an adjoining hive, and to allow her to tire herself out. After several minutes, very long ones they appeared, she fell exhausted. I placed her on the alighting-board, but her majesty would brook no interference with prescribed rules, and off again she started. Waiting patiently till fatigue again brought her down, and placing her close to the entrance, among a group of bees, she was borne in by the crowd. The next day I attended her excursion, but she marked the hive with caution, and no accident occurred. The future career of this queen was one of unvarying prosperity, but this little incident proves how trifling an accident may cause the ruin of a stock; and that the instinct which is so wonderfully adapted for the preservation of life, may be turned to its destruction. A.

TREATMENT OF A WEAKLY HIVE.

I FEEL I cannot better thank you and your correspondent "A." for the advice in your last as to the best means to be adopted in restoring a weakly hive, than by communicating to you the actual result of the treatment recommended. The bees, I may mention, began to die in numbers about the end of the late severe frost, and on my examining the hive or rather box through the windows I found the floor covered with dead bees, and much stained with their excrement and tainted with an offensive smell. My first object was to clean the floor board, which I did on a mild day, by rapidly removing the box on to a piece of stiff card-board, *lifting not sliding* it off the board. I then collected about a coffee cup full of dead bees, some few of which I revived by placing under a bell glass before the fire. Having next well cleaned and dried the floor board by scraping and rubbing with a dry cloth (*not using water*), I replaced it. And now let me ask some of your readers, in passing, if I should have done wrong by sprinkling the board with chloride of lime; I should have tried it if I had had some by me, as an offensive smell

still seems to remain. My next object was to find out the cause of the mortality amongst the bees, which I attribute to a failure in the supply of their food, as on weighing the box I found that the total weight was only $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or 3 lbs. more than the box itself, which is but a small weight for the bees and comb. I next endeavoured to provide them with food, and on referring to Bevan, p. 206, for direction, I found the following: "I believe the *best spring* food for bees, and the best substitute for honey in autumn, is a compound of 1 lb. coarse brown sugar, $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of ale boiled to a syrup, to which is added a teaspoonful of salt." I did not exactly follow this prescription, on account of a remark I read in a short and simple letter to bee-keepers, published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, which is this, "If you feed with beer and sugar, *do not feed* more than 1 lb. of sugar to a quart of beer, nor boil it more than five minutes." I, therefore, pursued a middle course, putting rather more sugar than one recommends, and rather less than the other, adding also about a dessert spoonful of rum to $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of beer and about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of sugar. But on presenting my compound to my little pets I found it would not do. They turned up their noses, alias trunks, at it, and your correspondent is quite right in saying, "I suspect the reason they don't eat the food is because *they don't like it*." I don't suspect it, I'm sure of it; for on giving them a little honey in one feeding vessel, and a little of the compound in the other, I soon found that they greedily devoured the former, while they altogether neglected the latter. If, therefore, I may venture to dissent from so great an authority as Dr. Bevan, I should question whether the compound he recommends is in all cases the best spring food for bees. Probably it may be when you know the bees have a good supply of honey stored in the hive, and the object of feeding is only to encourage breeding and aid in comb-building. But when the honey fails, and your object is the actual preservation of your stock,

judging from this experiment and the testimony of your correspondent "A." I should say there is nothing like pure honey, warmed by the fire to render it liquid, and perhaps diluted with a little water; for in such a case I should take the instinct of the bees as the best guide as to what will be beneficial to them. I have fed liberally with honey on every fine warm day, and in four days the bees have taken 1 lb. of honey, and, though weak in numbers, seem healthy.

BEES IN AMERICA.

In the *Northern Farmer* for March there is a curious account of his bees from the pen of Seth Hoagland, an apiarian, who mentions having wintered over fifty swarms:

"Last winter, 1853-4, I purchased a Colton hive containing a common-sized swarm of bees, and not more than 2 lbs. of honey, as the comb had broken down by being exposed to the sun. This hive I put into the cellar, which was warm, dry, and well ventilated; turned it bottom up, constructed a feeder of wood, filled it with honey, covered with a float. I placed it on the cross sticks of the hive, above the bees; then covered the mouth of the hive with a thin cloth. In a few days the feeder was empty. After filling it in this way a few times, I discovered that they had constructed a number of combs, very white and beautiful, filling the hive to the cross sticks, and attaching some of them to the feeders; one of which I broke out. It contained young bees in the different stages, from the egg just apparently laid to the perfect bee. It was about the middle of December that I commenced feeding, and about the same time in January I broke out the brood comb. The brood in this hive became very numerous. The experiment with others, and also from personal observation in an observatory hive, convinced me that wax is the production of honey alone, and that bees will breed in winter as well as in summer and spring, if placed where they are warm and fed plentifully with good honey."

(To be continued.)

Floriculture.

THIRD WEEK IN MARCH.

EVERY sunny day will render the necessity more imperative for keeping at hand all the requisite apparatus for covering up, as frost and snow still give us warning that winter has not yet taken his departure.

The general work of the flower garden must be carried on with activity; for alterations and planting will not go on much longer with safety, on account of the hot sun which now encourages vegetation during the day. The gravel paths, rendered rotten by the frost, should be made firm by rolling. A portion, even of a small flower garden, should be set apart as a nursery, where a supply of plants may generally be ready for planting into the borders. A good plan has been recommended for sowing seeds in this nursery, in a manner which shall render their transplanting easy, and if it occupies a warm and sheltered spot, hardy annuals may already be so raised. Dig and level the ground, and draw in it rather wide drills, in which place pieces of fibrous turf about two inches square and one inch thick; cover these with earth, sow the seed and cover it. When the young plants are large enough for transplanting, they, together with the little square of turf, can be very easily removed to the flower borders. *Ranunculus* roots may be planted in a very fine rich soil; just cover them with white sand; they like it, and it is a mark by which to find the roots when they must be taken up. If the weather continues mild, the following hardy annuals may be sown: larkspur, flos Adonis, convolvulus, lupines, sweet peas, candytuft, dwarf lichnis, Venus' looking-glass, lobels' catchfly, Venus' navelwort, dwarf poppy, annual sunflower, oriental mallow, lavender, hawkweed, and others. These must be sown where they are intended to remain, for they will not do so well if transplanted. Sow *auriculas*, *polyanthuses*, sweet William, stocks, and wall-flowers in the nursery, to be removed when

wanted. Dahlia roots should be looked over, taking care not to displace the labels; they may be set to work in a gentle heat, but not much forced, for the tubers must have time to swell before the eyes are started. Some persons plant them in pots, and others prefer the hot-bed, covering it with six or eight inches of compost, and covering the roots so as to leave just the crown exposed. Examine the carnations and picotees in pots, and if they slip out of the pot readily the sooner they are repotted the better, as the young fibres should be settling in the new compost. All the plants in the conservatory must receive attention and admission of air when the weather permits. Loosen the earth on the tops of the pots and tubs, take out a little, about half an inch or an inch deep, and add fresh in its place. The advantage of this dressing will soon be apparent.

Code of Rules for Judging.

ALTHOUGH the want of a code of rules for the guidance of the judges, in making their awards at poultry exhibitions, is universally admitted, still I am fully persuaded that but few exhibitors have the least idea of the extent of the evil which it is hoped the proposed change in the system of judging would remedy. During the last three years I have been both a visitor and an exhibitor at most of the leading poultry shows in England, and the more experience I have in such matters, the more I become convinced of the absolute necessity of some alteration in the present plan of making the awards. That great discrepancies (and very annoying ones to the parties concerned) do occur, the numerous letters which have appeared in the "Poultry Chronicle," during the last six months, plainly demonstrate. Nor can any one be surprised at this, who is aware of the fact (and a fact it undoubtedly is) that the very greatest diversity of opinion exists among the ten or twelve gentlemen who usually act as arbitrators, as to what constitutes a perfect specimen in almost every

class of fowl: this is certainly the leading cause of the want of uniformity in the decisions. I must confess I can see no remedy, except the institution of a set of rules by which all the judges shall be compelled to abide. I could mention many instances of this diversity of opinion; one will suffice. It is generally considered that the points of a Poland fowl are less open to cavil than most other varieties, but even in this class great difference of opinion exists among the amateurs best calculated to form an accurate judgment. I will relate an instance which came under my own notice. At the last meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, held at Lincoln, the 1st prize for Polands was awarded to a pen of Silver-Spangled birds. One of the judges (a gentleman whose opinion carries great weight) informed me that he considered them the best pen in England; and I believe I am correct in saying, that he added, that the judges unanimously agreed in thinking them the best pen upon which they had ever pronounced a verdict. They were also mentioned in several reports of the show as being very fine specimens. A few weeks after the exhibition a letter appeared in the "Poultry Chronicle" (or in a contemporary), complaining of the award; and, unless I am greatly mistaken in the writer, it was from a gentleman who has exhibited Polands with considerable success, and who, from having performed the duties of judge at several large shows, we may fairly presume to be a competent authority. This gentleman, who has made Polands his particular study, stated that he considered the 1st prize pen at Lincoln were very indifferent birds. Now whether he or the judges were correct is perfectly immaterial; but that such a difference of opinion ought not to exist among gentlemen who are in the habit of acting as arbitrators, is a truth that must be self-evident to every one. I could mention instances of something like the same difference of opinion occurring with regard to Cochins, Dorkings, and Silver-Spangled Hamburgs, but it would occupy too much

space in your columns. What is really required is some central association, from which should emanate a code of rules for the guidance not only of the judges in making their awards, but also of the committees in drawing up their prize lists. The institution needed should be similar in power to the "Jockey Club," which issues certain regulations with which no race committee can interfere, and by which all parties are compelled to abide; and if any condition be attached to a race which is contrary to the "Jockey Club" rules, it is null and void under all circumstances. In default of a society of this kind, some three or four parties should be appointed to collect the opinions of amateurs generally, and a majority of exhibitors should decide what points are requisite in a first-class bird. The duty of the persons appointed should be simply to digest the information they might collect.

In conclusion, allow me to say that I shall be most happy to assist in defraying any expenses which might be incurred in this object, and at the same time earnestly call the attention of all parties interested, to the importance of this subject.

A. A. A.

Brahma Prize Birds at Birmingham.

THE ground of exception taken by Mr. Thursby to the accuracy of my description of his birds at Birmingham, (pen 823,) resolves itself into a question of the correct meaning of a pea comb; and affects merely a difference in the construction we respectively attach to the terms *regular* and *irregular*, as applied to these combs. In calling them irregular, he says, "W. C. G. makes a very great mistake—a more clearly defined pea comb than the cock has it is impossible there should be, and the hens likewise all had *regular*—not irregular pea combs."

Now I believe a pea comb—in the usual acceptation of the term—is a small round comb with a well-defined uniform outline, (without any marked projections or abor-

tive-like serrations,) and having only a slightly uneven or corrugated surface—such, in fact, as we find it in the Malay. This, or something very like it, is I submit a correct definition of a *regular* or true pea comb. But none of the prize birds had combs of this character, or that would at all answer this description; and hence, I conceive, I had good grounds for calling those among them which were least unlike ordinary true pea combs, "*irregular* pea." Further, there was—as I think all who examined them must have observed—a general absence of uniformity, or characteristic type in the configuration of these non-single combs: and so inapplicable in some instances were the terms commonly employed to distinguish the kinds of comb, that it seemed to me that without entering into an elaborate description I could not have conveyed more truly an idea of—at least—their negative qualities, than by calling them "*indescribable*." With all deference then to Mr. Thursby's own private interpretation of the term *regular* pea, I must still hold that the birds in pen 823 were not regular pea-combed.

To the best of my recollection, the cock and two of the hens were well matched in having combs of a loose irregular character with small projections about them; in the cock having somewhat the appearance of a small model of the Alps. The remaining hen's comb was certainly not uniform with the others; and if not a perfect "*single*," had so much the appearance of one in the opinion of myself and a sharp-sighted friend, (whose services I enlisted as an additional security against error on my part,) that I do not think we had any hesitation in writing it down "*single*," in the conviction that it could be called by no other name.

I do not quite see how the self-evident proposition volunteered by Mr. T., that "at large shows it is more difficult to get prizes than at small ones," applies to the facts of my letter; nor whether in remarking that "when amateurs have won several prizes at local shows, they feel disposed to

find fault with the judges when they are beaten at more important ones," he intends to "apply that *ere observation* to me!" but as he seems to be sincere in his belief that his birds in pen 823 merited the prize awarded them, I beg to say that I am quite open to prove the sincerity of my conviction to the contrary—by accepting any fair proposal to put the matter to the test, by submitting one of the rejected pens in the same class to competition with his, and on any terms he may choose to name, with amateurs from among his own profession for judges;—in fact, this last point is one, and the only one, I should stipulate for.

W. C. G.

Gray v. The Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway Co.

This action, tried at the Worcester Assizes, on Saturday the 10th inst., was brought to recover £13, said to be the value of certain trestles, consigned to the care of the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway Company, and not delivered by them.

Mr. Cooke and Mr. Gray appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. Keating, Q.C., and Mr. Phipson for the defendants.

Mr. Cooke, in opening the case, described Mr. Jonathan Gray, the plaintiff, as the originator and responsible party in connection with the Bath and West of England Agricultural Society's Poultry Shows. In the year 1853 some gentlemen in Malvern were desirous of having one of these now fashionable entertainments—poultry shows—held in their town, and Mr. Edward Archer, on their behalf, agreed to hire the pens belonging to the plaintiff. The pens and trestles were delivered at the Worcester station, taken to and returned from Malvern, about the 27th September; the pens arrived in Bath in due course, but the trestles were not delivered. He called

Thomas Smith, who proved the sending off of 240 pens, and about 610 pieces of wood forming the trestles in dispute.

John Matcham, in the employ of the Bath Carriers, proved sending off the quantity stated of pens and trestles from the Bath station; the pens were returned, the trestles were not.

Joseph Whatmore, in the employ of Mr. George M'Cann, of Great Malvern, was sent, in September 1853, to fetch some poultry pens from the Worcester station; he took a number of pens and some trestles to Malvern; the latter were not ordered; the remainder, more than 400 pieces,

were counted and left by him at the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton railway station, Worcester; after the show he took some pens, and the trestles he had brought to Malvern, back to the Worcester station.

Richard Hatfield deposed that he assisted the last witness, and counted the trestles left at Worcester; there were more than 400 pieces; he assisted the Company's porters in loading the pens and the trestles on the trucks.

Mr. Jonathan Gray, late of Bath, said the lost trestles were his property, and he had directed Thomas Smith to send them to Mr. Archer, of Malvern; they were worth £13; he had been obliged to have new ones on the occasion of their show in 1854, which had cost £14 3s.

Mr. Edward Archer, of Malvern, said he had hired the pens of Mr. Gray; the pens, and some of the trestles, were brought to Malvern; he had returned them, with a direction to each load; he applied to the railway company for the trestles when he heard they had not been sent to Bath, and on the 9th of January he received a letter from Mr. Underwood, one of the railway officials, asking for particulars; he replied that the trestles missing consisted of 160 tops and 480 legs.

Cross-examined by Mr. Keating—My first claim was for £1 15s., an error caused by Mr. Gray's letter being so short and indefinite; the £1 15s. was charged for repairing the pens; my next claim was for £7; the trestles sent from Malvern were loaded in the bed of a waggon, and some pens over; tacked a direction card on one of the pens; did not place a direction on the trestles; sent a direction with each load; it was Mr. Thomas Gee, a friend of Mr. Gray's (through whom he had obtained the pens), that authorised him to demand £7.

Mr. Thomas Gee, of Hanley Castle, stated that he had applied many times to the railway authorities; they never denied receiving them; he had acted for Mr. Gray (who was on his wedding tour), and had told Mr. Archer to take £7, and "shut the matter up."

Mr. Keating took an exception to the form of action (which the Judge, Baron Martin, overruled), and on the part of the railway company protested against the manner in which these trestles were consigned to them; he would leave it to his lordship to decide whether the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Company were liable for them or not; if he decided they were, then they must proceed against the Midland Railway Company, to whom they had consigned them.

His Lordship had not the slightest doubt of their liability, as the trestles were clearly proved to have been delivered to them. As £7 had been named, perhaps if they "split" the difference, and said £10, that would settle the matter.

Mr. Gray said he had not brought the action for the sake of a sovereign or two; all other efforts to procure redress had been made in vain. He would agree to his lordship's suggestion. Verdict for the plaintiff accordingly—£10.

The Curassows and Guans.

THE most common kind is the Crax Alector, or Crested Currasso; plentiful in the woods of Guiana; habits nearly the same as our common pheasant. Ourax Pauxi, galeated Curassow; large turkey-like bird, native of Mexico, easily domesticated. The Penelope Cristata, largest of these birds—the Guan or Yucan, is similar in its habits to the Curassow. They are fond of perching on the tops of trees, even building their nests there, and consequently bad to manage. The writer saw a pair of crested Curassows many years ago, destined for some gentleman near Durham, but never learned how they answered. They are described as having been once nearly acclimated in Holland, where they were as prolific as common poultry. Many other species are described by systematic writers. Cumberland. R. G.

[The Galeated Curassow is said to be the kind most easy to domesticate. In the book published in 1831, descriptive of the menagerie of the Zoological Society, it is mentioned that they frequent tall trees, but build a nest on the ground. It was this kind which bred most abundantly in the menagerie of M. Ameshoff.—Ed.]

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

CURASSOWS.

SIR, — In reply to your correspondent, "B. P. B.," on the subject of Curassows, I am sorry I cannot give him all the information he requires.

From what experience I have had with them I can answer for their being easily domesticated. In short, I know no class of poultry, especially foreign, that appear better adapted for the poultry-yard. They very soon become reconciled with their new companions, and are very tame and harmless.

I was unfortunate in losing my hen bird soon after I purchased her, but the male bird survived and grew very handsome, and was generally admired; but the severity of the winter was too much for him, and he died. I have just had this bird stuffed.

As to their mode of nidification, I am not in a position to speak, but I found they were very fond of perching on the highest trees, where, doubtless, in their wild state, they usually roost.

I do not recommend them as likely to be particularly profitable, except in such cases as among the gentry, where every convenience is obtainable, and expense no object. Then, eventually, they might pay, but not otherwise. They are certainly ornamental as birds, and most attractive and graceful; besides which, I believe their flesh is very delicious and high-flavoured. I should like to keep them myself, but there is, no doubt, a great difficulty in keeping them in the ordinary way in this country through the winter. — I am, Sir, your obedient servant, T. L.

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

ON Monday, March 12th, the supply of Irish Oats, English Barley, Flour, and foreign Linsced was good: with a good quantity of Beans, both English and foreign. The Wheat arrivals were only moderate.

	BRITISH.	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	70 to 78
" " " red	63 .. 63
" " Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	64 .. 68
BARLEY, Malting, new	29 .. 30
" Chevalier	31 .. 33
" Distilling	29 .. 30
" Grinding	27 .. 29
OATS, English, feed	24 .. 25
" " potatoe	27 .. 28
" " Scotch feed	27 .. 32
" " potatoe	31 .. 33
" " Irish feed, white	24 .. 27
" " " black	23 .. 25

	Shillings per qr.
RYE	44 .. 46
BEANS, Mazagan	35 .. 38
" Ticks	36 .. 40
" Harrow	36 .. 40
" Pigeon	38 .. 44
PEAS, White, boilers	36 .. 42
" Maple	36 .. 38
" Grey	34 .. 36

On Friday all kinds sold readily, and in some instances prices were rather higher than on Monday. Oats were fully sixpence higher than on Monday.

SIX WEEKS AVERAGES.—Wheat, 69s. 6d.; Barley, 31s. 6d.; Oats, 25s. 8d.; Rye, 41s. 11d.; Beans, 42s. 10d.; Peas, 40s. 6d.

IMPERIAL WEEKLY AVERAGE.—Wheat, 68s. 0d.; Barley, 30s. 6d.; Oats, 25s. 2d.; Rye, 38s. 7d.; Beans, 40s. 8d.; Peas, 39s. 4d.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

OUR report of Leadenhall Market must still be a moderate supply, and dull trade. The quality of all the goods sent, shows the severe weather, and the dearness of food.

Large Fowls	6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. each.
Smaller do.	4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. "
Chickens	3s. 9d., 4s., 4s. 6d. "
Green Geese	8s. 6d. to 9s. 0d. "
Ducklings	5s. 6d. to 6s. 0d. "
Guinea Fowls ...	3s. 0d. to 3s. 3d. "
Wild Ducks	1s. 9d. to 2s. 0d. "
Widgeon	1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. "
Teal	1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. "
Pigeons	1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. "
Rabbits	1s. 6d. to 0s. 0d. "
Wild do.	0s. 10d. to 1s. 0d. "
Larks,	2s. 0d. to 2s. 6d. per doz.

To Correspondents.

Doubtful.—The poultry run described is very small for any kind of fowls, unless they could be allowed to run out into some road or lane. Cochins bear confinement better than any other kind. At the present time the largest sums are realised by Spanish, but it is only for very superior specimens. Spanish chickens are rather difficult to rear.

J. B. P. would be much obliged to any of the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," "who would tell

him whether the true bred owl-pigeon ought to have a turned crown?"

A Subscriber, Taunton.—We have given much consideration to the suggestion of our correspondent, "A Subscriber;" at first we thought the table he proposes would be useful: but on second thoughts, concluded that a table of prize birds might only lead to false impressions, and would neither give a fair view of the most successful stocks, nor indicate their whereabouts; as prize birds seldom leave an exhibition unsold, but are changing hands continually.

W. W. states that a false impression is sometimes given regarding fowls or their eggs, mentioned in advertisements, and that for want of sufficient explanation, two advertisements, inserted by two parties, would sometimes appear to have reference to the very same pen of prize birds. Our correspondent suggests that such apparent inaccuracies might easily be obviated, by the insertion of the short explanatory terms, first prize for "old birds," or "chickens."

A. G.—We will consider the practicability of *A. G.*'s proposal.

A Letter from a Working-Man, and other subjects, next week.

Code of Rules for Judging.—We have made an addition to our contributor's signature, because the one he used was one already appropriated.

Advertisements.

MATTHEW RIDGWAY, Dewsbury, will dispose of EGGS during the season from his prize birds, at the following price per dozen, including package, viz:—

Spanish	£2 2 0
Silver Poland, bearded	1 1 0
Grey Dorkings	1 1 0
Black Bantams	1 1 0
White Pile Game	0 15 0

All Eggs will be sent fresh, and carefully packed; and (to prevent any unpleasantness), under certain conditions, a written guarantee will be given to return the money if the Eggs are unproductive. *M. R.* would respectfully invite parties requiring Eggs to see the stock birds as above.

EGGS.—Hamburgs of all sorts, Pile Game Fowl, Rouen and Aylesbury Ducks, Norfolk Turkeys, from really first-rate prize birds, are now ready, from the yard of the Rev. T. L. FELLOWS, Brighton, Acle, Norfolk. For price, &c., see previous advertisements.

EGGS for Hatching, from First-prize Dorkings. *Mr. HENRY SMITH* will dispose of Eggs during the season from the pen of birds he claimed of the Rev. J. Boys, at Hitchin, for Fifty Guineas; also from Pullets which obtained the 1st and 3rd prizes at the late Birmingham Show, and from others purchased regardless of expense, and which have had first prizes awarded to them at Birmingham, the Great Metropolitan, Reigate, Hitchin, Southwell, Leeds, Malvern, Cambridge, Brighton, &c. The Eggs guaranteed fresh and perfect when packed, which will be done with the utmost care, and sent according to priority of application. Address, The Grove, Cropwell Butler, near Bingham, Notts.

FOR SALE.—Two Pairs of fine Cygnets, hatched in 1854. Apply to Mr. W. BELCHER, Abingdon, Berks.

PRIZE POULTRY.—Mr. J. K. FOWLER, Prebendal Farm, Aylesbury, having been successful during the past season at many of the best Shows, more especially with the Aylesbury Ducks, begs to call the attention of the public to the following advertisement for Eggs during the next spring. The prices named will include the package, and the greatest care will be taken for their safety. The orders will be completed according to priority of application. A Post-office Order must accompany each letter, payable to JOHN K. FOWLER, White Hart Hotel, Aylesbury. Dorkings, per setting of 12, £1 1s.; Spanish, £1 11s. 6d.; Aylesbury Ducks (Aylesbury Silver Cup and Colchester First Prize birds), £2 2s.; Rouen Ducks, £1 11s. 6d. N.B.—Mr. Fowler has a few Drakes and Ducks of his celebrated Aylesbury breed to dispose of at £2 2s. and £1 1s. each.—January 6, 1855.

FOR EXCHANGE, OR SALE, at a very low price, THREE PTARMIGANS, a Cock and Two Pullets, which took the Second Prize at the late Brighton Show. Also a setting of Eggs at 10s. per dozen, from birds which obtained the First Prize at the Fareham Exhibition; they were formerly the property of F. BERNELL, Esq., of Fareham. (See No. 21 of the "Poultry Chronicle.")

MALAYS.—A Pen of Young Malays of the same hatch as those which took First Prize at Norwich; and bred from birds which took Second Prize at Royal Agricultural Society at Lincoln. Price £1 1s. Apply, Rev. A. BELLMAN, Moulton, near Acle.

AN Amateur can part with a few EGGS for Setting, viz., White Cochins (Mrs. Herbert's), short legged, and heavily feathered, 12s. per dozen; or Spanish (Captain Hornby's), perfectly White-faced, £1 1s. a dozen. Both breeds are of the purest description, and have each taken prizes. Address, Miss HARRIS, Mannamead Villas, Plymouth.

B. P. B. is desirous of selling a few Sittings of EGGS from the following breeds: Golden, or Silver-Pencilled Boltons (Hamburgs); Dorkings (White); Black-breasted Red Game; and Buff Shanghais (Cochin Chinas); price 6s. per dozen, including package.

B. P. B. will also dispose of young Dragoon Pigeons during the season, from his excellent Stock, at 5s. per pair. Basket 1s. extra. Apply to BERNARD P. BRENT, Beasel's Green, near Sevenoaks, Kent.

MR. DANIEL HARRISON, of Singleton Park, Kendal, will now dispose of EGGS from his 1st prize Coloured Dorkings, Brahmans, Golden-Pencilled Hamburgs, and Rouen Ducks, at 10s. 6d. per dozen, or 1s. each. Among the Dorkings is included the Cock which took 2nd prize at Birmingham and Manchester, in 1854, in the Single Cock class, and many other prize birds. All the stock are very first-rate, and have been carefully selected from the yards of the most successful breeders. Each set is at a separate walk.

EGGS.—Dorking, Spanish, and Buff Cochins, from really first-rate birds, including 1st prize and Silver Cup birds at Birmingham and Liverpool; to be sold at the yard of Mr. Donne, Oswestry. Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry. Dorking and Spanish Fowls from above birds on sale.

EGGS FROM FIRST PRIZE BIRDS.—Brahma Pootra Cock and Three Pullets, which took first prize at the late Manchester Show, pen No. 311, exhibited by Mrs. Stowe; they are all peacocked and well matched (see "Poultry Chronicle," Jan. 10th, page 445), from Buff Cochins which took third prize at Malvern and first at Bridgnorth and Bedford; the cock was also commended in the single cock class at Birmingham, pen No. 998, from the three Golden Pencilled Hamburg pullets which took first prize at the late Birmingham Show, Pen No. 37, exhibited by Mr. W. Tyler. Eggs from the above three lots can be supplied during the season at 1s. each, and 1s. for packing box. A few Golden and Silver Pencilled Hamburg Fowls for sale.—Post-office Orders, which must accompany the order, to be made payable to THOMAS M'CANN, Graham House, Malvern.

DOULTRY, &c.—Thoulouse Gander, 12s.; Indian Game Pullet, 5s.; Twine Net, 9 yards wide by 9 long, 15s.; Baily's Fountain (largest size), 8s.; Zinc Fender and Water Trough combined, 9s.—or the whole for 40s. Pair of Gold Pheasants, £3 10s. very fine.

Address, Rev. T. PRATER, Middleton, Bicester.

MR. JAMES MONSEY intends to dispose of a limited number of EGGS for setting, from his own prize birds that have taken the number of prizes as follow: Gold and Silver Laced Bantams, 13 prizes; White and Black Bantams, 22 prizes; Silver Poland, 1 Silver Medal and 3 prizes; Game Fowls, 29 prizes. Terms for Eggs: Gold and Silver Laced Bantams £1 1s. per doz.; White Bantams, 10s. 6d. per doz.; Black Bantams, 10s. 6d.; per doz.; Game Fowls of every colour, 10s. 6d. per doz.; first-class Dorking, 15s. per doz.; White-faced Black Spanish, 10s. 6d. per doz. A few first-rate Game fowls, Dorkings, Silver Poland, Black Bantams; also, a few Gold and Silver-Laced Bantams for sale. Address Mr. JAMES MONSEY, Cooper, Thorne Lane, Norwich.

GEORGE BOUTHBY offers EGGS from first class birds at the following moderate prices, viz., Black Spanish, Buff and White Cochins, White Silky Fowl, Silver-Pencilled Hamburgs, Malay, and Dorking, all at 5s. per dozen; Brahma Pootra, &c., and Jet Black Cochins, 7s. 6d. per doz.; and various Poland at 10s. 6d. G. B. has on Sale a Pair of Black Spanish, 21s.; a few very fine Black and White Cochins, hens, and Dorking Cockerels and Pullets, 7s. 6d. each; a Silver Poland Cockerel, 10s. 6d.; and Gray Poland do. 7s. 6d.; also a lovely set of White Ptarmigans, erect crests, and profusely booted, 20 and a half Guineas.

Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire.

THREE BRAMAH POOTRA COCKERELS, bred from Mr. Baily's celebrated stock, for Sale, price 15s. each. Also Bramah Pootra Eggs, from prize kinds, same strain, 12s. per dozen. Apply to J. H. CLIFFE, Twegwonch Villa, near Gloucester.

LORD EDWIN HILL has a few Settings of Black Spanish Eggs to dispose of, from his prize birds, at £1 1s. per dozen; also six Black Spanish Cocks for sale. Apply **F. BLACKALL**, Norwood Park, Southwell, Notts.

DUCKWING GAME COCK FOR SALE. Bred from first prize birds, has golden hackle and blue legs; age 12 months. Price 13s. Apply to **Mr. JNO. F. MORTIMER**, Mill Street, Plymouth.

SUPERIOR DORKINGS FOR SALE. The **Rev. J. Boys**, Biddenden, Kent, has Dorking Cocks and Pullets for sale, closely related to his prize birds, having taken at eight consecutive exhibitions sixteen 1st prizes, and on one occasion, having had a pen claimed for Fifty Guineas. The breeding stock for the present season have been carefully selected from more than 500 home-bred birds. Eggs at £2 2s. per dozen.

MR. C. M. MOTTRAM will sell Eggs from his Prize Black Breasted Game Bantams at last Cambridge Show, 1s. each. Also from his Buff and Cinnamon Cochins, China Fowls, Prize Birds at the last Colchester Show, 1s. each. Also from Buenos Ayres Ducks, 1st prize at last Norwich Show, at 1s. each; and from Large White-faced Spanish, at 1s. each. A few Pullets and Cockerels of the above breeds for sale. 1s. charged for package. **N.B.** Dorking Eggs, Speckled and Gray, at 5s. per dozen, from very large birds.

MR. JOSEPH TATE can supply EGGS from his celebrated prize stock of White-faced Spanish, having in addition to his own, the entire stock of the late **Mr. Barry**, of Preston; also the entire stock of **Mr. Parsons**, of Cuedon. **J. T.**, having taken great pains in breeding and selecting his stock, can confidently recommend them as first-class birds. Terms, Two Guineas per dozen. He can supply a few settings of Eggs from his celebrated Brahma Pootra Fowls, at One Guinea per Dozen. Address, 9, Syke Hill, Preston, Lancashire, where the birds may be seen.

EGGS FOR SETTING.—**MR. THOMAS COLLIS**, of Boston, Lincolnshire, will be happy to supply his brother amateurs with settings of Eggs from his choice stock of Gold and Silver-pencilled Hambros, Dorkings, Silver-pencilled Polands, and Cochins, at the very low price of 10s. 6d. per seat of 13. **Mr. Collis** gives the word of a gentleman that the Eggs sent may be depended upon.

FIRST-RATE COLOURED DORKINGS. The owner, having to change his residence in May, will Part with EGGS from his Stock Birds; consisting of Four beautiful Pullets, from seven and a quarter to seven and three quarters pounds each; own sisters to 1st prize and to "highly commended" chickens at Birmingham; and a Cock, with black breast and silver hackle, which gained 2nd prize at Birmingham, 30s. per dozen, including box. Also a few Cockerels and Pullets, 15s. each. Apply to **Rev. HERBERT S. HAWKINS**, Henny Rectory, Sudbury, Suffolk.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS, from one of the earliest imported and most successful prize stocks in the kingdom, at one guinea per couple. Eggs from prize birds of the same breed, at 1s. per dozen.—Apply to **W. C. G.**, Sandbach, Cheshire.

SAMUEL HARROP, 13, Cooper Street, Manchester, Bird and Animal Preserver to the Manchester Museum, will have Black Spanish EGGS for Sale during the season, at £1 10s. the Setting, which includes the box and packing. The stock is the property of an Amateur, who has taken first and second prizes in 1854, at all the Shows where he has exhibited, including Holmfirth, Harrogate, Birmingham, and Manchester. The birds have been carefully penned for breeding, and are first-class birds, with large White Faces and Large Bodies. The Stock can be seen, and further particulars will be given by applying as above.

N.B.—**S. HARROP** begs to inform purchasers, that the Eggs will be forwarded, carefully packed according to the dates of the orders, and a private seal will be placed on each box before leaving the yard.

PILE GAME FOWLS. A few Seats of EGGS from these very first class birds may be had in rotation; they have been bred for the last six years from the best strains that can be produced, but never exhibited; they cannot be surpassed for beauty and courage. Also from Black-breasted Reds and Duckwings, the prize birds at Colchester and Cambridge, price 15s. per dozen. Apply to **Mr. F. W. RUST**, Stowmarket, Suffolk.

SPANISH COCK FOR SALE.—Selected by advertiser from **Mr. Poole's** yard. Is a first-class bird, in perfect health; his face white to the comb, and as a stock bird, invaluable. Price £2 2s., worth £10. Parted with solely for want of room. Address **DELTA**, 143, Strand.

SERAI TÁOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan. A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 2s. for Nine. **BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS** from First-rate Pea-Combed mature birds, at 2s. the Dozen. Apply to **Miss E. WATTS**, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

PURE WHITE-FACED SPANISH FOWLS' EGGS; One Pound for Thirteen. **C. JONES**, 51, Bridge Street, Birkenhead.

CANARY COLOURED COCHINS.—Clear hackle and buff tail feathers, Eggs 9s. per dozen; from Vulture-hooked ditto, 12s. per dozen. Address **H. W. COLLINSON**, 47, Castle Street, Southwark.

CANARY AND CINNAMON COLOURED COCHINS.—EGGS from clear hackled feather legged birds, running with a white Cochins cock, at 8s. 6d. the setting of 13; guaranteed fresh and pure. Also to be sold or exchanged for a good Buff or Cinnamon Pullet, a Partridge-coloured Cock, of the original "Punchard" breed, 2 years old, very short legged and compact. Also Partridge Pullets, now laying, at 8s. 6d. each, or three for 21s. box or basket included. Address, **R. O.**, 7, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

MR. JOHN R. RODBARD, of Aldwick Court, Langford, near Bristol, has Eggs to part with from prize stock during the season: Spanish at £1 15s. 6d.; White Cochins China, at £1 1s.; Buff do., at 10s.; Partridge do., at 6s. per Dozen. Black-breasted Red Game, from birds that have taken nine first prizes; and Grey Do. Silvery Game, from birds that have taken 16 prizes; and Black Bantams at £1 1s. per Dozen. Post-office Order made payable at Wrington.

FIRST PRIZE AT BIRMINGHAM OF SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURGS, (pen 160). A few sets of their Eggs at 21s. per dozen, including the box. Each egg will be marked with the date on which it was laid, and may be relied on as from the identical fowls, the owner having no other Hamburgs.

White Peruvian Musk Ducks with Black Crests.—The whole of the plumage is of the purest white except the crest, which is jet black, and are believed to be the only birds of this variety in the kingdom. They are highly ornamental and excellent for the table, attaining a large size at three to four months old. A Drake and two Ducks, about 8 months old, 3 guineas; and Eggs 21s. per dozen. Three very good White-Faced Spanish Hens, at 21s. each. Apply to Mr. J. BUCKLEY, Penyfal House, Llanclly, Carmarthen-shire.

BLACK COCHIN EGGS for Sitting, 15s. per dozen. From first prize birds at Manchester, pen 299; and from first prize birds at Keighley, pen 165. Apply to HENRY BUTLER, Manufacturing Chemist, Shelf, near Halifax.

WANTED, a Pure Buff Cochins China COCK, of large size, with short heavily-feathered legs, and good in all points. For a bird that is approved of, a fair price will be given.
Address, R. S., Post Office, Hereford.

FOR SALE.—Pure Brown Single-Comb Dorking Eggs, £1 1s. per dozen. Coloured do. do., 10s. 6d. per dozen. Peu-combed Brahmans £1 1s. per dozen. Single do. do. 10s. 6d. per dozen. Many of the above are prize birds. Apply Rev. F. THURSBY, Abington, Northampton.

HAMBURG AND GAME FOWLS, &c. EGGS from the Yard of the Rev. T. L. FELLOWS will be sold during the spring. These birds gained twenty-five prizes in 1853; and prizes have been taken in 1854, at Birmingham (3), Cambridge, Norwich, Colchester, &c. Mr. Fellowes' Pile Game Fowls took 1st prizes at Birmingham in 1853; Metropolitan, 1854: Bath, 1854, &c. Aylesbury and Rouen Ducks, 1st prizes at Norwich, &c. Black Norfolk Turkeys, 2nd prize at Norwich. The following rates will be charged, including box and packing. Hamburgs of each class, 12s. per dozen. Game Fowls, 15s. per dozen. Aylesbury and Rouen Ducks, £1 11s. 6d. per dozen. Norfolk Turkeys, £1 11s. 6d. per dozen. 1 Pen (Cock and 2 Pullets), of good birds of each class of Hamburgs now on Sale. Brighton Rectory, Acle, Norfolk.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market London.

EGGS from the **WHITE COCHIN CHINA CHICKENS** that gained 1st prize at the last Birmingham Show, and from their parents. These birds produced 1st prize chickens at Bath, Plymouth, Taunton, and Birmingham, £1 1s. the dozen. Apply with Post-office Order to JOHN DAY, Northbrook, Exeter.

EGGS FROM THE YARD OF MR. H. D., DAVIES, are now on SALE.—The following is the rate of charges, which includes box and packing.

	The Setting.	
	£	s. d.
Dorking	2	2 0
Spanish	2	2 0
Brahma	2	2 0
Rangoon	3	3 0
White Cochins	1	11 6
White Aylesbury Ducks	1	11 6
Toulouse Geese	2	2 0

Mr. H. D. Davies, having had the advantage of selecting from the best Spanish birds of Mr. Rake's yard, will now dispose of two or three of his Adult Spanish, all prize birds.

Also a few Spanish and Dorking Chickens of all ages for sale.

Remittances, by Post-office Order, to be made payable to GEORGE KEEBLE, the Bailiff, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, where the birds may be seen.

FOWLS by JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest, Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a Chapter on the Bramah Pootra Fowl, the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s., or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or, Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Paternoster Row.

EGGS FOR SETTING, all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:

Dorkings, Brahma Pootra (Pencilled and Light). Spanish (Rake's), Cochins, Buff and White. Hambros, Gold and Silver Pencilled and Spangled; Polish and Bantams.

Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers. Pheasants and Partridges' eggs in any numbers. All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.

JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

GOLDEN-PENCILLED HAMBRO' EGGS. Mr. J. HOWARD will dispose of a few settings of Eggs, from his prize pen of the above bred, which took the First Prize as Chickens at Birmingham, 1853; Second Prize as Fowls, at Birmingham, 1854; First Prize as Fowls, at Doncaster, 1855; being the only places at which this pen has been shown. Price 21s. per dozen, packed. Apply THOMAS SHEPPARD, Saint Mary, Bedford. Wanted, Three good Partridge, or Grouse Cochins Pullets.

WANTED.—A Spanish COCK of 1854. He must be of first-rate quality. Address to H. HIGGS, Hill Lodge, Southampton, stating price, pedigree, full description of comb, face, figure, and feather.

By
HER MAJESTY'S

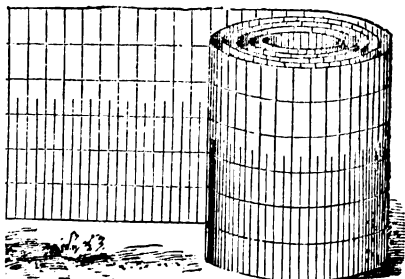


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POULTRY SHOW.—Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham Society for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry. The Great Annual Exhibition of this Society will be held on Wednesday and Thursday in Easter Week, (April 11 and 12), in the Corn Exchange, Newcastle. The Prize List is now ready, and may be had of the Honorary Secretaries,

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WILLIAM TROTTER, Bywell.

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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.

"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,600, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d., have been received for new premiums.

"These items, when compared with the business of the preceding year, display an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

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HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 57.]

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1855.

[PRICE 3D.

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Poultry Shows.

Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham at the Corn Exchange, Newcastle, April 11th and 12th. Honorary Secretaries, J. S. Chal-loner, Esq., and W. Trotter, Esq., of Bywell. Entries close March 31st. (No. 56)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thurs-day, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st. (No. 52)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries close June 1st. (No. 57)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricul-tural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,

and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48)

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Com-mitees 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, Hamp-stead." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

WE are daily expecting that some of our readers or contributors will compile and publish tables giving accurate data, by which the real profit of any given breed may not only be ascertained but depended upon.

The most useful part of a subject is not unfrequently that which is least studied. It has fewer charms, and offers less distinction; while it would be easy to find twenty writers who would describe all the points and qualities necessary for success in an exhibition pen, and who would pro-

duce proof of all they assert, we are still in want of authenticated statistics as to the relative profits of the different breeds.

As we believe there will be little difference of opinion as to the best table fowl, we will confine ourselves to eggs on this occasion. The millions imported into this country, make it an important subject. The first question is, which fowl will produce the greatest number in a year? Next, which consumes the least food? Third, which lays the largest egg?

The idea that an egg is an egg is no longer entertained. He who has been accustomed to the Spanish will hardly be content with the small Hambro'.

We know that housekeepers in some parts of the country are trying to buy them by weight. Deficiency of size is a constant complaint. Now if a table were compiled, and a good account kept, these questions might be settled to the satisfaction of all parties, and curious facts would be elicited. It would be in strict keeping with the utilitarian and business-like spirit of the age. This will be rather the work of an amateur than a trader. We believe the love of poultry to pervade all classes, and to number among its votaries men of every pursuit and capability. We appeal to some of these, hoping that the hint we have thrown out will be taken up, and that the junction of talent in the amateur, with the practical knowledge of the old breeder and connoisseur, will provide us tables which may help those who have neither ability nor leisure to make them for themselves.

If any doubt the utility of such enquiry, we would only ask them to refer to the

numbers imported yearly into England. WE FEEL STRONGLY ON THE SUBJECT, BECAUSE THE PRESENT INTEREST IN POULTRY WILL FAIL IN UTILITY IF IT DOES NOT INCREASE OUR SUPPLY OF FOOD IN EVERY SHAPE. Everywhere but in England eggs enter into the consumption of the poorer classes, and if by following the subject and by proving they can be produced and sold at a low rate, per pound, cheap enough to allow an occasional treat to the poor, or at least to place them within reach of the needy invalid, and yet that such low rate shall be remunerative to the producer, we are sure that no one will feel his time wasted in helping to bring about such a result.

The Poultry Yard.

MARCH 28.

WINTER seems to have left us: bright, hopeful Spring has taken its place: our feathered stock, no longer moping under sheds for shelter from the bitterness of the wind, are wandering forth, making delicious repasts on worms, grubs, and slugs, and the amateur may also wander forth with pleasure to take a good look round his stock, where, as the reward of care and attention during the trying months that are past, he may have the gratification of seeing health and prosperity reign.

The houses are all white and bright from the limewash brush, the runs new gravelled, or otherwise renewed on the surface, palings and fences repaired and kept good and the different families of fowls (carefully kept distinct for the last several months) are producing a good supply of eggs *on which the owner can depend* at this season when they have so great a value in the fancier's eyes; many are being brooded, and in large stocks chickens and young

broods of various kinds are becoming numerous.

At the risk of repeating the same thing many times, we must say once more, take especial care of the breeding stock, and of the fences which keep them within bounds, or the most mortifying uncertainty in their progeny will ensue. It is desirable as nearly as possible to know the very fowls from which the little ones are bred, especially in the case of those which will be required to renew the stock at home, to prevent the future chances of mating relations. As far, therefore, as a due regard to the freshness of the eggs will permit, we would set several eggs from one hen, and rather mix two distinct kinds than set at the same time eggs from two families of one kind of fowl; in which case we are almost sure to lose sight of their identity as they grow up.

The early broods, now fast getting covered with feathers, require great care and good feeding. In making at the same time growth and feathers, they have much to do, and may have wheat and other good changes of food, but avoid spoiling their natural appetite by pampering it too much: never throw down more than one kind of food at one time; let them be fed often, and take care that they are not too thickly housed at night.

When the weather becomes mild and settled, there is no plan under which chickens thrive better than what we may call camping out. Place the hen under a coop with a good water-tight top, boarded back and sides, and barred front, and there let her remain day and night. Change the place of the coop three times a-day or more, according to whether the ground on which it stands gets soiled or not. We had many chickens last year thus reared upon the grass, which were never housed until after the Birmingham show; until, in fact, they could no longer pack in the coops, and the severity of the nights occasioned fear that they might suffer from the frost. A handy working carpenter, living within a few minutes' walk of our house, makes the

coops for five shillings, and we would, with pleasure, give his address to any one who might wish for it. Where hen-house room is limited, the advantages of cooping out are manifold, as it avoids the necessity of crowding the houses at the time when crowding is most injurious.

The newer eggs for setting are the better. They will hatch at a month old, and perhaps staler than that; but with a view to fine thriving chicks, we should be sorry to set them when more than a week old. It is well known that eggs which are set on from the moment they are laid, often hatch a day earlier than those which have been removed from the nest, which must show strength in the chick, and therefore we advise eggs for setting to be given very new.

SUMMARY.—See that the stock, and their houses and runs are all in good order. Take means to ensure knowing the parentage of the young stock. Feed growing chickens WELL, take care that they have pure air in their houses, and when the weather shall permit, coop out the mother hens. Choose fresh eggs for setting.

Schedule of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Class.	DORKINGS.			
	1st. s.	2nd. s.	3rd. s.	4th. s.
1. Chickens of 1854, Cock and two Pullets	100	60	40	20
2. More than a year old, Cock and two Hens...	100	60	40	20
3. Cocks; of any age	40	20		
SPANISH.				
4. Cock and two Hens	100	60	40	20
5. Cocks; of any age	40			
COCHIN CHINA.				
6. Chickens of 1854.....	100	60	40	20
7. Cocks; of any age	40			
BRAHMA POOTRA.				
8. Cock and two Hens, or Pullets	60			
GAME FOWLS.				
9. Cock and two Hens	100	40	20	
10. Cocks; of any age	40			

Class.	HAMBURGS.		
	1st. s.	2nd. s.	3rd. s.
11. Golden Pencilled, Cock and two Hens	40	20	
12. Silver Pencilled, Cock and two Hens	40	20	
13. Golden Spangled, Cock and two Hens	40	20	
14. Silver Spangled, Cock and two Hens	40	20	
MALAY FOWLS.			
15. Cock and two Hens	40	20	
POLAND FOWLS.			
16. Cock and two Hens	60	40	20
TURKEYS.			
17. Turkey Cock and two Hens.....	60	40	20
GEESE.			
18. Gander and two Geese...	60	40	20
DUCKS.			
19. Aylesbury Drake and two Ducks	60	40	20
20. Rouen Drake and two Ducks	60	40	20
ANY OTHER VARIETY.			
21. Drake and two Ducks ...	40	20	

REGULATIONS FOR THE POULTRY DEPARTMENT.

- Members of the Society to pay 2s. 6d., and non-members 5s. on each pen.
- All pens will be disqualified if the plumage of the birds shall have been trimmed, removed, or otherwise tampered with.
- Proper persons will be appointed by the Society to attend to and feed the birds sent without a servant in charge.
- After the show, the Society's men only will be allowed to remove the birds from the pens, and place them in the baskets.
- In all cases the birds will only be given up on the production of 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.
- In no case will the Society be responsible for the safety of either the birds or the packages. (For further particulars see page 82).

Cross Breeding.

THE remarks of "A Cotswold Farmer," in No. 51 of the "Poultry Chronicle," in-

duce me to offer a few suggestions on that subject, for I believe there are certain cases where it may tend to good results; but at the same time I would express disapprobation of it as a system, which would in the majority of cases prove disastrous, and highly detrimental. It would doubtless be a difficult task to prove the positive purity of any one of our best breeds; but all such established breeds that have been bred true for a succession of years, and consequently re-produce their like without much variation, I consider to have established their right to be designated as pure breeds, whatever may have been their supposed primitive origin.

In crossing colours, I have noticed that the produce mostly reverses the colours (in the first cross), the pullets taking after their sire, and the stags approximating that of their mother; and also, that the purest or longest established variety influences the colours most.

The utility of cross breeding is to improve a breed in either size or constitution, when that is not to be produced by other means; but I am of the opinion, that the introduction of fresh blood will, in nearly every case, produce the desired end in a few generations, if care is taken to keep two or three strains of the same variety, and judiciously breed them, so as to have a continual supply of strong healthy birds not in the least related; but this is in general too troublesome for amateurs of restricted limits.

I quite agree with "A Cotswold Farmer," that "the male gives the frame and outward character, and the female the vital parts, to their offspring." This idea is quite in keeping with the old cocker's maxim to look to the hen, as a game hen of the true breed with a dunghill cock will produce staunch birds; but the produce of an inferior hen with the best game cock are not to be trusted, therefore I do not agree with "P. P.," and "Multum in Parvo," as to the use of the game cock. I should advise the cross, if it is desired to increase the stamina of the breed, to be introduced

on the hen's side and kept there. The fowl of all others that I should advise to be improved, is the pure White Dorking; which I consider would be preferable to all others as a generally useful fowl, particularly for the farmer: and if brought to equal weight would far supersede its coloured Sussex neighbour, from the enhanced value of its feathers, and if bred to the true Dorking standard, would take precedence of that fowl as fancy stock also.

The cross that seems to me the most likely of success would be that of the White Malay, and White Shanghae; or a light coloured Brahma Pootra hen, where both the preceding crosses may be suspected.

The Malay hen might be matched with a light coloured Scotch Bakey or Dumpey cock; and the Shanghae or Brahma with a White Dorking. The produce of these two crosses should be bred together, a cockerel from the first with pullets of the second, and *vice versa*; by which means I consider the hardness of both maternal parents, Malay and Shanghae, or Brahma; and the compactness of the paternal parents, Bakey and Dorking, would be instilled into this second cross, the best and most promising pullets of which should be mated with the best and stoutest procurable White Dorking cocks; and with careful breeding, and selecting to avoid yellowness of legs or skin, and preserve the Dorking model, compact form, full breast, rose comb, short white legs, five toes, and a deep parallelogram form of body, I think a much improved Dorking would be the result; and in a few years no outward trace of the cross would be perceptible, and the birds might rank as pure as the generality of our breeds.

To make a fowl a popular variety it must be large, hardy, prolific, and white, not only in legs and skin, but also in flesh and feathers; and I am persuaded all these can be obtained by careful and attentive breeding.

A prejudice exists to white fowls; I believe it to be ill-founded. Albinos are

undoubtedly weakly. Dark breeds if allowed to degenerate, produce light coloured and weakly stock. Many breeders of white fowls, like other careless amateurs, allow their stock to degenerate from want of introducing fresh blood, and thus probably the prejudice has arisen; but I have yet to learn, that an established white race is less hardy than a coloured one, if properly bred. White is considered to resist the changes of heat and cold more effectually than other colours, an isolated example of which I may give: that a White Dorking hen in my yard has laid all through this severe weather without interruption, which I cannot say of any other of my fowls, though I have had both Shanghaes and Boltons laying.

B. P. B.

Spangled Hamburgs.

“Hereby hangs a tail.”

THE question should not remain in abeyance. It should be settled whether a cock is a cock or not. Whether he shall possess the attributes of his sex, or whether his excellence shall be meted by his similarity in plumage to a hen. It is only of late years that there has been any discussion on the point. During the first three years of Poultry Shows, these birds were seen only to be disqualified. A desire then arose to exhibit a bird which should catch the judges' eyes, and carry off prizes, and for this purpose a cross with the Sebright was carried out to get beauty of colour and distinct markings. The penalty has to be paid—hen tails, absence of hackle and saddle, and, quite as important, lacing instead of spangling, have testified to the presence of foreign blood. Every one knows how easy it is to introduce crosses, how difficult to get rid of them. Few try experiments judiciously. An attempt should be made with a few, lest the change turn out the reverse of an improvement, but when it has pervaded the whole yard what is to be done? Ask what is wanted, and demand rules for guidance. Many of our best judges, Messrs. Lawley,

Pulleine, Hewitt, Andrews, Bailly, Symonds, have positively declared for full tails, our best exhibitors show them, and even the advocates of hen tails declare them bad birds to breed from, and uncertain stock-getters. Let us, then, go back to our old perfect cocks, let them have good tails, and all the appearance of their sex. Let us seek to exhibit and breed such birds as those that took the silver cup at Liverpool in January last. Let not any of the advocates of "heny cocks" imagine they are accused of mal-practices by the writer of this article. Nothing more is intended than the object set forth, viz., to endeavour to settle a disputed point, and one which, it must be apparent to all, is productive of trouble to judges, and discontent to exhibitors. X.

A New Version of Alnaschar's Reverie.

THE master of a labouring man gave him as a proof of his approbation, a valuable Dorking hen. As the stock from which she sprung had been invariably successful, it was fair to suppose her produce would be the same. In the days of yore, although it was said, and the assertion was successfully put to the proof, that a hen would earn more money in the year than a sheep, yet the utmost sum was but a pound or two, and however useful and welcome such a sum might be, it was not enough to justify extravagant notions. Now, however, the case was different.

The goodman sat by his fire-side, and thus thought to himself.

From the eggs she lays, set by herself and another, I shall rear twenty chickens. I will feed them and tend them myself. I will put by the best for the great show at Birmingham. I will exhibit the others at four shows, they will take first prizes everywhere. I will only put six guineas on each pen. They will be sold. The prize-money will pay every expense they have put me to. Then I will, with my best, win the Silver Cup at Birmingham,

and sell my birds for twenty guineas. I shall have forty pounds. I will take the Five Acres, and buy a cow and two pigs. I shall have nine fowls left. I will sell them at five pounds each, and advertise the eggs of the others at thirty shillings the dozen. I shall be my own master.

"Father," shouted a little curly-headed boy, "that nasty hen has taken my bread and butter."

"Throw something at her, Billy," said the father, continuing his pleasant dream.

"Oh, look!" shouted the frightened child, after hurling a large stone.

The father did so, and the sight of the hen in the agonies of death at once dispelled his dream.

Crested Fowls.

NO. II.

THE Saint Jago family of crested fowls is the next I wish to draw attention to: but as naturalists generally have fallen into an error in confusing this breed with the "Gallus Giganteus," or Malay, it will be necessary first to mention, and then correct this error by reminding my readers, that the "Gallus Giganteus," is a native of Sumatra, Java, and the Malay peninsula, and is not a crested fowl, but is considered as the wild original of the breed known among us as the Malay. But the St. Jago fowl, as its name denotes, was brought from the West Indies, most probably by the Spanish or Portuguese, who have so named above twenty places in the west, though I am not aware of one St. Jago in the east.

The originals of this class were doubtless, the Black-crested white fowl, which Mr. Richardson says "is indeed, to all appearance, the uncontaminated descendant of the great fowl of St. Jago." These are very fine, large-bodied fowls, of a pure white plumage, and bearing on their heads, in place of a comb, a very large and handsome globular topknot of black feathers; they have no beard, and the legs are clean, and of a leaden-blue

colour. This variety is at present the desideratum of many fanciers, but though extinct in England, and perhaps nearly so on the continent, yet I hope it will be retrieved ere it is too late. I have myself seen only four individuals of this breed; the first were a cock and hen, some twenty years back, in Leadenhall Market; next a hen in the poultry market at Coblenz, on the Rhine, in 1843; and lastly, an old hen at a boat-builder's, near St. Omer, France, in 1845. So that I see no reason to doubt that if diligent search were to be made, this splendid breed might yet be recovered in all its purity and magnificence. Should however, the continent not yield the desired birds, then we must seek them in the homes of their fathers, one of the twenty St. Jago's, in South America, the West Indies, or the southern parts of North America. The second variety of this breed is the White-crested black: this is supposed to be descended from the first, perhaps with a slight dash of Spanish blood; they are beautiful fowls of large size, first-class layers, plumage of a raven black, with large white topknots, no comb, or beard, and clean, dark slate-coloured legs. This is generally considered a well-known variety; but nevertheless, good specimens are exceedingly scarce; the common White-crested black Polands bearing about the same relation to the pure stock, that the Ptarmigans do to the Sultan's fowls. There are two sub-varieties of this fowl; the quite White, and the Blue with white crest.

The third variety of the St. Jago fowls is that most beautiful of the class, the true Spangled-crested fowl; they are, however, nearly lost, and if not soon brought to public notice, must be classed only as the by-gones. I have not seen any for some years, and believe them only to be procurable in Ireland. The most accurate description of them that I have met with, is that of Mr. Richardson, who so well understood the different varieties of crested fowls, though I am sorry to see that in later editions of his work some would-be

connoisseur has endeavoured to improve it by adding fashionable blunders. Mr. Richardson's description is as follows: "The Spangled Polish is a bird of extraordinary beauty, extremely scarce, and very difficult to be procured. This fowl presents a symmetrical and regular combination of the following colours, viz., a bright *orange*, a clear *white*, a brilliant *green*, and a jetty *black*, softened down with a rich pure brown, every feather being tipped with white, so as to produce the effect whence has been derived the term of Spangled. The colour of the hen is a prevailing golden yellow, with *white spangles*, like the cock. In the cock the thighs are black, and are likewise, though in a less degree marked and spangled with black and golden yellow. The hinder end of the body is furnished with green and orange brown hackles, and the tail is carried well up. The flesh of these birds is of good quality, and they are very prolific."

This bird has no comb nor beard, the top-knot is *white*, and the legs clean, and of a bluish slate-colour; it is a true St. Jago, and must not be confounded with the fowls commonly shown as Spangled Polish, which belong to the family of crested Hamburgs, there is however a cross breed sometimes met with between the two, sometimes bearded, sometimes not, and with more or less white in the crests.

B. P. B.

Matching Dorkings.

THE Rev. Mr. Boys—a good authority in Dorkings—says, you should not look for colour in them, but for size, symmetry, and early maturity. Hundreds bear an unconscious testimony to this truth, when on asking a judge, as a friend, why a pen did not take a prize, they are told because there is one bad hen and two good ones, they say I have a much better at home, but she did not *quite* match.

That perfect similarity of feather is quite possible was shown at Birmingham by Mr.

Smith and Lord Berwick ; the birds belonging to the latter were in most judges' opinion the handsomest, and most stylish pen of birds ever exhibited, but they lacked the size necessary for success in that terrible ordeal. My object in writing is to testify against the idea that the most positive sameness of feather is required to constitute a winning pen. Where an exhibitor is fortunate enough to find it, he is sure to catch the judge's eye, but unless they have more sterling qualities they will fail when the eye is replaced by the hand. Another mistake is to make them very fat, and consequently heavy. Frame will always tell before fat. Our advice then to intended competitors in these noble birds is, choose them with large frames, good legs, clear five claws, show them in capital running condition, and match them as near as possible. If precisely alike so much the better, but if you have a choice of difficulties choose the least, and rather deviate in feather than lack the more sterling and telling properties of the breed. B.

Brahmas Again.

My short notice of the Brahmas, and Brahma decisions at Birmingham, has evoked such a host of able and veteran champions in the poultry lists, that it would be injudicious and conceited in me to pursue the subject much further. Yet I must say that I hope the discussion will not be cut short, by some one calling out "hold hard, we have had enough about the Brahmas;" for how can we have had enough of any subject when all is conflicting, doubtful; or, to use the very mildest term, unsatisfactory.

To give a time-honoured quotation may be voted pedantry—to give my own opinion may be called the act of an empty-headed coxcomb; but as most of us allow that facts are stubborn things, you shall read an observation that I heard when standing before the said pens of Brahmas at Birmingham. The speaker was a gentleman who has spent large sums in poultry,

although he may not have exhibited to the extent that others have done; and he has facilities second to none for importing birds from America, of which he has availed himself; and at the same time he is one of those rare specimens of the *genus homo*, that are more inclined to throw the veil of charity over his neighbour's poultry than his own. Well, this was his remark,—“What! are these now become the fashion? Why I have killed and eaten lots such, and have saved the wrong birds.”

Now, granting that the prizes were awarded properly, does not this single remark show that an uniform standard is required for an exhibitor to know what to breed up to; that such a devoutly to be wished-for consummation may be realised, I shall be happy to add my subscription to that of your correspondent “treble A.” Let no one suppose the remark here furnished is the offspring of my own brain, for should there be one single sceptic, let him write to the Editor of the “Poultry Chronicle,” and I will furnish the Editor with the name and address of the gentleman; and if this should not suffice, I will do all in my power to persuade him to verify the fact in print: but on this point I cannot promise, having never either seen, heard of him, or from him since the Birmingham Show.

Some weeks ago “Observer” was classed with the Brahmaites, nor would he wish to be in better company, that is if they would admit him; but as Dr. Johnson said, “a man could not be called an ironmonger because he bought and sold a penknife;” it seems that “Observer’s” claim to that honourable distinction rests upon very slender pretensions indeed: that some of your kind readers may be in a position to decide the important point, you shall be furnished with the data. A friend of “Observer’s” gave him some Brahma eggs, and they produced chickens; some (alas for the callousness of man’s heart) he fed, and petted, and devoured; three he gave to a friend, and the remnant are still in his possession; and he has neither

bought nor sold a Brahma nor a Brahma egg hitherto; albeit, conceit whispers in his ear, "you know a little about Brahmas,"—to which some, perhaps many, of your readers may echo, "aye, a very little." Well, so let it be, for as he has no special advocate retained for him, judgment shall go by default. "W. C. G." has thrown down the gauntlet, and in the future arrangement of terms (if his challenge is accepted), let me beg of him not to abate one jot of his conditions relative to amateur judges and umpires.

Some one wrote rather wittily upon the subject of amateur and dealer judges, "I am a dealer, thou art a dealer, &c., &c.," and yet to my mind the matter was left (perhaps designedly) in the same unsatisfactory position as before; perhaps it may not be in my power to show the line of demarcation, so with the Editor's permission you shall have a little bit of autobiography.

I, Mr. Clodhopper Observer, am known to all my friends as a farmer and grazier; that is, I buy seed-corn when it is required, and sell the greater part of the corn grown on the farm. I breed the greater part of my stock of all descriptions, frequently buying an animal or two to improve the breed; and when from accident, or any unforeseen circumstance, I have not bred a sufficient quantity, I buy more; when fat they are all sold,—yet no one ever called me a cattle-dealer. My neighbour, Mr. Wideawake Sharp, makes a point of attending as many fairs and markets as he can; if I give him a shilling per head he will buy me a flock of sheep, or if I give him ten shillings per head he will purchase me a lot of beasts; but he mainly depends for his living upon buying stock as cheaply as he can, and then selling again for as much as he can,—but no one ever called him a farmer and grazier; he is called a cattle-dealer by everybody else, as well as by
OBSERVER.

RED CAPS.—The Red Caps, a breed imported from England, weigh, when full

grown—hens four and a half to six pounds, cocks seven to nine. Their combs are very large, and invariably of the shape called rose. To such a size do these combs or caps grow, that they are often obliged to be cut in order that the bird may see to eat. I have known them to weigh four and a half ounces after they are taken off. The ground colour of the fowls is yellowish, marked with black, resembling the Golden Laced Sebrights. They seldom desire to sit, and other hens should be kept, in order to hatch their eggs. As layers in the summer season they are unsurpassed, and in addition, are most beautiful in appearance.—*American Agriculturist.*

BRAHMA POOTRAS AND GREY SHANGHAI.—The following is from the pen of one of the most celebrated Brahma breeders in the United States. "As regards Grey Shanghais and Brahma Pootras, I think there is a great difference between the two; I have raised them both for several years, and greatly prefer the Brahmas. They lay a third larger egg than the Shanghais, and are the best fowl for any one desiring eggs in the winter. Their eggs sometimes weigh from three to four and a half ounces each, whereas those of the Shanghais seldom reach over two or two and a half ounces. The Brahmas, I think, will lay a greater weight of eggs in a year than any fowls I am acquainted with; I have bred fowls for over twenty years, and there are none I like better than these. They have improved in size since I first obtained them; this I think is owing to my changing the cock every year, which I am very particular to do. I have disposed of most of my stock this year."

Columbary.

No. IV.—THE MONK PIGEON.

THE Monk is another of the Toys but rarely seen in this country; the few I have seen exhibited had the spangled shoulders

of the Suabian cross, and were shown by the names of "Ermine Bald-heads," or "Saxons." They are known in Germany as "Die Mönch Taube" (*Monk Pigeons*), from a fancied resemblance of their white head to the shaven pate of a monk.

This variety is also slightly larger than the common dove house-pigeon; they are smooth headed, the feet are short and heavily feathered, the irides are dark, they have broad breasts and backs; but are not so quick and active as the foregoing. In markings they resemble our Baldheaded Tumblers; the head, tail, flight, rump, thighs, and feathers on the feet are white, the rest of the body being either black, blue, red, or yellow; sometimes the black and blue Monks have white wing bars, which are still more rare in the red and yellows; the blues, as before-mentioned, are also occasionally spangled on the whole of the shoulder. Great attention is required to breed them of accurate markings; or, like all other Toys, they become valueless if they lose their only property,—feather.

B. P. B.

CRESTED PIGEON.



A CORRESPONDENT has sent us the above out of a crested pigeon, of which he gives the following account. "This curious

pigeon is alive, and in my possession. It is a pure-bred bald-pate, of which it has the properties, viz., clean cut, pearl-eyed, clean thighed, and ten aside. It is the only one in the world, and is a cock bird. Several competent judges have seen it, and consider it a freak of nature; but whatever it is, it is a wonder. Several of my friends wish me to breed from it, to get more, but of this I am doubtful. I had the woodcut done the size to fit your columns.

"W. WOODHOUSE.

"Mansfield Street, Kingsland Road."

PIGEON QUERIES.

"J. H. R.'s" (Jersey) question respecting Rolling Tumblers, I am not able satisfactorily to answer; but from all I can learn they are only those birds that tumble very much, and known as Dutch Tumblers, but are not much esteemed by the flying fanciers on account of their falling so much that they bring down the flights. If Rollers are not the same as what are here called Dutch, and in Germany "Hollanders," I must plead ignorance of them.

In answer to "J. B. P.'s" question respecting the Owl Pigeon, I have only to say, the original owls were undoubtedly smooth-headed, and either blue or silver coloured, consequently I should regard them as the purest. Turned crowns and other colours have been introduced by particular breeding, and have been perpetuated till such birds come to be considered as true-bred; but are esteemed more for variety and rarity, than for purity.

B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE Royal Agricultural Society of England will this year hold its annual country meeting at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Members (except in the case of poultry), have free entry, and non-subscribers may compete on the payment of ten shillings on each certificate

for cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs. Certificates for implements (with the space required for their exhibition), must be filled up, and returned to the secretary, TO REACH THE OFFICE, 12, Hanover Square, London, ON, or before MAY 1st, and all others ON, or before JUNE 1st.

On applying for certificates, in order that the proper forms may be sent in each case, the applicant should give the number of the certificate form (copied from the schedule), corresponding to the prize to be competed for. The prizes of the society are open to all England. The prizes to short-horned cattle are—

Bull, calved before the 1st of July, 1853, and not exceeding four years old	£30
Second best ditto.....ditto.....	15
Bull, calved since the 1st of July, 1853, and more than one year old	25
Second best ditto.....ditto.....	15
Bull-Calf, above six and under twelve months old.....	5
Cow in milk or in calf	20
Second best ditto.....ditto.....	10
Heifer in milk or in calf, not exceeding three years old	15
Second best ditto.....ditto.....	10
Yearling Heifer	10
Second best ditto.....	5

Prizes to Herefords and Devons the same. To Scotch cattle (excepting the Galloway, which is provided for in special prizes)—

1.—AYRSHIRE.

Bull, of any age	£10
Yearling Bull	10
Cow, of any age	10
In-calf Heifer	5

And prizes to the same number and amount to Angus, and other polled breeds, and to Highland, and other horned breeds. The prizes to horses range from £5 to £30. Those to sheep, from £5 to £25. There are also special prizes offered by the Carlisle Local Committee to Cheviot sheep and horses; by G. Head, Esq., to Galloway cattle; and by R. Ferguson, Esq., Mayor of Carlisle, to thorough-bred and coaching stallions. All the stock must

arrive at the show yard on Monday, July 23rd, or on the Tuesday morning.

The various rules and regulations are necessarily lengthy; but persons who contemplate exhibiting, can procure the schedule by applying to the secretary, James Hudson, Esq., No. 12, Hanover Square, London.

On Bees.

I NEVER found the old adage, "that experience is the surest teacher," more truly verified than in my progression in learning the art of managing bees. When I first took the care of a hive, no one could be in a more complete state of ignorance as to the nature of the charge he had undertaken. No friendly counsellor was near to advise or assist, and this I now regard as a most fortunate circumstance, for thrown on my own resources, patience and perseverance became my instructors, observation and common sense my guides. Of course accidents and misfortunes sometimes occurred, but I am quite sure there was not a single adventure with my bees, however disastrous it might appear at the time, from which I did not learn a valuable lesson. It is one of these misfortunes, which happened about this season of the year, that I will now relate.

On a mild morning in the first week of March, I set about the examination of the hives, and cleaning the floor boards. On raising a box hive, the combs gave way, and the whole fell out, while the poor bees were scattered about in all directions. My first impulse was to seek the queen, and she was soon discovered, and fortunately found to be uninjured. I placed her on a comb with some bees, and then came the important question, what was to be done next. Here was a family, smaller than a second swarm, without food or mansion, at a season when there was scarcely any honey to be collected from the flowers; and even if there were honey, when it was almost impossible to work wax for the formation

of the comb, when the air at night was below freezing, and there could be little probability that the mild temperature of that day would long continue. On the other hand, I had but two hives left, this was a capital queen, and the spring was before me. These considerations turned the scale, I instantly fixed a couple of inches of guide comb in an empty hive, placed the queen with her little party within the entrance, and picked and swept up the straggling bees as quickly as possible, placing them on the alighting board, for though it was not cold enough to benumb them, they turned stupid, and were unable to fly. During the afternoon the whole ascended, and clustered at the top—a kingdom of paupers! A bit of honey was left on the board for their breakfast, the four or five pounds of honey which had fallen from the box was mixed with syrup of sugar, and the next morning the process of *cramming* commenced. I met the obstacle of a low temperature by producing an artificial heat. As it was necessary the bees should have liberty the original position of the hive was the best, therefore I applied heat externally. The feeding apparatus was a zinc pan, after Mr. Taylor's design, and being 8 inches in diameter, and covered with strong glass, on this extensive surface I placed a bag of hot sand, and so raised the temperature from 40° to 80° in five minutes. Instead of being chilled, the bees came up into their feeding pan, singing as merrily as if it had been mid-summer, and carried off the food as quickly as they could convert it into wax. The sand-bags were renewed twice during the day, and in the evening the hive was shut up, and placed in a house, at an even temperature of 50°, and returned to its stand and opened as soon as the bees began to stir in the morning. On the fifth day pollen was carried. The weather had been just sufficiently favourable to allow the bees their liberty. My notes show the temperature had varied from 26° at night to 46° during the day. The bees were fed almost constantly for

five weeks, and then the hive was about half full of comb. I then left home for a few weeks, and during my absence they received but little food. On returning I was disappointed to find them apparently in the same state, however, there was a sure though slow change taking place, the combs were full of brood, and three weeks later the hive was full of bees. They worked with such activity during June, that in the beginning of July the hive was filled with combs, and the bees were clustering outside, and immediately availed themselves of a super, in which they stored some pounds of honey. I have always regretted I did not keep an account of the quantity of sugar bestowed on the re-founding of this family, but I think it must have been about one stone. Those who calculate £ s. d. in such matters will perceive I was debtor to my bees, as the charge for a good swarm is about 20s., others may consider the trouble, but on the other side of the account I would place the pleasure the success of the undertaking afforded. The dear old queen never forsook her hive but died two years after at swarming time, not till her daughter, the only princess she ever reared, as far as I could ascertain, was ready to succeed to the throne, and she now occupies the post of honour in the apiary, as sovereign of the observatory hive.

A.

TREATMENT OF A WEAKLY HIVE.

(Continued from page 63.)

HAVING now got rid of the chief obstacle to the well-being of my hive by affording an abundant supply of proper food, the only difficulty that remains is how to get rid of the remaining damp and mould which I still see in the hive. Occasionally I place a bell glass over a hole in the top of the hive, well covered and protected; I have also placed a small saucer under the glass, partly filled with powdered quicklime: but in either case the remedy has not the desired effect, as I seldom find any quantity of condensed vapour in the glass.

Perhaps, in order to get rid of this altogether, I must wait until the internal heat of the hive is sufficiently high to cause the damp to arise in vapour.

But I must not forget to answer the question of your correspondent "A.," in the directions given in your former number how to deal with my weakly hive, as to "how the food has been presented to my bees?" especially as a description of my bee-feeder will perhaps be interesting and useful to some of your readers. It consists of a flat piece of wood nine inches square, having a circular piece cut out of the centre four-and-a-half inches in diameter. Into this is let a tin or zinc saucer, the rim rising about half an inch above the piece of wood, but the bottom being level with the wood. In the centre of this saucer is a hole about two inches in diameter, surrounded with a rim of the same depth as the outer rim of the saucer, through which the bees come up out of the hive. There is also a small pipe attached to the saucer, and passing in a groove along the wooden frame to the outside, by which food is poured into the circular zinc trough or saucer. I cannot, perhaps, make the construction of this saucer plainer and more intelligible than by saying, that if you could take an ordinary flower-pot saucer and common lucifer match box, and then having made a hole through the saucer sufficiently large to admit the match box, were to insert it in this hole without the top or bottom, you would have the principle of the construction of the feeder. The match box would then represent the tube through which the bees ascend from the hive into the feeder, and the space between the match box and the rim of the saucer, that portion of the feeder into which food is poured by means of the pipe connecting it with the outer edge of the wooden frame in which it is placed.

The inner tube of this feeder should be made of the same size as the holes in the top of the hive or box on which it is intended to be used; and if made to project a little below the saucer, so as to be inserted

into the hole above which it is placed, it would prevent it from being easily moved by accident.

The feeder should be covered with a bell-glass resting on the wooden frame in which it is contained; and the space containing the food covered with a wooden or cork float. The most durable and convenient float I find to be a piece of oak cut to fit the circular feeding-trough loosely, and having a number of holes cut in it large enough for a bee to pass through, and supported with three or four small nails or bits of wire, so as not to sink within half an inch of the bottom. The food must not be poured into the feeder in sufficient quantities to float this frame, as even if it does so at first while dry, I have soon found the surface become wet with the food and so injurious to the bees. But if it only be filled to the lower edge of the float, the bees will follow the food down as it decreases, clinging by their feet to the small holes, until they have quite emptied the feeder.

The advantages of such a feeder as this are:—I. That the food being given on the top of the hive, and the only means of access being through the hive, there is scarcely a possibility of the bees to which the food is supplied, being robbed by others for whom it is not intended. II. That as heat ascends, food can be supplied when the temperature is much lower than when it can be supplied at the bottom or exterior of the hive. III. That by means of the pipe the food can be renewed as often as necessary without removing the bell-glass, or in any way disturbing the bees. The only caution necessary in supplying the food *while the bees are in the act of feeding*, is to pour it very gradually through the pipe; otherwise, some bees that may have descended below the float will be drowned by the sudden running in of the fresh supply. W. N.

BEES IN AMERICA.

(Concluded from page 63.)

"MY second experiment was performed

on a swarm transferred from one of Jones's equalizing and dividing hives to a Cross Bar hive, the last of January. The operation was performed after night in a room sufficiently warm, with as much expedition and satisfaction as it would have been in midsummer. After which they were kept in a room mostly without fire, except in very cold weather. The hive was well ventilated and supplied with honey from a feeder. They soon commenced constructing combs, but diminished in numbers for four or five weeks. They then began to increase, worked well during the summer, and now, Dec. 18th, occupy the stand as one of my most valuable stocks. The month following I transferred another old stock into an empty hive, which proved equally satisfactory, and is now doing well.

"The honey which took the first premium at the Mercer County Fair last September, was procured from an artificial swarm, in the following manner. On the 6th day of last July, with the assistance of a fumigator, I succeeded in getting a piece of brood comb, about six inches square, out of an old hive, which I immediately attached to a bar of a Cross Bar hive, having a glass back. I took a Colton hive which was very strong, with bees clustering out very much in front, and removed it eight or ten rods from the stand; then set my bar hive with brood comb in its place. I then took a drawer from the old hive, which was all glass except the bottom and top, filled with bees and some combs; then with the aid of a tin pan I procured about half a gallon of bees from the front of the old hive which I carried to the new one, and they entered readily. They appeared to be rather dissatisfied for a short time, but by the next day they went to work and began to construct combs on the bars and filled the glass drawer with comb, and by the 10th day of September, with the assistance of some feed, they had filled the drawer which took the first premium at our Fair; and it is kept as a memento of the produce of an artificial swarm.

"I would add, that upon examination about the 10th of September I ascertained that they had a living queen and some brood; one royal cell had been erected on the old comb, and two more partially. I am satisfied that swarms in this way will work as well as any, if managed in strict accordance with their nature."

Floriculture.

MARCH 28.

OUR flower gardens are getting gay with spring flowers; the buds upon the trees and shrubs are swelling, and the grass of lawns and grass-plots shows the bright verdure of spring. Vacancies in the borders may yet be filled up by the removal of shrubs, which must on no account be longer delayed. In the spring planting of fibrous-rooted perennials, always have in view that they should overtake those which were planted in autumn. Take up the roots with care, with a large lump of their own earth, place them lightly and carefully in the hole prepared, having trimmed off the ends of the fibres, throw in the mould, settle it well to them, close it round the head of the root, and give a slight watering.

Pinks may be earthed up with good loam, maiden earth, or old carnation mould, mixed with rotten cow or horse manure. Stir the surface before applying the compost, that portions of it may wash down to the roots. Protect the delicate, scarce, and valuable varieties from easterly wind. As they are seldom layered, they may be planted, for making a bed, twelve inches apart. In planting them, spread out the fibre in a regular manner, and plant just as deep as before, and give gentle watering, until they have taken new root. Carnations which are planted out, must be fifteen inches apart, to allow for layering. A store of good mould for potting should be prepared, that it may always be ready when wanted. The following will be found good proportions: one half strong

brown loam, one fourth rotten stable manure, and one fourth mould of decayed leaves. To this compost add a tenth part sea or river sand, or very fine gravel, and a small portion of lime, chalk, or marl. Let all be thoroughly incorporated, and put aside ready for use. Beds of choice bulbs may have the covering of rotten dung removed, and the surface of the earth carefully stirred with a wooden spatula, or a tulip fork, and *carefully* smoothed with a small rake. Hyacinths, polyanthus-narcissus, tulips, jonquils, narcissuses, &c., as they advance, should be loosely tied to neat little sticks or wires, with bits of green worsted, to save them from being injured by the wind. Those who wish to have handsome tulips and hyacinths, defend them from bad weather with mats, or canvas covers, suspended upon hoops, and when the season advances, shade them from the sun whenever its rays are too strong. Auriculas must be kept well watered, and protected from storms of hail or rain. Seeds may be sown of antirrhinum, china-asters, chrysanthemums, French and African marigolds, hollyhocks, Indian pink, mallows, marvel of Peru, mignonette, sweet scabious, sweet sultan, stock gilliflowers, sunflowers, Venus's looking-glass, and violets, campanulas, carnations, columbines, foxglove, French honeysuckle, gentian, globularia, nemophile. Annuals may be sown in patches about the borders, and perennials generally in the nursery, to come forward ready for future planting out.

Lincolnshire Fen Life, One Hundred Years Ago.

FROM MORTON'S "BOSTON COMPENDIUM."

THE level tract of land was frequently under water, or at best only the more elevated spots were dry; the inhabitants of the contiguous country naturally directed their attention to such objects as these extensive wilds seemed most adapted to propagate, and furnish with the means of subsistence. Nature having stocked their

morasses with a profusion of water-fowls of various sorts, the goose had, undoubtedly, the greatest claim to attention, being at once a profitable commodity for the market, perfectly adapted to the nature of the country, and, for its easy domestication, each possessed the means of ascertaining his own. They accordingly kept large flocks of the latter, and were as assiduous to them during the time of sitting, as the most careful grazer of the present day is to his lambs in the season when they are brought forth. Indeed, the propagation of young was evidently the source of their interest; and for this purpose, they had houses for the old geese, in which were tiers of wicker nests, ranged from top to bottom, each goose having one distinctly separated from the other; and during this season, great attention was necessary, in order to promote the wished-for increase, as every day they were called down (by parties, according to the number of the flock), to feed and go to water; after which, it was necessary for the gosherd to reinstate each goose on her own nest, otherwise the whole body would be alarmed, and the process of incubation greatly injured. What a nice sense of distinction appears then to have been requisite in the capacity of the simple gosherd, as the least mistake of his, in helping the geese in the upper tiers to wrong nests, if not timely corrected, endangered the prosperity of the undertaking; and exemplifies the trite remark, "that the requisite attention must be bestowed on any particular avocation, if we hope to ensure its success."

Sometimes an individual proprietor possessed a thousand old geese; which, on an average, might increase seven-fold in one season. They were generally plucked five times a year; the quills and feathers forming valuable articles in commerce, while their flesh was esteemed a delicacy by those who purchased them.

Immense quantities of wild fowl were also taken in their decoys, nets, and other contrivances, which were sent to the tables of the opulent, and amply compensated

the labours of the fowler, while their eggs were a luxury to him at home.

Hemp and flax were the principal articles cultivated in the more elevated parts, which in general lie near the towns. The little corn consumed being obtained from the high country farmers, who brought their grain to market on horseback; it being the custom in those days to retail it in small quantities, as bushels, sacks, &c., for the general convenience of the consumers. This leads us to consider their roads, if what were rather fitted for boats (*a-la Dutch*) than carriages, were deserving that appellation; that from Brigg-end on the Causey to Donington, could only be distinguished by a row of posts ranged at intervals, on each side, that the traveller might, at least, know what direction he was to keep, though a sight of the road was beyond the power of his vision; there being no certain road across the fens nearer the town, he proceeded where inclination directed—or rather where he *best could get*.

Most of the lower class kept one cow, at least, which they had the privilege of turning on the fens in summer; and, as was customary in open commons, each had a proportionate quantity of meadow land (frequently mid leg deep in water!) assigned him for cutting hay for his winter store. Thus with the produce of their cows and geese, aided by spontaneous supply of eggs from the wild fowls frequenting the contiguous morasses, and the superabundant store of fish ever to be found in the drains and stagnant waters, these *happy* people had most of the essentials of life within themselves. Though from the metamorphosed state of the country, and the perhaps more metamorphosed state of the times, but few poor families are at present possessed of that useful appendage, the cow; yet, it is presumed, the meanest labourer has now the means of partaking more of the *conveniences* of life, than formerly fell to the lot of his superiors. Their method of catering is a striking contrast to that of the present day:—a

short time before they felt inclined for dinner, some one of the family proceeded to the nearest water, and set his net for fish; then taking a row in a boat to an adjacent hill, a sufficient quantity of eggs were soon found; and on his return he was almost certain of finding his fish in readiness;—therefore home he hies, and, like the Laplander, regales on the spoil of his amphibious excursion and the produce of the dairy.

French Exhibition of Agricultural Produce;

TO WHICH ALL COUNTRIES ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE.

WE understand that concurrently with the Exhibition at the Palais d'Industrie, a general exhibition of Agricultural produce, to which all countries are invited, will take place at Paris from the 1st to the 9th of June next, under the auspices of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

A show of the kind intended is, we believe, the first that has occurred in France. England will of course be expected to take a considerable part in it.

A special section is destined for animals, male and female, of foreign breeds, which may be brought expressly for the Exhibition, or which have already been imported into France; whether they be the property of Frenchmen or of foreigners.

In cattle, the Durham short-horned and other breeds; in sheep, the Dishley, New Leicester, Southdown; and English pigs of all sorts and sizes will be admitted.

Barn-yard fowls, turkeys, ducks, pigeons, in a word all the best specimens of animals of every description comprised in the term of agricultural produce, will have their places.

The French government not only invites all friendly nations to participate in this show, but will also share in paying the expenses of transport; and from the French frontier the stock of the kinds mentioned coming from abroad will be brought to Paris at the expense of the State, as speci-

fied in the 16th article of the Ministerial order to that effect.

It has also been decided that the expense of feeding shall be defrayed by the Government during the period of the exhibition.

Independently of a sum of about £1000 sterling, which will be expended in prizes to the successful competitors, sales either by auction, or by private arrangement, of the stock or any portion of it may take place; so that not only will the exhibitors enjoy the advantage of free transport, and of gratuitous feeding for the cattle and other animals, but they will be enabled to effect sales on the spot, and under circumstances of the most favorable kind, when the largest proprietors and farmers are met together.

On Spring.

THE Winter is past, and Spring is about commencing its reign, to the great delight of all, particularly the lovers of the animal and vegetable creation. We belong, happily, to this class, and though we fear many of our poorer brethren, and also our feathered favourites in the poultry walks have suffered much by the very bad winter which is just gliding away, we have had our enjoyment in the country, away from operas, theatres, balls, concerts, and all the entertainments which can be resorted to in the gay metropolis. What greater treat can possibly be than a long walk in the country on a sharp frosty morning, after the severe frost of the previous night; how beautiful are the trees and hedges which a few hours before were naked and leafless, but now glitter with thousands of diamonds, whilst yonder plantation of Scotch firs presents a glorious picture as the sun bursts forth, its bright rays illumining with sparry lustre the brilliant pendants which hang from every spray and twig. What fantastical shapes and imaginary caverns do those avenues conjure up, reminding of the scenes described of fairy land; but as we gaze they too, like "Fancy's fairy frost-work," melt away. Again, when the snow is falling, if

we catch some of the flakes what beautiful forms are presented to our view. To wile away the winter hours, we have also had our sports in the field, and our Christmas revels at home, which can be fully appreciated only in the country. These and many other enjoyments are past, and for us perhaps for ever.

"For even forth
To the icy North,
A voice hath gone which saith 'Arise!'
Deck earth anew,
With every hue,
Which she wore in her Eastern Paradise."

Such is the song that all Nature sings once more. Let us then away for one of those lovely strolls we so much delight in, and what first attracts our attention?—the skylark, which is carolling aloft his heavenly music; and higher and higher his buoyant wings carry him fearlessly, till he is as a speck in the morning light, and then he shoots like an arrow from a started bow back to his nest upon the ground. The thrush and the blackbird also join in the ethereal minstrelsy, and at intervals we catch the fine voice of the robin, linnet, and perchance the wren, whilst from the rookery adjoining yon distant mansion arises the cawing of the rooks, and from near the neighbouring church tower arises the deafening and uproarious noise of the jackdaws—all alike busy preparing nests for their young. Our attention is next directed to the beautiful violets which are blossoming in the hedgerow bottom, half hidden from the eye—"expressive emblem of those virtues which delight to bloom in obscurity." A few paces farther, and see the primrose—"emblem of virtue in the shade;" see also the nettle—the poor despised nettle: yet it too has its uses; by some it is manufactured into cloth, and we believe paper; a dye is also procured from it, and many of the poorer classes use it as a vegetable. Witness Andrew Fair-service, who says, "nae doubt I suld understand my ain trade of horticulture, seeing I was bred in the parish of Dreepdaily, near

Glasco', where they raise lang-kail under glass, and force the *early nettle* for their spring-kail." The star-like beloved daisy is also peeping forth from its verdant couch, and the various grasses will soon assume their lovely and graceful forms, now that the sun gains strength to aid them in their growth. The willow-blossoms are about to burst forth from their silky unfolded catkins, which will be eagerly sought after by our village lads, as *geese and goslings*; and the leaves of the hawthorn, elder, and other trees are gradually coming to maturity. Let us gather, ere we return, some of these beautiful wild flowers to deck our tables, and to remind us of the goodness of the Great Architect of the universe; and we may frequently gather such monitors, for

"Flowers that spring by vale or stream
Each one may claim them for his own."

See, what beautiful phantom was that which passed just now? it was the Brimstone butterfly, which the sun's warm beams has recalled as its handmaid, with its wings of primrose fluttering in the breeze, as it flits among the branches of the buckthorn; and there is also a solitary Tortoiseshell butterfly resting on that nettle, whilst around is the hum of the bee in search of sweets from the flowers of Spring. The pastures are also spotted white with sheep, and many lambs are gambolling along, whilst, as we pass the cottage doors and the farmsteads, we observe an improved appearance in the Poultry since we saw them during the snow, but a few days ago. The hens are evidently busy laying, whilst here and there we pass a few hatches of early chickens. Thus all are benefitted by these first days of Spring; and we trust that it will bring us an additional share of good health, buoyant spirits, and thankful hearts.

Dropsy.

UNTIL six months since, either in consequence of my own ignorance, and the want of a "Poultry Chronicle" to enlighten

me, or because our highly-bred poultry are becoming more liable to disease than the barn door fowl used to be, I had never heard of a dropsical hen. Now I have a very obstinate case in my poultry yard. While she was laying about Christmas, I observed an enlargement gradually taking place, till at length she gave up laying, and the fullness increased rapidly, and was hard and tense. The poor hen waddled about, drawn down by the weight, till she had the appearance of a hen who is meditating the impropriety of dropping a soft egg. Still the comb continued bright, and the appetite did not fail; and I could not understand what her singular appearance indicated, till one day I found her pass a quantity of dark, watery fluid; this continued for two days, about a table-spoonful at a time, and then the enlargement was much reduced in size. The disease and its cure became evident; the fowl was suffering from *encysted dropsy*, and as science could afford no relief, nature had acted the surgeon's part, and performed the operation of tapping; the sac, in fact, had given way internally. After this I put her through a course of calomel, and in a fortnight, the fluid seemed nearly absorbed. The shell of the next egg was irregular, then there were a few perfect eggs, and then she dropped soft eggs from the perch; and now there is a contest going on between dropsy, soft eggs, and the "twa semples (not scruples), calomly and jalaply." Such I should suppose, must always be the course of this disease, when the swelling disappears suddenly; as the process of absorption in the system must be very gradual. I suspect this hen had a similar, though slighter attack last year, and after giving her some doses of calomel, I left home, and on my return found her well. I fear the disease must be constitutional, and would be greatly obliged by your correspondents, who have reported similar cases, informing me whether their fowls have had a return of the malady.

A.

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

DUCKLINGS.

SIR,—I notice in your paper of to-day that your correspondent, in his excellent article upon Ducks, remarks that ducklings should be comfortably housed for a short time after they are hatched. I last year bred some very excellent Aylesburys; but immediately they were hatched I shut the hen up in a coop with a *dry* wooden bottom, and placed the coop on a grass plot; the ducklings consequently were at liberty to roam about at pleasure. Would your correspondent kindly inform me if he considers this a good plan, or would recommend having them in an out-house as better. The bottom of my coop was always kept clean, and spread with plenty of clean straw.—I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
W. R. R.

Would you recommend warm food as likely to produce liberal laying in ducks?

[We have no doubt our valued contributor, "S. B.," will advise "W. R. R." *When the weather is not severe* we have found cooping the ducks out of doors answer very well, always taking care that the ducklings do not get to the water; warm food would promote laying.—ED.]

THE AMATEUR IN CANADA.

SIR,—Perhaps it will not be uninteresting to the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle" to hear the result of an amateur's experience in this distant part of her Majesty's empire, so far as early incubation is concerned.

On the 23rd ultimo I sat a Lemon Shanghae hen on thirteen Shanghae eggs, all laid in an open fowhouse during that month. On the 22nd day after setting she hatched thirteen healthy chickens! The entire brood, I am happy to say,

are doing well, and with ordinary care I have no doubt of raising them.

You will admit, Sir, that this is doing pretty well for a country that people say is "snowed up six months out of the twelve," and that if any of your amateur poultry fanciers desire to succeed in raising early chickens they had better migrate to this temperate climate.

A CANADIAN.

Toronto, Canada West,
Feb. 19, 1855.

SHOWS FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.

SIR,—I write by the desire of several amateurs who are subscribers to your "Chronicle," and like myself are working men. We cannot grumble at your charging threepence for your excellent paper, and I must say, no person who takes poultry for his hobby can say a word against it; for it furnishes him with every information required, not only from amateurs, but also from men of talent and experience. I am sure due thanks ought to be given to you for the energetic manner you are showing to give the poultry-fancier knowledge. The grand object of our joint letter is this—the poultry shows are at present on such high scales that the working man cannot possibly attain any good; it is all for men of money; and we do think that we, as a class of men, ought to have our poultry shows as well as the gentlefolks. It would certainly be folly for us to compete with our superiors in every sense, as regards worldly affairs; for how could we spend our £5 or £10 to £20? If we are steady and sober, and put by our little store, we may, by chance, then be able to compete with them. I am afraid we shall tire your patience; yet I must say this, give the working man a rational amusement like unto poultry breeding and showing, and he will no longer want to go to the alehouse so much; he will see the folly of it; his little favourites will keep him more at home with his family.

Gentlemen, you who are at the head of poultry shows, I ask you, could anything be done as to getting up poultry shows in different towns for the working classes. Many of your readers may be like myself, working men; we keep our favourites—perhaps we may have, with care, first-rate birds among them. The amateur, or shower of birds, comes, offers a price, takes them to the next show, and wins the first or second prize; who gets the honour?—the buyer.

We are almost ashamed to tell your readers we reside in one of the greatest manufacturing towns in Yorkshire, that is Leeds; and we are so poor we cannot raise a poultry show. There is a general feeling amongst a great number of working men, if any person will help them, they will pay so much per week, so as to make up a show for

the working classes. Gentlemen, you who are poultry fanciers, come out into the field—it is open—and your working classes will put their shoulders to the wheel, and give an example to other towns.—I remain your obedient servant,

A WORKING MAN.

Leeds, Yorkshire, 1855.

[To those who are willing to put “the shoulder to the wheel,” getting up a poultry show would not be difficult. Economy must be studied in every branch. Members of some trades, as carpenters, makers of wire netting, and others, might give their contributions in labour. An account must be taken of all that is expended both in labour and materials. Perhaps some of our readers will kindly favour us with calculations how a poultry show might be got up in the cheapest possible manner.—Ed.]

SPANGLED HAMBURGS AND THEIR POINTS.

SIR,—Did you ever read “Peregrine Pickle?” Do you recollect the feast after the manner of the ancients? Do you remember the remonstrances of the poor cook, who entreated the poet to spare him the strange mixture. So do I adjure you to spare the Judges. Only imagine Birmingham, with its 146 pens of Spangles, independent of the single cocks, to be judged by nine principal rules, one of which is subdivided into three parts. Each pen contains four birds; there are, then, 584 fowls to be examined according to eleven points—making 6424, to which the Judges must direct their attention. This must be so, because it will become a thing of counting, and the greatest number of points must carry the day.

But the rules are not complete; they should state how many each point counts for. Is the white deaf ear more important than a clear flight? Which shall be the greatest defect, a loose comb or a tendency to white spangling towards the tail? How many points should the comb have, and how wide should it be? Excuse my remonstrance, but I know something of the difficulty there is in giving satisfaction as

A JUDGE.

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

SIX WEEKS AVERAGES.—Wheat, 69s. 0d.; Barley, 31s. 3d.; Oats, 25s. 5d.; Rye, 41s. 4d.; Beans, 42s. 2d.; Peas, 39s. 9d.

IMPERIAL WEEKLY AVERAGES.—Wheat, 66s. 11d.; Barley, 30s. 5d.; Oats, 24s. 10d.; Rye, 39s. 4d.; Beans, 40s. 4d.; Peas, 38s. 6d.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE market is only moderately supplied, but the trade is rather better. Fowls of first-rate quality are scarce, as they always are at this time of the year.

Large Fowls.....	6s. 6d. to	7s. 6d. each.
Smaller do.	4s. 6d. to	5s. 6d. ”
Chickens	3s. 9d. to	4s. 6d. ”
Green Geese	9s. 0d. to	9s. 6d. ”
Ducklings	5s. 0d. to	5s. 6d. ”
Guinea Fowls ...	3s. 0d. to	3s. 6d. ”
Wild Ducks	2s. 0d. to	2s. 6d. ”
Widgeon,	1s. 6d. to	1s. 9d. ”
Teal	1s. 6d. to	1s. 9d. ”
Woodcocks	4s. 0d. to	4s. 6d. ”
Snipes	1s. 6d. to	1s. 9d. ”
Rabbits	1s. 6d. to	0s. 0d. ”
Wild do.	0s. 10d. to	1s. 0d. ”
Pigeons	1s. 0d. to	0s. 0d. ”

To Correspondents.

Birdy.—The fowls described are no doubt cross-bred; the principal strain being the silky. The first and last eggs are always the smallest of the laying, and the worst for setting.

C. H. W.—There is no particular colour or comb for a Dorking Fowl.

J. S.—We consider May an excellent month for hatching chickens. It is only for early exhibitions, say June and July, that January chickens are so valuable. If you examine the prize lists, you will find in December many of the successful birds are hatched early in May.

J. B. C. wishes to ask the admirers of Golden Spangled Hambros, three simple questions: Did they ever see a Golden Mooney hen-feathered, or Spangled hackled cock with a good Spangled breast? perfect ear lobed? or with the true Hambro carriage? Our correspondent continues: “I have always considered these points most important in the Hambro family. I have seen hen-feathered birds with fair tails, but never saw one with the flowing tail and pompous carriage the true Hambro ought to have.”

A Subscriber.—Eggs will hatch a month old and more; but we think it better to have them a very few days old, the newer the better. A box of bran or oats is good to keep them in.

A. S. L., of E.—The three hens have the white comb, which is a very nasty catching complaint. Rub the head every alternate day with sulphur and lard, and give a little medicine. The cock with the rattling in the throat is inclined to be rouncy; try Baily's pills, and keep him in a dry warm sheltered situation. Turpentine is a very powerful medicine; we should be afraid to administer bread soaked in it without great caution. Our correspondent finds Cochins the best winter layers, but Spanish not to be complained of. He has found it good feeding to boil

barley and rice until soft, and to thicken the whole with pollard.

J. S. Loftus.—Having no more convenient run than a good loft, scrupulously avoid getting over-stocked, and with a small number of fowls you may succeed very well. Study their habits and requirements; remembering that they will be dependent on you for many things, which abroad they would seek for themselves. Supply them with gravel, lime, and turfs of grass. Cochins will bear confinement perhaps better than any other kind.

A Subscriber.—The best judges have considered dropsy an incurable disease in fowls. It generally appears in old hens and free layers. The water is contained in two or more bags unconnected one with another. If the fowl derives benefit from the calomel, we would repeat it mixed with jalap; taking care to keep her in a warm and sheltered spot.

T. L.—The work may be had of Messrs. Ridgway and Co., Piccadilly.

A Young Amateur.—If the Grey Dorking is in good condition, the broken feathers in his tail may be pulled. The shows are so distant that there will be time for them to grow again.

W. A.—We think the Brahmans, without exception, the hardiest fowls which have ever been introduced or reared among us, and even more easy to rear than the Cochins China. They will bear confinement, but they love liberty better than the Cochins, and will wander far away if they get the chance. We cannot recollect that any of our Brahma hens set twice last year, but we did not take especial note. We do not think they lay quite so many eggs as the Cochins, but the eggs are larger.

Advertisements.

STUD BIRDS.—First prize Partridge and Buff Cochins for sale. EGGS from either variety, one shilling each. CAPTAIN SNELL, St. Swithin's Lane, London.

FOR EXCHANGE OR SALE at a very low price, Three Ptarmigans, a Cock and two Pullets, which took the second prize at the late Brighton Show. Also, a setting of Eggs at 10s. per dozen, from birds which obtained the first prize at the Fareham Exhibition; they were formerly the property of F. Bernel, Esq., of Fareham, (see No. 21 of the "Poultry Chronicle.") Apply, Mr. L. SCUDAMORE, The Cottage, Rose Hill, Brighton.

EGGS.—Dorking and Cochins China, from the yards of William and John Coppell, Eccleston, near Prescott, Lancashire. Dorkings, 10s. 6d. the setting; and Cochins Chinas, 7s. 6d. the setting. Post Office Orders made payable to W. and J. COPPELL, Prescott.

EGGS from Grey Single Comb Dorking Fowls of large size, 13s. per dozen. Buenos Ayres Ducks' Eggs, 13s. per dozen, from the birds which won the first prizes at Cambridge and Doncaster. Buenos Ayres Ducks, highly meritorious, see Cambridge prize list. Apply to JOHN HISCOCK, Mildenhall, Suffolk, who has charge of the birds.

FANCY POULTRY.—PERIODICAL SALE.

Mr. J. C. STEVENS will sell by Auction, at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent Garden, on Tuesday, 3rd April, at 12 o'clock precisely, SPANISH FOWLS, from the renowned yard of Mrs. Stowe, of Bredon, the winner of the Cup at Birmingham, 1854; and choice Cochins, Brahmans, Polands, Dorkings, &c., from several celebrated breeders. Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope, to Mr. J. C. Stevens, 38, King-street, Covent Garden.

MR. JOHN R. RODBARD, of Aldwick Court, Langford, near Bristol, has Eggs to part with from prize stock during the season; Spanish at £1 15s. 6d.; White Cochins China, at £1 1s.; Buff do., at 10s.; Partridge do., at 6s. per Dozen. Black-breasted Red Game, Iron birds that have taken nine first prizes; and Grey Do. Silvery Game, from birds that have taken 16 prizes; and Black Bantams at £1 1s. per Dozen. Post-office Orders made payable at Wrington.

EGGS.—Dorking, Spanish, and Buff Cochins, from really first-rate birds, including 1st prize and Silver Cup birds at Birmingham and Liverpool; to be sold at the yard of Mr. Donne, Oswestry. Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry. Dorking and Spanish Fowls from above birds on sale.

GOLDEN-PENCILED HAMBRO' EGGS.

Mr. J. HOWARD will dispose of a few settings of Eggs, from his prize pen of the above breed, which took the First Prize as Chickens at Birmingham, 1853; Second Prize as Fowls, at Birmingham, 1854; First Prize as Fowls, at Doncaster, 1855; being the only places at which this pen has been shown. Price 21s. per dozen, packed. Apply THOMAS SHEPPARD, Saint Mary, Bedford. Wanted, Three good Partridge, or Grouse Cochins Pullets.

NEST EGGS, the best ever introduced, imitating Cochins colour, White, or Bantams. They are not cold to the breast of the hen, like glass, &c., but immediately become warm, according to the heat of the bird.—"These nest eggs, however, have a merit, which first-prize chickens at Birmingham can only equal; they are the best of their kind. They are, for the purposes for which they are made, the best imitation of real eggs which we have seen."—See "Poultry Chronicle," No. 56, p. 55.—Price 4s. per dozen. May be had of JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, London, or HENRY CHURCHILL, Westgate-street, Gloucester.

MR. EDWARD TERRY, WALTON TERRACE, AYLESBURY, is prepared to supply Eggs from his various Stocks of Prize Poultry, as under. Dorking eggs from birds that have taken prizes at all the shows where they have been exhibited, price, 21s. per dozen; Spanish, 21s. per dozen; Cochins China, 8s. per dozen; Silver Pencilled Hambro, 8s. per dozen; Aylesbury Ducks, 8s. per dozen, packages included. May be had by sending a Post Office Order, payable at Aylesbury.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork, Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market, London.

POULTRY SHOW.—Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham Society for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry. The Great Annual Exhibition of this Society will be held on Wednesday and Thursday in Easter Week, (April 11 and 12), in the Corn Exchange, Newcastle. The Prize List is now ready, and may be had of the Honorary Secretaries,

J. S. CHALLONER, 27, Dean-street.
WILLIAM TROTTER, Bywell.

SAMUEL HARROP, 13, Cooper Street, Manchester, Bird and Animal Preserver to the Manchester Museum, will have Black Spanish EGGS for Sale during the season, at £1 10s. the Setting, which includes the box and packing. The stock is the property of an Amateur, who has taken first and second prizes in 1854, at all the Shows where he has exhibited, including Holmfirth, Harrogate, Birmingham, and Manchester. The birds have been carefully penned for breeding, and are first-class birds, with large White Faces and Large Bodies. The Stock can be seen, and further particulars will be given by applying as above.

N.B.—S. HARROP begs to inform purchasers, that the Eggs will be forwarded, carefully packed according to the dates of the orders, and a private seal will be placed on each box before leaving the yard.

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, 2yd., 2 yards wide, 5d. per yard, 100 yards, 2 yards wide for 3s. Also repaired Tanned Netting for the above purposes: 1 yard wide, 1yd. 2 yards wide, 3d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 18s. 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.**

EGGS FOR SETTING.—Mr. THOMAS COLLIS, of Boston, Lincolnshire, will be happy to supply his brother amateurs with settings of Eggs from his choice stock of Gold and Silver-pencilled Hambros, Dorkings, Silver-pencilled Polands, and Cochins, at the very low price of 10s. 6d. per seat, of 13. Mr. Collis gives the word of a gentleman that the Eggs sent may be depended upon.

PRIZE POULTRY.—Mr. J. K. FOWLER, Prebendal Farm, Aylesbury, having been successful during the past season at many of the best Shows, more especially with the Aylesbury Ducks, begs to call the attention of the public to the following advertisement for Eggs during the next spring. The prices named will include the package, and the greatest care will be taken for their safety. The orders will be completed according to priority of application. A Post-office Order must accompany each letter, payable to JOHN K. FOWLER, White Hart Hotel, Aylesbury. Dorkings, per setting of 12, £1 1s.; Spanish, £1 11s. 6d.; Aylesbury Ducks (Aylesbury Silver Cup and Colchester First Prize birds), £2 2s.; Rouen Ducks, £1 11s. 6d. N.B.—Mr. Fowler has a few Drakes and Ducks of his celebrated Aylesbury breed to dispose of at £2 2s. and £1 1s. each.—January 6, 1855.

JAMES DIXON, Bradford, Yorkshire, will dispose of Eggs, during the season, from his first class Hamburg Fowls, Bearded Golden, and Silver Polands, and Black Spanish, Black, White, and Gold-Laced Bantams; also, from his Aylesbury and Black East India Ducks. The price, 10s. for fifteen eggs, including package, except the Silver Polands and Ducks; the former 1s. 6d. each egg, the Ducks, 6d. Most of the above Fowls have taken several prizes.—In 1854, J. D. had awarded to him seventy-five prizes, besides a great number of commendations. At the late Birmingham Show, the Silver Vase was awarded to him for Silver Pencilled Hamburgs; also the third prize in the same class, and second in Silver Spangles; in the present year at Manchester, four first prizes; at Liverpool, first and second Silver Pencilled, first and second Silver Spangled, second ditto Chickens; at the Great Northern, first and second Silver Pencilled, and first ditto Chickens; second Silver Spangles, besides several commendations. The Hamburgs are both Golden and Silver Spangled, and Golden and Silver Pencilled.

J. D. has to dispose of a few Black Bantams.

WILLIAM CANNAN, Spring Field House, Eccleshill, Bradford, Yorkshire, will supply EGGS during the season from his celebrated Birds which have taken above eighty prizes at the principal shows in England. (For remarks and list of prizes see reports of "Poultry Chronicle" for Liverpool, Darlington, Birmingham, Manchester, Kendal, Doncaster, Gloucester, Shrewsbury, Keighley, Huddersfield, Sowerby Bridge, &c.) Price—White-faced Black Spanish, Silver and Golden Bearded Polish, 10s. 6d. per setting; Golden and Silver Spangled, Gold and Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, Black-breasted, Red, and Duckwing Game, Black, White, and Silver Laced Bantams, and Aylesbury Ducks, 6s. 6d. per setting. Thirteen Eggs to a setting, package included.

The Black Spanish Cuck has been purchased from Dr. Peirson, of Bridlington Quay, and has obtained six prizes during the last season (three as the best Cuck). He is with three valuable white-faced Hens, that have obtained several prizes. The Silver Polands are first-class birds, have taken thirteen prizes; the Golden, six prizes.

The Eggs guaranteed fresh and perfect when packed, which will be done with the utmost care, and sent according to priority of application. The unprecedented low price at which eggs from birds of so much merit are offered, has caused a great demand; to prevent disappointment, an early application must be made.

On Sale.—A few first-class Golden and Silver Spangled Hamburgs, a perfect Hen-tailed Silver Pencilled Cuck, and a few very good White Cochins.

Also, during the season, young Birds from his Pouters, Carriers, Almond Tumblers, and very many varieties of the Fancy Pigeons.

WHITE TURKEYS.—For Sale, Five or Six First-class White Turkeys, hatched 1854, bred from Prize Birds, £1 each. Several pairs of White Aylesbury Ducks, of the same hatch as the Second Prize Ducks at the Great Northern Show, 10s. each. Also Eggs, 10s. the setting, from Dorkings and Black Game, Second Prize Birds, at the Great Northern Show, 1855.—Apply to Mr. EDMONDSON, Denton, Otley, Yorkshire.

MR. JOSEPH TATE can supply **EGGS** from his celebrated prize stock of White-faced Spanish, having in addition to his own, the entire stock of the late Mr. Barry, of Preston; also the entire stock of Mr. Parsons, of Cueden. J. T., having taken great pains in breeding and selecting his stock, can confidently recommend them as first-class birds. Terms, Two Guineas per dozen. He can supply a few settings of Eggs from his celebrated Brahma Pootra Fowls, at One Guinea per Dozen. Address, 9, Syke Hill, Preston, Lancashire, where the birds may be seen.

EGGS for Hatching, from First-prize Dorkings. Mr. HENRY SMITH will dispose of Eggs during the season from the pen of birds he claimed of the Rev. J. Boys, at Hitchin, for Fifty Guineas; also from Pullets which obtained the 1st and 3rd prizes at the late Birmingham Show, and from others purchased regardless of expense, and which have had first prizes awarded to them at Birmingham, the Great Metropolitan, Reigate, Hitchin, Southwell, Leeds, Malvern, Cambridge, Brighton, &c. The Eggs guaranteed fresh and perfect when packed, which will be done with the utmost care, and sent according to priority of application. Address, The Grove, Cropwell Butler, near Bingham, Notts.

PURE AYLESBURY DUCKS' EGGS, 6s. per setting, including package. Pale Buff Cochins, perfectly clear hackle, 12s. Silver Spangled Hamburgs, 8s. for 15 eggs. The stock on sight on application to WM. JOSHUA, Esq., Perrott's Brook, Gloucester.

MR. HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate Street, Gloucester, will be prepared to supply Amateurs, or their friends with EGGS from specimens of the most choice varieties of Poultry:—

Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, first prize at Gloucester, first at Bath, Norwich, and Colchester, 15s. per dozen.
White Polands, first prize at Gloucester, third at Birmingham, 15s. per dozen.

Yellow or Buff ditto, commended at Gloucester, 15s. per dozen.

Gold ditto, first prize at Bedford and Norwich, 15s. per dozen.

Dorking, third prize and highly commended at Gloucester, 10s. per dozen.

Pile Game, first prize at Bedford, 10s. per dozen.

Black Bantams, second prize at Cheltenham and Bedford, 10s. per dozen.

Buff Cochins, from first prize at Hereford and Gloucester, 7s. 6d. per dozen.

Scotch Baskies, Black Polands (White Crests), Spanish and Frizzled, bred from prize birds, but never shown, 10s. per dozen.

Nest Eggs, 4s. per dozen.

N.B.—The Silver Pencilled Hamburgs have been pronounced by Bally, Andrews, and Jessop to be the best pen in England.

For further particulars apply as above.

WANTED.—A BRAHMA POOTRA COCK; he must be first-rate quality. Address, stating price, age, colour, figure, comb, and pedigree, to J. PERRY, 1, Guildhall Chambers, Basinghall-street, London.

FOR SALE.—Four beautiful **CYGNETS**, as tame as barn-door fowls. Price 30s. each. Apply to the Editor of the "Poultry Chronicle."

MR. W. PLUMMER will continue to dispose of Spanish EGGS, all from prize birds, at 21s. per dozen, box included. Post-office Orders to be addressed, Brislington, near Bath.

EGGS FOR SETTING.—Silver Pencilled Hamburgs and Spanish, from first-rate and highly-bred birds. The Hamburgs are prize fowls, and the Spanish pure splendid white-faced birds, from the several yards of Hornby, Fox, and Botham. Price 11s. per dozen, including package. Apply to Mr. FRANK ABERDEIN, Honiton, Devon.

FOR SALE.—A few first prize Golden and Silver Spangled **POLAND FOWLS**, of Mr. Vivian's and Mr. Haslewood's strains. Also some white-faced Spanish, which have taken prizes. Apply to S. T. SMITH, Park Lane, Maddeley, Salop.

S. T. S. will supply eggs at 8s. 6d. per dozen, from his Black Game Fowls, which have taken several first prizes.

MISS WILCOX, of Nailsea Court, near Bristol, has EGGS to part with from first-prize stock during the spring: Grey Dorkings, single combed, 12s. per dozen; White ditto, rose combed, 12s.; Cochins China, bright buff and vulture-necked, 7s. per dozen. Grey Dorking Cockerels on sale. Post-office Orders made payable at Nailsea.

THOMAS P. EDWARDS, Railway Station, Lyndhurst, Hants, will dispose of a few settings of EGGS from his first prize (4) Aylesbury White Ducks, at 10s. a setting. Also Eggs from his celebrated White-crested Black and Silver Spangled Polands, at 15s. per dozen; or if two dozen are taken at one time, only 25s. will be charged, box, &c. included.

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Spanish	2	2	0
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HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 58.]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1855.

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Poultry Shows.

Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham at the Corn Exchange, Newcastle, April 11th and 12th. Honorary Secretaries, J. S. Chaloner, Esq., and W. Trotter, Esq., of Bywell. Entries close March 31st. (No. 56)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st. (No. 52)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries close June 1st. (No. 57)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Bedford : in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October 16th. (No. 55)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,

and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48)

Nottinghamshire third annual exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th.

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

As poultry is in the main a country question, as our periodical circulates throughout every county, and as game is more or less connected with the matters of which we treat, we are almost constrained to notice the events of the last two or three weeks in connection with it.

It has long been matter of notoriety that

the Game Laws, so far as they related to the sale before and after the legal season, were a dead letter, and this in spite of their stringency, and the heavy penalties named in the act of parliament. The cause has been that no part of the penalty was given to the informer, and the office has no charms for an amateur.

We stated in our columns last March, notices had been served on the principal dealers, that informations would be laid and the law carried out against offenders. We then stated if this was vigorously acted upon, much good would be done; but if it were allowed to drop, it was worse than useless. Beyond the formal notice, however, nothing was done, and the result was that pheasants, grouse, and partridges, could be seen exposed for sale all the year round, and their eggs during and after the season.

The owners of manors, and the lovers of sport, have now wakened from their long sleep, and a short time since carried out a "razzia" on the enemy's territory of Leadenhall market. Wholesale and retail dealers were alike summoned to show cause why they should not be fined. This was acting with vigour, and they had every reason to be satisfied, for they did not trouble one innocent person. All pleaded guilty to having illegal game in their possession; but with the wholesale dealer especially it is hardly matter of choice, as hampers are received by him, and charges paid on them, hours before their contents can be known to him. Spite of this difficulty they all pledged themselves to abstain from the trade when game is out of season, and to assist the originators

of the informations by every means in their power. We have no doubt they will do so faithfully. It is their interest, because their licences would be forfeited by a conviction. It now remains for gentlemen to carry out what they have begun, and half measures are of no use. If they slacken in their efforts, the only effect of what they have done, will be to take the trade from the hands of respectable and responsible men, to throw into those of men of doubtful character and of no standing. It is an old saying, that it is better to be without laws, than to have those that are never put in force; and we believe that the supineness of all whose interest it was to support the game laws, has done more to encourage poaching than anything else. It adds somewhat to the value of an article to make it contraband.

Dealing in game out of season has never been a profitable or satisfactory trade to any one engaged in it, and all will be glad to be relieved from it; but if relaxed vigilance allows one to take it up, others in self-defence must do the same, or some man careless of reputation or consequences, will thrive because others are too honourable and careful of their pledged words to violate them.

The pledges were mutual; gentlemen promised to carry out the law, and dealers to observe it. Let both be acted upon, and a blow is struck at a great evil. All who live by infractions of the law are injurious to society; no man more so than the poacher,—no example is so contagious. Even the best and steadiest labourer will sometimes go into a beer-shop, and there he spends a few of his hard-earned pence.

The poacher, who never works, spends freely as many shillings. The one poor and tired, the other exempt from labour and with plenty of money. Who can wonder if the example prove contagious? We have seen a man take for one day's work, the first Sunday in May, thirteen pounds for pheasants' eggs. If the law is vigorously enforced, this is put an end to. There will always be legal means by which game may be had for stocking coverts in any quantity, and the stoppage of illicit dealing will do more for its preservation than raising armies of keepers. But markets must be closed everywhere, especially at lonely beer-shops; let every keeper of such a house forfeit his license if a head of game be found on his premises. This will be no hardship. Till it was legally saleable, hotel and tavern-keepers, and poulterers, were all forbidden under any pretence whatever to have it in their houses; they could not receive a present of a brace of pheasants without being liable to a heavy fine. We repeat, let this be rigorously carried out, and much good will be the result, not only in the increase of game, but the morals of our rural population will be improved by it.

The Poultry Yard.

APRIL 4.

BROODY hens are no longer scarce: most poultry-yards can boast as many as are likely to be wanted, but before setting all that are willing, there are two enquiries to make:—1st, how many chickens shall we require for exhibition, for replenishing the stock at home, for market, and for eating; and 2nd, how many will our hen-houses and runs accommodate without crowding.

And when these two enquiries have been made and answered, we must let the first take precedence of the second. If fifty chickens are reared where only half the number could be properly housed, the chances are that the loss will exceed that of the surplus chickens thus unwisely added to the stock. "Seeing is believing," says the proverb; we recommend every amateur occasionally to walk round and open his fowl-houses himself in the early morning. If the air within is heated and offensive, he need not wonder if the fowls and chickens running out into the cold, exposed, perhaps, to the sharp easterly winds so prevalent at this season, begin with sneezing, and end with shoulders being hunched up, heavy, swollen eyes, raised plumage, and beak unnaturally prominent from the lean and shrivelled face. Scrupulously avoid placing such a number of fowls in a house as will prevent its remaining airy and *inoffensive* until morning. Two broods of chickens are enough for a good-sized house, even while they remain small, and, with that number, there should be sufficient ventilation; as they increase in size they will want more room. If we set many hens, and get a number of chickens hatched, and feel at a loss where to house them, as brood is added to brood; if we watch them in their crowded runs, until the little leaden eyes and drooping wings rouse all the kindness within us to remorse, repentance will then come too late; it will not shut out roup, or make the poor little sufferers healthy, thriving chicks. It is now while we are setting the hens for the main stock, that we must calculate the bounds within which the young stock will have to be kept, and in making these calculations, we had better reckon to *under* rather than to *overstock* our premises.

SUMMARY.—While setting the hens, take care to avoid the necessity for future overcrowding.

Questions about the Brahmas.

A CORRESPONDENT, "T. S.," leaving the comparatively unimportant question of

distinctness of breed of the Brahma Pootra fowl, has propounded a number of questions relative to their utility, on which he would feel obliged if W. C. G. and other breeders of them would compare notes by favouring us with impartial answers founded on experience. "Time sufficient," he writes, "has now elapsed, since their first importation, for the collection of such reliable information as may be still wanting to enlighten the darkness of inexperienced amateurs, and which would be valuable to all in reducing to a certainty many important particulars concerning a popular variety of fowl, which may now, as a class, be considered established with firmness amongst us." The queries are ten in number: our correspondent gives the Cochin China as the standard of comparison, and considers that answers to these queries would set at rest in the minds of unprejudiced amateurs much that remains vague and uncertain, and that the Brahmas would then take that decided position amongst their feathered rivals, which in truth and justice could be allotted to them.

Query 1 is, "Their average weight during growth, and at maturity?" The growth of the chickens is rather more rapid than that of the Cochins; the weight of hens seven pounds and upwards, that of mature cocks from eight to thirteen pounds.

Query 2. "Average weight of mature hen's eggs, and the colour?" The eggs weigh from $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces to 3 ounces. The colour a pale buff; sometimes, not often, a deepish buff.

Query 3. "Their capabilities as egg producers, and proneness to become broody?" They lay rather a smaller number of eggs than the Cochin Chinas, but they are larger in size. We do not recollect having hens become broody twice in the year, certainly not more than that.

Query 4. "The quality of the flesh and depth of the breast, viewing them as table fowls?" To this question we must beg an answer from other breeders of the fowl, having eaten only one, which was however large and well-flavoured for a bird a year old.

Query 5. "The hardihood of the chickens?" They are, without exception, the hardiest chickens we have ever reared. They will survive and outgrow ailments under which most kinds would sink, and they appear to suffer less from inclement weather.

Query 6. "Domestic or rambling habits, and the height of fence sufficient for their restraint?" If they have the opportunity they will wander much more than Cochins. Being heavy fowls they cannot conveniently fly over a fence $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, although we have known them do so when impatient of confinement.

Query 7. "Compactness or otherwise of body, and whether leggy or not?" The best specimens are compactly made, and short on the leg.

Query 8. "Whether they breed true to colour and comb?" The variation of colour does not deviate from different mixtures of black, white, and grey, and from the colour of the parents you may reckon, *almost with certainty*, on the shade of the chickens. In breeding from three of the best stocks we know of in America, the following has been the variation in the chicks, and that has depended on the variation in the old birds. Entirely white: of extremely rare occurrence. White, with a dark pencilled neck hackle: a very usual colour. White saddle and wings, with black and grey (varying in quantity and depth of shade) in the tail, in the large feathers of the wings, in the thighs, the fluff, and beneath the wings, sometimes with spangling on the breast; this is a very usual colour. Chickens pencilled more or less over all the plumage, with the mixture of grey beneath the surface and elsewhere, like the last described. This is more rare, yet far from unfrequent, and fowls which are white on the back in their first feathers, sometimes moult speckly. Lastly, we must name the *occasional* appearance of a faulty chicken, with a tinge of colour on the back and wings, but we have never bred them so, except one or two from a hen with the same fault. They

breed true in comb, almost invariably, supposing of course that they are bred with care with reference to this point.

Query 9. "Whether they are as good or better than the best strains of Cochins?" This is a question which we must refer back to the preceding answers, or forward to other amateurs. The Cochins are great favourites with us, so are the Brahmas. Having room for both, we keep both; if we had room for only one, we should be sorely puzzled.

Query 10. "Any other information in elucidation of disputed points connected with Brahmas," we also pass.

Our data is the experience derived from breeding Brahmas from three admired stocks in the United States. Mr. Burnham's strain we have not tried. On all these points both we and our correspondent "T. S." will be much pleased to know the experience of other breeders.

A Day's Fishing at Guernsey.

(In reply to a Correspondent in No. 42.)

ONE fine evening last September, after laying the good foundation of a substantial supper at the Dolphin, we walked down to the pier at Southampton, embarked on board the mail steamer, "Courier," Capt. Goodrich, and about midnight steamed down the Solent, and at 2 o'clock, A. M., saw the Needle Rocks, with the moon, then at its full, shining brilliantly upon them, giving them the appearance of frosted silver. Soon the vessel began to pitch about, enough to let us know that we were at sea, and one by one, those who had until now remained on deck betook themselves to their berths. At 5 o'clock Alderney was sighted; and at 9 we anchored off Guernsey. As soon as the steamer is telegraphed, which is about half an hour before she appears before the harbour, the boatmen come out in shoals to meet her, to convey the passengers and their luggage ashore; and so quick are their movements, that in about twenty minutes after she has dropped anchor she is off again, although

the number of passengers thus landed does not average less at this time of year than from 100 to 120.

On landing, we were beset by sundry porters who wished to carry "our honor's" luggage, and touters from hotels; but we had been recommended to Mrs. Dadson's boarding-house, and were there accommodated satisfactorily, everything being served up very well, and under the immediate superintendence of Mrs. Dadson and her two daughters, and the charges being exceedingly moderate. As we had been on deck all night we did not feel much inclined for active exertion, but contented ourselves with a look at the town and the markets, and took a drive about the island in the afternoon.

We had heard that the fishing in the neighbourhood was excellent, so we determined to spend the next day at this sport. Accordingly we repaired to the abode of Peter Le Noré, and made the necessary arrangements to be with him at 9 o'clock the following morning. After a good night's rest, which was very welcome, we rose and breakfasted, and having packed up a sufficient quantity of provisions for our three selves, the fisherman and his boy, we walked down to the beach, and rowed to his sailing-boat, calling at the bait-pots by the way. These pots are made of basket-work, and are fastened on to the boat behind, dragging under water, which of course keeps the bait alive. As soon as we had come alongside the larger craft, and had transhipped our cargo, we set sail for the coast of Herme, about four miles from Guernsey, and there cast anchor; in a few minutes the lines were got ready and thrown out, and it was not long before a fine mackerel was caught. Sea-fishing does not require so much practice as freshwater fishing, and is in fact very simple; the tackle consists of a long line and hook, near to which a leaden weight of about a quarter of a pound is attached as soon as the hook is baited, the line is thrown overboard, and let to run out until the weight touches the bottom, it is then raised a foot

or two, and held across the first finger; as soon as the fish bite, they give a slight twitch, which may be easily felt, and then the line is drawn in as quickly as possible, and in all probability with a fish attached to it.

In order to facilitate the sport for beginners, the boatman generally takes with him a few twigs, sticks them into the side of the boat, and then twists the end of the lines round the top of them, so that when there is a bite it makes the twig shake; or else they have a small piece of lead fixed on to the line, so that the least motion pulls it overboard. When the men are out fishing by themselves they generally use these things, so that they can have five or six lines out at once. When the current changed, and the fish would no longer bite at the place where we were, we shifted our quarters, and whilst doing so had our dinner. It was rather strange that the boy, who had till then been snoring, woke up as soon as dinner was talked about, and did his best to help us. We soon arrived at a spot, which Peter thought would be advantageous, and he certainly hit upon a place which afforded us some excellent sport, as we pulled out a fish every few minutes, in fact one of our party caught three fish one after the other, before he had got his line quite out. We stopped out until eight o'clock, and then put up our lines, and made for the shore, where we landed with about 60 lbs. weight of fish, consisting chiefly of mackerel and whiting. For this capital day's sport we paid 8s. Anybody visiting Guernsey, who does not mind a little tossing, could not do better than arrange with Peter Le Noré for a day's fishing.

So far contented with our sport we next morning visited St. Sampson's, which is the part of the island from whence all the granite is shipped; this is the principal article of commerce in Guernsey, and there were at least a dozen ships loading with this stone in the harbour. In the afternoon we embarked in the "Lady of Sark" cutter on a trip to Sark, about ten miles from St.

Peter's Port, and it took us about two hours to get there. This harbour is almost natural, there being only one small wall to it, the other three sides being composed of nearly perpendicular rocks about 500 feet high; there has lately been an arch out through one of these, leading to the carriage road, but before this parties landing there were pulled up to the top in baskets, a mode of ascent by no means pleasant.

We went to three houses before we could find any accommodation, at two out of the three we were informed that they had plenty to eat but no room, and at the third, that they had plenty of room but nothing to eat: as neither of these alternatives suited us separately, we were obliged to occupy one for eatables and the other for beds; they do not seem to have many thieves, for when we rose at six the next morning there was nobody to take the money, the door was not locked, and the key was outside. The scenery is very beautiful and romantic, the principal attraction is what they call the Coupeé, connecting Great and Little Sark. It is a road about six feet in width, with a wall on one side four feet high; it is 600 feet from the level of the sea, which may be seen dashing against it on either side, and near 400 feet in length.

As we had to return to Southampton the day afterwards, we were obliged to leave Sark before we had half seen it, but shall endeavour to spend more time there on our next trip to this neighbourhood.

WILLIAM.

A Judge's Notions.

It is doubtless convenient to cast the blame and responsibility of everything on the Judges at the different shows, but it is not just. It is easy to call a congress of judges, and to order them to compile rules for the guidance of exhibitors; but the plan is open to many objections. First, I do not believe the gentlemen who are wanted will come; next, I do not think they will compile rules; and lastly, if

they do the public will not be bound by them.

The poultry sent to exhibitions may be placed in two classes: the known breeds, and the new breeds.

In the first we may place Spanish, Dorkings, Cochin Chinas, Game, Hambro's, some Polands, Bantams.

In the second, Brahma Pootras, some Polands, Ptarmigan, Serai Taooks, and the numbers that make up the Various class.

I would premise before I proceed, that it is only of late these demands have arisen; and that they are founded on the assumed fact, that exhibitors do not know what to breed or what to show.

Let us then take the classes. SPANISH; are rules needed here? Captain Hornby was for a time, uniformly successful. Mr. Davies, who purchased his stock, during the short period he exhibited was also first, and will doubtless be so again. Mr. Rake has not been beaten, although he has met the giants. Mrs. Stow, Mr. Plummer, Lady Macdonald, Mr. John Harrison, Mr. Botham, Rev. Mr. Shaw, Mr. Ramsden, Mr. Alison, Mr. Saunders, and Rev. S. Donne have taken almost all other prizes at the principal shows. Now what was the knowledge of points required to effect these triumphs? Simply none: because nothing more was necessary than to get the best birds of their class, and the number of names given above will prove that the knowledge was not confined to a few.

Let us now see whether DORKINGS will equally well serve our turn. In the early days Lord Hill was uniformly successful; he achieved beauty of plumage and faultless shape. If that deservedly popular nobleman was possessed of any secret knowledge of points, likely to catch the eyes of judges, he proved so far as his own triumphs were concerned, a careless depositary; for the next year his star was eclipsed by the Rev. S. Lawley, and Mr. G. Lowe. To take the average of a stock, no one ever bred Dorkings so heavy as Mr. Lawley, nor is there a *better judge* of these fowls in the world.

Both these gentlemen withdrew, and here again Captain Hornby ran a career of success, interrupted only by Mr. Townley Parker. Mr. Davies eclipsed even Captain Hornby's success at Lincoln and Southampton, when domestic bereavement caused him to withdraw for a time. No one will assert that Dorkings have remained stationary. They have been improved in every point; but I would particularly ask your readers to bear in mind, that new points have not been introduced. What has been the consequence? We have not only very superior birds, but a host of new names. I cannot mention all, but some of the most successful. The Rev. S. Donne, Mr. Fisher Hobbs, Mr. Terry, Dr. Hitchman, The Countess of Chesterfield, Lady Eleanor Cathcart, Mr. Drewry, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Botham, Captain Howard Vyse, Mr. Whittington, Lady Evelyn Stanhope, Mr. Lister, Miss Steele Perkins, Rev. Mr. Boys, Lord Berwick, Mr. Henry Smith, Mr. Loder, and Mr. Breavington. I place the names as they occur to me without any order or precedence, merely to show that the requisite knowledge of the points of the Dorking are thoroughly understood by all classes; for not one name here cited has not exhibited perfect birds. Printed rules are not then necessary for Dorkings.

COCHIN CHINAS. The early days of these birds will of necessity bring forward the names of Messrs. Punchard and Sturgeon. The latter has exhibited but little of late; but the former has had a round of success, chequered but seldom by defeat. To enumerate the new names that have been large prize takers in this class, would be to fill the paper. I will not, therefore, do so; but as these birds open a new view of the question, I will endeavour to treat of it. The first year all shades and colours met in the same class, but both Buff and Dark birds were there. When they became more numerous, classes were appropriated to each. Their points and merits were well understood and defined, and large profits were made; so large, indeed, that it was a good speculation to create a

craving for some particular point heretofore unknown, in order to gratify it afterwards; hence, first clear hackles and then vulture hocks. Now these were not considered desiderata in these fowls in the early days, nor were they distinguishing characteristics of the first and best birds we ever had. When these new fowls came into competition and were beaten, their owners too often grumbled at the decisions, and hence arose the first cry for rules. They did not know, said they, what to breed. The question was easily answered. For what purpose do you wish to breed? If for competition, keep such birds as have been before successful: if for a pecuniary speculation, breed what you like, but do not complain if all the world objects to follow your notions. When these birds with new points are to be successful, the judges should have instructions given to them, rather than lay down rules for others.

GAME will receive no notice beyond the fact that the same names are every year successful; but are sufficiently numerous to prove there is in these birds no monopoly of the knowledge necessary to exhibit with success. It is, therefore, a fair inference that rules are unnecessary.

(To be continued.) JUDGE.

Crested Fowls.

NO. III.

THE Hamburg family is the third breed of crested fowls which I wish to pass in review, this is a topknotted and bearded breed distinct from the foregoing, and we have abundant records of their being imported from Hamburg direct, for more than a century. Their origin is enshrouded in mystery, very probably they are like many others of their compeers, of composite origin, but the peculiarities of the breed and their long establishment, entitles them to a separate name, possibly they are a modification of the ancient Paduan fowls, to which they bear some resemblance, but do not correspond in every respect, as the

description of a Paduan fowl is much that of a tufted Malay, to which I think it will appear evident the Hamburgs (commonly known as "bearded Polish") have not much affinity.

The Rev. E. S. Dixon at page 368 of his "Ornamental and Domestic Poultry," 1850, says, "Albin (1736) figures a cock of a peculiar breed, which is brought from Hamburg by our merchants, with a short topknot, a decided beard and actual whiskers, a tuft of black feathers, which cover his ears."

Mr. Ferguson in his excellent work "Rare and Prize Poultry," 1854, gives Buffon's description of *Le Coq de Hamburgh*, "The Hamburg cock, called also velvet breeches, from the black velvety appearance of his thighs, is a large stately fowl, the bill is much pointed, the iris yellow, and the eyes enriched with a rim of brown feathers, under which there springs up a tuft of black feathers covering the ears, there are similar feathers behind the comb and below the wattles, and round black spots on the breast. The legs and feet are lead-coloured, except the soles which are yellow. This is a peculiar breed, which is brought over from Hamburgh, and is much esteemed by the curious." Mr. Walter B. Dickson, 1838, at page 7, speaks "of the race of Hamburg cocks, which have the head hooded, and the feathers stretched back over the ears," at page 14, he says, "the Hamburg is a variety of the crested fowl," and gives Buffon's description almost verbatim. Such evidence is, I think, conclusive that the Bolton Bays and Grays are not the lawful aspirants to the name, and is also sufficient to prove the difference between this and the other crested breeds, were it not so I could quote Richardson, Martin, Nolan, the prize essay in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and others.

These fowls differ from the Persian crested in having combs and clean dark legs without the fifth toe, and from the St. Jago crested in the comb and beard, and from both in plumage.

The topknot of the Hamburg crested fowl seems to have improved with time and cultivation, but it is smaller and somewhat less globular than that of the others, in the cock particularly falling somewhat backwards, plume shaped, and leaving the eyes more exposed, and it is fronted by a small comb, the most approved form of which is, I believe, that of two small horns forming a crescent, the chief colour is that known as Golden Pheasant, improperly I consider called Golden Spangled, that is to say the ground colour is of a golden brown or bay, the feathers being tipped with a shining black spot varying in form, from a crested shape to a large circular spot, the beard or muffle is almost black, and the topknot should be free from white, which would argue a cross at some period with the Spangled St. Jago (Poland). Varieties of this breed are numerous, as those substituting a silver for the golden ground colour, quite black, pure white, black and white, buff laced with white, cuckoo, &c., each of which has its respective admirers, and there are also numerous crosses between this and the other crested breeds, all of which are promiscuously huddled together with the pure breeds, as Polands, and not unfrequently bring discredit on the parent stock.

B. P. B.

Portable Pens for Poultry Shows.

YOUR correspondent "Square Pen" seems inclined to exclude us from the controversy on the above question by treating our opinions as *interested*. We certainly are interested, though not in the manner he supposes. It is not a matter of much importance to us whether square or round pens be preferred, as we can make a *square portable pen* as well as a round one, with a difference in price. The controversy with us is portable pens *versus* fixed boxes, and we cannot place the superiority of the former over the latter for exhibition purposes in a stronger light than the comparison of a bird cage with a wooden box. We affirmed that fixed pens are never so

well constructed as to exclude baneful drafts, and we think "Square Pen" should test the truth of the statement before contradicting it.

As an illustration of the manner in which wooden pens are sometimes erected, we remember seeing in a "Poultry Chronicle" (or another periodical before its days) an account of a show at which *a whole tier of them tumbled down*, scattering their alarmed occupants in all directions, and effecting more damage we dare say to the feathered pets than the wire pens have done at the seven shows at which they have been in use since September.

Your correspondent says that the plumage of his birds was injured by the wire work of the pens at Manchester. We can merely remark that it must have escaped the notice of our agents who were in the exhibition during the whole of the time, and notwithstanding the most diligent enquiries (and minute examinations) from feeders, &c., did not hear of a single instance of the kind.

May we not suggest that perhaps the tail of his bird was injured whilst travelling. As your correspondent insists on the "snug corners," we will concede that point to him. Our pens, like everything *mundane*, are not perfect, but we believe them to be the only thing yet suggested capable of carrying out the "scheme" with placing an unequalled expense on exhibitors, (especially the "small fry" as R. B. observes).

"Square Pen" is desirous of knowing whether our pens have been approved by committees of shows at which they have been adopted. We have considerable pleasure in being able to inform him that we possess testimonials of the most gratifying description from secretaries, committeemen, judges, and principal exhibitors which we shall be most happy to show him if he can make it convenient to give us a call in *propria persona*, and not as a "Square Pen;" or if he will wait until the publication of our new prospectus, he will see some of them in print.

We confess we do not feel inclined to divide the gentlemen composing the late Manchester committee on the subject of our pens, more especially at the present time, although the majority, individually, expressed to us their satisfaction at the termination and during the show.

One thing we may safely affirm, there were more approvers of our pens after than before the Manchester Exhibition.

Respecting "R. B.'s" suggestion, we will merely say that no "scheme" which does not include the ordinary business relations, can be generally applicable. It is very seldom parties can be found to fit up shows for the honour.

We cannot conclude better than by tendering our acknowledgements to your contributors for the very kind manner in which they have canvassed the productions of persons less accustomed to writing than themselves, and whose letters, therefore, are more open to literary sarcasm. We never even ventured to hope that so novel a reform could be introduced without meeting considerable opposition and criticism.

B. GREENING & Co.

Columbary.

No. V.—THE ARCHANGEL OR BULLFINCH PIGEON.

HAVING thus far described the ecclesiastics of the pigeon-house, it will not be out of place to soar a little higher, and now describe the so-called "Archangel." These pigeons have but recently become known to the English amateur, but in Germany they are plentiful, and are there called "Gimpel," "Dompfaffen," or "Blutfink Tauben," which mean Bullfinch Pigeon, these being only various names for that bird, and I confess I was somewhat surprised to hear the name of Archangel applied to them when I met with them in London. Sir John Sebright has the credit of first introducing them into this country, and possibly from the translation of the word "Dompfaffen," which means a cathedral priest or canon, as well as a bullfinch,

it was not difficult, by a stretch of imagination, to clap wings on the arch priest, and transform him into an archangel. These pigeons are the same size as common dove-house pigeons, rather slighter built, and as sharp and light in their flight; still they are tame, gentle, and rather weakly, and do not increase so well as some others; they are point headed and clean footed, the iris of the eye is of a bright orange. Their plumage is, however, exceedingly beautiful, and the feathers are more glossy and shining than any other variety with which I am acquainted; the head, neck, breast, and under parts, are copper-red coloured, changing into bright orange-brown; the back and shoulders are deep slaty black, having a purplish gloss; the flights are dusky black, and the tail is slaty, barred with black.

The young ones are at first kite or "hawked," but gain a great portion of their adult plumage at the first moult, though no pigeons drop the secondary wing feathers (except two at each side) till the second moult, consequently a brown patch remains on the shoulders till that time in these, as well as in the Suabians, and other young spangled pigeons.

There is a second variety of the Bullfinch Pigeon, that is rather lighter on the breast, the shoulders are dull blue, with dark brown wing bars, but I believe it is not much esteemed.

B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

CUTTING, MASHING, AND COOKING FOOD FOR ANIMALS.

THERE can be no question as to the advantages and economy of cutting roots for both sheep and cattle. These animals are furnished with only one row of incisor or cutting teeth; and however admirably these teeth are adapted for nipping off the grass, they are by no means so well constituted for dividing large roots, and indeed this cannot be done without a considerable expenditure of muscular power,

which is equivalent to the expenditure of so much food.

When turnips are eaten in the field without being cut, a considerable portion of the root is soiled and wasted, and particularly the rootlets and lower parts. The effect of leaving these fragments is injurious to the land, and tends to produce club-root in the future turnip crop. When the turnips are cut up by a proper machine, the whole is consumed, no part is wasted, and the turnips are eaten by the animal with very little labour, as the fragments are at once submitted to the molar teeth, which, besides being much more powerful, are placed nearer the centre of motion than the nippers, and thus can be more easily exercised. It is of course of much greater importance to cut Swedes than white turnips for sheep, in consequence of their much greater solidity.

Another advantage in cutting turnips for fattening sheep is that more time is afforded for eating oil-cake, or other concentrated food, as well as for rumination. With regard to mashing and cooking roots, we believe that for either oxen or sheep, there is no advantage whatever. The labour and fuel is entirely lost. Trials that have been made are altogether unfavourable. It has been found that five oxen and heifers on steamed turnips, &c., cost £5 19s. more during the period of the experiment, than the same number on food uncooked. It is indeed agreeable to the constitution, capacious stomachs, and powerful digestive organs of these animals, that roots should be consumed in a raw state.

There is only one animal—that is, the pig—for which cooking is advantageous. This animal has only one stomach, which somewhat resembles that of man, and accordingly it is advantageous to prepare the food and assist the digestive organs. Besides which, boiled roots are more palatable to the animal, and will be partaken to a much larger extent than if raw. And as roots are cheaper than meal in proportion to the nourishment contained, there is a

decided advantage in using them in combination. It is unnecessary, however, to boil roots for store pigs. Although boiled roots have not been found advantageous for fattening cattle, yet when milk is the object, they have been found to answer the purpose of the cowkeeper, and to produce a larger quantity of this secretion.—*Essay by W. C. Spooner.*

TURNING OUT STOCK EARLY.—Some farmers injure their pastures by turning stock out too early. They ought to wait till the ground has become so firm and compact that the cattle will not injure it; and the grass should be sufficiently high to give them a good bite, without being obliged to gnaw down to the roots. Woodland pastures are the only exception to this rule. On these it is no matter how early stock is turned. The grass here is not so valuable as on open lands, and the leaves still upon the ground are generally sufficient to prevent harm; besides, it is necessary to turn out early on such pastures, in order to give the stock the benefit of the browse. When the early grass is eaten off too soon, it leaves the roots exposed to spring frosts; and if dry weather follows, the pasture will scarcely recover all the summer. But let the grass get a good thick start, and then, if not overstocked, it will keep growing unless it happens to be particularly dry. Sufficient attention is not paid to our pastures. They ought to be harrowed every spring with a fine sharp-tooth harrow, all the manure droppings beat fine, and grass seed sown over all bare or thin spots. After this a heavy roller may advantageously follow. Spread salt over weedy or bushy places, after cutting them off, and the stock after this will gnaw the herbage so close as to prevent the future growth of the weeds. The following year such spots should be well harrowed, and grass seed sown thickly over them. It would be well to keep the stock off them until the grass has well set; they may then be turned on again.

On Bees.

HAVING now, we hope, set the inmates of our hives hard at work, we will take a glance at their abodes, and the new mansions which we are proposing that in the summer our additional families shall occupy. Hives of all forms and sizes rise up before the mind's eye; and if we seek an analysis of their merits, as suggested, from their classification at the Exhibition of 1851, confusion becomes but worse confounded; half of the bee-hives scattered among huge agricultural implements, and the other portion assigned a place among articles used for food, the transitory visitor had but little chance of making a satisfactory inspection. I believe I saw the whole collection, and in it were comprised the best models with which modern improvements have furnished us. If there was what might be considered a leading feature throughout the specimens, it appeared to be that of adapting the hives for the use of glasses, which is all very well, as far as it goes. Passing into the French department, the novelty of the appearance of its hives, with the rusticity of the workmanship, was refreshing to the eye. The sloping roof seemed the peculiar characteristic, and I should like to know if this is found to be advantageous in working these hives. The great Unicomb made us gaze in wonder. But it would not answer with us: its large proportions tell of the climate of *La belle France*; an English swarm of bees would shudder at the sight; a British queen introduced within its portals would survey its vast extent, then exclaiming, "this is no home for us, we shall have no English comforts here," would march out and, surrounded by her subjects, take flight in search of a more congenial dwelling-place.

In selecting a habitation for our bees, the object will be to obtain a hive suited to their nature and habits, in which the largest quantity of honey may be stored, and of which the construction will place the inmates and contents under the control

of the bee-keeper. These qualities may be considered under the heads of material, size, and form.

The materials of which hives are usually formed are either wood or straw. Where metal or glass is introduced, I do not hesitate to say that every inch of these substances deteriorates in some degree the value of the hive, so far as regards the comfort of the bees. Glass is, of course, an indispensable adjunct where it is desired that there should be opportunity for making observations; but, for the sake of the bees, it should be employed as sparingly as possible. In comparing the respective merits of wood and straw as materials, the sole superiority of wood appears to be in its durability. Straw is cheapest, lightest, and, above all, maintains a more equal temperature in summer as well as winter, from its non-conducting quality, and absorbs the moisture, which condenses in considerable quantities during winter in wooden boxes, rendering the combs damp, and often causing mouldiness. For instance, in a box which was placed on a sloping board, in order that the moisture might not accumulate, a stream ran down the sides of the hive during the late frost, and, as it reached the entrance, it froze, and became a mass of ice. An evil which sometimes also arises from such a state of the hive is that the damp causes the combs to leave their adhesion to the sides of the hive, and in consequence to slide down. Mr. Taylor, the author of the "Bee-keeper's Manual," and an advocate of wooden boxes, has devised an ingenious method for reducing humidity, by carrying off the vapour through a hole covered with perforated zinc, at the top of the box: it is then condensed on a glass, from which it falls into a receiver. Dr. Bevan, in recommending wooden hives, admits that it is desirable they should have the protection of a shed. This acknowledgment nearly settles the question as to their being calculated for general use. Though the gardens of the wealthy may display their ornamental beehed, in which amusement and instruction

may be pursued, the *profits* of the bee-keeper must be sought in the small plots of the cottagers' gardens, and it is their interests which occupy the first place in reference to the utility of bee-keeping. The first outlay in boxes and sheds would be an insurmountable difficulty to many.

Lastly, as a matter of taste, what can equal the neat appearance of a row of straw hives, crowding the mind with associations of comfort and peace and industry in the homesteads and cottages of Old England. A.

REMOVING HIVES.

THE removing of bees to fresh pasturage is extensively practised in places where the proximity of large tracts of heath offer an abundant autumnal harvest, and experienced packers convey them to considerable distances without injury. It is a pleasing task to lend aid to your correspondent, the bee-keeper, whose little pets are to travel a hundred miles; that amid new scenes the same cheerful companions may revive the recollections of bygone sunny hours.

The hives are usually carried on handbarrows, where the distance is not more than four or five miles, and this is the safest plan; but for longer journeys, a spring cart with plenty of straw is used. The great point is to avoid any jerks or jarring; and the vibration of the railway might be much lessened by placing a quantity of straw about the hives. They should be tied firmly to the floor board and on no account reversed; for the combs being fixed to the sides of the hive so as to support the weight from above, should the pressure be changed in the opposite direction, the object of the engineering worker is defeated, and the buttresses rendered useless. The combs of straw hives are never found to slide down, but there would be more danger in wooden boxes; and should such an accident occur, perhaps it would be best to leave them alone till swarming time. If possible the journey should take place at night, with the en-

trances closed by some perforated material, as zinc, to admit air. The moment they reach their destination the bees should be set at liberty; and if there must be unavoidable delay between the train and the last part of the journey, if possible I would let the bees out during the day in some quiet spot, and convey them to their final resting-place in the evening.

I shall be glad to hear that "W. N.'s." weak hive goes on well; it will, however, require attention for some weeks, that by a regular supply of food the queen may be maintained in constant laying: as the aim should be to have a strong family ready to gather large stores of honey in June, that the combs may then be completed, otherwise the hive will have to struggle through next winter, exactly as it has done this season.

Floriculture.

APRIL 4.

WE shall hardly incur the necessity of having all our numbers stamped for saying that the weather is bleak and ungenial, that our tender roses must still wear their winter caps of fern or yew, or whatever shelter they may have enjoyed through the sharp winter months; and that facilities for protecting our pet plants from sleet and snow, and such unwelcome visitants, must still be kept at hand. Dahlia roots may be planted in the open ground, taking care that they are covered with earth four inches deep, to protect them from the frost, which we still have in the nights. If it is wished to increase the stock, plant some in the nursery until May, when the roots may be taken up, carefully divided, and planted where they are intended to flower.

The balsam is a pretty flower, either for the house, or the flower borders. To make a soil in which it will thrive well, procure some of the decomposed vegetable matter to be found in the stumps of old willow trees, mix this in equal parts, with a portion of an old cucumber bed, and sift it

through a coarse sieve. Fill pots with this compost, sow the seed sparingly, and plunge them in bottom heat. When the little plants get into the rough leaf, they should be transplanted into sixty-sized pots. After this, persons who wish to grow them in perfection for the greenhouse, transplant them continually until they get into peck pots. They require plenty of water, and the morning is the best time to give it them. Those who wish to try them in the open air, may pursue the same plan until they get into quart pots. About the end of May a bed should be prepared of good light earth, in which the plants may be planted out of the pots, about a yard apart. With taste in arranging the colours, the effect will be very good, and they will continue flowering until touched by the frost; perhaps until late in Autumn. If there is room in doors (for our remarks are intended for those with limited appliances), to stand window boxes for a few weeks, they may be sown with seeds of flowers which will come forward and look gay. The different kinds of *nemophila*, *discoidalis*, *insignis alba*, *insignis*, and *maculata*, fill a box very prettily. If a weed may be tolerated, (and if it is pretty, why not) the *anagallis*, and scarlet *pimpernel*, form a turfy covering for the mould, in which taller plants, *fuchsia*, ten-week stocks, *balsams*, and many besides can be planted. For boxes, as for every other purpose, *mignonette* is a never failing treasure; and later in the season, the sweet-scented *verbena*, and scarlet *geranium*, make a beautiful mixture. All the *lobelias* look well in pots and boxes, and later in the year *petunias* are showy and handsome. Let tulips be protected from storms of hail, and covered at night. In occasionally lightening the earth about the roots, care must be taken not to wound or injure the offsets. As the prevalence of easterly wind will probably lower the temperature of the hot-bed, on which we depend so much for plants for the flower borders, it had better be lined with a little fresh stable manure, or with the grass

cuttings of lawns and turf walks. Beds of pinks should be kept clear of weeds, and have the surface stirred occasionally. Plant *ranunculuses* and *anemones* to succeed those before planted. Water them in mild weather, and protect them from frost, if it should again be sharp. Choice flowers in pots should be dressed and new earthed, and stir the surface of the earth often with a stick. Give fresh earth to carnations, *auriculas*, double wall-flowers, double stocks, and all of a similar nature. Transplanting and planting evergreens must not be delayed beyond the present time.

LEPTOSIPHON AUREUM.

A VERY pretty annual was introduced into our gardens last year, and it appears to be a very great acquisition. It is the *Leptosiphon Aureum*, one of California's golden treasures, as the name implies; of a very dwarf habit, growing about two inches high, and its heads of bright gold-coloured flowers, form the gayest little patches imaginable. It would make a remarkably pretty edging for a flower-bed, and would contrast well with the well-known blue *Lobelia Ramosus*. The latter is often used as an edging to a white centre; and for a corresponding bed in contrast of colouring, the *Leptosiphon Aureum* would be the very plant to encircle a bed of blue, purple, or lilac.

I believe that like the other Californian annuals it is very hardy; and as a proof of its merits, a medal was awarded to it at Chiswick. A.

A CHEAP HOT-BED may be made by procuring a couple of sashes, say three feet by four, and fitting them to a box. Any rough boards will do. Remove the surface soil the size of the box, and put in horse manure a foot or eighteen inches deep. Cover the manure with six inches of soil, put over your box the sashes, and you have a cheap hot-bed, where you may sow early York cabbage seed, a few tomatoes, lettuce,

peppers, &c., and in the middle of the bed, where there is the most heat, a few egg plants. The cost is but a trifle, and it gives us vegetables several weeks in advance of their time.

The Cochins of the Present Day.

ADVERSITY tries everything. Even Cochinchina fowls. But it is of the nature of a trial to sift everything to the bottom, and we imagine that after a trial, we arrive at the truth. As the advocate of these over-praised, and unjustly abused birds, I enter the lists. If ever fowls might reasonably say "save me from my friends," these may. People were encouraged to give large sums for breeding birds as a speculation, with the idea that all their produce would be worth as much as the parents; their eggs would make five shillings each; in fact, the goose with the golden eggs was nothing to it. Fables were to be proved below the truth. A cock and four hens were to produce an annual sale of at least £500, and all that was necessary to realise a large income, was the possession of a few of these marvellous birds. It is unnecessary to add, that disappointment was the result of these highdown expectations. Then came the reverse; people were soured, and these really profitable and useful creatures were declared worthless. Now what is the truth? they were said to be useless to breed; it was affirmed there was no sale for them. Every breed must now-a-days be tried by the touchstone of exhibitions. Have the premiums for them been diminished? No. Silver cups are offered in lieu of small medals. Is there not a ready sale for good birds? Yes, when they are met with. Can good birds, especially cocks, be purchased? No; one of our largest dealers said a few days since, he wanted six, and could not get them. Is the price offered remunerative? Yes; choice birds will make from 15s. to 25s. each, and that *must* be a remunerative return for a fowl. A few years ago no one

dreamed of more than a few shillings, but now many are not satisfied unless they make pounds. Are they not unquestionably the best winter layers we have? Yes, and in such a winter as we have had, the *only ones*.

One word more, and I have done. A popular poultry writer has said, "These hens are old at eighteen months." Is it not the fate of all things to lose their bloom as they advance in years? As we at forty, have lost the elasticity and grace of twenty, so these birds fade as they grow older. Bring Cochins back to what they were three years since, and there is no doubt of a lucrative return. There is a demand for good birds, and it must be supplied by some one.

C. C. C.

Improvement in Poultry in America.

As one incident illustrating the great progress of late years in this important branch of farming and stock-raising, a friend from Connecticut informs us that in his immediate neighbourhood, fifteen tons of choice dressed poultry is annually sent to market, when a few years since, scarcely one ton was sold. He says, in the article of geese an immeasurable improvement has been made. A choice African gander (known by his dew-lap reaching from his jaw the entire length of his neck and belly) is used with from five to seven Bremen geese; and this cross produces great fertility, vigour of constitution, and rapid growth, as any one may see who has watched these stately bipeds leading a brood of a dozen or fifteen goslings, larger than themselves, to their watering-places. He says, one man hatched, last season, about eighty goslings from seven Bremen geese and one gander, and raised seventy, the others having been lost by maiming. For such goslings, well fattened, he often receives five dollars per pair. This certainly cannot be a losing business.

Another correspondent writes us, that he sold poultry last year to the amount of 2,900 dollars, mostly live and fancy stock.

Another friend assures us, his sales have been about 2,000 dollars per annum for the last two or three years.

Such large receipts cannot be often realized, and we should be sorry to encourage their expectations; but they are a pretty sure guarantee that the breeders of any choice birds will have no difficulty hereafter in always realizing a handsome remuneration for the trouble and expense in raising them.—*American Agriculturist*.

History of One of the Maniacs.

PART IV.

THE near approach of other shows compelled me to be on the alert, and my best pen having been claimed, all my judgment was called into exercise to select others. Although I had no reason to be dissatisfied with my success on the first occasion, yet I felt anxious for assistance now, and invited my Mentor to help me.

My baskets were this time ready, of the proper size, having my initials, and only awaiting their occupants. My man and myself had made our selection, and the birds were separated, and put in a small pen. When my friend arrived, he looked long at them, and finding no fault, I conceived they met his approval, and was about to have them packed up, when he said he thought he detected a small rise in the back of one of the pullets. I immediately caught her, and passing my hand along her back, detected an inequality about the size of a small marble. "Surely," said I, "judges will not notice this?"

"If they look narrowly," answered he, "they must detect it, as I have done, and then they must disqualify. It would be hard," continued he, laughing, "if this should happen twice in succession."

What a difficulty it is to find and match three pullets, even in a large and good collection. We could not exactly replace the faulty bird, but my friend put in one would do he said very well, and took his departure.

After he was gone I went to the pen to

pack up. My man showed no alacrity to do it. "Why," said I, "do you not pack them?" Still he lingered.

"Beg pardon, sir, but they don't match as they did before that hen was taken out. Don't you think, sir, that gentleman is too particular? Neither you nor I saw it,—why should the judges?"

"Put her back," said I, "and let us see them together again."

Here let me remark, every poultry man or woman has a preconceived opinion of every fowl and every pen. Masters may be wrong, judges may be unfit, but *they* are always right. And while I laugh at this, I would add, such are the only servants worth having, they take an interest in it; and the best men in existence are of no use to attend to poultry unless a fondness for it is their principal feeling, and leads them to identify themselves with their charge.

My man had made up his mind to exhibit the pen as we originally made it, and his argument, that because *we* did not see it, the judges would not, certainly carried weight. The advice of my friend was unheeded, and we sent the pen as we had first selected it.

This time at least my birds started in good trim. Proper baskets, duly marked with my name, and made according to the most approved principles, a smart light cart, a good horse, and a man radiant with anticipated triumph, my own notion of success, and the love of the thing that was gradually taking possession of me, all filled me with confidence, and I have seldom felt more satisfied, or more elated than I did as I watched the progress of my cart till a turning hid it from my view.

As it is not my intention to weary my readers with a minute detail of everything, but merely to record feelings which will most likely be familiar to many, I shall merely add, that on reaching the exhibition, I found the judges had not failed to detect the trifling deformity of my hen, and disqualification was again the result. The lesson I learned here was, that if judges

are equal to their business, they intuitively as it were discover positive defects, which in many cases are unknown to the owners of the fowls.

The consequence of this defeat was, however, important in one respect, my man returned home very ill-tempered; he had lost the present I promised for every prize he took, and was disposed to lay the fault on all except himself. I went down when he got home in perfect good-humour, rather disposed to console him than otherwise, and began by saying, if we had lost the prize, we had gained experience. He said, that was not much use. I told him, experience should be the parent of success. He then entered into a long description of the pains he had taken, the labour it had caused him, the care he had given, the hours he was a-foot, and all the difficulties of a poultry career. He was totally oblivious that all this was his duty, and that he was paid for it. I reminded him of it; and he then said, he did not like other people to come and criticize HIS fowls; that either he understood them or he did not, and he thought he did; and that if Mr. — (naming my friend), was to come and give his opinion, he did not like it. But, said I, it was by neglecting his advice we lost the prize. With a mysterious shake of the head, he said he did not know that. There was such a thing, he said, as getting the right side of the judges; it was very odd we were always disqualified, and Mr. N. always successful. It could not be otherwise if he was allowed to come and see what he had to beat; and of course he would give such advice as would suit himself best, and people who followed it could not expect to beat him. I was angry, and it ended in my telling him he should leave.

Perhaps the most uncomfortable time I ever spent was during the fortnight between this day and that on which he left. The man of whom I had thought so much, was in reality an ill-tempered fellow, and annoyed me to the best of his ability; need I say he succeeded? I allowed him to go before I was provided with a successor,

and undertook the management myself, with the assistance of a good stout lad. I worked hard, but I confess I enjoyed it. I was up every morning before six; the lad cleaned all the houses; I fed, turned out, and counted. I registered the days when the hens took to sitting, and when they should come off. I made my remarks, and the time was not thrown away. I learned much, and although I do not think I should like it all the year round, yet during the summer months everything went well, and I look back to it with pleasure.

MANIAC.

Age of Fowls, &c.

W. S. writes, "May we conclude, from the history of 'Mother Grey,' that 7½ years is the age of a hen?" I think not, for she did not seem to die of age, but was ill some time. I once saw a game hen which was fifteen years old; but such an age as that must be most unusual. Do not fowls often increase in size for more than two years? and if they do, may such increase be considered growth during all that time? in the human frame bulk increases after growth ceases. I have a Cochin hen which is four years old, and she only looks now in her prime, she never looked better nor brisker.

How would the following list of the length of different animals' lives, from the "Northern Farmer," bear the test of M. Flourens' rule? — ("Poultry Chronicle," page 506, vol. ii.)

"A bear lives more than twenty years; a dog lives twenty years; a fox fourteen or sixteen; lions sometimes live to the age of seventy. The average of cats is fifteen years: a squirrel and hare seven or eight; rabbits seven. Elephants have been known to live to the age of four hundred years.— When Alexander the Great had conquered Porus, king of India, he took a great elephant which had fought very valiantly for the king, named him Ajax, dedicated him to the sun, and let him go with this inscription:—"Alexander, the son of Jupiter,

hath dedicated Ajax to the sun." This elephant, was found with this inscription three hundred and fifty years after. Pigs have been known to live to the age of thirty years; the rhinoceros to twenty. A horse has been known to live to the age of sixty-two, but averages twenty-five or thirty. Camels sometimes live to the age of one hundred. Stags are long-lived. Sheep seldom exceed the age of ten. Cows live about fifteen years. Cuvier considers it probable that whales live one thousand years. The dolphin and porpoise attain the age of thirty. An eagle died at Vienna at the age of one hundred and four years. Ravens frequently reach the age of one hundred. Swans have been known to live three hundred years, and the tortoise a hundred and seven." E. W.

Breeding Geese.

FROM THE NORTHERN FARMER.

THE following article on Breeding Geese is from a gentleman near Boston, who has bred the Bremen goose over twenty years with eminent success. His remarks will apply to any breed of geese.

The Bremen goose inclines to commence laying in the latter part of February, which is earlier than is desirable in this latitude. To give the young fair play, it is not best that hatching should be finished before the 1st of June. My mode in reference to this, is as follows:—

The whole of the breeding stock, male and female, are put into a dark room—say about the 20th of February, and kept there till about the 10th of April. While shut up they are well fed once a day with corn, and always allowed sufficient water to drink. Once a week they are allowed to go out for an hour, to wash and plume themselves, and are then shut up again. While thus confined, they lose the inclination to breed, and do not resume it while they are shut up; but in eight or ten days after they are set at liberty, this disposition returns, and they commence laying.

I have my goslings mostly brought out

on the same day. This is done by a mode which may be described as follows: In 1840, I had four ganders and ten geese for breeding purposes. At that time I had thirty milch cows in one stable, the large door of which opened on the farm lane. Directly in front of this door, were the boxes or nests in which the geese laid their eggs. The man who had charge of the cows, also had charge of the geese; and he worked by the following instructions: First, the geese were to be carefully and properly fed. Second, the eggs were to be removed from the nest every day, in the most gentle manner, and placed in a basket of cotton, which was kept in a moderate temperature, and free from dampness. When all the geese had begun to sit steadily, each was furnished with a nest composed of chopped straw, and care was taken that the nest was sufficiently capacious. The eggs were then placed in the nest, and the goose allowed to sit on them.

Strict attention was enjoined on the attendant not to allow more than one of the geese to leave her eggs at a time. As soon as one leaves the nest, she makes a cackling noise, and this was to be the signal for the man to go and shut up the boxes in which the remainder were sitting; consequently, when the goose returned, she found only her own box open. As soon as she entered, the whole of the doors were again opened; and the same rule was observed throughout her period of hatching. In following this management, every goose was kept on its own nest. There were one hundred and twenty eggs set altogether—twelve to each of the ten geese before mentioned; and at the end of four weeks, which is the usual period of incubation, there were eighty-eight goslings produced in one day, and they formed a beautiful sight.

When first hatched, the goslings are of a very tender and delicate constitution. My general practice is to let them remain in the box where they are hatched for twenty-four hours after they leave the shell; but this should be regulated by the weather,

which, if fair and warm, may justify letting the goslings out an hour or two in the middle of the day, when they may wet their bills and nibble at the grass. They ought not to be let out in the rain at any time during the first month. A very shallow pool, dug in the yard, with a bucket or two of water in it, to meet the temporary purposes of bathing, is sufficient during the period.

My practice of feeding, is not to give the goslings any grain whatever, after they are four days old, until snow falls, when they require to be fed on corn for a time. If, however, they were well fed on grain from the time they were hatched, they might weigh from four to seven pounds more than by leaving them to grass feeding alone. By feeding them till four days old, and then literally "sending them to grass," mine have averaged from seventeen to eighteen pounds each, at eight months old, after the feathers have been picked off. I have no doubt that twenty-five pounds could be obtained by attention to feeding with grain.

The breeding boxes mentioned above, are made something like a dog-kennel, with a roof pitched both ways. They are 30 inches long by 24 inches wide, and are 24 inches in height. The door is in the end, and is covered by a sliding panel, which moves up when egress or ingress is sought, and may be shut down at pleasure. For the first month, the geese and goslings are all shut in the boxes at night, in order to protect them against rain and animals which prey on them.

Having had these geese from Bremen, I have always called them after that place, but English writers call them "Embsden Geese."

SAMUEL JAKUES.

At Hougham, a farmer's wife ties up her cream in a linen cloth, buries it for twenty-four hours in a damp corner of her garden, empties it into a bowl, stirs it with a spoon, and the butter and butter-milk separate.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

PIGEONS AT THE SHOWS.

SIR,—I see almost weekly complaints in your paper of pigeons not being included in the prize lists of shows. Now, my opinion is, that with the present system it would be better to erase them from the few lists that they are included in than allow the injustice that is done to the owners of them. They are included in the Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham society's show, and one prize of five shillings only is offered to each class; while for poultry a first prize of 30s., a second of 15s., and to some a silver vase. There is no difference made in the entrance money, so that an amateur, after twenty years breeding to bring a bird to perfection, has a prize of 5s. offered, and running a risk of taking it, pays 2s. entrance-money, and, if at a distance, 1s. 6d. to 2s. carriage; outlay on basket, straw, &c.; so that he pays 5s. for showing his birds to the public, and if his are the best pair he gets—what? Postage-stamps, or a post-office order for 5s. Let committees of shows follow my advice, not to include pigeons unless they offer a prize of not less than ten shillings.—Yours truly,

ONE OF THE INJURED.

[We firmly believe that exhibitors generally value a prize for the honour, rather than for its money value. When committees draw up their prize-lists they must be governed by the state of the finances, and we would rather see small prizes offered than hear of a non-paying show; but when the prizes are small we cannot help thinking that a medal would be much more valued than a few shillings in money, always leaving the receipt of it at the option of the prize-taker.—Ed.]

CURIOUS EGG.

SIR,—Yesterday one of my Turkey hens laid a very extraordinary egg. It was a soft-shelled one outside, about the size of a double-yolked Turkey's egg, with a perfect hard-shelled Turkey's egg inside it. If you think this worth mentioning in the "Poultry Chronicle" you are very welcome to put it in.—I am, yours truly,

JOHN R. ROBBARD.

Aldwick Court, Langford,
near Bristol.

BRAHMAS AND MALAYS AT THE SHOWS.

WHEN little Topsy was asked what she knew of her origin—and who made her? she replied, "Don't think nobody never made me: I 'speat I grow'd." Now, were we to look into the early history of many sorts of fowls which are placed

in our exhibitions, I fear our search and enquiry respecting their derivation would not be more satisfactorily replied to; and after all our trouble, we should be obliged to leave the mystery respecting them, where Topsy did, and say, "spect they grow'd."

I am led to this conclusion from its having been said the Brahma Pootras are components of two fowls, of distinct varieties, or cross-bred fowls! Now it is a well-known truth that all cross-bred fowls show the distinguishing traits, more or less, of both parents; also, they cannot be successfully bred from, year by year, and retain their first mongrel or assumed form and feather to be depended upon; but with the Brahma it is otherwise, even when crossed with fowls from different strains, they are known by breeders to retain their own peculiar marking and feather; as much so, as when the first fowls were imported; which would not be the case, if it were possible to manufacture them in the manner above stated.

Each year the claims of the Brahma to hold a position as a distinct class at our larger exhibitions is more generally admitted. In 1854 they were recognised, and allowed to take first class honours at Reading, Manchester, Birmingham, Colchester, Great Northern, Bath and West of England, Southampton, Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Norwich, &c.: and in the few Schedules which have appeared in the "Poultry Chronicle" for 1855, the Brahma has again the honour to appear as a distinct class.

At the last Great Birmingham, amongst 1745 pens of varieties, 1339 consisted of poultry of the following varieties, from which it will be seen Brahmas formed 50 pens of the whole:—

	Single Fowls.	Pens.	Total.
Hamburgs	44	233	277
Polish	16	106	122
Spanish	30	91	121
Dorking	64	200	264
Cochins	49	191	240
Brahma	14	36	50
Game	41	208	249
Malays	0	16	16
	258	1081	1339
Geese, Turkeys, Pigeons, and others..			406
			1745

In 1853 there were 26 pens of Malays at Birmingham, which in 1854 fell to 16 of all ages. Unless the fanciers of that fowl will show up more strongly for the time to come, Malays will soon be excluded, or smaller prizes will be given to them. Sixteen pens only to contend for the £3 Birmingham Prize Medal must have been easy work for the winner.

BRAHMA.

FOUR YEARS' EXPERIENCE WITH
CURASSOWS.

SIR,—As you wish for information about the Curassows, I give you four years' experience in the North with a pair of crested birds which came from Mexico. They stood the voyage uncommonly well, being quite healthy, but somewhat poor and dirty. They are certainly handsome birds (and as an ornamental bird for the aviary not to be surpassed); they are about the size of a small hen turkey. The female is beautifully marked, the general ground colour being a light nut brown. The colour of the male is more uniform and darker, and much resembles our black Moorcock; he is more active than the female, and at the sight of any strange object will cut some fine capers—almost to dancing—at the same time uttering a continual sound (somewhat similar to a short cough), and raising and depressing his splendid crest, as with anger, much like the cock Turkey. They stand confinement better than any other foreign bird I ever had to do with, but not under a roof. They delight in perching on trees and shrubs, and will readily feed on all kinds of whole grain, fruit, and vegetables. They appeared to stand the climate well, except losing a portion of their toes every winter; many would suppose it to be from frost-bite, but I am satisfied, from the care I took of them in winter, mine were not frosted: nevertheless, the toes kept going till they were reduced to stumps. I think it must be a kind of foot-rot. At the commencement of winter I mostly found the toes more or less inflamed, and afterwards becoming quite benumbed and dead. They laid twice each season—four eggs each time; the first laid in May, the second in July, the eggs being the same size as a small goose egg, and the shell as thick. The first season I set the early eggs, and having waited for them thirty-two days I gave them up, and proceeded to break the shells, when I found one egg only contained a bird alive—very near its time, but so weak it died. The next season I set the first eggs, and on the thirty-sixth day two of them began to crack, and finally opened the shell. The next morning they seemed unable to push out. In the course of the day I helped them out, but with no hopes of keeping them alive; one died on the second day, and the other on the seventh. All the eggs laid after were non-productive. The fourth and last season I tried to cross them with different kinds of fowls. The female I could do nothing with, but the male paired with a small hen turkey of the Norfolk breed in August, after being together for six weeks: however, I set the eggs, but no use. They were old birds, and I think their breeding qualities were past.—Yours obediently,

T. WARE.

**Price of Corn at Mark Lane.
MARCH 26.**

	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	71 to 79
" " " red	64 .. 69
" " " Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	64 .. 68
BARLEY, Maltng, new	29 .. 30
" " " Chevalier	31 .. 33
" " " Distilling	29 .. 30
" " " Grinding	27 .. 29
OATS, English, feed	24 .. 25
" " " potatoo	27 .. 28
" " " Scotch feed new	27 .. 28
" " " old	31 .. 32
" " " potatoo	31 .. 33
" " " Irish feed, white	24 .. 27
" " " black	23 .. 25
RYE	39 .. 40
BEANS, Mazagan	85 .. 38
" " " Ticks	86 .. 40
" " " Harrow	86 .. 40
" " " Pigeon	38 .. 44
PEAS, White, boilers	37 .. 44
" " " Maple	37 .. 39
" " " Grey	84 .. 37

On Friday the demand was rather inactive at Monday's prices.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

SCARCITY is making its appearance and prices are rising in consequence. The demand has been better during the past week, but we may look for decrease during the Easter holidays.

Large Fowls	6s. 6d. to	7s. 6d.	each
Smaller do.	5s. 6d. to	6s. 0d.	"
Chickens	4s. 0d. to	4s. 6d.	"
Green Geese	10s. 0d. to	10s. 6d.	"
Ducklings	5s. 0d. to	5s. 6d.	"
Guinea Fowls	3s. 0d. to	3s. 6d.	"
Wild Ducks	2s. 3d. to	2s. 6d.	"
Widgeon	1s. 9d. to	2s. 0d.	"
Teal	1s. 6d. to	1s. 9d.	"
Rabbits	1s. 6d. to	0s. 0d.	"
Wild do.	0s. 10d. to	1s. 0d.	"
Pigeons	0s. 10d. to	1s. 0d.	"

To Correspondents.

T. S.—It is difficult to fix the time when Spanish fowls get white faced. Inferior birds never become so entirely, but always have the red mark over the eye. In the best breeds the cocks whiten before the pullets. They should show well for it at about fourteen weeks, and at ten months should be white all round. Some will be so earlier, but they will be

exceptions to the rule. When at nine months old, there is a deep red mark over the eye, unmixed with white, the case is hopeless, so far as perfection is concerned. A pullet is seldom quite white till twelve months old, and often later. We believe a Spanish hen is not in perfection of face till two years old. But to a practised eye, there are unmistakable evidences of coming goodness, and to wait till a red faced pullet of nine months became a white faced hen, would be about the fellow proceeding to that of the fabled countryman, who waited on the banks of the river for the water to run dry. We are very much gratified by our correspondent's kind and flattering expressions. We discontinued the visits to the yards of well known breeders, but as their continuation is requested by "T. S." we shall, with the assistance of our valued contributor, the author of them, continue the series.

Brahma.—The letter was placed for insertion last week, but from press of matter it was obliged to stand over.

S. H. Haslam, Esq.—We sent a reply to the address given, but it has been returned from the dead letter office. We have never received but one note, and forwarded the instructions contained in it to the publishers.

Sour.—The pullets appear to have died from apoplexy. Immediate bleeding in the comb has sometimes saved a fowl's life.

G. R.—We will reply to the question next week.

W. C. W., S. K., W., R. H., and *Windsor's* communications next week.

J. S. Loftus.—We would recommend the number of fowls to be confined to four or five; we do not know whether, with us, hens will lay as well without a cock: they often do in France, but the climate is warmer. We shall like to hear of our correspondent's success. We never think such queries troublesome, but have great pleasure in giving or procuring the best information in our power.

J. P. of M.—We do not know why "so many incubators are offered for sale soon after they are bought?" We have heard of their succeeding, but when we see the mother hen's untiring care of her brood, feeding, warming, summoning, and hovering them, and hear her address her chickens in the most intelligible and varying language on every occasion, we cannot think that they would do as well without her care. We once reared a brood without the help of a hen, and we should be sorry to undertake the task again. As far as the hatching goes we know no reason why artificial heat should not succeed. We should be much obliged if any of our readers who have tried an incubator will favour us with the result of the experiment.

Advertisements.

FOWLS BY JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest, Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a Chapter on the Bramah Protra Fowl, the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s., or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or, Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Paternoster Row.

MR. T. MOOBE, of Fareham, Hants, has Three Prize PTARMIGANS for sale, with upright crests, in full laying, price £3. Also, a Spanish Cock, of Mr. Davies's Yard, Hen, with pure white face, and two Pullets, for £1 15s. Eggs of Ptarmigan, Spanish, Silver-Pencilled Hamburgs, and Gold and Silver Spangled Hamburgs (these birds have taken four prizes), White Dorkings, with Rose Combs, pure Surrey breed, and Gray Ditto, from the yards of Messrs. Davies, Hill, Smith, Baily, and Hawkins, all at 10s. the Setting, warranted good, and to hatch six, or deficiencies made good free of charge. Post-office Orders to be made payable at Fareham Office.

BEDFORDSHIRE POULTRY ASSOCIATION. The Third Annual Exhibition of Poultry and Pigeons will take place in Bedford, early in the month of November, 1855.

Prize Lists can be obtained from either of the Honorary Secretaries, to whom subscriptions may be paid, JOHN T. ROLT ALLEN, Bedford; F. A. LAVENDER, Biddenham, near Bedford.

GOLDEN PENCILLED HAMBROS. The Advertiser having taken the 1st prize for Chickens at Birmingham, 1854, and the 1st and 2nd prizes at Birmingham, 1853, in this variety, and birds from the same stock having taken prizes at most of the leading shows, induces the Owner to offer for sale a few settings of EGGS from the above high-class birds at 1s. per egg. Address W. TYLER, Friday Bridge, Birmingham. Also Eggs from Golden Spangled Hamburgs, the 3rd prize pen at Birmingham for old birds, and the only prize pen at that show, exhibited with a Cock feathered male bird, 10s. the setting of 13 eggs.

PRIZE COCHINS FOR SALE.—A Pure Buff Sturgeon Cock, 1854, and Splendid Cream Coloured Golden Hackled Hen, 1853, and a Pullet, 1854, to match. The three are first class, short legged, heavily feathered, birds; on Sale because the owner has not convenience to keep them.—Apply S. W., box 19, Post Office, Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire.

EGGS FOR SETTING may be had from the Yard of Mr. H. D. DAVIES, whose stock has been carefully bred and selected from all the best strains, and has already taken upwards of 250 prizes.

Spanish, Dorking, Brahma, and Rangoon Eggs, £2 2s., and White Cochins and Aylesbury Ducks, £1 11s. 6d., the dozen, to include basket, &c.

Spanish and Dorking Fowls of all ages may be selected from that portion of the stock not required for breeding or exhibition this season.

For Cock and 1 Pullet	£5 5 0
For Cock and 2 Pullets	7 7 0
For Cock and 4 Pullets	10 10 0

Remittances, by Post-office Order, payable to GEORGE KEEBLE, the Bailiff, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, to accompany all orders.

Mr. Davies will feel obliged if persons who wish to see the Poultry will make it convenient to do so between the hours of 10 and 4 on any Wednesday or Saturday.

TWO BRAHMA POOTRA COCKERELS.—Bred from Mr. John Baily's celebrated strain, for Sale, price 15s. each. Eggs from prize bird breeds, descended from same stock, 6d. each.—Apply to JOHN HENRY CLIFFE, Twiggworth Villa, near Gloucester.

STUD BIRDS.—First prize Partridge and Buff Cochins for sale. EGGS from either variety, one shilling each. CAPTAIN SNELL, St. Switlin's Lane, London.

PRIZE HAMBROS. EGGS from each variety of the above Birminghan Prize Birds may be had at 10s. 6d. per dozen, box 1s. See previous advertisements. Cock and Two Pullets, Golden Pencilled Hambros, 1st prize at Bridgnorth, Wellington and Shrewsbury, for disposal, price £2. Also Cock and Two Hens, of the same breed, 1st prize at Salop, 1853 and 1854, Wellington, Baker Street, and other shows, Price £2. Address J. B. CHUNE, Severn Cottage, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire. Post-office Orders payable at Ironbridge.

BROWN-RED GAME.—To be sold a few EGGS of this breed, from most carefully selected and very superior Stock, price 1s. each. Also a Pure Black Crested Duck-wing Cock.

Wanted two strong Willow Legged Gray Game Hens, hatched in 1851.—Full particulars of the Stock to be disposed of will be given on application to Mr. T. W. PEARSE, Bromham Road, Bedford.

SERAI TÁOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan, A few Settings of EGGS from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 21s. for Nine.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from First-rate Pea-Combed mature birds, at 21s. the Dozen. Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

FOR SALE.—A few first prize Golden and Silver Spangled POLAND FOWLS, of Mr. Vivian's and Mr. Haslewood's strains. Also some white-faced Spanish, which have taken prizes. Apply to S. T. SMITH, Park Lane, Madeley, Salop.

S. T. S. will supply eggs at 8s. 6d. per dozen, from his Black Game Fowls, which have taken several first prizes.

GEORGE BOOTHBY offers EGGS from first class birds at the following moderate prices, viz., Black Spanish, Buff and White Cochins, White Silky Fowl, Silver-Pencilled Hamburgs, Malay, and Dorking, all at 5s. per dozen; Brahma Pootra, &c., and Jet Black Cochins, 7s. 6d.; and various Polands at 10s. 6d. G. B. has on Sale a Pair of Black Spanish, 21s.; a few very fine Black and White Cochins Hens, and Dorking Cockerels and Pullets, 7s. 6d. each; a Silver Poland Cockerel, 10s. 6d.; and Gray Poland do. 7s. 6d.; also a lovely set of White Ptarmigans, erect crests, and profusely booted, Two and a half Guinea. Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire.

PILE GAME FOWLS.—A few Sets of EGGS may be had from the above Fowls, very first class birds, and have been carefully bred, for the last five years, from the best strains could be procured, and cannot be surpassed, either for beauty or courage, have never been exhibited. Also from Black Breasted Reds and Silver Duckwings, equally good, price 15s. per dozen. For Sale, a splendid short-legged falcon hooded White Cochins Cock, well feathered, with two Hens and Seven Chickens, price 25s. the lot. Also a first rate Black Brausted Red Cock, 15s.—Apply to Mr. FREDERICK W. RUST, Stowmarket, Suffolk.

SAMUEL HARROP, 13, Cooper Street, Manchester, Bird and Animal Preserver to the Manchester Museum, will have Black Spanish EGGS for Sale during the season, at £1 10s. the Setting, which includes the box and packing. The stock is the property of an Amateur, who has taken first and second prizes in 1854, at all the Shows where he has exhibited, including Holmfirth, Harrogate, Birmingham, and Manchester. The birds have been carefully penned for breeding, and are first-class birds, with large White Faces and Large Bodies. The Stock can be seen, and further particulars will be given by applying as above.

N.B.—S. HARROP begs to inform purchasers, that the Eggs will be forwarded, carefully packed according to the dates of the orders, and a private seal will be placed on each box before leaving the yard.

EGGS FOR SETTING.—Mr. THOMAS COLLIS, of Boston, Lincolnshire, will be happy to supply his brother amateurs with settings of Eggs from his choice stock of Gold and Silver-pencilled Hambros, Dorkings, Silver-pencilled Polands, and Cochins, at the very low price of 10s. 6d. per seat of 13. Mr. Collis gives the word of a gentleman that the Eggs sent may be depended upon.

EGGS from the Yard (Parker's Row) of HENRY CRUICKILL, 117, Westgate St. Gloucester. Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, White, Gold, Buff Yellow or Chamois Polands, 15s. per dozen; Dorking, Pile Game, Black Bantams, Scotch Bakes, Black Polands, Frizzled, and Spanish, 10s. per dozen; Buff Cochins, 5s. per dozen; Nest Eggs, 4s. per dozen. For further particulars, or List of Prices, see No. 57, page 95, and No. 56, page 55, or apply as above.

EGGS—Dorking and Cochins China, from the yards of William and John Coppell, Eccleston, near Prescott, Lancashire. Dorkings, 10s. 6d. the setting; and Cochins Chinas, 7s. 6d. the setting. Post Office Orders made payable to W. and J. COPPELL, Prescott.

EGGS from Grey Single Comb Dorking Fowls of large size, 18s. per dozen. Buenos Ayres Ducks' Eggs, 13s. per dozen, from the birds which won the first prizes at Cambridge and Doncaster. Buenos Ayres Ducks, highly meritorious, see Cambridge prize list. Apply to JOHN HISCOCK, Mildenhall, Suffolk, who has charge of the birds.

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FOR SALE.—Pure Brown Single-Comb Dorking EGGS, £1 1s. per dozen. Coloured do. do., 10s. 6d. per dozen. Pea-combed Brahmas £1 1s. per dozen. Single do. do. 10s. 6d. per dozen. Many of the above are prize birds. Apply Rev. F. THURSBY, Abington, Northampton.

FOR SALE, VERY CHEAP.—Splendid Brahma Pootra Cock, from first class prize birds, £3 3s.; Eggs from same stock, 15s. per dozen; very fine Green Dorkings, £1 the pair, or 10s. each; Eggs, 8s. the dozen.—Apply to Miss TOMC, Beckingham, Gainsbro'.

BRAMA POOTRA FOWLS, from one of the earliest imported and most successful prize stocks in the kingdom, at one guinea per couple. Eggs from prize birds of the same breed, at 15s. per dozen.—Apply to W. C. G., Sandbach, Cheshire.

PRIZE POULTRY.—Mr. J. K. FOWLER, Prebendal Farm, Aylesbury, having been successful during the past season at many of the best Shows, more especially with the Aylesbury Ducks, begs to call the attention of the public to the following advertisement for EGGS during the next spring. The prices named will include the package, and the greatest care will be taken for their safety. The orders will be completed according to priority of application. A Post-office Order must accompany each letter, payable to JOHN K. FOWLER, White Hart Hotel, Aylesbury. Dorkings, per setting of 12 £1 1s.; Spanish, £1 11s. 6d.; Aylesbury Ducks (Aylesbury Silver Cup) and Colchester First Prize birds, £2 2s.; Rouen Ducks, £1 11s. 6d. N.B.—Mr. Fowler has a few Drakes and Ducks of his celebrated Aylesbury breed to dispose of at £2 2s. and £1 1s. each.—January 6, 1855.

EGGS for Hatching, from First-prize Dorkings Mr. HENRY SMITH will dispose of Eggs during the season from the pen of birds he claimed of the Rev. J. Boys, at Hitchin, for Fifty Guineaes; also from Pullets which obtained the 1st and 3rd prizes at the late Birmingham Show, and from others purchased regardless of expense, and which have had first prizes awarded to them at Birmingham, the Great Metropolitan, Reigate, Hitchin, Southwell, Leeds, Malvern, Cambridge, Brighton, &c. The Eggs guaranteed fresh and perfect when packed, which will be done with the utmost care, and sent according to priority of application. Address, The Grove, Cropwell Butler, near Bingham, Notts.

COCHIN CHINAS.—EGGS from the Yards of Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, Haverhill, Suffolk, forwarded in rotation, as orders are received, at the price of ninepence each, package included.

SUPERIOR DORKINGS FOR SALE. The Rev. J. Boys, Biddenden, Kent, has Dorking Cocks and Pullets for sale, closely related to his prize birds, having taken at eight consecutive exhibitions sixteen 1st prizes, and on one occasion, having had a pen claimed for Fifty Guineaes. The breeding stock for the present season have been carefully selected from more than 500 home-bred birds. Eggs at £2 2s. per dozen.

EGGS FOR SETTING, all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:

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Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers.
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All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.
JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

GOLDEN AND SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG FOWLS.—The Rev. F. W. FREEMAN is prepared to supply EGGS from his splendid Prize Stock at 10s. 6d per Dozen, and 1s. the Box. Apply to JEREMIAH BAKER, Spoonman's Farm, Stowupland, Suffolk. Both varieties of Fowls are clear-necked, and have gained the following Prizes:—

GOLDEN HAMBURGS.

- 1st Prize at Bury St. Edmunds, 1855.
1st " at Diss.
2nd " at Norwich.
Two 1st at Great Metropolitan Exhibition, 1854.
1st " at Cambridge.

SILVER HAMBURGS.

- 1st Prize at Bury St. Edmunds, 1853.
1st " at Diss, 1853.
1st " at Great Metropolitan Exhibition, 1851.
And have not since been exhibited.
Stowmarket, March 25th, 1855.

MR. CHARLES E. MACMICHAEL, of Bridgnorth, will dispose of a few sittings of EGGS from his White Crested Black Polish Fowls at 15s. per dozen, including package, on receipt of Post-office Order, payable as above. The Cock took 1st prize at Birmingham in 1854 (pen 241), and the Hens are from the most celebrated strains in the kingdom, viz., Mr. Perkins, Mr. Conyer, Mrs. Mills, and Mrs. Horsefall.

EGGS.—Dorking, Spanish, and Buff Cochins, from really first-rate birds, including 1st prize and Silver Cup birds at Birmingham and Liverpool; to be sold at the yard of Mr. Donne, Oswestry. Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry. Dorking and Spanish Fowls from above birds on sale.

MR. EDWARD TERRY, WALTON TERRACE, AYLESBURY, is prepared to supply Eggs from his various Stocks of Prize Poultry, as under. Dorking Eggs from birds that have taken prizes at all the shows where they have been exhibited, price, 21s. per dozen; Spanish, 21s. per dozen; Cochins China, 8s. per dozen; Silver Pencilled Hamburg, 8s. per dozen; Aylesbury Ducks, 8s. per dozen, packages included. May be had by sending a Post-office Order, payable at Aylesbury.

POULTRY SHOW.—Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham Society for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry. The Great Annual Exhibition of this Society will be held on Wednesday and Thursday in Easter Week, (April 11 and 12), in the Corn Exchange, Newcastle. The Prize List is now ready, and may be had of the Honorary Secretaries,

J. S. CHALLONER, 27, Dean-street.
WILLIAM TROTTER, Bywell.

MR. W. PLUMMER will continue to dispose of Spanish EGGS, all from prize birds, at 21s. per dozen, box included. Post-office Orders to be addressed, Brislington, near Bath.

NEST EGGS.—Cochin Colour, White or Bantams, 4s. per dozen. See Vol. 3, No. 56, page 55. May be had of JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount St., Grosvenor Square, London, or HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate St., Gloucester.

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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.
"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,600, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d., have been received for new premiums.

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The office presents:—

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Very moderate rates for all ages, especially young lives.

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The Poultry Chronicle:

A JOURNAL OF

POULTRY, PIGEONS, BEES, FLORICULTURE, AND THE
HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 59.]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1855.

[PRICE 3D.

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Poultry Shows.

Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham, at the Corn Exchange, Newcastle, April 11th and 12th. Honorary Secretaries, J. S. Chaloner, Esq., and W. Trotter, Esq., of Bywell. Entries close March 31st. (No. 56)

Paris Agricultural Meeting, June 1st—9th. Entries (to be sent to the Minister of Agriculture, &c.) close May 28. (No. 59)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st. (No. 52)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries close June 1st. (No. 57)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th.

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48)

Nottinghamshire third annual exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th.

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

It is hard to convince a man, that the pursuit by which he lives, or which is his hobby, is not one of the most important.

The strongest mind has its weakness. Peter Pindar treats it well in his story of Sir Joseph Banks, the tulips, and the Emperor butterfly. While many speak of the poultry movement as a "mania," we believe it to be a sound and useful progress. The late Mr. Bernal may have been thought a "maniac" when he formed the collection, the sale of which has lately caused so much excitement; but a carefully calculated debtor and creditor account would prove that he exercised sound judgment throughout, and made money while he gratified his taste. The truth is, that until every human being declares he will be satisfied with the *barely necessary*, and not only be satisfied, but confine himself to it, things of unusual merit in every class will make extraordinary prices. So long as this state of things shall last, so long will unusual merit be sought, and being found, will realise large sums. Men who by their inventions, taste, or workmanship, confer a value on that which previously had little, are public benefactors; because they not only increase the amount of the public property, but they raise a spirit of inquiry. This would not be the case if the augmented value were only to be realised in one particular district or community; it would then be imaginary. But as the articles of which we have spoken are competed for by every people in Europe, and even North America, it is real.

The dissemination and exhibition of these things by means of a sale, improves public taste, and gives to many an uneducated man the correct outline of that which has before been but dimly shadowed in his

mind. They are finger-posts, pointing in the right direction. The sale at Strawberry Hill was the first event that called attention to articles of virtú; then came that at Stowe; and these prepared, taught, and matured the taste that has caused the influx at Mr. Bernal's.

We think all we have written bears a ready application to poultry. From small beginnings it has become a strictly universal pursuit, for all countries are taking it up. The Swedish Government deputed a gentleman to visit the Birmingham Show, to become acquainted with its details, and to report upon it. The French Government sent a deputation to Lincoln, to study the machinery and system by which the Royal Agricultural Society of England makes its annual exhibition a model for others to follow. It is now four years since this great society added poultry to it. Need we mention the monster-gathering every year at Birmingham? its influx of thousands of all classes and grades in society? of the shows that spring up in every quarter? This proves the general popularity of the pursuit. Its projectors and first advocates are benefactors to society. They have given impetus to a correct taste, and they have added largely to the value of the common stock. They have one satisfaction that cannot belong to those who have to do with the high departments of art; the improvements they have introduced are within the reach of all classes. There is no doubt of anything we assert, so far as poultry is concerned. Till the movement began, the utmost value of a fowl was a few shillings; now many yards would *realise* hundreds of pounds. There is the certainty that he

who produces a better fowl, duck, goose, or turkey than common, may depend on a prize commensurate with its merits. If the value of these birds were local, doubts might exist; but buyers come to England for fowls, as they do for horses and cattle. Fancy, then, has not solely to do with it; it is a matter of trade, and sufficiently important to command animated competition: the demand is legitimate.

The interest excited by poultry, and the results springing from it, may fairly be likened to the discovery of a mineral or metal in a district: it brings easy circumstances and employment, where forced idleness and its attendants reigned before. It would be a strained and unnatural interpretation to imagine such transformation general. To compass that, human nature must be altered, as some will never thrive; but it is sufficient for our argument, that numbers have been rescued from poverty by it, and that by its instrumentality, Hope has entered where she was excluded before.

Those whom Providence has placed in positions where they have nothing to fear from poverty, have no idea with what eagerness and gratitude the first ray of hope is hailed by those who have hitherto appeared shut out.

In the earlier stages, the assertions we have made would have appeared imaginary, but now we can appeal to very strong facts.

The institution of an agricultural show, including poultry, on a large scale in France, is an event; yet such is the desire to have one similar to those in England, that it has been stated, that the minister of com-

merce and agriculture undertakes to pay all expenses from the frontier to the exhibition, and also to return them the same distance free. Feeding will be at the expense of government, and every facility offered for sales. We know the high prices given for bulls and horses by foreigners in England; they are to be met with at every fair, and every auction where good animals are offered. Just in the same way, we doubt not, when these exhibitions shall be frequent, there will be well-known frequenters of good collections of poultry here; and after the sale of an unusually good stock, "to go abroad" will be written on many baskets.

Poultry shows were unknown many years ago, but great and good men were admirers of the feathered tribes. We have often quoted Addison, and we will now close with a quotation from Dryden. The fact that such men had them present to their minds, and could enter into detailed descriptions, only shows that they were alive to, and appreciated their beauties.

"Within this homestead lived, without a peer
For crowing loud, the noble Chanticleer;
High was his comb, and coral-red withal
In dents embattled like a castle-wall;
His bill was raven-black, and shone like jet,
Blue were his legs, and orient were his feet;
White were his nails, like silver to behold,
His body glittering like burnished gold."

A Judge's Notions.

(Concluded from page 104.)

I now have to do with a more difficult question—the Hamburgs. As little difference of opinion exists about the Pencilled, we will at once dismiss them. The argu-

ment I have used for the game applies equally to these.

But the Spangled! We had peace among them for some time till the hen-tails came; now what is their history? Certain names have been successful in this class, till they have become familiar; need I mention Conyers, Horsfall, Tuley, Chune, Dixon, Cannan, Cartwright, Fellowes, M'Cann, Fookes, &c.? They extend over the exhibition years of England, and were the silver cup birds of 1854. But it is especially in this class rules are demanded. Why?—That exhibitors may know what to breed and what to send. They have a living answer in every successful pen belonging to the above. I wish to write plainly, and I hope none will take offence. Different counties and different districts have each their standard. They do not wish to know they are wrong, but they wish their own opinions to prevail. If rules were drawn up, declaring hen-tails and black breasts correct for the cocks, one party would rejoice, the others would dissent, and *vice versa*. If judges were ill-advised enough to draw up rules, they would only increase difficulties, which are already great enough. The best of our judges have often declared in favour of full-tailed cocks, and almost all our best breeders have said the anomalous hen-feathered birds are bad and uncertain breeders. Rules here would only make confusion worse confounded. If judges cannot teach by decisions, neither can they by books of rules. It is ridiculous for a man to exhibit a bird year after year with a hen-tail, with constant defeat, and then to ask for a rule to guide him. He is told a full-tailed cock is required, and if he will not exhibit such, he has no right to complain if he is beaten. The judges act to the best of their knowledge.

Polands are yet in a transition state. They are daily becoming better. Their points are well understood, and the birds are fast reaching to the required standard. The difficulties of judges will become less: but, taken as a whole, this is perhaps the

class in which fewest complaints are made, and these will cease when a perfect pen has been exhibited. We shall not have to wait long. They are known and appreciated when good, and the names of Horner, Symonds, Cyrus Clark, Edwards, Adkins, Rawson, P. Jones, Breavington, Cox, Vivian, Mrs. Mills, and others are identified with them. The same rules that guided at first, do so still, as many of the above date from the beginning.

So long as new breeds are introduced, there will be uncertainty at first, but it arises from the fact that as soon as any novelty appears, it finds a crowd of imitators. Here it is that thoroughly competent and experienced judges are required, to detect the imported from the manufactured bird, and to them it is easy.

At the risk of tautology, I repeat, a judge's only book should be his decisions. I speak of a practical man: many of those now acting at the large shows are of many years standing, and have contributed largely to write the stamp of excellence so legibly on the points of the different breeds, that the many names I have quoted in the different classes have been able thereby to enter upon a career of success without a tedious apprenticeship. It may fairly be asked, where do they gain their knowledge? The answer is a ready one. Every breed has a probation in the various class, before it arrives at the dignity of a separate one. It is here they are studied, and the knowledge is acquired that afterwards produces a confident decision. Let one fact be borne in mind, no number of adult birds exhibited for the first time will ever form a class, or take a judge's eye. Those that appear for the first time this year, must show their produce in twelve months, and thereby justify their claim.

A few general remarks shall end this rambling paper.

One large class asking for rules is the unsuccessful at shows. The cause of their failure is not the want of rules for their guidance, but want of care in breeding and selecting their stock for competition. It

is not the prominence of one or two good points in a bird that are necessary, but the presence of every one.

The oldest exhibitions we have, are those for Pigeons and Bantams. We may learn wisdom from them. They seek to bring every point to perfection, but they *carefully avoid new ones*. Many of the difficulties of the present day in the poultry world arise from the pertinacity with which introducers of new notions and new ideas cling to them, and strive to bring all the world over to them. Being an ardent admirer of poultry, having its progress at heart, and having acted frequently in the capacity, I sign myself

JUDGE.

A Visit to Blunt's Hall.

I CANNOT ask indulgence as a new writer, but I may claim it in describing a visit that I made some months since.

Starting from London by the Eastern Counties Railway, I got out at Saffron Walden, and after a pleasant ride of some miles, arrived at Blunt's Hall.

I had seen and had kept Cochins, but I was not prepared for such a sight as I then enjoyed. In a paddock at the back of the house, there were sixty-nine cocks, all living in amity. Mr. Punchard was with me, and desiring me to be seated on a timber-stick that lay there, he caused a lad to drive them round. Whether it was their tractability, or whether it was a common occurrence, I cannot say, but they passed quietly in single file, and thus afforded me a close inspection. To my remark, that such birds would carry all before them in the winter, I was told, few would remain, for that they left daily for all parts of England.

In another place, called the Linen Yard, there were three separate walks. The first was the best, even among capital birds. Here were Conquest, son of Contest, and six imported hens, all capital birds. In the others were birds chosen from the best yards of England, in perfect condition. Then in the yard, I saw my old favourites,

the Grouse and Partridge birds, many of them exquisite specimens.

I then walked to the mill, and was gratified with the sight of numbers of Rouen ducks, of great size and beauty, and a walk of Cinnamon Cochins. My host then showed me his egg-account, a remarkable table, setting forth the number of eggs disposed of, to whom sold, and the result. The uniform success of the purchasers was most encouraging to persons who never depend on travelled eggs. These purely poultry details occupied some time, and the unbounded hospitality of Mr. Punchard demanded an hour or two more.

He then asked me, if I would like to visit Ketton Church, situate about a mile from his house. I gladly accepted. Ketton, properly Kittington, was the family property of the Barnardistons, but although avenues of trees, and fragments of wall remain to show where the mansion stood, there is nothing else. The church is, however, well worth a visit. It is very old, and its principal ornaments are the effigies and monuments of the family on which it once depended. Many of them are of surpassing beauty, and richly inlaid. Perhaps the handsomest of all, is one which was denied admittance into the chancel, because its original was a drunkard. Two of the family, man and wife, are carved in bold relief from a tablet on the wall, with their joined hands resting on a skull. Another is described as having become a London merchant, having made the grand tour of the Seven Churches. Returning, he married and left six children, the names of five are given, and the sixth is described as *anonymous*. Over the iron screen, which divides the chancel from the body of the church, are still to be seen the helmet and gauntlets of one of the family, vowed in a time of extreme peril. The pulpit still retains the hour-glass, and an iron cup to contain water for the preacher's use during service. The records of the parish are still there, and declare among

other things, that "old mother Bateman died in June, 1525." While there, a man began ringing the bell, and on asking, we were told it was the gleaner's bell. It is a custom the date of which is unknown. At eight in the morning, and at five in the afternoon, it is rung. First to begin, last to leave off. The reason assigned is, that women with homes and families to attend to, may have as good opportunity as single persons; they may do their duties before and after. It is rigorously attended to and observed.

Although these details have no immediate connexion with poultry, this was to me a most interesting part of my visit.

Many thanks to Mr. Punchard and family for it. May he still shine in Cochins, and give occasion often for us to hear, "I am glad Mr. Punchard has won!" X.

General Agricultural Competition, Paris, 1855.

FROM 1ST TO 9TH JUNE.

By Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

CLASS 5. FARM-YARD POULTRY.

Each Pen shall contain at least two Hens and one Cock.

CREVECŒURS.

Category.	1st. frs.	2nd. frs.	3rd. frs.	4th. frs.
1. Cocks, Hens, and Pullets	100	50		
COCHIN CHINA.				
2. Cocks, Hens, and Pullets	100	50		
ANY BREED.				
3. Cocks, Hens, and Pullets	100	75	50	25
TURKEYS.				
4. Not less than a Cock and Hen	50	25		
GEESE.				
5. Not less than Goose and Gander	40	20		
DUCKS.				
6. Not less than Duck and Drake	30	20		

7. Pigeons, Guinea Fowls, Pheasants, and other farm-yard birds. To be distributed in several prizes of 100 francs.

RULES APPLICABLE TO POULTRY.

Article 2. Section 1. Male and female animals of foreign breeds, bred and brought up abroad, brought or imported into France, and belonging to Frenchmen or foreigners.

Article 4. At the time of competition, the animals of the second section must have been the property of the exhibitor more than three months.

Article 6. The first prizes given to poultry will be represented by a Silver Medal; the other prizes by Bronze Medals.

Article 8. Any person convicted of having exhibited any animal, not being the owner, or with falsified or obliterated marks, or who shall make an untrue declaration of age or breed, will be excluded from exhibiting for a period, to be named by the jury.

Article 9. An exhibitor can receive but one prize in each category, but he may exhibit as many lots as he pleases.

Article 10. Although only one prize can be awarded, yet "honourable mention" may be given, and Bronze Medals granted to other deserving specimens belonging to the prize-taker.

Article 17. All animals must be delivered Friday, June 1st. They will be received from eight in the morning till two in the afternoon, after that no animal can be received. Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, will be reserved for the classification of the animals, and the operations of the judges. The exhibition will be open on the 5th June from nine to five, at three francs. On the 6th from nine to five, at two francs. On the 7th, distribution of the prizes, and gratuitous exhibition. The 8th, exposition and sale of the animals, from eight to twelve; admission, fifty centimes. Owners of animals will be required to leave them at the disposal of the committee, if required, during the whole day of the 9th, for the purposes of marking, daguerreotype, &c.

Article 18. Exhibitors must send a written declaration to the Minister of Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works, before the evening of the 24th May, describing breed, age, and period of possession of animal intended for exhibition.

Article 22. Foreign exhibitors will receive the amount of their prizes immediately.

I, undersigned (state profession or trade), living at _____, declare I wish to exhibit at the Paris exhibition on the 1st June next as follows:

FORM OF ENTRY.

Species.													
Breed.													
Sex.													
Marks.	State any whereby the animal may be distinguished.												
Genealogy.	Father.	Mother.											
Age.													
Bred by	State if known.												
Reared by													
Observation.	If any prizes previously taken. Anything to enhance the value.												

Certifying the above entries are sincere and true, and undertaking to present the said animal or animals on Friday, June 1, at the Paris Exhibition, between eight in the morning and two in the afternoon,

A le 1856, (Signed)

sold for £2, a cock for £1 12s., and a Gold Laced Sebright hen for £1. Mrs. Stow's birds varied in price from £3 to 11s. A Cochin cock of Mr. Fairlie's was £1 1s.

Exhibition Pens.

In No. 55 of your, to every lover of poultry, most excellent publication, is an article upon Fixed Exhibition Pens. Being much interested in the subject, and anxious that shows should become remunerative and self-supporting, I venture to request some more definite explanation respecting the pen in question; would "R. B." please give the size the pens were, also how or by what means were the birds placed in them, as no mention is made of any doors or fastenings,—"R.B." merely stating, that they were "fronted and topped with wire." The pens are, when borrowed, a most expensive and large item; one show with which I was connected last year, and at which the Jessop pens were used, cost for the loan of 200, and carriage to and from the owners, no less a sum than £13 6s. Now, if the South Durham and North Yorkshire could erect 500 pens for £15, it is high time the committees of local shows were bestirring themselves, to gain every information how they may reduce their expenditure in this respect, and thereby be enabled to increase their prize-list.

Much has of late been written in the "Poultry Chronicle" regarding the non-paying of shows; allow me to suggest that I verily believe it partly arises with the managers themselves. Most committees have a number of annual subscribers to the prize-fund, and thereby receive a sum in hand to meet the premiums in their schedule. Well, such being the case, would not the first object of exhibitions be best attained by reducing the entry fees to say 1s. each pen, instead of, as is too often the case, 2s. 6d. or 5s. per pen; and in my humble opinion in a very great number of shows the price of admission is much too high. Would not more money be obtained by say admissions of 1s., 6d., and even 3d.

MR. STEVENS.—On Tuesday, April 3rd, Mr. Stevens' sale consisted of birds from the stock of Mrs. Stow, of Bredon, and several other celebrated breeders. Among birds "from an Amateur," a "Queen of the Brahmas," sold for £1 5s.; a Spanish hen, bred by Mr. Timothy Mason, was

each to an exhibition, and thereby bring the terms within the means of the humble artisan and cottager, realise a larger amount than the present, in some instances, extremely exorbitant charges? S.

Eggs and Silver Pencilled Hamburg Fowls.

I WAS glad to see you call the attention of your readers to the subject of eggs in one of your late "leaders." When I first read the returns of the quantity of eggs imported, I confess to great astonishment. Previously, an "egg merchant" had but little dignity in my eyes. I have had a little curiosity in the matter, but have not been able to find out what kind of fowl the exporters keep, or what profit is realised; it has been a mystery to me how the fowls could be fed, the eggs packed, carriage paid, and after all these expenses that the eggs should be sold at a lower rate than those produced at home.

It is very desirable to have correct answers to your three questions: Which fowl lays the greatest number of eggs in a year? Which consumes the least food? And which lays the largest egg?

The Silver Pencilled Hamburg is a favourite of mine, and in answer to your first question, I should certainly place this fowl. The "left-handed" praise of being "good summer layers" is, I see, often awarded them, but having kept them during several seasons, I think them, as winter layers, far above the average. I have this year kept an account of all eggs laid, and have under my own eye, two hens of 1853 and two of 1854, of this breed. From the 1st of January to the 31st of March they laid 162 eggs, out of this time they were all absent (at Liverpool Show) seven days, and the 1853 birds were at Manchester Show the first four days of the year; considering these drawbacks, and also the severity of the weather, I think this speaks much in their favour. Never having kept any other variety of Hamburgs, I cannot speak as to their laying;

a friend of mine here, Mr. Thomas M'Cann, has, however, obtained nearly as many eggs from some excellent Gold Pencilled birds he has.

With regard to the second question, I regret I cannot state anything definite; I do not take account of the quantity consumed by Hamburgs, Dorkings, and Cochins respectively. The birds I refer to were fed principally on oats, once in two or three days on Indian corn meal mixed with hot water, and on three or four occasions some chopped meat, about two ounces between the two cocks and four hens; when brewing was going on they had a handful or two of grains; on this diet they have continued in first-rate condition. Each lot, alternately, had the run of a large stable-yard, shrubbery, and paddock; they were constantly supplied with fresh water, and to do this effectually I know of no contrivance equal to Baily's fountain.

I have kept Dorkings and Cochin Chinas under the same advantages, and from my own observations, have decided that a Dorking, or Cochin China cock, and one hen, will eat more than a Silver Pencilled Hamburg cock and three hens.

I cannot reply, "Silver Pencilled Hamburg," to your third question; but, putting aside their pretty and cheerful appearance, and looking only for profit or loss, I think them the best breed to keep. I have just weighed six eggs, more by far to gratify my own curiosity than with any idea that the result would be interesting to your readers, and I find that three, taken indiscriminately, from a quantity laid by the 1853 hens, weigh $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; and three from the 1854 hens, $4\frac{3}{4}$ oz.

On two points they are weak: you must keep another breed to hatch their eggs, and they are liable to disease. They begin to lay when about eighteen weeks old; as long as they live, you always have a greater or less number of eggs, so that whether you want to eat, sell, or set eggs, you are never annoyed by finding some of your best hens wanting to sit. Here they are rapidly rising in estimation; many now

keep them, who had never heard of them two years ago. B. P. B. will, perhaps, be pleased when he hears some among us call them Bolton Greys.

Malvern.

EDWARD ARCHER.

The Bustard.

AMONG birds, none abound more on the steppe than the Bustard, or *Drakhva*, as the Russians call it, which may be seen grazing in every direction. It migrates from Northern Russia on the approach of winter; but about Odessa, and the mouths of the Dniester and the Dnieper, it generally remains all the year round. Bustards are usually seen in parties of from twelve to twenty, but their gregarious habits increase in proportion as the winter advances, when from eighty to a hundred will often be found together; this, however, arises not so much from the sociable propensities of the bird, as from the more limited extent of pasture to which it is then obliged to confine itself. If terrified by the approach of a real or supposed enemy, one of these large flocks rises; the birds do not remain together, but fly away in different directions to their several nests (haunts).

In June or July they may be observed feeding with their young; and on those occasions the male bird is usually seen anxiously watching over the security of his wife and little ones, whom he never fails to apprise of any danger that may seem to be drawing near. The vigilance of the cock bird is so great, that it is very difficult to get a shot at them. The Russians maintain that the Bustard knows exactly how far a gun will carry, and never gives the alarm a moment sooner or later than is really necessary. Nevertheless the Cossacks, who are the chief sportsmen on the steppe, contrive to outmatch the Bustard in cunning. Sometimes they creep like snakes through the long grass, and come unobserved upon their prey; sometimes they lure the male bird by means of a little instrument made out of the wind-pipe of an ox, on which the treacherous

hunter contrives to imitate with astonishing accuracy the cry of the female.

The most remarkable kind of Bustard hunting takes place in winter. The birds at that season creep under the thistles and other high weeds in search of some shelter against the severity of the cold; while in this position a hoar-frost comes on, their wings become so encrusted with ice that they lose the power of flying, and they then fall an easy prey to foxes, wolves, and above all to man. The Cossacks on horseback run them down with ease, and kill them with the blow of a whip.

If the hunter has chosen his time well and is nimble in the chase, he may reckon on good sport; indeed there are men among the peasantry of the steppe who have become comparatively rich by a few successful Bustard hunts. One man we are told killed one hundred and fifty Bustards in one morning with his whip, and sold them at Odessa for 450 rubles. In the north, ten or fifteen rubles are often given for one of these birds. — *From J. G. Kohl's "Russia."*

Matching for Exhibition.

It is many months since I have appeared in your columns, but while I have been unable to write from a three months' attack of gout, I have been pondering various subjects in connection with my favourite pursuit of poultry. When I was incapacitated from putting my ideas on paper, my mind teemed with them now; I can write, many have disappeared. Perhaps, like the lion in the veritable history of the renowned Baron Munchausen, my ideas are frozen up, as the tunces were; and as the fire thawed them, so genial weather, and the approach of shows, will bring back my ideas.

One, however, occurs at once. It is on matching for exhibitions. In some classes, the most perfect uniformity must be insisted on. In others, I do not think it so important. I can understand, having in my youth to do with Game Fowls, that in

breeding for the pit, the most scrupulous purity of blood is necessary. We all know the effect of "a bad drop." Here then, in a strain of acknowledged merit, the most scrupulous uniformity is essential, and foul feathers give rise to suspicion. Judges cannot be too particular, not only in the hens being fac-similes one of the other, but in the cock being of the same strain.

In Dorkings, however, confessedly difficult birds to match, it appears to me great latitude may be allowed. There is no test of purity in any colour of these birds, and parents may throw Brown, Speckled Grey, or Pencilled, without raising a doubt of their being unblemished by any mixture of other blood. In Game Fowls we know that the colour of the cock to be put to hens is accurately described and well known, but it is not so with Dorkings. Judges are bound to protest against startling incongruities, such as a red cock with grey hens, and by their decisions they discourage them; not from any doubts of the breed, but because there are competing pens where these mistakes do not occur. I cannot help thinking exhibitors tax themselves unnecessarily in trying to do impossibilities in matching cocks and hens. It seems to me, the cocks may be divided thus, Red and Grey; the pullets Brown, Brown Speckled, and Grey: thus making two classes so far as colour is concerned. A Grey cock would match any Grey hens, and a Red one any Browns.

The really important feature is, to choose hens resembling each other, because it offends the eye to see three of different colours in the same pen. I purposely use the word resembling, because I do not think absolute similarity necessary.

AN OLD AMATEUR.

Windsor Poultry Show.

AN article appeared under the above head in No. 56, which has caused no small interest in this neighbourhood, respecting a building or tent wherein to hold the show.

I believe the Windsor Committee would

be glad to hire a building and pens together; I think it might answer the purpose of some large metal or iron manufacturer, or manufacturer of emigrant-houses, to construct one of part iron-wire, or canvas, or glass.

And I am thinking also,—putting aside all the pens that have been recommended,—that the best we could have for poultry exhibitions would be one made with a sheet zinc bottom, back, and sides; top and front of wire; it might be made portable, in single pens, or clusters of two or three together, which would save sides. I would have a tray of either zinc or wood: if the latter, a new one every time used, as wood becomes tainted. Zinc trays and pens might be washed every time used.

Pens constructed in this manner would not be contagious if diseased fowls had been in before, would be sufficiently warm, be durable, I am aware would be expensive; but if they cost twice as much as the ordinary wood and wire, they would last twice as long. I believe the time is not come for exhibitors to provide pens; but if it should be thought so, these pens might travel in a wicker basket, and would make excellent coops for hens and chicks, turned over on lawns, and the tops taken off and front lifted up a little would shelter chicks from cold winds and rain.

Believing that nothing human is perfect, I hope that some one better able will improve what I have advanced, and correct what is wrong.

WINDSOR.

Golden Moonies.

ALLOW me, as an amateur of this much admired variety, to thank "Mooney" for his admirable description in No. 56 of the points of merit in the cock, which being perfectly correct, ought to convince any person who will compare them with those required in the Yorkshire Henny Pheasant, that a breed between the two varieties is a cross, though both are regularly exhibited as Golden Spangled Hamburgs. I will add my own experience to "Mooney's," and

therefore state with regret, that all the produce of a first-prize henny cock and the finest mooned hens have been valueless as fancy poultry, and I am consequently in much the same position as in the spring of 1854, with the exception of the great advantages of experience, and being in a position to profit by it.

It must be improper for a cock of one sub-variety to be shown with hens of another, if it be satisfactorily proved that their purchase with the intention of reproducing a peculiar marking will certainly lead to the disappointment of the unskilled amateur, for whose benefit poultry exhibitions were established.

The hens of the Yorkshire variety have not the large round moons or spangles on the ends of the feathers—their marking partaking of a crescent or laced character—which ought to be conclusive against their being exhibited as spangled fowls; but as Golden Pheasants, which I believe to be their proper designation, they would form an attractive class. The above remarks would apply equally to the silver varieties.

W. C. W.

Columbary.

No. VI.—THE BREAST, OR WHITE ARCHANGEL.

THIS, too, is one of the pretty German Toys, and I can only remember having seen one pair of them in this country, which were exhibited in London under the name of "Dresdens," most probably from their being brought from that city. They are, however, frequently to be met with in various parts of Germany, where they are known as "Die farbenbrüstige Taube" (the Coloured-breasted Pigeons), or simply as "Die Brust" (the Breast).

They are the same size as the common Dovehouse Pigeons, but rather slighter made; they are very light and quick in their flight, and field very well. Like the Archangel, they are point-headed and clean-footed. Their plumage is almost as glossy as the Black-backed Archangel; their head,

neck, and breast are of one colour, as black, red, blue, or yellow; hence they are designated black-breasts or red-breasts, as the case may be. The rest of the plumage is of a beautiful clear white; the white feathers of the young are edged with a colouring, but become pure white after the first moult. As the name of Archangel has been promulgated, and the Bullfinch Pigeons are now well known by that name, I think, from the striking resemblance this variety bears to that, that the name of White Archangel will be the most appropriate English name for this variety, and the sub-varieties may be easily expressed, as black-breasted, or red-breasted, White Archangel.

B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

A STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

THE interests of Agriculture and of agriculturists have at length been recognised and attended to by the "collective wisdom" of one of the states of the Union. The Legislature of Michigan, during its recent session, has passed an act which makes provision for the organisation and operation of such an institution. The act provides that the site for an Agricultural College shall be purchased within ten miles of the capital of the State, of not less than 500 acres, nor to exceed 1000; that twenty-two sections of Salt spring lands, or the money arising from the sale thereof, shall be appropriated for the purchase of the land, erection of buildings, and all other necessary expenses to be incurred in the establishment and successful operation of the said college; that the purpose of the school shall be to improve and teach the science and practice of Agriculture, and that the course of instruction in said College shall include the following branches of education, viz., natural philosophy, chemistry, botany, animal and vegetable anatomy and physiology, geology, mineralogy, meteorology, entomology, veterinary art, mensuration,

levelling, political economy, book-keeping, and the mechanic arts connected with agriculture. The tuition is to be for ever free to pupils within the State.

During the summer scholastic term, or from the beginning of April to the end of October, the pupils are to be required to devote not less than three, nor more than four hours to manual labour; no student to be exempt except in the case of sickness or other infirmity.

The step which the State of Michigan has thus taken, in advance, we believe, of any of the sisterhood, may well be an occasion of just pride and satisfaction to all the friends of progress and of agricultural improvement within her own borders, as well as a gratification to the friends of agriculture everywhere. In laying the foundation of such an institution a great step forward has been taken,—one that will promote the cause of agricultural education, not only in the State of Michigan, but in other States also. It is earnestly hoped that this college will soon be in successful operation under the charge of such as will take a deep interest in its prosperity, and that multitudes of the young men of the State will resort to it in search of that discipline of mind and that amount of scientific information which will furnish the means of making the business of the farmer a more interesting, delightful, intellectual, and dignified employment than it has heretofore been.

The example of Michigan will, it is to be hoped, act as a spur to some of her sister states. All of them derive a large share of their wealth from the cultivation of the soil, and it is, therefore, a matter of importance to all the citizens thereof, that those engaged in this source of wealth should be well instructed in, and practically familiar with, everything that has any relation to this great public interest. Here, then, is an opportunity for those farmers who are not, like a good many of their brethren, blind to their own interests;—here is an opportunity, also, for the intelligent friends of the farming community,

and all who would promote the best interests of their state, to bestir themselves, to act on public opinion, until there shall be a demand for an Agricultural College or some equivalent means of forming scientific farmers, which cannot be resisted.—*From the "American Country Gentleman."*

On Bees.

IN deciding on the most appropriate size for bee-hives or boxes, it may perhaps at first appear that the larger the hive the more honey will be stored, and the greater the population will become. We shall find, however, that the produce will be at the mercy of our uncertain climate; while great as the fecundity of the queen undoubtedly is, there must still be a limit to her powers. If we place a very large swarm, or two swarms united, in an extra-sized hive, and the weather prove favourable, and honey plentiful, no doubt we shall reap an abundant harvest; but after such a succession of bad seasons as have fallen to our lot the last few years, it will be the most prudent course to limit our expectations within moderate bounds. Should the weather not continue fine after swarming, a large hive will become decidedly disadvantageous; there will be found a vacant space which cannot be furnished. As a winter habitation it is also objectionable, and unsuited to the small number of occupants; for, as Mr. Golding says, "it should be borne in mind that the bee is a short-lived creature, from six to eight months only, and that no stock can permanently retain more bees than the breeding of one queen can maintain." Thus, however numerous may have been the family by which the abode was at first tenanted, the number of the inhabitants at the beginning of winter will be found to have been regulated chiefly by the quantity of honey gathered in autumn; for by this the produce of the queen may be said to be regulated. If the large area be a dis-

advantage during winter, it is equally so in spring; the heat of the hive is raised with difficulty, breeding is retarded, and late swarming is the consequence. I was discussing some qualities of the queen-bee, last autumn, with one of the most practical and intelligent bee-keepers I ever have had the good fortune to meet with, and he informed me, as the result of his long experience, that hives above the average size were two or three weeks later than others in swarming, and that, after all, the swarm was no larger than the colonies from smaller hives. As a proof that this bee-keeper thoroughly understands his subject, and is master of his art, I will just state the result of his management last year. It will seem surprising to those who only experienced the adversities of the spring and summer, without having the benefit of the fine season, when the moors were carpeted with the rich purple of the heather. Our bee-master cultivates on a large scale; he possessed fifty hives in spring, from which there was only one natural swarm, the beginning of July. He sold 800 lbs. of pure heather honey, had his apiary furnished with fifty excellent hives as winter stock, and in about twelve of these hives had secured young queens. Such a successful apiarian is no random observer, and I hope sometime to describe the manner in which he accomplishes such great results, only adding here, that with the exception of two of Huber's leaf hives, intended especially for purposes of observation, he confines himself entirely to the common cottage hive. And now it may be asked, what are the dimensions which would be called an average size? Our principal authorities among those who have written on the subject, recommend the diameter to be from 11 to 12 inches, and about 8 or 9 inches high. In those localities where the produce is very favourable for honey-gathering, as in the neighbourhood of fruit trees, and pastures, and meadows, where white clover abounds, or in the vicinity of extensive heaths, the largest of these sizes will be very suitable; while in all cases it

is advisable, when the swarms are late, to use the hives of smaller dimensions.

A.

OBSERVATIONS.

The report of the progress of the invalid bees towards convalescence is very satisfactory; my ideas (different to those generally entertained) on the subject of the existence of dysentery, are confirmed by the rapid improvement of the hive. The attention bestowed will still be required to be persevered in; strong hives in the neighbourhood will be ready to pounce upon their weak neighbour, and should a single thief once gain admittance, there will be a hard struggle to defend itself. Therefore the bee-keeper should anticipate this danger, by contracting the entrance so that only two bees can pass.

There must surely be a misprint in the recipe published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. No bee-master ever persuaded his bees to eat such *stuff* as a pound of honey and a quart of ale would make. I never found bees refuse Mr. Golding's compound, given by Dr. Bevan in the "Honey Bee," p. 206, and in the "Shilling Bee Book." Mr. Golding says, "when honey is not easily to be obtained, this compound is an excellent substitute." Where much feeding is necessary, the store of honey may run short, but every one can obtain its substitute, sugar. Perhaps our little friends may turn up their noses at first, if after feasting on honey, the store should fail, and they can only be treated with syrup; and if there is a prospect of this happening, the best plan is to accustom them to the change by degrees, mixing a small quantity of sugar with the honey at first, and gradually increasing the sugar and diminishing the honey.

Any impurity is very offensive to bees; and if a clean floor-board cannot be used, on account of the peculiar construction of the entrance, the most effectual remedy would be to plane a shaving off the surface of the board.

I wish the bee-writer across the Atlantic

had given us a more particular account of the contents of the hive which contained only two pounds of honey. Unless there was pollen besides, the American has performed a feat indeed. When Huber confined a family, with brood in the combs, and deprived of pollen, the whole population seemed to become almost mad, and the larvæ withered and died. Our English bee-keepers must not attempt the experiments of brother Jonathan, or next spring we shall have melancholy reports in the "Poultry Chronicle" of sad loss of life and property. A.

Floiculture.

APRIL 11.

THE flower-garden, now clothed in all the gaiety of spring, must be kept neat with constant raking. The past winter has made great havoc among our flowers; the bitter frost having found its way, in spite of the utmost attention, into houses most carefully warmed and guarded. These losses can be repaired by taking cuttings of fuchsias, heliotropes, salvias, verbenas, petunias, and many others. Half fill the pots with earth, plant the cuttings, plunge them in a warm situation, and cover the top of each pot with a flat piece of glass, so as to exclude the air. Many plants which are rather difficult to root will strike when planted in this manner. They will do very well in the window of a sitting-room with a warm aspect. The glasses should be wiped, or occasionally turned, during damp weather. The earliest shoots of China roses, taken off close to the old wood, when about four inches long, will sometimes strike when planted in this way, and make blooming plants by the autumn. Seeds of hardy annuals, sown early, may probably have been destroyed by the sharp frosts which we have had since; those, therefore, which do not come up, had better be re-sown. Half-hardy annuals' sowing had better still be delayed a week longer. Wallflowers, Brompton and giant stocks,

hollyhocks, campanulas, sweet-williams, &c., &c., may be planted in the borders. Persons who have not a hotbed to start their dahlia roots, may place them in a box of light soil or decayed leaves, kept moist; taking them in doors, or covering them safe from frost at night. Plants started now, or a little later, under a south wall, often flower better than those started in a hotbed. Mignonette may be sown in the borders, in pots, and in boxes. Mixed with any bright-coloured flower, it makes a beautiful bed. Tigridia Pavonia bulbs should now be planted two inches deep. Sow the seeds of biennial and perennial plants in the nursery, as they will not be ornamental in the borders for a long time. The ground must be previously well dug, and thoroughly cleared from perennial weeds. Half-hardy annuals, reared in the hotbed, may be pricked out, and placed under a frame. The more tender kinds may, if ready, be pricked out singly into small pots, and receive a little bottom heat. Deciduous flowering shrubs may be planted, such as *Althæa frutex*, syringas, honeysuckles, mazereons, sumach, laburnums, lilacs, jasmynes, candleberry myrtles, and Guelder roses. The general arrangement of the borders may be attended to, by planting, where wanted, *lychnis*, *campanula*, Canterbury bells, tree primroses, rockets, sweet-williams, wall-flowers, columbines, the different varieties of monkshood, rose-campsions, perennial asters, sun-flowers, and foxglove. Give fresh earth to flowers in pots.

The covering may be removed from roses which have been protected during the winter; but the shelter should be partially restored at night, when the wind is in the east.

THE FRENCH GREAT EXHIBITION.

As flowers and horticultural products are not, from their perishable nature, to be admitted to the Universal Exhibition of 1855, the French Government has given permission to the Imperial Horticultural Society of Paris to establish a special permanent exhi-

bition of such products from the 1st of May to the 31st of October. In consequence, the society has published a notice, calling on horticulturists, French and foreign, to lend their aid in rendering the Horticultural Exhibition as striking as possible. A vast garden, with conservatories and hot-houses, is to be prepared in the Champs Elysées, and all articles connected with horticulture will be received there, and prizes awarded for such objects as are deemed most remarkable. Horticulturists are called on to send in as promptly as possible a statement of the objects which they intend exhibiting; the period at which they will probably send them; and, finally, any indications which may appear to the senders to be of importance.

A most useful institution exists in France (to which we have before now alluded), and its proceedings are every day becoming more important, and are exciting more interest amongst the public. We refer to what is called the *Société d'Acclimatation*. Its object is to introduce and naturalise in France useful plants and animals of other countries; and, in execution thereof, it has correspondents in all parts of the world, who communicate to it all needful information, and forward to it specimens of the animals and natural productions on which it may be considered desirable to experimentalise. Thanks to this society, France has come into possession of the Yaks of Thibet, which combine the utility of the cow, the ass, and the sheep; of certain species of fish peculiar to Germany and Switzerland; of silkworms from Piedmont; of goats from Algeria; of nutritious tubers and plants from South America, &c., &c. In a recent sitting of the society, strong recommendations were made that the ass of Arabia, which, in addition to the qualities of the European ass, possesses speed; the ewes of Arabia, which feed on little, and give abundant milk; the sheep of the Kollo, which produce a vast quantity of wool; and the zebra, should be naturalised in Western Europe. Why, in the presence of this enlightened activity of the French, have we

no Acclimating Society in England?—*Literary Gazette.*

BOUVARDIA SPLENDENS.

ONE of the prettiest flowers for a mixed flower border is the *Bouvardia Splendens*: it is elegant in its habit of growth, and the bright red colour of the racemes of trumpet-shaped flowers is very gay and ornamental. It is much less frequently seen than it deserves to be, perhaps in consequence of the difficulty of propagating it from cuttings. I never could succeed in raising young plants till I met with directions in the "Gardeners' Chronicle," which let me into the secret of its cultivation; and as this is the proper season, I advise all who possess a plant not to neglect increasing their stock. The strongest pieces of the roots should be cut into lengths of about an inch and a half, planted in light sandy soil, leaving a small bit of the cutting exposed to the light, and placed in a bottom heat of about 75°. If properly tended with water they will soon throw up shoots, and form nicely established plants. Then repot them singly in small pots, and replace them in a warm situation till they get established, when they may be removed to a cooler and more airy situation. Mixed with geraniums, verbenas, and other half-hardy plants, they will be found a very pleasing variety, and not undeserving a place in a cool greenhouse. A.

History of One of the Maniacs.

PART V.

THE next person who had charge of my poultry was a widow with four children. She is with me now. The lad had taken to it, and, being fond of it, succeeded well. The woman's husband had been a game-keeper, and she had learned much from him, especially the management of young chickens. And here I must say one word for the children; I always gave one brood in charge to them, and I have never had cause to repent it. I do not mean to say

they do not require supervision, but I will maintain, that with looking after judiciously there is no guard so vigilant, no nurse so assiduous, and no feeder so attentive as a well-disposed child. Everything is shared with the chickens, and it is just what they require,—constant change of food, and constant feeding.

To resume. My prospect of success was somewhat diminished by the last fortnight's neglect of my man; but my own exertions made up for it, and for the next show I was thought in a good position. People may laugh, but I now went to select my birds in perfect freedom; I was not afraid of having my man's opinion urged against my own, or being placed in the dilemma, either of sending the birds my man fancied, and of which I thought little, or of starting him with my own selection in such an ill-temper, as would almost justify me in thinking he hoped they would be beaten, and would not much mind contributing to the result he appeared to desire. I had also reached the second point in amateurship. The first was to buy good birds, hire proper people, and take prizes. But now, owing to the labour I had had with them, I was become fond of them, and felt as it were identified with them. Before, I viewed them merely as prize-takers, and a means of excitement,—had there been no shows I should at once have given them up; now, I should keep them for themselves, even if there were never another show in England. Poultry-keeping was become a favourite pursuit with me. This was not all. I was in point of fortune an independent man, and, in common with all that class, had known very many times when I felt the want of occupation. I believe many will sympathise with me when I say, that day after day when breakfast was concluded, I had not one earthly pursuit. There are times when the field-sports are over, that some recreation is needed, or I might, perhaps, call it occupation. This was afforded me by my fowls, and I had always something to do when my first meal was finished;

and it was just what I wanted, sufficiently important to be interesting, without being weighty enough at any time to be a burden.

Another show was at hand, and the anxiety of my poultry establishment was at its height. I felt more of the same feeling myself than I cared to admit, but I had profited by previous failures, and by the advice of my good friend Mr. N., and I felt moderately sure of success. I was not deceived; I gained the first prize, beating many competitors. I plead guilty to real delight, and it was legitimate, for I had bred and reared the birds myself; and while I stood before my victorious pets I could not help thinking of my first remark, "And no great exploit either." How my opinion had altered since then!

I had now a long career of success, and made my arrangements for entering the lists at Birmingham. I felt and knew it was a great undertaking, but I made up my mind, if beaten, to bear it cheerfully, and, above all, to persevere till I was successful. I had over-rated my power. Although I was well acquainted with average shows, I had never visited this. I was struck with the exterior of the building, but still more with the spectacle within. Before I had walked half way down the Cochin class without coming to the prize pens, I could see I was fairly and thoroughly beaten; but my birds looked well, and I was satisfied. The effect of my visit was to make me more enthusiastic than ever in my pursuit, and I now added Bantams and Dorkings to my other pets.

I will not weary people with the details of my various successes and rare failures. I have appeared, and hope to appear again at the head of all the classes. I began as an amusement, it has been self-supporting, and I am sure had I sought to do it, I could have made much money by it. I have been besieged by applications for birds and eggs; and I have more than once sold a pen of chickens for a sum that has paid my poultry servant's wages for twelve months. I have made many very

agreeable acquaintances,—some friends. I have improved in health, spirits, and disposition. I have acquired the habit of early rising. I have done much good to the poor of my neighbourhood by my pursuit, and it is therefore with some misgivings that I sign myself

MANIAC.

Experience of Cochin Chinas.

In your number for November 15th, appeared a paper signed "R. B." and entitled "My Experience" of Cochin Chinas. I read it with especial interest: for from "R. B.'s" account of himself, I found that he had been attacked by the poultry mania about the same time as myself, and his symptoms had taken much the same form as mine. His weakness was for Cochins, so was mine. He, from the tables he drew up, must have been in daily attendance on his fowls for a twelvemonth, and so have I; but the conclusion he arrived at was exactly the reverse of the one reached by me. He sums up thus: "From the above statement it is perfectly obvious, that in a profitable point of view Cochins are of no use." I would give my verdict, "Cochins are the fowls, of all others, for profitable keeping under judicious management."

I suspect, from his account, his birds were too luxuriously treated, and became fat instead of remaining in laying condition. I think so because my best pullet (No. 4 in the subjoined table of produce) was made a great pet of, and fed with tit-bits in addition to her usual fare; and she I beheld, in consequence, made the worst return of eggs, although she greatly increased in weight and beauty, and in fitness for exhibition purposes.

"R. B." says he dares not be communicative on the subject of the cost of keeping his birds: I dare, but I cannot, except by stating in a general way that I have on several occasions calculated nicely the expense per head per week, and never found it exceed 2d. for adult fowls; but unluckily I went to a granary close at hand

for all that I wanted. I could not keep a profit and loss account in the way that I should have done, had I been a buyer of everything.

My produce from four hens in twelve months was this: the account is taken from a book in which I entered, every day, the eggs laid and the layer of each. I had more than four hens at all times, but these are the only ones which I kept the whole year throughout. I am sure the account is perfectly accurate.

	No. 1.	No. 2	No. 3.	No. 4.	Total each month.	Average a hen in each month.	R. B.'s average a hen in each month.
Jan. ...	23	13	23	9	68	17	£ 3
Feb. ...	22	7	19	12	60	15	11
March ..	12	2	24	15	53	13½	14
April ...	...	26	28	24	78	19½	12
May ...	1	...	...	15	16	4	6
June ...	20	16	12	...	48	12	14
July ...	14	21	16	...	51	12½	15
Aug. ...	2	3	9	17	31	7½	7
Sept. ...	17	22	...	4	43	10½	1
Oct.	16	...	...	...	16	4	2
Nov.	21	18	...	...	39	9½	2
Dec.	22	17	19	9	67	16½	5
Total in year ...	170	145	150	105	570	142½	100

No. 1, was set on the 17th of March, reared a brood, moulted, and began again to lay on the 31st of May.

No. 2, was set thrice in the twelve months; Feb. 8th, April 29th, and Dec. 19th.

No. 3, was set once (April 29th).

No. 4, also was set but once, on the 4th of June.

All four were broody on other occasions, but were cooped and generally began again to lay in a fortnight or three weeks.

Nos. 2, 3, and 4 moulted early in October; while No. 1 did not moult (after April) until 1855 had begun.

By comparing columns six and seven together, it will be seen that, during

the six natural laying months, *i. e.* March to August (both included), the produce of R. B.'s fowls and mine was remarkably similar, but that during the other half year my birds were far more productive. My hens having, on an average, laid $69\frac{1}{4}$ eggs each, during the first half (*i. e.* March to August), and R. B.'s $69\frac{3}{4}$; there not being half an egg difference in the average produce of the two yards during those six months; but in the second half (September to February, both included) my fowls laid per head $73\frac{1}{4}$ eggs, while R. B. received on the average but 31 eggs from each of his, or less than half of the produce of mine.

I think I can show that my fowls paid for their keep, while R. B.'s certainly could not have done so, except by getting fancy prices for eggs. During the six winter months, when eggs were dear, my hens laid $73\frac{1}{4}$ eggs each. I think they cannot be valued at that time of year at less than 14 for a shilling, one month with another. Thus each hen paid $7\frac{3}{4}$, or, roughly calculating, 5s. for her board. During the summer I valued the eggs at 20 for a shilling; then, at the average of $69\frac{1}{4}$, we may fairly set down each hen's produce at 3s. 6d. They thus paid 8s. 6d. a-head for a year's keep, which, if my calculation of 2d. a-week be correct (as I am sure it may be made so), proves that each hen's eggs at market-price, just paid her board, while, for profit, I had the services of the hens in rearing seven broods of chickens among the four. No very brilliant profit, you may say; but I am very well satisfied. It proves this, that poultry-keeping may be made to cover its own expenses,—that Cochins are not always unprofitable stock, although I admit they may be made so by too bountiful or too sparing treatment.

As far as my experience goes, no fowls are so healthy, so easily kept satisfied, and none so soon begin to make a return for the sums expended on them. They are prodigious eaters while growing, but not unusually so when adults, while their produce in winter far exceeds that of any

variety with which I am at present acquainted. K.

Proposed Prize List; Open to all the World.

MODEL PRIZE LIST.

ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THEIR MOST CORRECT TITLES.

By B. P. B:

B.—BANTAMS.

Class.	1st.	2nd.
	s.	s.

1. Sebrights, Gold or Silver Laced, cock and two hens
2. Game Bantams, Red or Duckwing, cock and two hens
3. Any other Variety, clean legged, cock and two hens
4. Booted or feather legged, cock and two hens

B 2.—BOLTON GRAYS AND BAYS
(Commonly called HAMBURGS).

5. Silver Pencilled, cock and two hens
Chickens of the year
6. Golden Pencilled, cock and two
hens
- Chickens
7. Silver Pheasants or Creels, cock
and two hens
- Chickens
8. Golden Pheasants, Red Moon Phea-
sants, &c., cock and two hens...
- Chickens
9. Black Boltons or Black Pheasants,
cock and two hens
- Chickens
- Single cock, any colour

C.—CRESTED FOWLS

(Mostly called POLANDS and POLISH).

10. Persian, or Turkish Crested Fowls,
and other feather-legged Top-
knotted, cock and two hens ...
- Chickens of the year
11. St. Jago White Crested Black Po-
lands, cock and two hens
- Chickens
12. Any other Variety of Beardless
Crested Fowls, cock and two
hens
- Chickens

<i>Class.</i>	1st. s.	2nd. s.
13. Hamburg, Crested, Gold and Silver Bearded, cock and two hens ... Chickens		
14. Any other Variety of clean legged Bearded and Crested Fowls, cock and two hens		
Chickens		
Single cock, any colour		
D.—DORKING.		
15. Rose-combed White only, cock and two hens		
Chickens of the year		
16. Surrey Fowls, or Coloured Dorkings, any comb or colour, cock and two hens		
Chickens		
Single cock, any colour		
G.—GAME.		
17. Black Breasted and other Reds, cock and two hens		
Chickens of the year		
18. Black Breasted and other Duck-wings and Grays, cock and two hens		
Chickens		
19. Smocks, or Whites, Blacks, and Blues, cock and two hens		
Chickens		
20. Piles, and other Mixed Colours, cock and two hens		
Chickens		
Single cock, any colour		
M.—MALAYS.		
21. Any Colour, cock and two hens ... Chickens of the year		
Single cock		
S.—SHANGHAIS.		
22. Dark Cinnamon, Grouse, or Partridge, cock and two hens		
Chickens of the year		
23. Buff, Lemon, or Silver Cinnamon, cock and two hens		
Chickens		
24. Whites, Blacks, and Blues, cock and two hens		
Chickens		
25. Silver, Gray, or any other Colour, cock and two hens		
Chickens		
Single cock, any colour		

<i>Class.</i>	1st. z.	2nd. s.
S 2.—SPANISH.		
26. Black, cock and two hens		
Chickens of the year		
27. White, cock and two hens		
Chickens		
28. Blue or any other Colour, cock and two hens		
Chickens		
Single cock, any colour		
COMPOSITE FOWLS.		
29. Sussex Four-toed, or Muffled Dorkings, Cuckoo Fowls, Brahma Pootras, Pea Combed Columbians, and Chittagongs may be shown in this class; the points being the best table fowl, most breast, short white legs, and largest fowl with least offal, cock and two hens		
Chickens		
30. Any other Distinct Breed. In this class may be shown the Frizzled, Silk, Negro, Rumpkin, Bakies, Russian, &c., cock and two hens		
GUINEA FOWLS.		
31. Best Pair, Gray, White, Ash-coloured, Black, or Top-knotted		
TURKEYS.		
<i>(Should have four classes where practicable).</i>		
32. Best cock and two hens. 1, Wild; 2, Black or Norfolk; 3, Gray or Cambridge; 4, White, or any other Coloured		
GEESE.		
<i>(Should have four classes when practicable).</i>		
33. Best Gander and two Geese. 1, White or Emden; 2, Gray or Toulouse; 3, Saddle-backed or Pied; 4, China, or any other...		
DUCKS.		
34. Musk, or Muscovy, drake and two ducks, any colour		
35. Rouen, drake and two ducks		
36. Aylesbury, drake and two ducks...		
37. Any other Breed of Ducks, as Blacks, Top-knotted, Hooked-billed, or Call Ducks		
PEA FOWLS AND SWANS.		
<i>Should have a Class where practicable.</i>		

Class.	1st.	2nd.
	s.	s.
RABBITS.		
Longest ears		
Best for all points		
Greatest weight		
Foreign Varieties.....		
PIGEONS.		
A. Carriers		
B. Horsemen		
C. Dragons		
D. Antwerps		
E. Tumblers		
F. Mottles, or Whole Colours		
G. Baldheads.....		
H. Beards		
I. Magpie		
RUNTS.		
J. Roman		
K. Spanish		
L. Leghorn		
M. Pouters, best pair		
Best cock		
Best hen		
N. Jacobins, best pair		
O. Fantails, best pair		
P. Trumpeters, best pair		
Q. Barbs, best pair ..		
R. Turbits, best pair		
S. Owls, best pair.....		
T. Laughers, best pair.....		
U. Frilbacks		
V. Laced or Silk.....		
W. Toys, or any other Variety not mentioned above; such as Sua- bians, Nuns, Priests, Monks, Archangels, White Ditto, Sto- machers, Spots, White Ditto, Helmets, Magpies, Storks, Star- ling-Breast, Gulls or Swallows, Shields, Swiss, &c.		
ADULT POULTRY : 37 1st prizes at £2; 37 2nd do. at £1	111	0 0
YOUNG POULTRY : 37 1st prizes at £1; 37 2nd do. at 10s.	55	10 0
RABBITS : 4 1st prizes at £1; 4 2nd do. at 10s.	6	0 0
FANCY PIGEONS : 24 1st prizes at 10s.; 24 2nd do. at 5s.	18	0 0
TOYS : 15 1st prizes at 5s.; 15 2nd do. at 2s. 6d.	5	12 6
	£196	2 6

The Brahma Questions.

I do not know who your correspondent "T. S." may be, but as he asks "W. C. G." and other breeders of Brahmas for their opinions in answer to certain questions he propounds relative to these fowls, I for one shall be happy to comply with his request, and herewith send you a few of the conclusions I have come to from an experience of this breed, at least as extensive as that of any amateur in this country. In doing so I have to thank you, Mr. Editor, for doing away with the necessity for my replying to all of "T. S.'s" queries separately, inasmuch as the answers you have yourself appended to most of them are so much in accordance with my own experience, that I am inclined to make short work with these by simply saying that I fully subscribe to the statements conveyed in those answers. But there are two or three queries put by "T. S." on which your pen is not oracular, and to the consideration of these I now pass. The first is query 4, "The quality of the flesh, and the depth of breast, viewing them as table fowls." On this point I can speak with confidence, as I have eaten, I may venture to say, scores of Brahmas, and, as compared with the other varieties of the large Asiatic breeds, I have no hesitation in saying that I have found the Brahmas by far the best table fowl. They have unquestionably more breast meat (I speak of the best bred strains, for I should be sorry to answer for large numbers of inferior shaped gray birds, which are represented as genuine), and they have not the thick tough yellow skin, nor, nearly to the same extent, the gaunt angular all-legs look, which are certainly unsightly features in the ordinary Cochin when presented at table.

Perhaps, however, "T. S." or some of your readers may refuse to accept my own estimate in this particular of a breed I have always confessed a partiality for. I will, therefore, give them another authority on this point, and few, I think, will be bold enough to question the credit due to it, or,

in such like matters of *taste*, to dispute any dictum of the redoubtable *chef de cuisine* and gastronomic regenerator, *Alexis Soyer*, who, in one of his recent cookery books, mentions specially the gray variety as the best for the table of all the Cochin tribe.

The next and only other question on which you have not ventured to favour "T. S." with your opinion, is query 9, "Whether they are as good or better than the best strains of Cochins."

My opinion on this point-blank inquiry (I suspect "T. S." was bent on a little sly mischief when he put this tetchy query!) may be inferred from what I have said above as to the superiority of Brahmans over Cochins as a table fowl. And I hold this to be so important a feature in this variety, that not only are they, in my opinion, entitled to a first place among the sub-varieties of the Shanghai—but, setting aside all question of the fanciful or ornamental, I think they ought—and ultimately will—take a very high one among our best and most useful poultry, of whatever name or complexion. I do not wish to assert that they possess the superlative qualities of the Dorking or Game as a table fowl: but even in this respect I scarcely think they can be excelled by any other breed excepting these, while as egg-producers, and particularly as *winter layers*, there is no breed that can at all compare with them, with the exception, of course, of their first-cousins, the Cochins.

W. C. G.

—♦—

We feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

HAMBURGS.

SIR,—I have felt much interest in the opinions of your numerous correspondents of late, respecting the points necessary in the Hamburgs, more particularly relating to the male birds of the Golden variety. I quite agree with "T. L. F.," page 43, and think that if the Birmingham committee would publish in the "Poultry Chronicle" what they think the male bird ought to be (they might be aided in their decision by their judges), they would confer a great benefit upon exhibitors of that bird. I have not yet been fortunate enough to meet with a single individual who united with the decisions of the judges in the Golden-Spangled classes at the late Birmingham show; and I think, by the arrangement suggested by "T. L. F.," the difficulties and unpleasantness of complaints might, at the future shows, be obviated. There appears to be a feeling in favour of the cock-feathered birds, to which I have no objection, only let them be the real thing—the fully-developed tail and full, flowing hackle—and not those half-and-half birds, which I for one cannot bear.

Bradford.

JAMES DIXON.

MALAYS AT BIRMINGHAM.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Brahma," in the last number of the "Poultry Chronicle," mentions *sixteen* pens of Malays contending for a 3*l.* prize, or large medal, at the last Birmingham show.

May I be allowed to explain? There were only *eight pens of old birds* brought forward; the remaining eight were *chickens* of 1854. For each class, respectively, there was a prize of 3*l.*, or *six pounds* to be given for the four best lots out of sixteen.

E. H. T.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

In making our weekly report of Leadenhall prices, we are compelled to notice a charge brought against us, and to explain the nature of our returns. The same thing occurred last year, and then, as now, we stated we quote only the very best quality of poultry. We are not surprised they should appear unreasonable prices, but they are not the less correct. No wish can be farther from us than to mislead any of our readers; we will therefore say that although they will not realize the prices we name, as they fall exclusively to the share

of those who spend their lives in making good poultry, yet any one who can for the next two months send chickens of the year to market, fat, and well killed, will find by their returns, there is no exaggeration in our report.

Large Fowls	6s. 0d. to	7s. 6d.	each
Smaller do.	5s. 0d. to	5s. 6d.	"
Chickens	4s. 0d. to	4s. 6d.	"
Green Geese	9s. 6d. to	10s. 0d.	"
Ducklings	3s. 6d. to	4s. 6d.	"
Guinea Fowls	3s. 0d. to	3s. 6d.	"
Pigeons	0s. 9d. to	0s. 10d.	"
Rabbits	1s. 4d. to	1s. 6d.	"
Wild do.	0s. 10d. to	1s. 0d.	"
Wild Ducks	2s. 3d. to	2s. 6d.	"
Widgeon	1s. 3d. to	1s. 6d.	"
Teal	0s. 9d. to	0s. 10d.	"

P.S. As Plover's Eggs do not come in any numbers, we forbear to quote them till next week.

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

MONDAY, APRIL 2.

	Shillings	per	qr.
WHEAT , Essex and Kent white	71	to	79
" " red	64	..	69
" " Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	64	..	68
BARLEY , Malting, new	30	..	31
" " Chevalier	32	..	34
" " Distilling	30	..	31
" " Grinding	28	..	30
MALT , Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new	65	..	70
" " old	66	..	70
" " Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new	70	..	72
" " old	68	..	71
OATS , English, feed	24	..	25
" " potato	27	..	28
" " Scotch feed new	27	..	28
" " old	31	..	32
" " potato	31	..	33
" " Irish feed, white	24	..	27
" " black	23	..	25
RYE	39	..	40
BEANS , Mazagan	35	..	38
" " Ticks	36	..	40
" " Harrow	36	..	40
" " Pigeon	38	..	44
PEAS , White, boilers	37	..	44
" " Maple	37	..	39
" " Grey	34	..	37
FLOUR , Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.	60	..	65
" " Households, town	60	..	61
" " country	51	..	53
" " Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship	47	..	49

WEDNESDAY.—English wheat quite as dear as on Monday. Foreign had more

tone, but millers take sparingly. Floating cargoes off the coast consist of four Egyptians and one soft Roumelia. Buyers are reserved, and wait for better choice. Egyptian can be bought under late currency. Indian corn—46s. paid for good arrived cargo. The transactions have been at about 1s. decline, but almost all offering were taken at this reduction. Barley from the Mediterranean, as well as English f. o. b., in demand for the continent. Malt and peas unchanged in value. Sellers of Egyptian beans still at 32s., and a few buyers at 31s. Foreign oats had a moderate sale at about 6d. per qr. decline. Irish were but little inquired after, being held relatively higher than other sorts.

To Correspondents.

G. R.—We will procure the information requested for our next number.

Enquirer.—When we are informed officially we will give information as to the favour to be shown to British exhibitors at the Paris Agricultural Show.

J. R., of T., in Yorkshire.—We had much pleasure in forwarding the letter, but have received it back again: our correspondent "Mooney" informing us that he would have had much pleasure in acceding to the request, but is not in a position to do so, having spoiled his young stock for one season by the introduction of a Hen-tailed cock.

Brahma writes, "I have read with peculiar pleasure the article on the ages of fowls, &c. I have in my stock of Japan pea-fowl a hen ten years old, which yearly lays her full number of eggs, and is now before my window with her chicks of 1854, which will enjoy their mother's tender care till pairing time, perhaps a month longer, when like their progenitors they will be forced on the world to shift for themselves. This hen is equally prolific and as good in form and feather as she was six years ago."

N. Z.—We are much obliged: we have the Darlington Schedule and will give it next week.

Tigridia Paronia.—The price of the roots is 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen in Jersey, and we believe they are very little dearer here.

Verdant.—The grass will not grow unless the fowls can be kept from it for a few weeks.

Rustica.—Cottagers realise eightpence a pound and upwards for their honey, and seem pleased to sell it for that.

Advertisements.

COCHIN CHINAS.—EGGS from the Yards of Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, Haverhill, Suffolk, forwarded in rotation, as orders are received, at the price of ninepence each, package included.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork, Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market, London.

EGGS from Grey Single Comb Dorking Fowls of large size, 13s. per dozen. Buenos Ayres Ducks' Eggs, 13s. per dozen, from the birds which won the first prizes at Cambridge and D. n. cafter. Buenos Ayres Ducks, highly meritorious, see Cambridge prize list. Apply to **JOHN HISCOCK**, Mildenhall, Suffolk, who has charge of the birds.

EGGS.—Dorking, Spanish, and Buff Cochins, from really first-rate birds, including 1st prize and Silver Cup birds at Birmingham and Liverpool; to be sold at the yard of Mr. Donne, Oswestry. Apply to **Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW**, Oswestry. Dorking and Spanish Fowls from above birds on sale.

SERAI TAOK, or Fowls of the Sultan, A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 21s. for Nine.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from First-rate Pea-Combed mature birds, at 21s. the Dozen. Apply to **Miss E. WATTS**, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

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, 2½d., 2 yards wide, 5d. per yard, 100 yards, 2 yards wide for 34s. Also repaired Tanned Netting for the above purposes: 1 yard wide 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 18s. 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.

GEORGE BOOTHBY offers EGGS from first class birds at the following moderate prices, viz., Black Spanish, Buff and White Cochins, White Silky Fowl, Silver-Pencilled Hamburgs, Malay, and Dorking, all at 5s. per dozen; Brahma Pootra, &c., and Jet Black Cochins, 7s. 6d.; and various Polands at 10s. 6d.—**G. B.** has on Sale a Pair of Black Spanish, 21s.; a few very fine Black and White Cochins Hens, and Dorking Cockerels and Pullets, 7s. 6d. each; a Silver Poland Cockerel, 10s. 6d.; and Gray Poland do. 7s. 6d.; also a lovely set of White Ptarmigans, erect crests, and profusely booted, Two and a half Guineas. Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire.

MR. DANIEL HARRISON, of Kendal, will dispose of Eggs from his prize Coloured Dorkings, Golden Pencilled Hamburgs, Brahas, and Ronen Ducks, at 10s. 6d. per doz. The Dorkings include the second prize cock at Birmingham and Manchester, in the single cock class, and the second prize cock at Liverpool; the hens have many of them taken prizes, and are bred from the best strains. The Hamburgs have taken prizes at Cambridge, Manchester, Kendal, &c., and are from the yards of Messrs. Tyler, Lowe, Chune, Walker, and Pultenec. The Brahas are from the yards of Gwynne, Cannon, and Fox, and took first prize at Kendal. The Ducks are from Worrall and Bailly's yards.

WHITE-FACED SPANISH FOWLS' EGGS' from Captain Hornby's, Lady Macdonald's, Mrs. Stow's, and other first-class strains, can be forwarded at 12s. per setting of 13 eggs, by enclosing a Post-office Order, made payable to **WM. FAULKNER**, 11, Queen-street, Chapside.

MR. EDWARD TERRY, WALTON TERRACE, AYLESBURY, is prepared to supply Eggs from his various Stocks of Prize Poultry, as under. Dorking Eggs from birds that have taken prizes at all the shows where they have been exhibited, price 21s. per dozen; Spanish, 21s. per dozen; Cochins China, 8s. per dozen; Silver Pencilled Hamburg, 8s. per dozen; Aylesbury Ducks, 8s. per dozen, packages included. May be had by sending a Post-office Order, payable at Aylesbury.

GOLDEN SPANGLED HAMBURG.—For Sale, a Cock and two Hens (Golden Moonneys) of extreme beauty; they are not related, and have all the acknowledged points in perfection. Price 30s. Also Eggs of the above breed, from two pens (not related), at 8s. per dozen. Apply to **JOHN WILSON**, top of Wheeler-street, Loye Is, near Birmingham.

EGGS FOR SETTING may be had from the Yard of **Mr. H. D. DAVIES**, whose stock has been carefully bred and selected from all the best strains, and has already taken upwards of 250 prizes.

Spanish, Dorking, Brahma, and Rangoon Eggs, £2 2s., and White Cochins and Aylesbury Ducks, £1 11s. 6d., the dozen, to include basket, &c.

Spanish and Dorking Fowls of all races may be selected from that portion of the stock not required for breeding or exhibition this season.

For Cock and 1 Pullet	£5 5 0
For Cock and 2 Pullets	7 7 0
For Cock and 4 Pullets	10 10 0

Remittances, by Post-office Order, payable to **GEORGE KEMBLE**, the Bailiff, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, to accompany all orders.

Mr. Davies will be obliged if persons who wish to see the Poultry will make it convenient to do so between the hours of 10 and 4 on any Wednesday or Saturday.

FOR SALE.—Pure Brown Single-Comb Dorking EGGS, £1 1s. per dozen. Coloured do., 10s. 6d. per dozen. Pea-combed Brahas £1 1s. per dozen. Single do. 10s. 6d. per dozen. Many of the above are prize birds. Apply **Rev. F. TRUBSBY**, Abington, Northampton.

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Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers. Pheasants and Partridges' eggs in any numbers. All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.

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FOWLS BY JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest, Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a Chapter on the Brahma Pootra Fowl, the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s., or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Paternoster Row.

EGGs for Hatching, from First-prize Dorkings—Mr. HENRY SMITH will dispose of Eggs during the season from the pen of birds he claimed of the Rev. J. Boys, at Hitchin, for Fifty Guineas; also from Pullets which obtained the 1st and 3rd prizes at the late Bimingham Show, and from others purchased regardless of expense, and which have had first prizes awarded to them at Birmingham, the Great Metropolitan, Reigate, Hitchin, Southwell, Leeds, Malvern, Cambridge, Brighton, &c. The Eggs guaranteed fresh and perfect when packed, which will be done with the utmost care, and sent according to priority of application. Address, The Grove, Cropwell Butler, near Bingham, Notts.

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FANCY POULTRY.—PERIODICAL SALE. Mr. J. C. STEVENS begs to notify that his next Sale of FOWLS and PIGEONS will take place at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent Garden, on Tuesday, 17th April, at 12 o'clock precisely, catalogues of which may be had by enclosing a stamped directed envelope, to Mr. J. C. STEVENS, 38, King-street, Covent Garden.

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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.

"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

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"These items, when compared with the business of the preceding year, display an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

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HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 60.]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1855.

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Poultry Shows.

Paris Agricultural Meeting, June 1st—9th. Entries (to be sent to the Minister of Agriculture, &c.) close May 28. (No. 59.)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st. (No. 52.)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries close June 1st. (No. 57.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Bedford : in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. B. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh

Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire third annual exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th.

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

DISCOVERIES and inventions have changed many things, but men remain the same; their passions, instincts and desires, are unaltered, and everything is made subservient to them. Hopes and spirits will fluctuate as the favourite pursuit rises and falls. "Nothing could be worse," said the pessimist, as he broke his leg in getting

out of the stage-coach. "Oh!" said the optimist, who had travelled with him, "it is well you did not break your neck." While one sees everything through a Claude Lorraine glass, another smokes his, as though he were about to gaze at an eclipse: both give their coloured versions to the world, firmly believing they are correct. But even without shaded glasses, men do not see with the same eyes. An Italian stood entranced for some hours before a painting of the Crucifixion in the Louvre. At length he became conscious he was not alone. "Ah, signor," said he to the first person he saw, "look at the beautiful picture." "Lovely," said the party addressed, who happened to be one of the celebrated musicians and composers of the day; "I will set it to music!" "Are they not splendid birds?" asks an enthusiast at Birmingham, standing lost in admiration before a pen of first-class fowls. He receives for answer from the person to whom he spoke, and who views fowls as valuable only for food, "Are they good eating? Do they lay large eggs?" One viewed the painting as a marvellous work of art; to the other it suggested an idea: one saw in the fowls a matchless pen, and viewed them in imagination on a lawn or in a yard; the other saw them only as good to eat. Few people could ever understand the address of the German lover to his mistress: "I wish," said he, "you were a partridge, I would eat you." The truth is, that no two people view the same thing alike. The bull and the bear come home from "change," one elated, the other depressed, both from the same event. So do two men from Stevens's auction,—one

was a buyer, the other a seller; the first declares it a capital, the second a wretched sale. The poultry pursuit has caused numbers of people to be interested in it, and among them we find the same variety of character as in anything else. The real amateur delights in a show, because he can there prove the merits of his birds, and test his judgment; it has invested his favourites with fresh interest, and given them new charms. The speculator in poultry looks at a show as the probable means of increasing the value of his stock, and the mere spectator views it as an interesting pastime. The purpose of the first is sure to be answered; he gains either prizes or knowledge, and most shows will meet his approval. The second will be satisfied with no show, unless it bring him a pecuniary profit; if it produces all the best birds and pays well, he will, if asked what sort of a show it is, reply either with a shake of the head or a shrug of the shoulders.

Just so, ask two men what is the progress of the poultry movement; one will tell you it is on the decline, the other that it increases daily. Both are right; the first refers to the days gone by, when a first-rate sale made hundreds of pounds. That is indeed on the decline. Enormous prices were an evil, and worked their own cure. There is only a limited demand for any article of great value, and if it is capable of reproduction it must diminish in cost. There are no means of making any sort of fowl a monopoly. The fact of great prices being realised, made every one anxious to produce. In the early days, the good birds were more than rare, now

they are plentiful. Every *good* sale sent forth clever and energetic men, who had been buyers, to produce such birds as they had bought; and they succeeded. One sold at a large price caused thousands to be bred. As a natural consequence, the value decreased. If, then, the state of the pursuit is to be meted by the prices realised by a few birds, it must be said to be on the decline, and the first will be right.

The second does not view the question as it affects a few birds or any particular breed, but takes it in all its bearings; shows increase: and here we would guard ourselves from being misunderstood, if they decreased in number we should not be sorry; we look on the proper increase to be, that entries shall progress, birds improve, and expenses be legitimately paid. Many people have been discouraged by losses, and have exclaimed against all concerned, when, in sober truth, nothing but loss could be expected. In the time of the railway mania, it was said the spirit of speculation was so rife, that if one had been projected from a place no one knew to another no one had ever heard of, the shares would have been taken. Many of the poultry shows that have been held were got up in the same reckless spirit. It was the "mania," and their failure is no test of prosperity or otherwise in the pursuit. Three shows have been held in the same county, to their mutual damages where one would have paid well. But the past year especially has shown a great progress in exhibitors, inasmuch as many of the nobility, and vast numbers of the gentry, have exhibited: the gross number of competitors of all classes has also greatly

increased, and the quality of the birds has marvellously improved. Another improvement has been, that the sales have multiplied, and spread over an exhibition. This is a natural consequence of the improvement of the birds. Formerly the prize pens made large sums, say from 30% to 50%, others were hardly thought worth buying; now the same amount buys five pens. Spite of the decline in the value of some birds, it is unquestionable that the poultry stock is considerably more valuable now than at the corresponding period of last year; and this, not from the temporary increased value of some breeds, but from the augmentation of the general stock. Poultry, like everything else, has its fluctuations; it oscillates, but it is fast reaching a sound basis; all that was required was, for breeders and dealers to be satisfied with a good price, and to forget the times of excitement. Common sense and auctions have done this, and with good means of judging at our disposal, we believe the love of poultry to be on the increase, and now so well understood, that there is no prospect of any decline.

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THE SEVERE WINTER.—On hearing from a correspondent of the severe winter in England, an American editor (in New York) remarks, "If 20° to 25° above zero is severe weather, what would be said of 20° to 25° below zero? We have been enjoying such a temperature in this State during the past winter."

"MEN sick of disappointment in looking for gold," writes a resident in California, "are now turning to agriculture; and there is no country on the globe that promises a richer reward to labour."

The Poultry Yard.

APRIL 11.

THE backwardness of the present season has made it but an indifferent one for very early broods; but there are three reasons which may reconcile the amateur to having no early chicks, or to the loss of those which he has had.

The first is, that his neighbours' case is as bad as his own. In very many poultry yards the mild weather, before and after Christmas, encouraged the hens (especially Brahmas and Cochins) to lay so abundantly, that when at last they were put off by the late but severe winter, they took a long holiday, and have only recently recommenced,—by this means not only depriving their owners of their services as sitters, but also of eggs for incubation. We have heard of but few early broods, and among those many have died, unable to survive the unusually severe weather. Some which were kept in a harness-room, and tended with constant care, all died: and similar mortality has visited others also.

The second reason which may reconcile the amateur to commence his chicken rearing now, is the additional care, the constant attention, which early broods must have. They must be defended from cold and wet; when the cold is severe they must have a fire, and in every way they want attention, which a little later they neither have nor require.

The third reason is, that chickens which are hatched later are often as successful at our exhibitions, and at home, as the early broods. The Spanish chickens, which won the 1st and 2nd prizes at Birmingham last year, were hatched in April, May, and June; and by comparing the prize lists with the catalogues in that and other shows, it will be found that chickens hatched in those months have very often triumphed. In breeds of larger growth—the Brahma Pootra and the Cochin China—the early hatched certainly often gain an advantage in growth which those of a

little later date can never overtake; but in most kinds of fowls April and May chickens are equal, often even superior to any.

Now we have no time to lose: in this month and the next we should hatch as many chickens as we wish to have. June chickens may be *very* good; setting later than that we do not by any means recommend, except in the case of bantams. April and May chickens are best.

The old fowls, now laying abundantly, must not only be well fed, but should have a good change of food. If any hen-houses have not been lime-washed this year, it had better be done the first fine day before the weather gets warmer.

In giving the abundant feeding which they require to early hatched broods, too high feeding should be avoided. A good healthy, hearty appetite, which will feed readily on meal food, and which craves little change, is best. Give them plenty of plain, wholesome food, pure water, clean untainted roosting places, and a good run, and we may reckon that we have turned the corner with regard to them.

SUMMARY.—Continue to set hens and rear chickens. Very early broods chiefly beneficial in fowls of large size. Give the old fowls good feeding and change of food, and let the early broods have abundance of good plain food, and plenty of room indoors and out-of-doors.

Schedule of the South Durham and North-Riding of Yorkshire Exhibition.

THE third annual show will be held in the Market Place, in Darlington, Thursday and Friday, the 6th and 7th of December, 1855; under the patronage of Her Grace the Duchess of Cleveland, and other ladies of the locality.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.

Class.	1st.	2nd.
	£.	£.
1. Cock and two Hens	20	10
2. Chickens of 1855.....	15	5

DORKINGS.

<i>Class.</i>		1st.	2nd.
		<i>s.</i>	<i>s.</i>
3. Coloured, Cock and two Hens	.....	20	10
4. Chickens of 1855	.....	15	5
5. White	.....	20	10
6. Chickens of 1855	.....	15	5

COCHIN CHINA.

7. Cinnamon and Buff	.....	20	10
8. Chickens of 1855	.....	15	5
9. Brown and Partridge Feathered	.....	20	10
10. Chickens of 1855	15	5
11. White	20	10
12. Chickens of 1855	15	5

GAME FOWLS.

13. Cock and two Hens	20	10
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HAMBURGS.

14. Golden Pencilled	20	10
15. Chickens of 1855	10	5
16. Silver Pencilled	20	10
17. Chickens of 1855	.....	10	5
18. Golden Spangled	.....	20	10
19. Chickens of 1855	.....	10	5
20. Silver Spangled	.....	20	10
21. Chickens of 1855	.....	10	5

POLANDS.

22. Black, with White Crests	.....	20	10
23. Golden Crested	20	10
24. Silver Crested	20	10

MALAY.

25. Cock and two Hens	15	10
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BANTAMS.

26. Cock and two Hens	10	5
Gold Laced, Silver Laced, White, Black, and any other variety must be exhibited in this class.			

CROSS BREEDS OF ANY VARIETY.

27. Cock and two Hens	10	5
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PIGEONS.

28. Collection of not less than six pairs of sorts	20	
Second prize of not less than three pairs of sorts	10	
Carriers, Antwerps, Barbs, Pouters or Croppers, Runts, Fantails, Jacobins or Cappers, Turbits, Nuns, Archangels, Trumpeters, Almonds or Ermine Tumblers, &c., must be exhibited in this class.			

GEESE.

29. Gander and one Goose	20	10
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DUCKS.

<i>Class.</i>		1st.	2nd.
		<i>s.</i>	<i>s.</i>
30. White Aylesbury	20	10
31. Rouen	20	10
32. Any other variety	20	10

TURKEYS.

33. Turkey Cock and one Hen	20	10
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GUTNEA FOWL.

34. Best Pair	10	5
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REGULATIONS.

1. The judges will be empowered to award additional prizes in any cases in which the specimens possess extraordinary merit; and they will also be empowered to withhold a prize or prizes in any of the classes in which the specimens are of inferior quality.

2. Parties exhibiting in Class 27 will be required at the time of entry to give a correct description of the breeding of their fowls, in order that a just estimation may be formed of their respective value.

3. Cottagers, whose rents do not exceed £6, may compete in any of the poultry classes without payment of the entrance fee.

4. The judges will be required to award extra prizes to any deserving specimens of ornamental poultry or water fowl.

The following rules are like Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, of the Birmingham schedule.

9. Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales, towards defraying the expenses of the exhibition.

10. The exhibition will not be confined to a particular district, and specimens may be sent from any part of England. Facilities will be afforded to the poultry dealers of London for the exhibition and sale of choice specimens.

11. The certificates of entry will be ready on the 1st of October next, and the entries will close on Monday, the 11th November next. It is particularly requested, that the entries may be carefully made, in order that a correct Catalogue may be prepared. No entries can be received unless they are made on the forms of Certificate issued for that purpose.

12. Subscribers of 10s. can enter their poultry free—non-subscribers by payment of a fee of 2s. 6d. each pen.

13. The whole of the poultry must be in the show yard on Wednesday, the 5th of December, by 3 o'clock, P.M.

JOHN HODGSON, Hon. Sec.

Newcastle Poultry Show.

THE fourth annual exhibition of the Newcastle, Northumberland, and Durham Society for the improvement of Domestic Poultry, was held, as usual, in the Corn Exchange, Newcastle, on the 11th and 12th instant. The arrangements were excellent, taking into consideration the short time the committee had to prepare for the show, after the corn-market was over; only a few hours intervened between the Exchange being used for its accustomed purpose and the arrival of the birds, the greatest credit was therefore due to the secretaries and committee for their prompt exertions. All the pens were erected during the night.

Of poultry there were 364 pens entered; and, with very few exceptions, all were sent.

Of pigeons, about 50 pens.

There was also a class each for hens' and ducks' eggs, and one for butter.

In the Buff Cochins, Mr. Marshall, of Durham, carried off the first prize and vase, with a pen of really fine birds; the cock was a hero. Mr. Hustler's birds were also very good; and Mr. Perkins' deserved the commendation bestowed upon them.

In the cock and one hen class, the birds were in general out of condition, and only a second prize was awarded. Had Mr. E. D. Swarbeck entered his bird, pen 360, with an equally good hen, there would, we think, have been no difficulty in awarding a first; he was a splendid bird. In the other classes of Cochins, there was nothing particular to remark: 71 entries altogether.

In Bramah Pootras, Mr. Perkins' birds got a first prize, but the pens wanted both colour and carriage to our eyes: 9 entries.

In Spanish, Mr. W. Lightfoot, as usual, was first, both in old birds and birds of 1854; we think we have seen his old birds better, but the young ones, which also got the vase, were in good condition. At the first glance we thought Dr. Pearson's birds had been overlooked, but upon careful examination, found that the searching eyes of the judges must have detected a defect

in the neck of one bird and the tail of another.

In Dorkings, there was a great improvement from last year, and some very good birds were shown. Of birds hatched in 1854, we were, however, sorry to observe some pens with old cocks; and here we would impress upon exhibitors for their own credit, the necessity of being more careful on a point so fatal to their success.

In Malays, no entries; though we saw a pen of good birds of this breed in the show, but not entered.

The Game classes, though not large, were good, and the birds well matched.

In Golden and Silver-Pencilled Hamburgs, there was a large entry; the first prize in Golden were nice birds; in Silver, pen 194 were well marked, but showed some distant relationship to the Dorking, which no doubt prevented their appearing in the prize list.

In Spangled Hamburgs, cocks with cock's tails took the prizes; Mr. Dixon, of Bradford, being first in one class, and second in the other. We were happy to hear, that one great breeder of hen-tailed birds, who was present at the show, had declared he now, on conviction, would give them up, and go for the sickle tail and spangled breast.

In Polish, Mr. Conyers' birds were very good; the rest about an average.

The Bantams, sadly too large, pen 282, might have passed for small Silver-Spangled Hamburgs; the cock had a *splendid* hen-tail. The pen seemed to prove that the henny-feathered Hamburgs derive much of their character from a cross with the Sebright.

The Aylesbury Ducks were pronounced an excellent class; the same could not be said of the Rouens. The Ducks, generally, were in bad plumage.

In the extra stock were a pair of Sheildrakes in beautiful feather and condition. They took a first prize.

In the Turkey classes, the successful pen contained the best bronze-winged American we remember to have seen. Mr. Dixon's,

of Bradford, deserve a special notice,—the plumage beautiful.

Only three Peacocks were shown this year,—a great falling off from the last exhibition.

Amongst the Pigeons were some good Pouters.

As a whole, we congratulate the committee on the success of the show, and the evident improvement which, owing to their endeavours, is taking place in the poultry of the district.

The judges were Rev. R. Pulleine, and Messrs. Hewitt, of Birmingham, and Benson, of Darlington.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

COCHIN CHINA, CINNAMON OR BUFF.—Class 1. 1st prize, H. Marshall, Durham. 2nd prize, Rev. G. Hustler, Appleton, Tadcaster. Class 2. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize withheld. 2nd prize, Mrs. Parker, Coalstaith, Brampton. **PARTRIDGE OR BROWN.**—Class 3. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize, Thomas Bridges, Croydon, Surrey. 2nd prize, John Bell, at Wm. Rhode's, Thirsk. Class 4. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize withheld. 2nd prize, Wm. Trotter, Bywell. **WHITE.**—Class 5. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, H. Marshall. 2nd prize, Nathaniel Plews, Darlington. Class 6. (Best cock and one hen.) John Taylor, Seaton Sluice. **HATCHED IN 1854.**—Class 7. (Best cockerel and two pullets.) 1st prize, Mrs. W. T. Bell, Hill House, Bishopwearmouth. 2nd prize, H. Marshall. Commended, Rev. G. Hustler; C. F. Perkins, Picktree, Chester-le-Street. Premier prize (a Silver Cup), for best in classes 1, 3, 5, and 7, H. Marshall.

BRAHMA FOOTRA.—Class 8. (Best cock and two hens.) C. F. Perkins.

SPANISH.—Class 9. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, Wm. Lightfoot, Shieldfield, Newcastle. 2nd prize, James Beattie, Haddington Prison. Class 10. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize, Chas. Wilson (Cottager), High Street, Gateshead. 2nd prize, John Shorthose, Shieldfield Green, Newcastle. Class 11. (Best cockerel and two pullets.) 1st prize, Wm. Lightfoot. 2nd prize, John Shorthose. Premier prize (a Silver Cup), in classes 9 and 11, Wm. Lightfoot.

DORKINGS, COLOURED.—Class 12. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, Rev. G. Hustler. 2nd prize, Daniel Harrison, Singleton Park,

Kendal. Commended, H. Bolekow, Esq., Marton Hall, Middlesbrough. Class 13. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize, John Shorthose. 2nd prize, John Graham (Cottager), West Jesmond. Class 14. (Best cockerel and two pullets.) 1st prize, Wm. Topping, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle. 2nd prize, Edward Ackroyd, Denton Park, Otley, Yorkshire. **WHITE.**—Class 15. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st and 2nd prize, L. W. Atkinson, Esq. Newbiggin, Hexham. Premier prize (a Silver Cup), for best in classes 12, 13, and 15, Rev. J. Hustler. Class 16. No entry.

GAME FOWL.—Class 17. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, John Charlton, Simpson Street, Newcastle. 2nd prize, J. W. Pease, Woodlands, Darlington. Commended, Joseph Conyers, Boar Lane, Leeds. Class 18. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize, J. Charlton. 2nd prize, A. G. Gray, Esq.

HAMBURGS, GOLDEN PENCILLED.—Class 19. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, Daniel Harrison. 2nd prize, E. Featherstonhaugh, Hermitage, Chester-le-Street. Class 20. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize, Edward Pease, jun., Southend, Darlington. 2nd prize, Joseph Conyers. **SILVER PENCILLED.**—Class 21. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, Jonathan Bell, High Shield, Hexham. 2nd prize, John Dixon, North Park, Bradford. Commended, E. Featherstonhaugh, Esq. Class 22. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize, Henry Surtees, Riding Mill. 2nd prize, Wm. Forster, Oxon Roads, Hexham. **GOLDEN SPANGLED.**—Class 23. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, H. Wood, Legram's Lane, Bradford. 2nd prize, James Dixon. Class 24. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize, James Dixon. 2nd prize, Wm. Forster. **SILVER SPANGLED.**—Class 25. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, Jas. Dixon. 2nd prize, Geo. Dixon (Cottager), Riding Mill, Hexham. Class 26. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize, Wm. Trotter. 2nd prize, Geo. Dixon.

POLISH, BLACK WITH WHITE CREST.—Class 27. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, Jos. Conyers, jun. 2nd prize, Jas. Conyers, jun. Class 28. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize withheld. 2nd prize, A. G. Gray, Esq., Newcastle. **GOLDEN.**—Class 29. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, Wm. Trotter. 2nd prize, Jas. Dixon. Class 30. (Best cock and one hen.) 1st prize, Wm. Trotter. 2nd prize, Jos. Conyers, jun. **SILVER.**—Class 31. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, P. Jones, High Street, Fulham, London. 2nd prize, Jas. Dixon. Class 32. (Best

cock and one hen.) 1st prize withheld. 2nd prize, P. Jones.

ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED NAMED.—Class 33. (Best cock and two hens.) 1st prize, Henry Bolckow. 2nd prize, Joseph Cowpers, Leeds. Commended, H. Bolckow and Jos. Conyers. **BEST GOLD LACED.** Class 34. (One cock and two hens in each class.) 1st prize, H. B. Priestman, Benwell House, Newcastle. 2nd prize, H. Marshall, Esq. **BEST SILVER LACED.**—Class 35. 1st prize, withheld. 2nd prize, Mrs. Saltors, 2, Keppel Street, South Shields. **BEST WHITE.**—Class 36. 1st prize, John Bruce, (Cottager), Brafferton, Darlington. 2nd prize, J. W. Pease. **BEST BLACK.**—Class 37. 1st prize, W. Topping, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle. 2nd prize, Jos. Conyers. **BEST OF ANY OTHER VARIETY.**—Class 38. 1st prize withheld. 2nd prize, Edward Pease, Esq. **ANY OF THE ABOVE BREEDS.**—Class 39. 1st prize, N. G. Lambert, Esq., Killingworth House, Newcastle. 2nd prize, William Lightfoot.

GEESE.—Class 40. 1st prize, H. S. Carr, Shotley Field. 2nd prize, (gander), Hon. Mrs. T. Liddell, Ravensworth Castle.

DUCKS, AYLESBURY.—Class 41. (Best drake and two ducks.) 1st prize, L. W. Atkinson. 2nd prize, Jos. Conyers. Highly commended, Wm. Trotter. **ROUEN.**—Class 42. (Best drake and two ducks.) 1st prize, Richard Collingwood, Southwick, Sunderland. 2nd prize, Rev. J. F. Bigge, Stamfordham Rectory. **ANY OTHER VARIETY.**—Class 43. (Best drake and two ducks.) 1st prize, Hon. Mrs. T. Liddell. 2nd prize, Jonathan Bell. **MUSCOVY.**—Class 44. (Best drake and one duck.) 1st prize, G. W. Stable, Heaton Dean, Newcastle. 2nd prize, Mrs. S. Rutherford, Elswick Lane.

TURKEYS.—Class 45. (Best cock and hen.) 1st prize, James Dixon. 2nd prize, Mrs. Forrester, Follonsby, Felling. Class 46. (Best cock.) 1st prize, Mr. Wm. Trotter. 2nd prize, George Grainger, Newcastle.

GUINEA FOWLS.—Class 47. (Best pair.) Mrs. Forrester. 2nd prize, Miss Peacock, Dinnington. **EXTRA STOCK.**—Class 48. To deserving specimens the following prizes were awarded: G. W. Stable, Heaton Dean, Newcastle; E. D. Swarbeck, Sowerby, Thirsk.

Class 49. To the Cottager, rent not more than £8, who exhibits the best lot in any of the above classes. 1st prize, Henry Surtees, Riding Mill, (Class 22). 2nd prize, John Graham, West

Jesmond, (Class 13). 3rd prize, G. Dixon, Riding, (Class 26).

PEA FOWL.—Class 50. (Best peacock.) 1st prize, Wm. Trotter. 2nd prize, Mrs. Tweddle, Penny Hill, Ponteland.

PIGEONS.—Class 51. (Best pair of Carriers.) 1st prize, Wm. Kennedy, Crumlington, Newcastle. 2nd prize, J. Percivall, Clent Villa, Birmingham. Class 52. (Best pair of Almond Tumblers.) 1st and 2nd prizes, Geo. Fawdon, Gateshead. Class 53. (Best Balds or Beards.) 1st prize, Geo. Fawdon. 2nd prize, J. Percivall. Class 54. (Best Nuns.) 1st prize, Wm. Kennedy. 2nd prize, J. Percivall. Class 55. (Best Turbits.) 1st prize, Wm. Kennedy. 2nd prize, George Cooper, 52, Clayton Street, Newcastle. Class 57. (Best pair of Jacobines.) 1st prize, Wm. Kennedy. 2nd prize, Geo. Cooper. Class 58. (Best pair of Fantails.) 1st prize, Geo. Fawdon. 2nd prize, J. Percivall. Class 59. (Best pair of Trumpeters.) 1st prize, Mr. Irwin, Gateshead. 2nd prize, Wm. Kennedy. Class 60. (Best pair of Pouters or Croppers.) 1st prize, George Fawdon. 2nd prize, William Dunn, Millfield Byers, Bishopwearmouth. Class 61. (Best pair of Barbs.) 1st prize, J. Percivall, Birmingham. 2nd prize, Wm. Kennedy, Crumlington. Class 62. (Best pair of Runts.) 1st prize, Thomas Bridges, Croydon, Surrey. Class 63. (Best pair of Dragons.) 1st prize, G. Fawdon. 2nd prize, Cuth. Burnup, jun., Newcastle. Class 64. (Best pair of Swallows.) 1st prize, Wm. Kennedy. Class 65. (Best pair of Turtle-doves.) 1st prize, J. S. Challoner, Newcastle.

RABBITS.—Class 66. (Best long-eared.) 1st prize, John Wisdom, Marton Hall, Middlesborough, Yorkshire.

Eggs.—Class 68. (Best 12 hen eggs.) 1st prize, Henry Williams, Sunderland Road, (Spanish). 2nd prize, Mrs. W. T. Bell, Hill House, Bishopwearmouth, (Spanish). Class 69. (Best 12 duck eggs.) 1st prize, Rev. J. F. Bigge, Stamfordham Rectory. 2nd prize, Rev. F. R. Simpson, North Sunderland.

BUTTER.—Class 70. (Best pound of sweet.) 1st prize, Hon. Mrs. T. Liddell. 2nd prize, Wm. Trotter.

It is said of California, that "it is the land of the vine, the fig, and the orange. In time it will be the greatest wine country in the world."

Columbary.

No. VII.—THE STOMACHER PIGEONS.

THIS variety is known in Germany as "Die Latz-Taube," (the Stomacher Pigeon) from its being white in plumage, and wearing, as it were, a dark stomacher or breast-cloth. They are rather larger than the common Dovecot pigeon, being thicker made about the neck and breast; they are however quick and active and field well. They are "stockinged," or feathered to the toes with small feathers, and have very fine shell-turned crowns, which differ from the usual turned crowns in the feathers not being placed so close together, and in the crowns reaching half-way down the back of the neck. The head, and front of the neck as far as half the breast, is coloured either black, blue, red or yellow, from which they derive their name; the hood, back of the neck, as also the remainder of the plumage is white.

Like the preceding, these are, as yet, uncommon in this country. B. P. B.

THE CRESTED PIGEON.

A MONTH or two back Mr. James Pryer, a neighbour of mine, and a tolerable judge of pigeons, informed me he had seen something curious in that line in Sevenoaks. He described it as a common chequered Dovehouse pigeon, with some rather long feathers growing from the head. Seeing Mr. Woodhouse's description of his crested bald-pate, (Tumbler I suppose), I showed him the cut, and he assured me that so far as he could see, the pigeon in question was crested just the same. We have both made inquiries respecting the bird, but have not succeeded in discovering whence it came or where it is gone. Mr. Woodhouse's pigeon is certainly a curiosity; and may it not derive its peculiarity to a "cry back," the strain having some generations back been crossed with the Columbia coronata, or Great Crowned Pigeon of the Maluccas. B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

SOUTH DURHAM AND NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE EXHIBITION OF CATTLE, SHEEP, AND PIGS.

AT this exhibition, which will be held at Darlington, on the 6th and 7th of December, under the patronage of his grace the Duke of Cleveland, the following prizes are offered for animals:—

"Short horn oxen or steers" of four and three years old respectively, two prizes of £10 and £5. "Not exceeding two years," one of £5. "Short horn heifers," £10 and £5. "Short horn cow" (having produced a living calf), two prizes of £7 10s. and £4. There are also classes for cross-bred animals and for Scotch breeds.

The prizes for sheep are first and second, of £5 and £3, for "Leicester," "cross-breed," and for "three fat shearlings of a cross-breed between Leicester and black-faced."

There are three classes for pigs, "not exceeding twelve months," "not exceeding fifteen months," and "best fat pig."

In awarding the prizes to the two first, the judges will be especially requested to take into consideration early maturity, quality of flesh, and lightness of offal, and not weight or fatness alone.

The breeder's certificate, if the exhibitor is not also the breeder of the stock, must be properly filled up, or the entry cannot be received.

Entry papers will be ready on the 1st of October: entries close November 19th. The ages of the animals must be stated, prizes will be withheld where there is not sufficient merit, and if the number of entries do not exceed the number of prizes in a class, the highest will be withheld. Stock must have been in the possession of the exhibitor two months.

Subscribers of 10s. can enter their stock free; non-subscribers by paying a fee of 5s. each entry. All the cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry must be in the show-yard on Thursday, Dec. 6th, at 8, A.M. A silver

medal will be given to the butcher purchasing the largest quantity of stook.

VENTILATED DAIRY.

THE dairy, which has a north aspect, is sixteen feet long by ten feet wide, and is over a cold cellar, from which cool air may be admitted at pleasure, by means of ventilators. A ventilating space, one or two feet wide, surrounds the dairy on three sides outside, and effectually prevents heat being communicated in the walls. It is entered by a double door, the outer one fitting close to exclude the summer air; the inner of lattice or perforated zinc, to admit cool air at night. The interior is fitted with shelves on all sides (except that of the door), and these shelves, instead of flat boards, are formed of two narrow strips of inch board, to slip into grooves at the ends; when the milk pans are placed on these a free current of air beneath them keeps their contents cool. Under the shelves (one along each side of the room) ventilators, consisting of long narrow trap-doors, opening with hinges, communicate with the cellar below; they are six inches wide, and nearly the length of the dairy. Overhead there is a similar trap, six or seven feet long and one foot wide, opening upward, and raised with a notched stick. When this is opened the air is changed by the rising of the heated air.

From this perfect control over the temperature of the dairy, the cream continues to rise for a longer time, and a great deal more butter may be made in consequence.

On Bees.

A PLEASING fact, which cannot be overlooked, is that all late writers on bees are unanimous in advocating the claims of our little favourites on the mercy of their owners, that they may be induced to content themselves with a share of the spoils, while they spare the lives of their industrious labourers. The system of destroying the lives of these valuable insects, in order to

appropriate the honey they have stored, adding murder to pillage, is proved by the most practical and experienced bee-keepers, to be no less adverse to the interest of the owner, than it is cruel and unfeeling. The practice is so revolting to a humane mind, that persons have felt it to be an insuperable objection to the keeping of bees; the brimstone pit is such a heartless termination to the interest which has been excited. Happily at the same time that the error is proved, the remedy is also pointed out. By the practice either of driving, or stupifying, the bees by the fumes of a fungus, the lives of the inmates of every hive, *whatever may be its construction*, can be saved. The common cottage hive "drives" better than any other: fumigating it is not always so effectual as in hives of which the construction admits of the interior being divided, so that the stupified bees can be taken off the combs.

Premising then that our bees are never to be destroyed, we come next to inquire, what is the most suitable form and construction of their abode. It would be quite impossible to attempt even a slight review of the various designs with which the ingenuity and taste of a multitude of inventors have supplied us. I will only attempt a sketch of the principle in the construction of hives which seems most valuable. The objects we chiefly wish to attain, are, to secure a convenient dwelling, to be enabled to add additional room for the storing of pure honey, to obtain this store in glasses, and to have the bees and their property entirely under our control. The comfort and prosperity of the bees are, I think, almost entirely dependent on the conditions which have been considered under the heads of material and size: sometimes there appears some mysterious inherent quality in a certain hive, of which the character never varies, whether it be one of prosperity or weakness, a determined perseverance in swarming, or a tractable disposition to obey the will of its master. In fact it must be admitted that our "feminine monarchy" is at times somewhat whimsical and

capricious, and decidedly fond of having its own way. I have known two hives, of exactly the same construction, managed alike, and equally prosperous, placed side by side, and annually following the same course. One, allowing itself to be guided by its owner, never attempted to swarm, while no care could prevent its neighbour colonising with a vigour which might soon have peopled an Australia. The time-honoured straw hive is the most universally known, and so closely bound up with our earliest associations, is not lightly to be discarded. And it has its merits. It is the poor man's hive, for no other is so cheap, and the bees are happy and prosperous within it. It is easy to manage, as regards hiving swarms and driving, and very pure honey in large quantities is sometimes stored in compartments placed beneath it. I must here explain that a compartment under the stock hive is called a nadir—we take our term from the Arabic for the point beneath; and the point above in the same language would be the zenith, but bee-keepers have entitled the upper box the super, and so we will follow the crowd, lest we appear pedantic. Additional room may also be afforded at the side of box-hives. Of these plans, I think the super-hiving is best; the queen will enter a collateral apartment more readily than an upper one, and, therefore, the chance of having pure honey is smallest in side boxes. Supers I have found the most easily managed, and though a good deal may have been written about dividers, plates of zinc, and such like apparatus, these affairs only render an operation more complicated, and make the bee-master imagine his task to be a very difficult one. Let the operator use a puff of tobacco-smoke instead of all such contrivances, and he will find the way clear before him. Hives which are enlarged by means of supers, have an adapting board placed on the top, and through apertures, which are made in it, the bees ascend into the upper apartment; and their operations may be watched, either in glasses or boxes with windows.

The use of ventilation to cool the hive, and to prevent the queen taking possession of the store-house, where her presence is not desired, by reducing the temperature below hatching heat has been suggested; the proceeding, however, seems unnatural, and consequently cannot be expected to succeed. Bees so carefully exclude the entrance of air by closing up the smallest crevices with propolis, that to subject them to a current of air through the hive, seems almost cruel. Where they can resist, by closing the air-holes, they invariably do so; and after all, while the bee-keeper fancies he is preserving his honey pure, he is retarding the storing of the finest honey, for the building of the new comb requires more heat than the hatching of brood. Besides this, the bees can arrange these matters for themselves, ventilating the hive by the fanning of the wings; or should this not prove effectual, turning out in thousands, and hanging in immense clusters from the alighting board.

The hives which may be said to have made the nearest approach to perfection, are those which, combining the qualities we have discussed, also place the whole of their contents under the control of the apiarian. They are valuable both for practical and experimental purposes. The first on the list is the celebrated leaf-hive of Huber; it is formed of wood in partitions the width of the combs, and by means of hinges, opens and closes like the leaves of a book. The expensiveness of the hive, however, places it only as an experimental agent to the scientific apiarian. One which combines the advantages of the leaf-hive with a moderate price, is the Grecian hive. It is smaller below than at the top, and the cover is moveable, and on the upper rim of the hive, bars are fixed by a pin, which can be readily raised; and as the combs are each built separately on a bar, the whole contents of the hive, comb, honey, and bees can readily be removed. Mr. Golding has reduced the architecture of the bees in these hives almost to a certainty, by regulating the width of the bars, and the spaces

between them to exactly the dimension by which the bees are guided. A description of his adaptation of the Grecian hive is given in the Shilling Bee Book; but the rich lands of Mid Kent are not prolific in honey, and his size is the medium he has found best adapted to all seasons and localities; for a more fruitful district, Mr. Golding kindly enlarged the dimensions, giving eight bars, and a hole through the centre of the straw top, for feeding without removing the cover. With these alterations, I do not think the hive could be improved; it combines perfect simplicity with every essential in managing bees, and it is much to be regretted that the workman employed by Mr. Golding, who displayed so much skill, has given up hive-making. I have often tested these hives, in operating with the bees. For instance, the window of the hive was broken, and I resolved to have it mended, and so the bees must quit their abode in March. I had another hive, the same size; so I lifted out all the combs on the bars, and replaced them one after another in the new hive, the bees clustering on the combs; the business was performed in a very short time, with the greatest ease. A friend asked me, in the beginning of May, to examine a hive which was very weak. We took out and examined the combs, and found neither queen nor brood, and very few bees; so few, that there was little prospect that they could raise a queen. A pair to this hive, however, was very strong, therefore we took up a centre bar of each, placing the empty comb in the strong hive, and the comb which was full of brood, of all ages, a considerable portion being ceiled over, was given to the weak hive. It was carefully covered, placed at nights in a warm situation, and our care was fully repaid. In thirteen days an artificial queen was raised, and in twenty-one days the comb, from which all the brood was then hatched, was restored to its original hive, and the other comb, full of brood, in its turn replenished the now prospering hive. In July it was full of bees, and made a quantity of honey on the moors.

Thus it will appear that the construction of these hives enables the bee-keeper to remove the queen, to examine the combs and brood, to raise artificial queens, or to divide a family at his will, and I think their merits cannot be overrated. For those who prefer boxes to straw hives, I believe Mr. Taylor has arranged his bar-boxes on the same principle as Mr. Golding's Grecian hives, and the management is so easy, that I hope our readers will not allow visions of difficulties and dangers to deter them from availing themselves of this most useful invention. A.

Floriculture.

APRIL 18.

WHEN the auriculas are about coming into flower, they should be placed under hand-glasses, for as soon as the first blossom begins to expand, they must be kept safe from wet and wind. Let them be shaded from the mid-day sun, taking care not to rob them of light more than can be avoided. Water liberally as long as they are in flower, with very weak manure water, and take especial care that the glass above them is well fitted, for the slightest drip would spoil the flowering. The glasses should also be kept clean and bright. Some persons raise the hand-glasses on flower-pots, but a simple frame of wood to support them can be made at small expense, and is better both for use and appearance. The glasses must be covered at night with matting, which should be drawn over very early when cold drying winds prevail; but when the weather is mild and moist, they may be left uncovered until late. Look to the offsets taken early in the season, and those which are rooted can be potted off separately. Do not forget that auriculas delight in moisture. For pinks the surface of the beds should be repeatedly stirred. The potting of carnations and picotees must on no account be delayed; one day more should not be lost; the fibres set

forth by nature for the support of the plant, are now getting matted together in a manner to defy future separation. Protect tulips from storms of hail and from wind, for if the foliage be injured, the bloom will be affected also. Cover at nights whenever frost may be expected, and slightly stir the earth occasionally. Those who have a greenhouse must this month carry on propagation briskly, both by seeds and cuttings, and plants may be repotted whenever the roots become numerous. Young plants of mignonette, and ten-week stocks, may be exposed as much as possible, only sheltering them from severe frost or heavy rain. Hardy annuals may be sown in the open ground, in the places where they are to remain. Those which are already up, and large enough, should be carefully thinned and preserved from the depredations of snails and slugs; for this there is nothing perhaps better than hand-picking at night. Plant tuberoses, one root in a pot, with rich, light, sandy soil, and plunge the pots in a hot-bed or bark bed. Hepaticas may be divided as they go off flowering. The general neatness of the garden must receive constant care, such as moving grass, destroying weeds, sweeping and clearing walks, &c. Many annuals now growing on the hot-bed may be ready to prick out on a fresh, slight hot-bed made for the purpose. Plant them three or four inches apart, give them water, and cover them with glasses; or if the hand-glasses are engaged, the bed may be arched over with hoops, and mats laid over at night, or in bad weather. Let them remain in this bed four or five weeks, inuring them gradually to the open air, when they may be taken up with balls of earth to their roots, and finally planted into borders or pots, where they are to bloom. Seeds of carnations and pinks may be sown on a light rich spot of ground; divide it into beds about a yard wide, make the surface even, sow the seed moderately thick, keeping each sort separate; cover them with about a quarter of an inch of fine mould, and give a moderate

sprinkle of water. When the weather is hot and dry, the beds should be scenced from the sun in the middle of the day.

HARDY BORDER FLOWERS.

THE LILY FAMILY.—Portions of this tribe have a time-honoured claim to the flower-garden, long anterior to the introduction of the more showy China and Japan species and varieties, all of which give promise of becoming ultimately classed as hardy plants. They are many of them quite hardy, if protected during winter with a coating of leaves or long dung; no garden should be without them. Once planted, the bulb of the lily should not be removed often, as it injures the flowering for the ensuing season, and if kept out of ground any length of time, it will not recover its full strength for two or three years.

They are readily propagated by the scales of the bulb, each of which is capable of forming a new bulb, and should be stuck in sand in a shady border, or in pots, in pits or frames. This method is usually resorted to, to propagate scarce or new kinds; the ordinary way is to collect the small bulbs that spring from around the old ones yearly, and plant in a well prepared border, till they become strong enough to flower. They also seed freely, and some kinds produce a quantity of small bulbs upon the stems, which can be used for propagation.

Most garden soils will grow them, but to see them in perfection, make a soil fifteen or eighteen inches deep, of loam, peat, decayed leaves, and rotten manure, of each equal parts, well incorporated together. The best time to transplant is as soon as the leaves die away in August. The following kinds are all first-rate.

Lilium superbum, orange colour in clusters; *L. canadense* (nodding meadow lily), yellow or deep orange scarlet spotted with brown; and *L. Philadelphicum* (common red lily), vermilion, richly spotted with black.

L. longiflorum, the long flowered white

lily.—Flowers pure white, and fragrant ; native of Japan. Flowers in July. Good for pot culture.

L. candidum, the old white lily.—Worthy of a place in every garden, from its imposing appearance when in flower. Levant. July.

L. Martigon, Turk's cap lily.—So named from the petals of the flowers reflexing very much, giving it the resemblance of a cap. There are many varieties of this species, with different coloured flowers, as white, purple, spotted, and variegated. Germany. Flowers in July.

L. tigrinum, tiger-spotted lily.—A very common showy garden kind, with orange ground, and black spotted flowers. China. Flowers in August.

L. chalcidonicum, scarlet Martagon lily.—Flowers scarlet, reflexed, a good common kind. Native of the Levant. Flowers in July.

L. japonicum, the Japan lily.—This and its varieties are the finest of the genus, and have hitherto been treated as greenhouse plants. The variety *speciosum*, has a pink and white frosted ground, finely spotted with deep crimson. The *L. lancifolium album* is pure white, with reflexed petals, and a peculiar crested projection of bright crimson.

L. lancifolium punctatum or *roseum*.—Flowers large, white ; petals studded with pale rose or blush projections, and beautifully spotted with rose colour.—EDGAR SANDERS.

Chapters on Classes.

NO. I.

THERE are certain classes of fowls at our shows which must either improve or disappear. We do not think committees are justified in offering sums of money for fowls which make no progress in any way, and whose stationary entries are so few in number, and so deficient in quality, as to force on judges the unthankful office of withholding prizes. Large exhibitions, such as Birmingham, and a few others,

can afford to maintain a prize list in all its original greatness ; but when complaints are heard of the difficulty of making both ends meet, the saving of two or three classes, amounting to twelve or fifteen pounds, is worth consideration.

It would be unreasonable to suppose that every class must show a yearly increase. When there are thirty, or forty, or even twenty-five entries, all may be satisfied ; but it almost amounts to the ridiculous to see year after year, three prizes distributed among four or five pens.

Poultry shows are no longer in their infancy ; they can afford to hear the truth, and to act upon well-intentioned suggestions. It is time for the amateurs in the classes we are about to name, to rescue them from extinction.

We will now only mention two. First, Malays. We will not say these lay as well as Cochins, or are as good for the table as Dorkings, but they are not without their merits or admirers. We know only one show where they ever appear well represented, that is, Dorchester. The next best last year was Reading, where they were excellent and numerous. It was one of the few shows where not only the prizes were awarded, but commendations were numerous. They are hardy, good layers, and good for the table. Their admirers should now come to the rescue, or their classes must disappear.

The other class is for Black Cochins. Here we have few entries, and faulty birds. It is questionable with many whether these are a breed or not. Most judges can bear us out in saying, they have never yet seen a pen of *truly* Black Cochins. Red hackles and saddles, white under feathers, and numerous other indications, prove a mixed and uncertain origin ; and we cannot help thinking the money given to them would be better bestowed on any of the other classes, where improvement is progressive, and where entries increase.

Every class undergoes probation among "other varieties." When sufficient pro-

gress has been made to justify their removal to a more definite position, they have a class allotted to them; but if they cannot justify their distinction, they must relapse to their former condition, and figure among the varieties. With the experience of years, and with accurate data to go by, committees need no longer tie themselves to any particular list. At first it was necessary to make experiments, and to offer inducements for the production of every breed; but now that these things are nearly reduced to a certainty, and that under any circumstances a sufficient number of entries can be depended upon to form a good show, it may be well left to those who are responsible for the expenses, to withhold undeserved prizes, or to add them to classes both more numerous and more meritorious.

Visit to Knowsley.

UNFORESEEN circumstances having called me to Liverpool, and having a day to spare, as every true *lover* of poultry would have done, I indulged myself with a visit to Captain Hornby's far-famed retreat.

The day was lovely, and, determined to be in good humour with everything that occurred, I took my seat for Huyton Station, on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, and after a full average of railway "bumping," was safely landed in about half an hour from starting. On alighting I made an inquiry as to the "whereabouts" I should find the object of my search, and was informed that a walk of about twenty minutes would bring me to the spot. After walking fully an hour without the least appearance of nearing *anything*, I fortunately met a jolly looking jade, one of Ainsworth's real "Lancashire Witches," whose smiling lips and rosy cheeks for a while obliterated all thoughts of Black Spanish. On inquiry she informed me if I kept right on until I came to *yonder* cottage, which unfortunately was out of sight, and then either turn to my left, or go across the meadows (*i.e.* the park), I would come

to the place I sought for. Wishing her a hearty good morning, and *what*, besides, "deponent sayeth not," I eventually arrived at the spot indicated by my fair informant; and, judging the walk across the "meadows" was preferable to the route along a lane, I took it, and was well repaid for my trouble, for a more delightful ramble than the one across Knowsley need not be desired; upwards of 1000 acres of undulating grass land, rich with coming verdure, and the wide expanse agreeably broken by tastefully arranged belts or groups of trees, through an avenue of which the south front of the capacious, comfortable, and truly English looking hall breaks upon the view with something of a magic effect. The Earl of Derby *must* be a happy man! at least so thought I, and with an imagination at *any* time ready to mount up into the regions of *improbability*, I was soon *owner* of the wide demesne, and besides doing great things to and for everybody, had the most complete poultry establishment in the world! How long this reverie lasted I cannot tell, but I was brought down into this lower world by falling plump over the trunk of a felled tree, and narrowly escaped a severe contusion, and of course like all aerial castle builders, the "voice in my dreaming soon melted away," and all that was left was the reality of a broken shin. Determined not to get out of humour, I sought the consolation of a "genuine Havannah," so plentiful at Liverpool that there must be a dreadful drain on cabbage gardens; I pursued my way, and soon found myself at the hospitable mansion of Captain Hornby. The gallant captain unfortunately was from home enjoying his favourite sport of greyhound coursing; this, certainly, was a very serious disappointment, and if ought could have made me cross, this certainly would, but I was *determined* to be a *philosopher* this day at least, so I told my errand, and was handed to the care of one of the most civil and obliging men I ever saw; there was no end to his good humour in answering the hundred silly

questions I asked him; he answered the last as kindly as the first, and from his conduct I was convinced that the world-spread praise given to the gallant owner was real, and more than empty sound, for even here "like master, like man," will hold good.

On entering the yard the visitor is struck with the extraordinary cleanliness of everything he sees—not a single article is out of its place—and those who really wish to see how poultry *ought* to be kept, should take a run over, and they will be amply repaid for their trouble.

Unfortunately for my visit all the Black Spanish were out at walk, being, I was informed, always selected out for breeding purposes, and distributed among the many lodges surrounding the park; this, where it can be done, is an admirable plan, as it does away with the necessity of the birds being confined during any portion of the day, as only one cock and a given number of hens are sent on each walk. In consequence of the above I only had the opportunity of seeing one lot which were at a lodge near the captain's gate; the cock was of remarkable size, being certainly one of the largest birds I ever saw; in form and shape he was nearly perfect, but there was a degree of *coarseness* in his face, which materially lessened him in my eye as a *whole*. To a person wanting to increase size with a few good *fine* bred hens, he was worth any money, as he was in no wise *deficient* in quantity of white-face, but the *quality* of it was rather inferior; and on this point I am convinced that the more this variety is bred in and in, the *finer* the face becomes, but at the same time it is done at the sacrifice of more valuable points, viz., the loss of size, constitution, and utility. There were also six or eight hens, if not more, with him, and from which a first-class pen or two might have been selected. The man told me that this lot was "the worst they had," but the distance at which the remainder were billeted, prevented me from judging for myself.

I saw the largest and best Brahma cock that has yet fallen under my notice; he was alone, having been sent only the day before my arrival: he certainly was a noble and beautiful bird, and had it not been for a slight discoloration on his wings—which, in my opinion, should not have been there—might have been called perfect; but, of course, this is a matter of opinion, which every writer is entitled to until the question of, "What is a Brahma?" be finally settled.

The Cochins were good; one buff cockerel, I fancy, equal to anything the most enthusiastic amateur could find in a day's march; the hens were well matched, and square short-legged birds, likely to turn off some good chickens.

Captain Hornby is evidently one of those gentlemen who take a pride in everything they do, and this is the grand and *only* secret by which an eminent position can be gained; everything about his mansion betokens the supervision of a master mind; there's no "sluggard's" corner to be found anywhere; nothing delayed to be done at "a more convenient season"; there is a time to do and place to put everything, and everything seems to be done and put at the proper time.

Disappointed at not seeing the *immediate* object of my visit, I was fully repaid by what I had seen. I saw the most perfect poultry-yard in the kingdom, and from it learnt a lesson which, I trust, may not be entirely lost on my small establishment.

R. B.

AMATEURS who have been unsuccessful in hatching need not be discouraged; they have neighbour's fare. They may derive comfort from the fact, that the ground is purified by frost and snow; that chickens hatched in April and May grow very fast, and are never checked. In our experience we have bred some of our best fowls in June, spite of the old proverb:—

"Chicken that's hatched while there's making of hay,

Will never grow up, but will pine away."

Poultry Balance Sheet.

If you should think the enclosed statement of profit and loss on fowls and ducks would be of any interest, I leave the same with you to decide as to inserting it in your interesting and useful publication. I should mention I have a small orchard

and pond of water, to which the poultry have free access. A COTTAGER.

P. S.—I keep a minute account, and therefore can vouch the accuracy of the statement, which I make up half-yearly in my small way. The ducks are cross-bred Aylesbury.

FOWLS. Dr.

MARCH TO JUNE, 1854.

	£	s.	d.
Paid for 11 Cochin China fowls (9 hens and 2 cocks)	2	8	0
Paid for keep	1	17	1
	<u>£4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>

JUNE TO DECEMBER.

Balance forward, for which I have 7 fowls and 37 chickens	1	15	5
Paid for keep	2	0	3
	<u>£3</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>

Balance forward, for which I have 26 fowls and chickens	1	0	10
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DUCKS. Dr.

MARCH TO JUNE, 1854.

Paid for 14 ducks and 10 ducklings	1	19	2
Paid for keep	0	11	0
	<u>£2</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>

JUNE TO DECEMBER.

Balance forward, for which I have 25 ducks and ducklings	0	15	10
Paid for keep	0	6	1
	<u>£1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>

FOWLS. Cr.

MARCH TO JUNE, 1854.

	£	s.	d.
4 sold	1	0	0
280 eggs sold	1	9	8
Balance forward	1	15	5
	<u>£4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>

JUNE TO DECEMBER.

18 chickens sold	1	8	6
352 eggs sold	1	6	4
Balance forward	1	0	10
	<u>£3</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>

DUCKS. Cr.

MARCH TO JUNE, 1854.

5 sold	0	9	0
367 eggs sold	1	5	4
Balance forward	0	15	10
	<u>£2</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>

JUNE TO DECEMBER.

17 sold	1	5	9
Deduct contra	1	1	11
Balance in favour, and 8 ducks also	£0	3	10

HEN MANURE.—Noticing that a correspondent wishes to know the best method of applying chicken manure, permit me to give my views and experience on the subject. From twenty hens I am able, from year to year, to save about fourteen bushels from the droppings of the roost, which is taken up from time to time, and put into barrels. This, if mixed with

about one-third its bulk of common wood ashes, makes a very valuable manure. I consider it worth \$1.00 per bushel. I use it for *corn*, applying a small handful in each hill, covering it slightly before putting in the seed. I consider it equal, if not superior, to the best guano. BELA E. HOTCHKISS, *Prospect, Conn.*

Poultry Chronicle Contributions.

I THINK there are several topics of interest to poultry-keepers, which might advantageously be discussed at this time, when there is no great press of matter in your pages.

First,—Can any of your readers speak from experience as to whether the moulting season of particular birds can be accelerated or retarded, if either be desired? Has any one noticed the effect of the different kinds of food on this point? Will any special kind of feeding put off the natural time of moulting for a few weeks, if that be wished, or bring it on some days earlier, where that is more convenient?

I am inclined to suspect attention to diet *will* do this, although I have not sufficient data to speak positively? In 1853 Cochins, hatched the first week in April, moulted almost bare in October, while some Spanish of the same brood never changed a feather. In 1854 some Cochins hatched late in March and early in April have done nothing up to this time, except shedding their chicken tail-feathers, and getting fresh ones, when about six months old; while one Spanish pullet (a late March bird) went almost naked in October, and all the rest of that breed moulted more or less in the course of the autumn. I think the Spanish were forced a little more, and the Cochins a little less in 1854 than had been the case in the year previous.

Who can throw light on this important subject for exhibitors?

Secondly,—Has anybody anything fresh to say about influencing the sex of chickens, either by choosing eggs or matching parents of different ages? Last year, from a pair of very young Cochins, I had three broods before either of the parents were twelve months old. In the first, of six reared, half were of each sex. In the next, of thirteen reared, ten proved pullets. In the third brood of eleven, there were nine cockerels. The eggs were set as they were laid, no selection being made. In the present spring, from the same parents, now

twenty months old at least, I have a very great proportion of male birds. Up to this time, from nine chickens I can only pick two pullets, and another is not yet sufficiently developed to be classed. Perhaps some one can speak on this head.

Thirdly,—Let us have all the accurate returns of eggs, chickens, or money brought in by different poultry-yards, that can be got together; not fancy ones, or accounts based upon "I think," or "I am very nearly certain," but *bona fide* statements taken from books carefully kept. Nothing does the poultry-keeper more good than these.

Specially should I like to see comparisons between different breeds, with the grounds for the conclusions arrived at. Showing how many eggs in a year, on an average, the hens of any breed produced; dividing the year's returns, if not into monthly produce, at any rate into winter and summer eggs.

What is the greatest number of eggs *known* (not believed) to have been laid by a hen in a year.

What is the greatest average where four or six have been kept?

If any fancier can and dare let his brother maniacs know the cost of his establishment, he would be a most welcome contributor to your readers.

In short, any one who could step forward in this time of no reports with a few facts, would be a public benefactor. My experience is too short to have many. I send such as I have. K.

A String of Queries.

WHY do exhibitors sometimes show birds with trimmed feathers, filed spurs, hens with burnt single combs, to represent double, ducks with beaks filed and coloured, and birds misrepresented in respect of age and ownership? and why are not persons who act in this manner exposed? If these are hints to judges, hope they will not forget.

Why, exact dimensions being given,

should not we find our own pens for exhibiting, thereby dividing expenses with committees more fairly?

Is the Bantam cup to be given at Birmingham for Golden or Silver Laced?

How can committees keep to their rule purporting to exclude dealers from exhibiting, since, as soon as an exhibitor takes a prize he immediately sells eggs, and thus becomes one?

How ought a Hamburg's tail to be formed? The writer has sought, and finds there are not half-a-score Anglo-Hamburg fowls to be found in Hamburg. H. F.

Rouen Ducks.

WHILE considerable difficulty will always be found in getting judges together, and still more in making them draw up rules for awarding prizes, and from which if they were compiled, there would still be dissentients, we think there are for most breeds acknowledged rules, which have hitherto been acted upon, and will be still. Let us take Rouen ducks for example. We believe all parties are agreed they should be large birds, the larger the better; and the plumage should as nearly as possible resemble that of the wild duck and Mallard. These birds are so well known that any description is unnecessary; we will, therefore, state in our opinion what we consider disqualifications. Rings round the necks of the ducks, black bills, and white feathers in the wings. It is a great disadvantage to breed from birds with light plumage, as they then too nearly resemble an old English duck, well known many years since in Buckinghamshire, and not unfrequently used in keeping Aylesburys up to large size, when they are wanted only for the table. The Rouen duck is a distinct species, and a cross of any sort can be easily detected by an experienced eye.

The National Poultry Exhibition.

THE following extract from an American paper, "The Express Messenger," will be

interesting to our readers, from the circumstance of Mr. McCormick being at the time of the show, and up to the present period, travelling in England and other parts of Europe. His collection of poultry is one of the largest as well as choicest in the United States:

"The lovers of beautiful poultry have been afforded a fine exhibition during the last ten or twelve days, at the American Museum in this city. From black swans down to the smallest pigeon, the variety has been profuse and complete. The number of exhibitors was large, and their specimens all creditable; but by far the most full and best collection was the property of our young friend, R. C. McCormick, Jun., of Woodhaven, N. Y., and for exhibiting so excellent an assortment he was awarded the first premium, fifty dollars. For specimens of imported poultry, very rare in the United States, Mr. McCormick was awarded sundry premiums, amounting to fifty dollars more; which is pretty well, considering that the recipient is absent upon a tour of Europe, and was not on hand to see that his 'fancies' had a fair showing."

EXTRAORDINARY HEN. — If interesting to your readers, perhaps you will insert the following in your valuable paper. I have a Scotch Bakkie, or Dumpy hen, that began to lay on the 13th of February last; she continued laying regularly every day until the 23rd, when she missed one; she continued laying until the 11th of March, when she laid a perfect egg in the morning, and an imperfect shelled (not skin) one again at noon; skipt the 12th; 13th, one egg, 3½ oz. weight, 8½ inches round the longest end, 7½ inches round the middle, containing three yolks; skipt the 14th; two on the 15th. Laid one regularly until the 28th of March, when she laid a soft egg (skin) in the morning, and another perfect one before dinner. 29th, has an inclination to sit. The 42 weighed 90 oz., without either the large or the soft shelled ones. H. C.

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

POULTRY PENS.

DEAR SIR,—May I request the publication of the following very brief reply to Messrs. Greening & Co.'s last letter, as I fear they may imagine I am prejudiced against them. I have not the least desire to exclude them from the controversy upon "Portable Pens." I have written for the purpose of obtaining information. I have given my opinion (which possibly is not worth having, but unfortunately it is against them), with my reasons, because I, as an amateur, am most anxious that our poultry exhibitions should be conducted on the best possible plan, and with the least expense, and that we should have a pen as near perfection as possible. In arriving at the truth we must have the opinions of all, and be thankful for them. I have made no assertions which I cannot substantiate. As I happened to witness the penning of my fowls at the Free Trade Hall I can assure Messrs. Greening their tails were perfect when they were put in, and that after the show, tails were broken not only in my pens but also in others. That this was the case I give my word. I am very much obliged to Messrs. Greening for their invitation. They have frequently explained the merits of the round pen to me; but if in asking me to call on them *in propria persona*, they mean calling as a *round pen*, I regret I cannot. If, on the other hand, they want my name, I must decline giving it, since it could serve no purpose, neither is it at all necessary. If at a future period it would do any good, I shall then be glad to let them have it. I shall be delighted to find Messrs. Greening producing the proper kind of pen, and from what I have seen of their work I am sure whatever they undertake will be done well; and no one will be more pleased to hear that they are the inventors of what all amateurs and committees

are anxiously waiting for, and that their spirited exertions may meet with remuneration, than
SQUARE PEN.

EXPERIENCE WITH AN INCUBATOR.

DEAR SIR,—I will give you my experience of an incubator, being the possessor of one. I worked it for two seasons, and as to hatching eggs it does that as well as any hen. I never attempted to rear any chickens with the artificial mother, because an immense deal of trouble is entailed; but that they can be reared, and are reared, we know is true, but the mortality, I fear, must be great. When using the incubator, I set a hen, and placed a number of eggs in the machine;—these hatched at the same time as the hen's, and I gave all the chickens so hatched to her, and she brought them up quite as well as if they had been hatched in the *regular way*.

My incubator requires very little attention. The stove only requires filling once in twelve hours, and after the thermometer indicates the correct temperature, and the valve of the stove is placed in the right place, all goes on right for the same time. Mine is upon Cantelo's plan.

Had I time I should be using it now. It is a nice amusement, but I don't think one would pay, except as an exhibition.—Faithfully yours,

HENRICUS.

EGGS AND SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBRO' FOWLS.

HAVING read with much interest Mr. Archer's description of the Silver-Pencilled Hambro' Fowls, as to their laying qualities, I venture to write a few lines in favour of the Spangled breed. I keep each variety of Hambro's, and have done for several years, but must say I prefer the Spangled breed to the Pencilled, simply because they produce a larger egg, and the birds themselves are decidedly more hardy. From December 1st to March the 31st ult. my Spangled hens laid on an average four eggs per week; my Pencilled, three; Dorkings, two; and my Game hens two. They have each exactly the same food, and each yard is in precisely the same situation. J. B. CHUNE.

Coalbrookdale.

EXHIBITORS.

SIR,—I am doubtful whether my scribbling will find a place in your columns, but believing you to be a better judge of such things than myself, I send it. You can accept or reject, and perhaps, whatever my fate be, the greatest feeling on the subject will be surprise if it appears in print.

Although I have never exhibited a fowl in my

life, I frequent shows, and spend many hours in judging *after the judges*. I confess I do not see the necessity of printed rules. Some men lose with more equanimity than others; but few can conceal a little show of disappointment; I believe all feel it. I cannot agree with many who say, when they find themselves classed with the unsuccessful, that had they known the points, they could have shown better birds. Their pens prove the reverse; they are well selected, but they are not good enough. I do not mean to say there are not such glaring incongruities in some, that disqualification is inevitable; but it is here so plain, none murmur. It is among the commendations we have complaints. In most instances, the fact of being noticed proves correct judgment, and accurate knowledge, and I never can conceal a smile when I hear a defeated competitor say he could have sent better birds. I believe all send their best. SUBSCRIBER.

GOLDEN SPANGLED HAMBURGS.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to make one or two additional remarks on the Golden Spangled Hamburgs? Notwithstanding the statement of one of your correspondents, I am still of opinion, that the hen-feathered cocks, with flowing tails, produce superior chickens to the cock-feathered birds. At least I have always found it so, and I am borne out in this by the experience of one of the oldest breeders of the variety in England. I know not what the cross between one of these birds and the "Lancashire Moonneys" would be; but there is one cross I have tried, which has answered admirably, viz., a Golden Pheasant hen-feathered cock, with the copper or coffee-coloured hen. By this cross I obtained a first-rate, rich-coloured, hen-feathered bird, with flowing tail. I put this cock to Golden Pheasant hens, and the result has been all I could wish;—more size, good moonings, and deep rich golden ground-work. Such is my experience.

A word or two with "X" before I close. I cannot agree with him, that the hen-feathered cock must necessarily be from the Sebright. Two breeders, Mr. Jolley and Mr. Nutt, have had such birds for upwards of twenty years, and I know that a Sebright has had nothing to do with their stock. As to returning to the cock-feathered birds, I would simply observe, that to get these birds there is no difficulty, and consequently no credit. But to possess a first-rate, beautifully-spangled cock, not square-tailed, is really no easy matter, and should be rewarded accordingly.

In reply to "J. B. C.," I have bred *spangled hackled cocks* with all the points he names.

Apologising for again troubling you, I am, Sir, yours, very sincerely, W. R. H.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE preparations for the forthcoming Imperial visit, and the real scarcity that exists, have caused a considerable rise in the price of poultry. Our quotations will appear ridiculous to some, and untrue to others, but they are perfectly true. Even the inferior sorts have considerably risen in value.

Large Fowls	7s. 0d. to	8s. 0d. each.
Smaller do.	5s. 6d. to	6s. 6d. "
Chickens	4s. 6d. to	5s. 0d. "
G. Geese	8s. 0d. to	9s. 6d. "
Ducklings	4s. 0d. to	4s. 6d. "
Guinea Fowls	3s. 3d. to	3s. 6d. "
Rabbits	1s. 6d. to	1s. 8d. "
Wild do.	0s. 10d. to	1s. 0d. "
Pigeons	0s. 9d. to	0s. 11d. "
Plover's Eggs, per doz.,	5s. to	6s.

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

MONDAY, APRIL 9.

THE arrivals of wheat and barley had been fair, and those of flour considerable.

BRITISH.	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	71 to 79
" " " " red	64 .. 69
" " " " Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	64 .. 68
BARLEY, Maltine, new	36 .. 31
" " Chevalier	32 .. 34
" " Distilling	30 .. 31
" " Grinding	28 .. 30
OATS, English, feed	23 .. 24
" " potato	26 .. 27
" " Scotch feed	26 .. 31
" " potato	30 .. 32
" " Irish feed, white	23 .. 26
" " " " black	22 .. 24
BEANS, Mazagan	55 .. 38
" " Ticks	86 .. 40
" " Harrow	36 .. 40
" " Pigeon	38 .. 44
PRAS, White, boilers	37 .. 42
" " Maple	37 .. 59
" " Grey	24 .. 37

To Correspondents.

To K.—We shall be much obliged if our correspondent will oblige us with his address, as we wish to ask his kind assistance on a certain point.

B. T. S.—We will gain the information requested. Not a Malay breeder, P. J., and R. B.—Many thanks for the contributions; they arrived after our columns were full, but will be inserted next week.

E. Simons—We had not space to insert the letter.

Our correspondent considers that the light-coloured Brahmans should be named Grey Shanghais, and that they and the dark-coloured should have separate classes. He has bred both kinds. He finds these fowls very weighty, excellent layers, and when killed at five or six months' old, invaluable for the table.

G. R.—The breast-bone of a fowl must be broken while the bird is hot, that is, within a few minutes of death, and should be done while the feathers are on the breast, as it often avoids breaking the skin. That of a very young chicken may be done with the thumb; for an older fowl a stick must be used, which must be perfectly smooth and round. A slight sharp blow must be given on each side of the bone, and then one at top; the first breaks it, the other causes it to fall straight through. In both cases the bird should be picked all but the top of the breast, the fingers of the left-hand should hold round the neck of the fowl, and the legs being brought back on each side of the breast should be caught above the knuckles. This gives prominence to the breast-bone. The bird should not rest on a table, but on the operator's knee, which should be raised.

R. C. A. A.—The sex is more easily distinguished in Spanish chickens than any other. The cocks, at a few weeks' old, should have ruddy, upright combs. A good notion of the best cocks may be given at fourteen or sixteen weeks' old; the lower part of the face is then quite white, and the same colour is seen gradually gaining on the red, spots of it are observable. The birds must be caught and examined closely. Where the red is dark and entire, there is no hope of excellence. It is more difficult to judge the pullets; but, as a rule, when at four months' old, the deaf ear is small, and the only white part, the rest being a dark red; they are no use except to lay. In more promising birds the face whitens from the ear and below the eye, and in a good pullet it should be white, except above the eye, at nine or ten months' old. It is seldom entirely white till eighteen months' old.

Advertisements.

SPANISH HENS AND EGGS FOR SALE.

Two excellent White-Faced Birds of 1853; they are parted with on account of the owner wishing to reduce his stock. Lowest price, £6 6s. for the pair. Also Eggs for setting, from prize and commended Spanish and Dorking Fowls, the former at 1s., the latter at 10s. 6d., per setting of twelve eggs.—Apply to X. S. HARROP, 13, Cooper Street, Manchester.

SPANISH FOWLS.—To be Sold, the Pen of

Spanish Fowls which took the first prize, in the Adult Class, at the late Cambridge and Colchester Shows, the only places where they have ever been exhibited, price £2. Also Cockerels and Pullets (1854) from the above, price 10s. 6d. to £2 2s. each.—Address, Rev. MORTON SHAW, Roughton Rectory, near Bury St. Edmunds.

A FIRST-RATE DORKING COCK FOR

SALE, with Black Breast and Silver Hackle, which gained second prize at Birmingham, 1852, and is three years' old this month, price £2 2s. Also a setting of Eggs from the above bird and first-rate hens, 21s.—Apply to Rev. HERBERT S. HAWKINS, Honey Rectory, Sudbury, Suffolk.

FOR SALE.—Pure Brown Single-Comb

Dorking EGGS, £1 1s. per dozen. Coloured do., 10s. 6d. per dozen. Pea-combed Brahmans £1 1s. per dozen. Single do. do. 10s. 6d. per dozen. Many of the above are prize birds. Apply Rev. F. THURSBY, Abington, Northampton.

SPANISH FOWLS' EGGS FOR HATCHING

from the Best White Faced Birds of Captain Hornby's, Mrs. Stow's, Lady Macdonald's, Owen's, and other first-rate strains, 10s. 6d. per dozen. Address, with Post Office Order, to Mr. TIMOTHY MASON, 7, Upper Jubilee Street, Mile End Road, London, where the fowls can be seen. Also, eggs from first-rate Gold Laced Schribitz Bantams, at 10s. 6d.

SPANISH FOWLS' EGGS for HATCHING,

10s. per dozen, from birds of the first quality. The cock is perfectly White-Faced and an erect comb, bred by E. Simons, Esq., from his Birmingham prize birds; the grand sire, a marvellous fine Capt. Hornby cock. The hens are also from prize birds and perfectly White-Faced; bred by Lady Macdonald, Mrs. Lydia Stow, E. Simons, Esq., &c. Post Office Orders payable to Mr. PAUL GARBANATI, 31, High Street, Bloomsbury, London.

FLOWER SEEDS AND EGGS.—GEORGE

BOOTHBY, of Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire, offers for 5s. 6d. a dozen packets of very choice flower seeds, selected from the very best varieties, including Phlox, Petunia, Gladiolus, Lobelia, Scabious, German double Wallflower and Stock, Antirrhinum, &c., together with a dozen assorted Eggs from the following birds, which have taken several first prizes—Black Spanish, Buff, White, and Black Cochins, Dorking, Silver Pencilled Hamburg. G. B. also offers Eggs of Brahma Pootra and Cussack at 7s. 6d.; Black and White Polands, 10s. 6d.; and erect-crested Parmigans, 15s. per dozen. A few Dorkings at 6s. each; Gold and Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, 15s. per pair. A Price List of Poultry sent free for Two Penny stamps.

EGGS from the Yard of Mr. R. Cross, of

Cippenham Farm, Slough, Buckinghamshire, at 15s. the setting of eleven; White Crested, Black, and Gold, and Silver Spangled Bearded Polands, and Silver Spangled Hambros. The Golden Bird took 1st prize at Cambridge; 2nd prize at Reading; and highly commended at Manchester. The Silver bird took 1st prize at Reading; 2nd prize at Cambridge; and highly commended at Manchester. Most of the pullets are prize stock, and others are bred from the well-known strains of Messrs. Coleridge and Vivian. The Black Poland pullets took 2nd prize at the Baker Street Show; the bird is bred from the stock that gained the 1st. The Hambros are first-class birds. A remittance, by post, to accompany each order, payable at Slough. All communications to be addressed as above. N.B. A few settings of Aylesbury Ducks and Buff Cochins at 10s. the setting of thirteen.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS, from one of

the earliest imported and most successful prize stocks in the kingdom, at one guinea per couple. Eggs from prize birds of the same breed, at 10s. per dozen.—Apply to W. C. G., Sandbach, Cheshire.

EGGS FOR SETTING may be had from the Yard of Mr. H. D. DAVIES, whose stock has been carefully bred and selected from all the best strains, and has already taken upwards of 250 prizes. Spanish, Dorking, Brahma, and Rungouo Eggs, £2 2s., and White Cochins and Aylesbury Ducks, £1 11s. 6d., the dozen, to include basket, &c. Spanish and Dorking Fowls of all ages may be selected from that portion of the stock not required for breeding or exhibition this season.

For Cock and 1 Pullet £5 5 0
 For Cock and 2 Pullets 7 7 0
 For Cock and 4 Pullets 10 10 0

Remittances, by Post-office Order, payable to GEORGE KEEBLE, the Bailiff, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, to accompany all orders.

Mr. Davies will feel obliged if persons who wish to see the Poultry will make it convenient to do so between the hours of 10 and 4 on any Wednesday or Saturday.

EGGS FOR SETTING, all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:

Dorkings, Brahma Pootra (Pencilled and Light). Spanish (Rake's), Cochins, Buff and White. Hambros, Gold and Silver Pencilled and Spangled; Polish and Bantams.

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JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

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Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a Chapter on the Bramah Pootra Fowl, the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s., or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Paternoster Row.

MR. W. DALE, 30, High Street, Doncaster will be happy to supply EGGS from his first-rate stock of Black Bronzy-Wing Game, at 15s. per doz. Also, a pair on sale, price £1 15s.—Some Prize Fancy Pigeons wanted.

EGGS for Setting. First Class Buff Cochins, of great weight, from the strains of Sturgeon, Andrews, and Dr. Gwynne, 10s. per doz. First class thorough White-Faced Spanish, 10s. per doz. First class Black Poland, with splendid White Crests, 10s. per doz. Several pairs of the above birds for sale.—J. AMPHLET, Walsall.

MR. EDWARD TERRY, WALTON TERRACE, AYLESBURY, is prepared to supply Eggs from his various Stocks of Prize Poultry, as under. Dorking Eggs from birds that have taken prizes at all the shows where they have been exhibited, price 21s. per dozen; Spanish, 21s. per dozen; Cochins China, 8s. per dozen; Silver Pencilled Hamburg, 8s. per dozen; Aylesbury Ducks, 8s. per dozen, packages included. May be had by sending a Post-office Order, payable at Aylesbury.

PRIZE AYLESBURY DUCKS.—An Amateur has for immediate sale, in consequence of want of space, the Drake and three Ducks of the above valuable breed which gained the "First Prize" at Birmingham, in the Cottagers' Class, December last.—For price, &c. apply to Mr. WILLIAM TAYLOR, Nashenden Farm, Rochester, Kent.

MR. H. D. BAYLY has a few Settings of EGGS to part with from his Gold-Faced Bantams, which have obtained first prizes at Southwell and Doncaster, 1854. Also, from Silver-Laced, and from Imported Nankeen Bantams, during the Season, Apply to HARVEY BAYLY, Esq., Ickwell House, Biggleswade, Beds.

SERAI TAÖOK, or Fowls of the Sultan, A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 21s. for Nine.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from First-rate Pea-Combed mature birds, at 21s. the Dozen. Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

COCHIN CHINAS.—EGGS from the Yards of Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, Haverhill, Suffolk, forwarded in rotation, as orders are received, at the price of ninepence each, package included.

EGGS from the Yards of Mr. G. BOTHAM, Wexham Court: Prize Spanish, 30s.; ditto Brahma Pootra, 21s.; ditto White Cochins, 21s.; ditto Grey Dorking, ditto Red Speckled Dorking, ditto Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, ditto Duckwing, Game, ditto Rouen and Buenos Ayres Ducks, at 10s. 6d. per setting of 13—may be had by sending a Post-office Order, payable at Slough. Box and packing, 1s.

FANCY PIGEONS.—On sale, a quantity of first class Almonds, Short-Faced Mottles, Carriers, Pouters, and a great variety of Toy Pigeons. Apply by letter to Mr. HENRY CHILD, Jun., Poplar Cottage, Sherbourne Road, Birmingham.

FOR SALE, a pair of beautiful Cinnamon and Partridge Coloured Cochins, 15s. 6d. the pair. Also EGGS from first class Buff birds and Partridge coloured (separate), 7s. 6d. the setting of fifteen, and a few settings of Silver Poland at the same price.—Apply, M. M., Post Office, Floore, near Weedon.

PRIZE BLACK BANTAMS.—**TAUNTON, BRISTOL, and YEovil**—Several settings of Eggs from the above are now ready, price 7s. per setting, box included.—Post Office Orders to EDWARD BURGE, Taunton, Somerset.

EGGS from Grey Single Comb Dorking Fowls of large size, 13s. per dozen. Buenos Ayres Ducks' Eggs, 13s. per dozen, from the birds which won the first prizes at Cambridge and Doncaster. Buenos Ayres Ducks, highly meritorious, see Cambridge prize list. Apply to JOHN HISCOCK, Mildenhall, Suffolk, who has charge of the birds.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork, Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market, London.

MR. JAMES MONSEY intends to dispose of a limited number of EGGS for setting, from his own prize birds that have taken the number of prizes as follow: Gold and Silver Laced Bantams, 13 prizes; White and Black Bantams, 22 prizes; Silver Polands, 1 Silver Medal and 3 prizes; Game Fowls, 29 prizes. Terms for Eggs: Gold and Silver Laced Bantams £1 1s. per doz.; White Bantams, 10s. 6d. per doz.; Black Bantams, 10s. 6d.; per doz.; Game Fowls of every colour, 10s. 6d. per doz.; first-class Dorking, 15s. per doz.; White-Faced Black Spanish, 10s. 6d. per doz. A few first-rate Game fowls, Dorkings, Silver Polands, Black Bantams; also, a few Gold and Silver-Laced Bantams for sale. Address Mr. JAMES MONSEY, Cooper, Thorne Lane, Norwich.

GOLDEN AND SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG FOWLS.—The Rev. F. W. FREEMAN is prepared to supply EGGS from his splendid Prize Stock at 10s. 6d. per Dozen, and 1s. the Box. Apply to JEREMIAH BAKER, Spoonman's Farm, Stowupland, Suffolk. Both varieties of Fowls are clear-necked, and have gained the following Prizes:

GOLDEN HAMBURGS.

- 1st Prize at Bury St. Edmunds, 1853.
- 1st " at Diss.
- 2nd " at Norwich.
- Two 1st at Great Metropolitan Exhibition, 1854.
- 1st " at Cambridge.

SILVER HAMBURGS.

- 1st Prize at Bury St. Edmunds, 1853.
 - 1st " at Diss, 1853.
 - 1st " at Great Metropolitan Exhibition, 1854.
- And have not since been exhibited.
Stowmarket, March 25th, 1855.

NEST EGGS.—Cochin Colour, White or Bantams, 4s. per dozen. See Vol. 3, No. 56, page 55. May be had of JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount St., Grosvenor Square, London, or HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate St., Gloucester.

EGGS from the Yard (Parker's Row) of HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate St., Gloucester. Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, White, Gold, Buff Yellow or Chamois Polands, 10s. per dozen; Dorking, Pile Game, Black Bantams, Scotch Bakkies, Black Polands, Frizzled, and Spanish, 10s. per dozen; Buff Cochins, 5s. per dozen; Nest Eggs, 4s. per dozen. For further particulars, or List of Prizes taken, see No. 57, page 95, and No. 56, page 55, or apply as above.

THE DORSETSHIRE ASSOCIATION for the IMPROVEMENT of DOMESTIC POULTRY will hold its Annual Exhibition at Dorchester, on the 24th and 25th of October next.
Forms of entry will shortly be issued, and further particulars announced.

BATH and WEST of ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—GRAND POULTRY EXHIBITION.—Open to all England. In connection with the Show of Cattle, Sheep, and Implements at the above Exhibition, prizes for POULTRY alone will be offered for competition to the amount of £120. Prize Lists, with Rules and Regulations, are now ready, and may be obtained of Mr. J. KINGSBURY, Honorary Secretary, 10, Hammet Street, Taunton, Somersetshire.

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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.

"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,600, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d. have been received for new premiums.

"These items, when compared with the business of the preceding year, display an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

"While the income of the Company has thus received so large an accession, the office has only been called on, during the same period, to pay £1,663 19s. 10d. for claims, a sum which bears a remarkably small proportion to the mortality which might justly have been anticipated. This feature in the career of the company has thus been maintained to the ninth year, and the Directors trust that such a fact evidences the care with which the business of the office has been invariably conducted."

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The Poultry Chronicle:

A JOURNAL OF

POULTRY, PIGEONS, BEES, FLORICULTURE, AND THE
HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 61.]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1855.

[PRICE 3D.

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Poultry Shows.

Hexham Third Annual Exhibition, Monday and Tuesday, 14th and 15th of May. Secretaries, Mr. W. Turner, Hexham; and Mr. Jonathan Bell, High Shield. Entries close Saturday, May 5th. (No. 61.)

Paris Agricultural Meeting, June 1st—9th. Entries (to be sent to the Minister of Agriculture, &c.) close May 28. (No. 59.)

Bath and West of England, at Tiverton, June 6th, 7th, and 8th. Secretary, J. Kingsbury, Esq., Hammet Street, Taunton. Entries close May 10th.

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries close June 1st. (No. 57.)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st. (No. 52.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th.

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. B. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire third annual exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th.

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

TEN years back, or thereabouts, the price of railway shares was based on the hopes of speculators rather than on the rational calculations of practical men. In a Stock Exchange share list, bearing date Dec. 6th, 1845, £100 shares of the Great Western Railway (£80 paid up) are quoted at £147; London and Birmingham (£100 paid up), £213. In this list more than one hundred and sixty lines are enumerated, all at the same high rate in proportion to the expectations respecting them. When we look back to that period we consider it one of excitement rather than of prosperity, and few would wish it to return. SOME gained large sums, but MANY lost much more largely in proportion to their means. We believe we may say, none were satisfied. But events which are injurious while they take place, often leave good results behind them; and non-speculators benefit from the railway mania in having many useful lines for the convenience of travelling, which might not have been constructed if it had never occurred. The railway mania has passed away, its accompanying evil results have in a great measure passed too, and the good only remains.

To compare an event of comparatively great, with one of minor, importance, we turn from the railway to the poultry mania: that, too, has passed, and it rests with ourselves to realise the benefits which ought to accrue. Buying and selling fowls has subsided from an excitement to a natural business transaction. We find that good

fowls sell for remunerative prices, and the increased briskness at Mr. Stevens's Sales lately has proved the presence of persons attending as purchasers,—not lookers-on merely, tempted to bid by the cheapness of the lots. We notice that there is now a good demand at fair (not exorbitant) prices, for birds, and also for eggs for incubation. The poultry of the country is improved by the poultry mania, to a degree which can only be appreciated by those who have watched its progress with attention and interest. This is the first-fruit of that curiously earnest excitement, and the thing is very catching. Where one person formerly kept a few fowls, many do so now; and those who within a very few years took little notice of those they did keep, now take pains to procure handsome and profitable sorts. This is not merely a change of local occurrence, it is general; and go where we will we notice the extension of the poultry fancy.

For hundreds to have the amusement and gratification of possessing handsome stock, is an increase in the general fund of pleasure; for choice things to supply the place of those which were common and inferior, is an increase in property; for foreign nations to observe British productions with admiration, and seek after them with avidity, may excite natural pride: but all this is not alone sufficient to satisfy those who take the greatest interest in the poultry question; they wish to see more solid fruit than increased beauty in a kind of stock which should be extensively useful.

However the poultry fancy may extend to all members of the community, however general choice private collections may be-

come, however near perfection the specimens at our exhibitions, we shall reckon that the poultry movement has failed to fulfil its mission, until we see poultry produce an increased and increasing quantity of food. This is accomplished, to a certain degree, in a manner too diffused to be calculated; as numbers of private families, adding fowls to the ménage, consume the proceeds in the shape of eggs and chickens—luxuries which if not produced at home would not be purchased: we do not refer to persons of rank or affluence, but to the many. In addition to this, we hope to see the markets abundantly supplied, and we believe many would find it very profitable to attend to this branch of poultry-keeping; and that many more might with advantage unite it to their endeavours to rear choice specimens of fancy varieties.

The production of eggs is another question which should engage the attention of poultry-keepers. The demand for fresh eggs, even at a high price, is always brisk in large towns, and facility of transit has a great tendency towards equalising prices, as the habits of different kinds of poultry may be so managed as to equalise the supply throughout the year.

Schedule of the Hexham Exhibition of Poultry.

THE third annual exhibition of the various kinds of domestic poultry, will be held in the Garden of the White Hart Inn, Hexham, on Monday and Tuesday, 14th and 15th of May, 1855. We are pleased to see that it is under the patronage of many families in the neighbourhood, for the value of local support to poultry exhibitions is very great.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.

Class.	1st. 2nd.	
	PARTS.	
1. Cock and two Hens	15	10
2. Cock and one Hen	9	6
3. Cockerel and two Pullets, chickens of 1854	12	

DORKING.

4. Coloured, Cock and two Hens	15	10
5. Coloured, Cock and one Hen	9	6
6. White, Cock and two Hens	15	10
7. White, Cock and one Hen	9	6
8. Cockerel and two Pullets, either colour	12	

COCHIN CHINA.

9. Cinn. or Buff, Cock and two Hens	15	10
10. Cinn. or Buff, Cock and one Hen	9	6
11. Dark, Cock and two Hens	15	10
12. Dark, Cock and one Hen	9	6
13. Black, Cock and two Hens	15	10
14. Black, Cock and one Hen	9	6
15. White, Cock and two Hens	15	10
16. White, Cock and one Hen	9	6
17. Cockerel and two Pullets, any colour	12	9

MALAYS.

18. Cock and two Hens	12	9
19. Cock and one Hen	9	6

GAME FOWL.

20. White, Piles, Duckwings, Greys, and Blues	12	9
21. Cock and one Hen	9	6
22. Black-breasted and other Reds, Cock and two Hens	12	9
23. Cock and one Hen	9	6
24. Cockerel and two Pullets, any variety	12	

HAMBURGS.

25. Gold. Pencild., Cock and two Hens	12	9
26. Gold. Pencild., Cock and one Hen	9	6
27. Silv. Pencild., Cock and two Hens	12	9
28. Silv. Pencild., Cock and one Hen	9	6
29. Gold. Spang., Cock and two Hens	12	9
30. Gold. Spang., Cock and one Hen	9	6
31. Silv. Spang., Cock and two Hens	12	9
32. Silv. Spang., Cock and one Hen	9	6

POLAND FOWL.

33. Black with White crests, Cock and two Hens	12	9
34. Cock and one Hen	9	6
35. Golden, Cock and two Hens	12	9
36. Golden, Cock and one Hen	9	6

POLAND FOWL, *continued.*

<i>Class.</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd.</i>
	PARTS.	
37. Silver, Cock and two Hens	12	9
38. Silver, Cock and one Hen	9	6
ANDALUSIAN.		
39. Cock and two Hens	12	9
40. Cock and one Hen	9	6
BANTAMS.		
41. Gold Laced, Cock and two Hens...	6	4
42. Silver Laced, Cock and two Hens.	6	4
43. White, Cock and two Hens	6	4
44. Black, Cock and two Hens	6	4
ANY OTHER VARIETY.		
45. Cock and two Hens	6	4
CROSS BETWEEN ANY OTHER BREED.		
46. Cock and two Hens	10	7
ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.		
47. Cock and two Hens	10	7
TURKEYS.		
48. Black Cock and one Hen	12	
49. White Cock and one Hen	12	
50. Cock and one Hen, any other colour	12	
GEESE.		
51. Gander and one Goose	10	8
DUCKS.		
52. Aylesbury Drake and two Ducks..	6	4
53. Muscovy Drake and two Ducks ...	6	4
54. Rouen Drake and two Ducks	6	4
55. Drake and two Ducks, of any other variety	6	4
GUINEA FOWL.		
56. Pair	7	
57. Peacock and Hen	10	

RULES.

1. Specimens may be sent from any part of the United Kingdom.

2. The whole of the Receipts of the Exhibition, after paying expenses, will be divided into equal parts and distributed in prizes. (The value of a Part last year was a shilling.) The Judges will withhold prizes from specimens of inferior quality.

3. The poultry must be named with their correct title and breed. Fowls entered in a wrong class will be excluded from competition. Purity of race, high condition, quality, beauty of plumage, 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.

4. Trimming or artificial alteration of the plumage, or of any other part of a bird (excepting in the comb of the Game fowl) will disqualify it from receiving a prize.

5. The ages of the poultry must be computed to the 12th of May.

6. Entries on the forms of the certificate must be accompanied by the entrance fee, and addressed to Mr. W. England, Mr. Richard Robson, or the Secretaries. The entry closes on Saturday the 5th of May.

7. The prices must be stated at which specimens would be sold. No alteration can be made in the prices as stated in the certificate. Fowls sold in pens, and not divided. Exhibitors may insert in the certificate—NOT FOR SALE.

8. All sales to be made through the Secretaries—5 per cent. deducted.

9. The whole of the poultry, &c., must be on the show ground on Monday the 14th, by nine o'clock in the morning.

10. 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.

11. Subscribers of ten shillings and upwards will be entitled to a member's ticket, and six cards of admission; of five shillings, six cards of admission; of two shillings and sixpence, three cards of admission. Charges of admission on Monday the 14th of May (private view), from half-past eleven o'clock till one, two shillings and sixpence; from one o'clock till three, one shilling; and from three o'clock till the close, sixpence. On Tuesday the 15th, from ten till one o'clock, one shilling; and from one till six o'clock, sixpence.

12. 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.

WILLIAM TURNER, } Secretaries.
JONATHAN BELL, }

Wharfedale Agricultural Meeting.

THE Wharfedale Agricultural Society held their annual meeting on Friday, April 13th. The entry for poultry was rather small, but very good. The following is a list of the awards.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

COCHIN CHINA.—1st prize, E. Akroyd, Esq., Denton Park, Otley. 2nd prize, Francis Bellam, Esq., Newhall, Hull.

SPANISH.—1st prize, G. L. Fox, Esq., Bramham Park. 2nd prize, E. Akroyd, Esq.

DORKINGS.—1st prize, Mr. Stephen Blakey, Otley. 2nd prize, E. Akroyd, Esq.

GOLDEN PHEASANTS.—1st prize, Mr. Henry Beldon, Prospect Place, Eccleshill Moor, near Bradford. 2nd prize, Mr. Stephen Blakey.

SILVER PHEASANTS.—1st prize, Mr. Charles Yates, Newall Carr, Otley. 2nd prize, Mr. Henry Beldon.

CHITTYPRATS.—1st prize, Mr. Henry Beldon. 2nd prize, Mr. Francis Rhodes, Hawksworth.

GAME.—1st prize, Mr. Henry Beldon. 2nd prize, Francis Bellam, Esq.

BANTAMS.—1st prize, Mr. J. W. Scriven, Otley. 2nd prize, Mr. J. Renton, Farnley.

ROUEN DUCKS.—1st prize, Mr. G. L. Fox, Esq. 2nd prize, E. Akroyd, Esq.; ditto, Mr. J. W. Scriven.

AYLESBURY.—1st prize, E. Akroyd, Esq. 2nd prize, Mr. J. W. Scriven, Otley.

EXTRA STOCK.—Golden Polands, 1st prize, Mr. Henry Beldon; ditto, East India Ducks, Mr. Thomas Groves, Plompton.

Howdenshire Agricultural Meeting.

ON Tuesday, April 17, the Howdenshire Agricultural Society held its annual exhibition in a field belonging to E. Carter, Esq., to which was added an exhibition of poultry. The day was splendid, and the show-field proved very attractive, and admirably adapted for the purpose. The arrangements were very good, and great credit was due to the society's indefatigable secretary. It is to the poultry alone that I shall confine my few remarks; some of the classes were rather scantily represented, but on the whole the specimens were good. The first

prize Spanish, in both classes, were the property of Mr. Irvin, of Howden, and the pullets in the chicken pen were very promising birds, and are worthy of having a first-class cock to run with them. Our old friends, the Cochins, mustered pretty strong, and among them were some very good grouse, to which, as it was left optional with the judges, two additional prizes were awarded: the buffs, with one or two exceptions, were very good. The Dorkings did not muster so well as could have been wished, either in number or quality, considering it is quite a farming district. And now we come to the Game, and here we had a splendid lot—well matched in feather, legs, &c., and it was hard to decide which was best. The first prize cock-bird was a magnificent specimen, and has been a winner of upwards of twelve first prizes. The Golden Pheasant and Polish followed next, but neither class contained a first-rate pen. The Silver Pheasants and Chittyprats were well represented, and prizes were awarded to each variety, although they were shown as one class. The pens of the other varieties contained a few good specimens, and there were some good Pigeons shown. I hope that pigeons will begin to find a place in every poultry show, as they are general favourites, and many people can keep a few pigeons that cannot keep poultry. The judges were T. B. Stead, Esq., Leeds, Mr. Braddock, York, and Mr. Cooper, York.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH FOWLS.—1st prize, T. Irvin, Howden. 2nd prize, T. Kendall, Castleford. 3rd prize, W. Wightman, M.D., Swinefleet. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize, T. Irvin. 2nd prize, S. Dickson, Howden.

COCHIN-CHINA. 1st prize, F. Nicholson, Wotton, Lincolnshire. 2nd prize, G. Jackson, York. 3rd prize, D. B. Turner, 51, Cogan-street, Hull, and F. Furguson, Walkington. Highly commended, B. L. Wells, Newland, Hull.

DORKINGS.—1st prize, Mrs. Blanshard, Bubwith. 2nd prize, ditto. 3rd prize, Mrs. Saltmarsh, Saltmarsh.

GAME FOWLS.—1st prize, D. Pickering, 1, Prospect-place, Hull. 2nd prize, H. Beldon,

Eccleshill Moor, Bradford. 3rd prize, — Ferguson, Blacktoft Grange. The whole class commended.

GOLDEN PHEASANTS.—1st prize, T. Simpson, 73, Cogan-street, Hull. 2nd prize, H. Beldon. 3rd prize, John Taylor, Groves, York.

POLANDS.—1st prize, H. Beldon. 2nd prize, S. Holloway, Humber Bank, Hull. 3rd prize, P. W. Barnard, Bigby.

SILVER PHEASANT, OR CHITTYPRAT.—1st prize, H. Beldon, (Chittyprat); J. Widdall, Staddlethorpe (Silver Pheasant). 2nd prize, H. Beldon, (Silver Pheasant); J. Richardson, Thorne, (Chittyprat). 3rd prize, R. Blackburn, Castleford, (Chittyprat); J. Richardson, (Silver Pheasant.)

ANY BREED OR CROSS.—1st prize, George Fletcher, New Water Works, York. 2nd prize, R. Thompson, Knedlington. 3rd prize, H. Beldon.

BANTAMS.—1st prize, Thos. Kendall, Castleford. 2nd prize, R. Ferguson, Walkington. 3rd prize, H. Beldon.

BEST COOK OF ANY BREED.—J. Ridsdill, Skeldegate, York.

BEST HEN OF ANY BREED.—P. W. Barnard.

DUCKS.—1st prize, P. W. Barnard. 2nd prize, R. R. Ridsdall, Walkington; J. Hawk, Howden. 3rd prize, R. Thompson, jun. Commended, Mrs. Blanshard.

RABBITS.—Best buck, H. Beldon. Best doe, ditto. Best pair, J. H. Singleton.

PIGEONS.—Carriers, no awards. Tumblers, 2nd prize, F. Ferguson. Jacobins, 1st prize, W. Padgett, jun., Howden. 2nd prize, H. Beldon. Croppers or Pouters, 1st prize, H. Beldon. 2nd prize, F. Ferguson. Fantails, 1st prize, W. Padgett. Trumpeters, 1st prize, F. Ferguson. Barbs, F. Ferguson. Nuns, no awards. Almond Tumblers, Mr. Anton, York. Owls, 2nd prize, A. Ward, Elm Tree, Howden. Kites, no awards. Turbits, H. Beldon.

The Poultry Yard.

APRIL 25.

WINDOWS, and other arrangements for ventilating the poultry-houses, should have been attended to when the sharp weather left us; all coverings or shutters may be removed. It is a great mistake to consider

fowls very tender birds. Protect them from draught, but never let them be hot in their houses; for roup and other unwelcome visitants to the poultry-yard are more frequently the result of over-crowding and want of ventilation, than of exposure to a moderate degree of cold.

Those who have early broods may even already look them over, and pick out the handsomest to be kept. Those which are a little faulty would now sell for a good price as spring chickens for the table; is it not advisable to dispose of them so now, and thus give additional chance of prosperity to those which are really likely to turn out valuable fowls, rather than keep them some months longer, at expense and inconvenience; possibly to be obliged at last to dispose of them at an auction for much less than they would realise as young early chickens?

It is a good plan at this time to reduce the stock of old birds, and by that means leave all the spare room to the increasing number of young broods. Of the old birds, we would recommend that only the very handsomest, and hens whose services may be required as sitters and mothers, should be kept. With reference to those which were hatched last year, it may be remembered that cock-a-leekie is a very nice dish; but even this, with them for the chief ingredient, will be impracticable a few months hence. It is especially convenient to reduce the number of cocks, as every extra *gentleman* involves the necessity for keeping a house and run employed for his accommodation. Those persons whose fowls are confined to a limited space, should especially, by weeding out freely among the old stock, give the chickens all the room they can.

SUMMARY.—See that poultry-houses are ventilated. It is advisable to pick out indifferent early chickens now, rather than to keep them on at great expense, to meet with disappointment some months later. Thin out the old fowls, to make room for the chickens.

Columbary.

MODEL PRIZE LIST FOR PIGEONS.

In the Model Prize List inserted in No. 59 of the "Poultry Chronicle," I perceive, no doubt owing to the badly written manuscript, that some of the divisional names have been inserted as class names, more particularly in the pigeon list, by which means they do not appear properly divided, and the divisional name Tumbler being inserted in the class intended for Almond Tumblers, whereby that class appears to be left out, an error I did not think right to pass by. I therefore beg its reinsertion in its corrected form :

1st DIVISION—CARRIERS.

- A. English Carriers, best pair
- B. Horsemen
- C. Dragons
- D. Antwerps

2nd DIVISION—TUMBLERS.

- E. Almonds
- F. Mottles and whole colours
- G. Baldheaded
- H. Bearded
- I. Magpied
- J. Any other variety of Tumblers, as helmeted, white-shouldered, saddle-backed, or rough-footed, &c.

3rd DIVISION—RUNTS.

- K. Leghorn
- L. Spanish
- M. Roman
- N. Any other variety of Runts

An extra prize might be awarded in this division for the largest pair, irrespective of variety.

4th DIVISION—FANCY PIGEONS.

- O. Pouters, best pair
- Best cock
- Best hen
- P. Fantails, best pair
- Q. Jacobins
- R. Trumpeters
- S. Barbs
- T. Turbits
- U. Owls
- V. Laughers

- W. Frillbacks
- X. Laced or Silk

5th DIVISION.

- Y. Toys

I have enumerated seventeen varieties of Toys, but it is not probable that nearly all of them would be shown at once, therefore I include them in one class, and the judges might be empowered to award a prize to the best pair in each variety where deserving specimens were shown. The prizes need not be so high for the Toys as they should be in the four previous divisions.

The Toys are as follows :

Suabians or Spangles, Nuns, Priests, Monks, Archangels, White ditto or Breasts, Stomachers, Spots, White ditto, Storks, Starling breasts, Swiss, Gulls or Swallows, Shields, Helmets, Magpies, Tee Pigeons, &c. In this division might also be admitted any new or foreign variety of Pigeons or Doves.

B. P. B.

PIGEONS IN ST. PETERSBURG.

THE only inhabitants of the capital not liable to the inspection of the police are the Crows and Pigeons. These birds abound there to an astonishing extent. They fly about free and undisturbed everywhere. The crows congregate in the greatest numbers at the Anibshkoff Palace, in the Nevskoi Prospekt, where many thousands often assemble in the evening, to edify the passing public with their loud and earnest conversations. It has been noticed that they always perch upon a green roof in preference to a black or red one; perhaps the green may seem to bear more affinity to the foliage of the trees they love to build among. The Pigeons are sacred in the eyes of every Russian; and as no one would dare to harm them, they become so bold, that they walk carelessly about among a crowd, in search of their food, and scarcely make way either for a carriage or a foot-passenger. Nevertheless they are in a half-wild and neglected state, and build their nests chiefly about the roofs

of the churches. They have their nests also under the roofs of the markets, and particularly among the columns of Gosbinnoi Dvor, where the merchants in their hours of leisure take a delight in feeding and caressing them. In the inner courts of the houses of St. Petersburg, there are always large holes or boxes that serve as receptacles for every kind of dirt and rubbish which it is thought desirable to remove to the outside of the house. About these filthy boxes there may at times be seen whole swarms of Pigeons, feeding on all kinds of garbage; and the only wonder is, that the Russians should retain any affection for birds that degenerate so woefully in Russia, as to fight, like so many wolves, for putrid meat and fish entrails. Nevertheless it is thought a species of sacrilege to kill a pigeon. Boys may sometimes indeed be seen running about with sticks, to the end of which cords are fastened, and to the end of the cord a button or stone. This cord they throw dexterously round the neck of the Pigeons, as the South Americans throw their lasso round the neck of an ox. The pigeons thus caught are sold to the Germans, who are said to convert the holy birds into heathenish ragouts, or to bake them in sacrilegious pies. — *From J. G. Kohl's "Russia."*

Home and the Homestead.

CARROTS.

THE growth of carrots is really a subject which should engage the attention of all who have a little patch of ground to spare with a light soil; for these roots are valuable for man and beast,—for market and for home consumption. It is a good firm root, which will keep well; and which, moreover, realises well at market. It is highly relished by stock of all kinds, either raw or cooked; and I believe no crop of equal produce so good for giving a healthy tone to the stomach, and for promoting

flesh, milk, wool, and the spirit and sturdy qualities requisite in an animal for labour.

Bushel for bushel of course the nutrition is not equal to that of corn; but as health-promoting food I doubt if they are not as good.

The soil for carrots must be both rich and light; it must, moreover, be both deep and well-drained. They will do well on land which has been heavily manured, and which has grown some crop the year before; as the land must be rich, but not newly manured. Pigeon and poultry dung well rotted is an excellent manure for them. Above all things, avoid conveying seeds of weeds into the field, for they would grow up and soon choke the young plants. The manure, whether formerly or recently administered, should be thoroughly incorporated with the soil to the depth of twelve or eighteen inches. The roots like to go deep, and we wish them to do so; an inclination to fork near the surface spoils the crop in quantity as well as quality. Grass land, deeply ploughed in and mellowed, is said to be very good; but remember *deep* tillage is very important. Nor is ploughing the land alone sufficient; it should be well harrowed also, for all root crops require a well-pulverised bed.

The kinds which have been found best are the long orange, the long red, the Altringham, and the white or Belgian, especially the last, which is productive, large, sweet, and full-flavoured. I shall like to know if any readers of the "Poultry Chronicle" can tell me of better sorts. The early horn is only fit for gardens, but for culture there it is good and fine-flavoured.

Prepare the seed for sowing by mixing it with damp earth; leave it to stand a few days in a warm place, stirring it now and then. This divides the seeds and forwards germination: it is not a crop which springs up rapidly after sowing. Let the drills be from eighteen to thirty inches apart, according to the size of the kind.

NO PRACTICAL FARMER.

(To be continued.)

QUESTIONS ABOUT CHURNING.

As a reader I should be very much obliged if any of your readers, who are practically acquainted with butter-making, will tell me if the following rules are good:—

The newer and sweeter the cream, the sweeter and better-flavoured will be the butter. The air must be fresh and pure in the room or cellar where the milk is set. The cream should not remain on the milk over thirty-six hours. Keep the cream in tin pails, or stone pots, into which put a spoonful of salt at the beginning, then stir the cream lightly each morning and evening; this will prevent it from being mouldy or sour. Churn as often as once a week, and as much oftener as circumstances will permit. Upon churning, add the cream upon all the milk in the dairy. Use nearly an ounce of salt to a pound of butter. Work the butter over twice, to free it from the buttermilk and brine, before lumping and packing. Be certain that it is entirely free from every particle of buttermilk or coagulated milk, and it will keep sweet for ever. In Scotland, a syphon is sometimes used to separate the milk from the cream, instead of skimming the pans.

On Bees.

It is some months since a correspondent in the "Poultry Chronicle" requested information for novices in bee-keeping: first, how to get them? and then, how to keep them? and how to obtain honey? This inquiry has not been forgotten; and though the directions for the management of bees have been given before the bees were possessed, thus apparently beginning at the end instead of the beginning, the season has only now arrived when the choice of a stock hive could be made satisfactorily; but the novice will find great advantage in having picked up any hints which may direct him in the study of the art of bee-keeping.

How is the stock to be obtained? The obvious answer appears to be, that it must

be purchased. But is your correspondent ever influenced by superstitious fears? if so, he must *not purchase*. In the rural district where my acquaintance with bee-keeping is most extensive, it is considered *unlucky* to buy the first hive: unless it is a *gift* it will not prosper! Now has your correspondent no kind friend who can endow him with the charm which is to influence his future career, and give him a good stock on which he may exercise all the care and skill which the swarming season demands. I will try and do my part in giving a few hints, as to the condition and appearance of a promising hive. The choice will most probably be among cottage hives, and it should not have stood above two seasons.

If the hive is turned up, and the combs, particularly those at the sides, do not appear very dark coloured, it may be inferred that it has not stood long. It should seem very full of bees, which should cover all the centre combs almost to the floor. The best age would be a hive which was stocked the summer before last, and which threw a swarm last summer, as this will ensure the possession of a young queen—a very important point, where there are not more than one or two hives.

The best time for making the examination is about the middle of a fine day; and if it should fortunately happen to be just at the time that a flight of young bees is making its first rush, the prosperity of the hive is certain. At this season, the middle of April, the flights of young bees are large; a month later they are sometimes so great as to deceive those unacquainted with the meaning of the sudden appearance of such a cloud of bees, into the idea that the hive is about to swarm. This is especially the case if the weather has been dull for a few days previously, and the young bees have been in consequence detained, for they are as particular about having fine weather for their first appearance as the queen is herself. The strength of the flight, however, is no criterion of the relative prosperity of hives, one appearing quite quiet at the

moment that its next neighbour seems all life and excitement, may be equally strong, the young bees may have had their exercise an hour before; for these sudden rushes are over in half-an-hour, and the youngsters have returned home, keeping quiet for the remainder of the day.

But there is a means for judging of the relative strength of families, which I never found to fail: it is by counting the number of bees which enter each hive laden with pollen. In the middle of the day, when the sun shines steadily, with no clouds occasionally causing a gloom, let the bees which enter each hive with pollen be counted for five minutes. This prevents any random guesses being made, and the state of the hives may be ascertained with arithmetical exactness.

Thus in May, when the numbers are very much increased, and the comb filled with the brood which is hastening to form the first swarm, not fewer than one hundred and fifty bees laden with pollen should enter in five minutes. The number sometimes exceeds this, but then it is almost impossible to count accurately. This season being unusually late, perhaps about the end of April the best hives will carry about eighty baskets in five minutes; but everything must depend more on the locality, and the flowers it produces, than on the precise day of the month.

A cottage hive weighs about five pounds, and with its contents of combs, bees, and honey, the weight should not be less than fifteen pounds. The choice of the best situation for its stand is the next point. Though a north aspect has been sometimes recommended, I confess I should not like to deprive my bees of the pleasure they seem to take in the genial warmth of the sun; besides which, many that fall exhausted to the ground on reaching home, must perish if deprived of its reviving heat. Therefore let the hive face south, and be sheltered at the back, and also from the prevailing wind. Even if it should not require food, I recommend the novice to bestow a little as an introduction to the

friendship of his new charges; and also that in case of an emergency, when feeding is indispensable, (and in the seasons we have had lately this has happened in May and June) he may know how to set about the work. I knew of hives last year which perished in full strength at the beginning of June from want of food. Let it then be remembered, that one pound of sugar may make the difference between a swarm or no swarm, or a lifeless hive. The bee-keeper will also do well to provide himself with a couple of Grecian hives to receive his swarms, having also one or two empty cottage hives in readiness for first hiving the swarm, for which they are better adapted than any thing else. I have just had an instance of the value of the Grecian hive brought before me. Two bee-keepers have each found a cottage hive in very bad condition. The queen of one has been found dead, but she has left a good number of bees; in the other the numbers are very small, but it is *supposed* there is a queen. The owner of the queenless stock proposes that the other bees should be united to it, the owner of the queen to have the first swarm; but he hesitates, because he thinks his hive may improve. In the other it would be useless to raise a queen at present, so I expect to hear in course of time that both are dead. Now if these were Grecian, that is, bar hives, how different the state of affairs would be. Every individual comb might be examined, and if no queen were found, a comb full of brood might be given from a populous hive, and so the number maintained till a queen could be raised with a prospect of ultimate success. Probably the bees would raise an artificial queen at once, which might be removed if found unproductive or vitiated. The difficulty of managing ordinary hives in these circumstances is this: that the hive will not drive, and were it fumed there might be a queen, though she were not found; for in this operation she hides herself in the combs, and frequently sticks to them after being stupified. In a bar hive she cannot conceal herself.

After long experience with hives of all constructions, and patient investigation, the merits of the bar hive are thus described by Mr. Golding: "One thing I must strongly urge—the importance of bars, or some equivalent arrangement. Be the general system adopted what it may,—single hiving, collateral hiving, or stori-fying;—there surely can be little occasion for me to enlarge upon the advantages of being at all times able to extract, and if need be return uninjured, every individual comb. To say nothing of the pleasure and facility which is thus afforded to the scientific apiarian, it will give even to those who look only to the produce of their hives the means of appropriating it in the easiest and best manner; particularly when, as should always be the case, their object is only to share with their little gatherers,—to become 'sleeping partners' in the firm,—to take only their share of the surplus when all other wants have been provided for."

I will only add, I hope the novice has the "Shilling Bee Book" as his practical guide, to which he may refer in every difficulty; and not on any account to neglect the advice there given of making a puff of tobacco smoke his auxiliary in every operation. It has a wonderful effect; the enemy fly before it as if they expected a volley of shot and shell to follow.

Floriculture.

APRIL 25.

SEEDLING pinks, picotees, and carnations, should be pricked out as soon as the second leaf appears; if it is done while they are still in the seed leaf, it will be a tedious job, but will repay the trouble by saving many which might fog off if left alone. Seedling auriculas, which have been transplanted, will require regular watering and shading during the middle of the day. Cuttings of pansies will strike in a shady border. Watch that slugs do not attack the crowns of the dahlias. Seeds of green-

house exotics, such as geraniums, coronellas, winter cherry, &c., may be sown in pots, which should be plunged to the rim in a hot bed, and covered with a frame; when the young plants are two or three inches high, they may be planted singly in pots, but still kept to a hot-bed. When well-rooted, they may be removed by degrees to the open air, and to the greenhouse in autumn. China asters, when fit for planting out, may be divided into three lots for succession. Plant some on a second hotbed in a frame. Another lot on a slighter hot-bed, with hoops, for covering them with mats; and the third division in the open borders, choosing a fine, sunny, rich spot. When lupins, sweet-peas, and convolvulus are up, thin out the weakly plants, keep them free from weeds, support them with sticks, and water when necessary. Auriculas coming into flower, must have plenty of air, but be shaded from rain and sun. Those intended to seed, remove into the open air as soon as the flower is out; place them where they may have the morning sun and free air. In the case of favourite varieties, take off the slips to increase the stock of them. Plant the slips in small pots, which place in the shade; any slips destitute of fibre must be covered with a glass. Water them when necessary. Grass walks and lawns must be frequently rolled and cut. Gravel paths renewed or turned, and box edgings slipped. New box may be planted where required. Green-house plants must have plenty of air; they must often be looked over, and water given where wanted, but with moderation, lest they should rot off; especially the succulent kinds, as aloes, sedums, opuntias, euphorbias, crassulas, cereuses, and mesembryanthemums. Still protect the more valuable ranunculuses and anemones. Conclude reducing all the flower-borders, and the garden generally, to good order, eradicating weeds, planting roots, and sowing seeds where wanted, and conclude all by raking and smoothing the surface, and by rendering every corner of the garden trim and neat.

HYACINTHS.

The hyacinth roots we purchase here are imported from Holland, but might they not be propagated in England? I have somewhere read that, at the right season, from Haarlem church you may look down upon a sea of bloom; hyacinths of every colour and shade grown over acres of land and perfuming the air. With the same care which they there receive, might not hyacinths be propagated in England?

Florists have established certain properties which should appertain to the flowers. The criterion of a fine double hyacinth is to have the stem tall, strong, and erect, supporting a number of large, bell-like flowers, each one sustained by a short, strong footstalk. It should be quite upright, with the crown or top flower perfectly erect. Each flower should be large, and completely double, well filled with broad bold petals. The flowers should occupy half the length of the stem. The colour must be clear and bright, whatever it may be. Strong, bright colours are preferred.

As the roots penetrate to the depth of three feet, and as they often grow in water only, drainage may seem unnecessary; but it is not so, for sodden earth cankers them. The soil for them should be three feet deep and drained. The offset bed should be prepared with equal care.

The soil at Haarlem is so sandy, that wooden spades are constantly used, and with these you may dig to a depth of four feet. What is there natural, must in England be made, but that is not difficult. The soil there, is either a light but rich sandy-peat, or sea-sand, rich in salts, so rich that the oak flourishes in the valleys between Haarlem and the sea. Many say that it is the soil and not the cultivation nor climate which make these bulbs thrive so well. Try to imitate the soil of Haarlem; try a mixture of half or two-thirds sea sand, one-third peat or leaf mould, and add ocean salts—chloride of sodium, sulphate of soda, and sulphate of magnesia; to which may be added with advantage a

little nitrate of soda and muriate of ammonia: this soil would last many years.

The bulbs are planted in October, and as some kinds are inclined to flower later than others, these are planted deepest. Blue, flower earliest; those of deepest tinge first, red next, white third, yellow last. When the flower stalks get tall, they should be neatly supported with small sticks, and the beds must be protected with hoops and mats, or, what is much better, with awnings.

The ripening of the bulb is a matter of great importance. Cut the stalk as soon as the flower fades, and leave the root until the leaves are sere halfway down; then raise them out of the bed with as much root as possible, and lay them in by the heels until the foliage is quite withered. They are then dried in the open air, but under cover, until the cellus, to which the roots are attached, will separate easily. The leaves are then cut close to the bulbs, which are placed on a frame resembling a bottle-rack, with an entire protection from sun and weather. When they are dry they are separately wrapped in paper.

ALPHA.

Newcastle Poultry Show.

THE birds exhibited at this show, with the exception of some of the *divided classes*, were of a very superior description, and fully bore out its high character. It is somewhat difficult to understand what object the committee had in view in making so many classes of the same sort of fowls; and at this time too, when so many adult fowls are busy at home. In the first instance, we had a cock and two hens, then a cock and one hen of the same; this last could easily have been dispensed with, and the result would have been advantageous, for in this class all the inferior birds were found, and caused the judges to withhold so many first prizes. The adult Cochins, in Class 1, were very highly meritorious; the winning pen (which also took the silver vase), belonging to H.

Marshall, Esq., of Durham, contained birds of first-rate character; the cock was Mr. Fairlie's "Hero," a splendid Stainton hen, and a hen bred by the exhibitor.

It is with pleasure we noticed the improved appearances of last year's birds; there was a marked improvement in size and shape, which seemed to have been more sought after than colour. Class 2, cock and one hen, Buff Cochins, were the worst class in the whole show. The strength of the yards had been exhausted in obtaining good pens for Class 1, and then the inferior birds were sent to fight for Class 2. Had the *best worst* pen been eligible for a prize, it would have been a knotty point for the judges.

Brahmas were not numerous; there was only one pen of dark, the remainder being light; as usual there were all sorts of markings, and all sorts of combs; but the dark carried the day, and deservedly, as it was a pen of good birds, and decidedly handsomer than the light-coloured. If the contrast at Birmingham was as marked as on this occasion, there was no need of all the hubbub made about the decisions of the judges. Pity arose on beholding the class for Geese, not because the specimens sent were bad, but to see the poor old lonely disconsolate gander, in all his stoical solitude, caused a feeling of pity which would scarcely have been allayed had we not remembered that his spouse was busy at home providing a Christmas treat for hundreds of gourmands, who dearly love "goose." As a *whole*, the Guinea Fowl, Pea Fowl, and Pigeons were all creditable; and the last in many instances superiorly represented; while Rabbits, fresh Eggs, and Butter, added an additional novelty to the show.

A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

Dorkings at Dublin.

WHILE visiting the poultry show in Dublin the week before last, I was not a little surprised to hear objections taken to the colour of a remarkably fine pen of

Dorking chickens which had taken the first prize. It was decided they were the wrong colour. "Which," said I, "is the right," and then I was shown a pen known in this country as Lord Hill's colour. I was also informed it was decidedly wrong for a Dorking cock to have a white feather in his tail. I was very sorry to hear this, because it is a great mistake, and the knowledge of such opinions keeps away many pens of fowls which would otherwise be sent for competition. It has long been ruled in this country that Dorkings have no colour, and in Ireland instead of narrowing the classes for that useful bird, every effort should be made to extend them. There is no land under the sun where the extensive and intelligent culture of poultry would lead to better results than in our sister island. Almost every cottager keeps poultry, but it is of the worst description; yet hundreds of thousands of chickens are sent to Leadenhall Market, and realise good prices. Bad as they may be, we know that some of the best of them have lately returned to their owners upwards of 3s. each, and this in spite of being badly fed and worse packed. Now there is no reason why they should not send better birds, and make more money. The same climate, the same care, and the same feeding, but with better food, will do it. The essential thing to begin with is to improve the breed. For the wretched little things, with legs of every hue, let them have the Dorking; offer them prizes, and encourage them to compete. Let the largest reward go to the cottager who produces the earliest and largest chickens. Let them be judged for their frame, weight, and symmetry, but at once put an end to that ridiculous notion that a white feather or a speckled body shall neutralise every other merit. If such rules are to be carried out, none can hope to exhibit successfully unless they have the pick of a large number. But I contend if colour is to be the test of purity, no judgment can be arrived at by looking at three or four birds; the whole yard should be seen, because then the proof will be manifest

to all, that the exhibited pen is only a fair sample of the strain. But if a certain colour is insisted upon, and the successful pen can be proved to be selected from a yard where among some dozens of fowls not two more such lots could be found, wherein is the justice of rewarding and lauding them on account of their colour. There is no lack of proof that to insist on colour is to give up more valuable properties, and if the system is persevered in, it will not be difficult some day to have two pens—one distinguished by first prize, and the other disqualified—both selected from the same yard, and produced by the same parents.

ANGLO-HIBERNIAN.

Bolton Pheasant Fowls.

I BEG to return my thanks to "R. G." for adding to my list of Boltons: his Black Pheasant fowls, laced with white, will indeed prove a distinct and beautiful sub-variety, if he can succeed in breeding them true. I may also add, I have obtained the remnant of another variety of this breed of Boltons, of a buff colour pencilled with white; the person of whom I obtained mine has had the breed nearly thirty years, and describes them as the best laying fowls she ever had; they have, however, evidently been crossed, and the breed is much degenerated, so, even should I succeed in breeding them true again, it will take some time.

I admit that the pheasant fowls do not resemble a common pheasant, but if "R. G." will take the trouble, he will find many feathers on the Golden Pheasant fowls, which have their exact counterpart in the plumage of the common cock pheasant, from which resemblance they derive their name.

"A. G.'s" remark as to the diversity of the ground-colour of the pheasant fowls is quite correct, and applies equally to the Pencilled Bolton Bays; and I must confess to some surprise at a notice lately in the "Poultry Chronicle," that a Golden Pencilled cock should not have any golden

feathers about him; in that case it could not properly be termed golden, and although fickle fashion advocated the dark bay ground, I for one admire the bright golden ground-colour more; the shade of colour being a matter of taste, and has nothing to do with the purity of race; but the bird should be of an uniform shade.

I was much pleased with "Mooney's" description of what a Golden Mooney cock ought to be; but he omitted to state the form of the marks, or moons. Are they of a full moon or a crescent shape? Perhaps he will oblige by the information, as accuracy is of great importance in this matter; I fear too that Rule 7th, relating to the wing, is hardly intelligible to a non-fancier, I will endeavour to explain, and if I am in error, beg "Mooney" to correct me,—the two bars are, I believe, formed by the marks on the primary and secondary covert feathers, of the secondary quill-feathers; the lacing feathers, or top of the wing above the flight, refers to the secondary quill-feathers themselves; and the bow of the wing spoken of in the rules I previously quoted, refers to the small covert feathers on that part of the wing, corresponding to the forearm in man.

"Mooney," too, confirms my suspicion, that the former rules only applied to hens, and also the ill effects of confusing and mixing the different sub-varieties; he also says, that for the last sixty or seventy years shows have been held in Lancashire for Hamburgs, will he oblige me by saying if they were really shown as Hamburgs; or if not, by what name they were then known?

I hope some real Yorkshire fancier will next favour us with a description of the Henny birds.

As the hen-feathered pencilled Bolton cock exhibited at Birmingham has now found an owner, might I beg for an accurate description of the same.

"X" thinks the question of tails ought to be settled, but from his arguments I conclude he wishes to exclude hen-cocks from the male gender, because they possess

not the attributes of that sex: by the same reasoning he would admit cock-hens as masculine, because, through age or disease, they have donned the male plumage; for my own part, I am inclined to regard other attributes far above plumage. The hen-tail existed among the pheasant fowls long before the Sebrights were bred, consequently they are not all cross-bred birds, nor must "X" suppose that the Mooney is the only variety shown as Golden Pheasants, but it is the mixing and confusing of the different sub-varieties that spoils all; and even supposing that the persons named do prefer the long tail in the Mooney, they may be quite right, and yet be very wrong to object to the square tail in the Yorkshire variety.

"A Judge" should hardly go into practice when he fears a simple addition sum; a good arithmetician works the sum mentally. Rules are absolutely necessary for every point and part, or judging becomes a mere faroe, and to the exhibitor an unsatisfactory lottery. The primary rules hold good throughout the whole breed, but the varieties have each separate rules of their own, which all judges ought to know, so as not to judge several sub-varieties by one code; neither should they give precedence to their own fancy: but if honourable men judge by the rules, they must, however, carry the rules in their minds—not in a book—none of which are explicit enough. The Birmingham Show is the most important, and most other shows have copied its formulas, but that does not prove it to be infallible; on the contrary, I think there are some errors in nomenclature and classification that should be corrected, for so great a show ought to take the lead in all poultry improvements.

B. P. B.

Bolton Bays and Grays v. Hamburg.

If you do not think enough has been written on this subject, I should like to say one word more to "B. P. B." I conclude, from his communications, that he

admits the descent of what I call Hamburgs from one common stock; if so, the *family* should surely have some distinct appellation. Common consent has almost universally adopted the name Hamburg. I will not enter into the argument as to whether the Gold and Silver Polands originally came from Hamburg or not, though notwithstanding the authority of the authors relied on by "B. P. B." I have some doubts on the subject. I take my stand on the fact, that *all but universal consent*—and I do not think the fact of the Birmingham Schedule being adopted by other Show Committees *weakens* my position—has decided that the fowls called by "B. P. B." Bolton Bays, &c., &c., shall henceforth be called as a class, Hamburgs; and that what he calls Hamburgs shall be placed on the Polish list, and that therefore it is very undesirable to retain useless and exploded synonyms, causing, as they do, great vexation and confusion.

"B. P. B." may be right, and the majority wrong, but what can it signify so long as every one knows what fowl I mean when I speak of a Hamburg or a Poland? I do not, by so calling them, intend to signify that either bird came originally from the place after which it would appear to be named; I merely speak of a Hamburg, as I would call a chair a chair. Will not "B. P. B.," notwithstanding his deeply-rooted—perhaps correct—opinions, bow to the decision of the majority, and by consenting to adopt that decision, henceforth treat the names Bolton Bays, &c. &c., as old-fashioned names not used by amateurs of the nineteenth century; and thus lend his aid to the advancement of the "Poultry movement" as a science, and add to the many obligations which I, (in common with numerous other amateurs,) am already under to him, for his able and valuable articles which have appeared in your columns.

ZENAS.

THE Russians train Ganders for fighting, as the English do Game Cocks, and as the ancient Greeks did Quails.

Nomenclature of Fowls.

I HAVE been very much amused at the pertinacity with which certain breeders of fowls cling to names of fowls (whether right or wrong I do not pretend to say), that is rather calculated to cause amusement than otherwise. It is, I believe, acknowledged, that most of our fowls are called by names to which they have no claim at all. Take, for example, the commonly called Cochon China. What right has that breed of fowls to that name? What right has the Spanish to be called by that name? The fine old English game fowls rejoice that they alone do not have various climes from which they are imported, but that unfortunately cannot be said of the poor Hamburgs and Polands. I perceive that, despite of public opinion, the former (by which name the birds are commonly known) are now to be called Hamburgs, *alias* Creoles, *alias* Mooneys, *alias* Boltons, *alias* Pheasant fowls. The latter (the Polands) are, alas! to be (part of the race) expatriated to St. Jago, to search in vain for their black-crested white brethren. But why is all this endeavour to change the names of fowls, by which they have been so long known? Why not let the St. Jago (?) fowls remain as Polands, and the Boltons as Hamburgs?

B. T. S.

The Friendly Fox.

ADJOINING a farm-house in the yard occupied by a tenant of Sir T. Sebright, Bart., (where the meets for the fox hounds the last weeks have been close around), has been bold Reynard occasionally seen perambulating to and fro'. Doubting something unusual, the worthy farmer was resolved to watch Mr. Reynard's intentions, (for to attempt to kill a fox is treason around the neighbourhood, save with the hounds). At last his supposed honour was perceived to enter a recess under a barn, (suspicions had previously arisen as to what the really crafty one actually meant); consequently

orders were issued for taskers, ploughmen, and ploughboys to see that there were no straggling poultry after the hour of four o'clock.

The recess was discovered to run under the barn floor;—the barn was examined and a part of the barn floor uplifted, when lo! the vixen's haunt was found—a family of five cubs. Guess the surprise, brother poultry breeders, when the farmer's better half could not discover one bird from the yard missing, and among which are some good Dorkings; consequently, a compensation was promised from a member of the hunt, until they were fully able to be sent adrift for a future "Tally ho!"

Herts.

H. F.

On Moulting.

NOTHING can meet my views better than the proposition of K., that at this time of year amateurs, or "Maniacs," as he terms *us all*, should mutually communicate our experiences or spread our knowledge. Your columns give us the opportunity, and our *incognito* gives us boldness. The season is now propitious, as, although from lack of shows it may be called your leisure time, it is, of all others, that wherein we have the greatest facilities for experiments or observations. I quite agree with K., we want neither belief nor surmise, and I think an attentive watcher might often send you a few lines on any uncommon occurrence, that would arouse a spirit of enquiry, and enable us thereby to overcome evils which we now class among insurmountable and inevitable difficulties.

I will now endeavour to treat of his first query. Can moulting be advanced or retarded?—Yes.

The feathers of fowls are constantly growing and deriving nourishment from the body. If at any season they are plucked, they will grow again. While they are forming, the quill is represented by a dark pulpy, soft tube, which at the extremity forms, as it were, part of the flesh from which it springs. The feather, while under

the skin, has a white covering, but as soon as it emerges, this bursts, and the feather grows rapidly. In proportion as it reaches maturity, the quill forms in the skin, and when it is perfect it is then hard, except the end, which is open, to allow the necessary nutriment to the feather to pass.

Such being the system, it will easily be believed that particular food, acting on the state of the body, will also act on the feather. In all birds moulting, or the entire change of feather, comes after the breeding season, when laying and sitting in the hen, and watching and providing food in the cock, have produced exhaustion of the system. It is an inevitable sickly period, and may be accelerated or retarded.

The natural season for hatching and rearing will be about May, June, and July, after which undeniable symptoms of moulting will appear. The other calls on the system being answered, the whole physical energies and capabilities of the bird are exerted to put forth a new plumage. A stimulating diet, such as tallow-chandlers' greaves, meat, and hemp-seed, will all accelerate it. These must be given in moderation, because, if too freely used, although the old feathers are got rid of, there is too much fever to allow the young feathers nourishment, and the only result is to have semi-naked fowls for a long period. The effect of hemp-seed on the plumage cannot be more strongly proved than by the fact that the free use of it always makes the feathers darker. Canary-seed will also induce moulting, but it produces excessive fat, and softens the plumage. Spare feeding, much green food, especially lettuce, and occasional purgatives, will defer moulting.

I have given attention to the subject, and have tried many experiments. I have arrived at one conclusion. All tampering with the fundamental laws of nature is bad. If moulting is interfered with, the bird suffers much; these sufferings are increased at each return of the season, the life is shortened, and the plumage is neither so strong nor so brilliant. The less dangerous of the two is to retard it. M. S.

The Brahma Queries.

I FEEL pleasure in giving you and the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle" my experience of Brahmas, in reply to and at the request of your correspondent "T. S." I propose to take each query separately, and answer them as shortly as I can.

No. 1. Chickens grow more rapidly than any other variety of fowls I have ever kept; after 8 weeks old, cockerels increase from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. weekly; hens are 7 to 9 lbs.; cocks, 9 to 13 lbs.

No. 2. 11 eggs from 4 hens, 10 months old, weigh $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; from 2 year old hens, the same number weigh 2 lbs., colour nearly all a *rich buff*.

No. 3. Lay more frequently than Cochins, particularly during winter; usually broody twice in the season.

No. 4. As table fowl, far superior to Cochins, more meat on the breast, the skin white and tender, flavour good; these remarks apply to cockerels from 4 to 6 months old; weight, 4 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

No. 5. Chickens decidedly hardy, do not *cramp* so readily as some others, usually feather earlier than Cochins.

No. 6. Perhaps rather more inclined to roam than Cochins, but my place being small cannot speak on this point so positively as some breeders.

No. 7. Good specimens are decidedly compact in shape, more full *chested*, and more body before the legs than Cochins, not leggy.

No. 8. By careful selection of parents you may breed true to colour, and my experience of *single-combed birds* proves that the greatest reliance may be placed on breeding the comb true.

No. 9. Taking all points into consideration, I say Brahmas are the best, but this of course to a great extent is a matter of taste and fancy.

No. 10. Having possessed and bred from birds of Her Majesty's, Dr. Gwynn's, Garbanati's and Fox's importations, all single-combed, find they have the same characteristics in common, and are perpetuated in the

offspring with such certainty as to remove doubts of illegitimacy.

I find the pullets commence laying early; last year a pullet hatched in March laid in July—her 2 *first* eggs were set; both produced cock chickens, both are now alive; one weighs full 8½ lbs. and is the father of a very promising progeny.

I put the weight of hens as 7 to 9 lbs., that being the average of my own birds; I once, however, weighed a hen considerably over 11 lbs., and have seen 3 or 4 over 10 lbs., but they were all fat. As a rule all my remarks apply to single-combed birds, not having anything to do with pea combs till this year. I believe there are many points of difference between the two varieties, but mostly in matters of fancy, not in questions of merit or utility. P. J.

Exhibition Pens.

YOUR correspondent "S." requires further information relative to the pens fitted for the South Durham and North Yorkshire Poultry Exhibition at Darlington; and in order to oblige him I willingly give the desired information, trusting it may be the means of turning the attention of more practical men than myself to a question which, if not materially altered, will ruin half the poultry exhibitions in the kingdom. For the larger description of fowls, such as Dorkings, Spanish, Cochin Chinas, and Game, the pens were 4 feet high, 3 feet deep, with a 3 feet front—this size was reduced, except in height, for the smaller fowls, and increased considerably for the geese and turkeys; the sides and back were wood, and the top and front wire: the front wire was in two widths 2 feet each, *securely* fastened in the middle and hooked on (two to each pen) turning wires at the bottom, where the birds were put in. We had not a single casualty, the pens were found in every respect sufficiently good and secure for the purpose for which they were intended, and the cost was a trifle under £15.

The expenses, or rather the *unnecessary* expenses, of fitting up a poultry show, may

be traced to a variety of sources, and I fear in too many cases to the over-generous "bonhommie" of the committee, who are so excited at the novelty of their position that a good portion of their funds is squandered on creature-comforts, and in the end the balance is found on the debtor instead of the creditor side of the account. It would be a curious sight to have the bill of expenses published in *detail*, and would, I have no doubt, be the most effectual means of fully showing where the curtailment of expenses should first take place. Another reason is the too great fastidiousness of fitting up; and while I will not yield to any one in the desire to see a properly fitted up exhibition, I do fancy too much regard is paid to trifles and an unnecessary expense is incurred, altogether superfluous to the object in view: all that is required is security and uniformity, for all those fine finishes of workmanship, however necessary they may be for a *permanent* resting-place for fowls, are quite out of place for the *temporary* purposes for which they are required. There seems also to be a growing feeling in the minds of some of the tender-hearted portion of the poultry world to treat fowls as if they were tender exotic plants, which the least blast would blight and destroy; and no wonder that expenses run riot when we see so frequently advocated the necessity of pens having a nice snug corner in which some gouty, plethoric, old hen may take her siesta without interruption, and every crevice to be so carefully dove-tailed, that not a breath of air may by any possibility derange the poor old creature's feathers! No doubt soon we shall see pegs put up in poultry pens hung with night-caps for the use of their inmates; this I hold one of the absurdities of the fancy, for poultry nine times out of ten are the most healthy and profitable, when they are the least pampered by unnatural and mistaken kindness; and it follows also, as a matter of course, that if committees determine to fit up exhibitions to meet the *whims* rather than the *requirements* of exhibitors, they must be

involved in a considerable increase of out-lay.

Although in nowise connected with the "trade," I have little hesitation in saying, that I will undertake to fit up any show with everything requisite, excepting the bottoms of the pens, for 1s. a pen. I except bottoms, as a committee must be in bad odour if they cannot borrow of some wood-merchant a sufficient number of planks required for that purpose.

On the subject of moveable pens the only objection to them is the difficulty of getting exhibitors universally to adopt them; and unless this could be done, poultry exhibitions would soon be confined to a few breeders whose celebrity would enable them to indulge in this extravagance. R. B.

Country Experiences.

It is not astonishing that the interest now excited by poultry, should give a new zest to the rare holidays of our most enthusiastic amateurs; we mean those who although mainly confined to London and other large towns, are still fortunate enough to have some little retreat where their feathered favourites play an important part. Being of the number, we write with a vivid recollection of our Easter holiday.

For the last two or three years we have been disappointed, and this year was no exception. An old friend, an amateur, often says he likes a very trying time for his poultry. Those that he (being of the old school) emphatically calls the "croakers," then die; and he prefers they should do so at once, rather than perish by the slow process of getting worse every day. Although this is sometimes the fate of a very beautiful bird—good in all but constitution—and a pang passes over us as a perfectly white face is seen on the *body* of a Spanish, or a huge square frame in a Dorking, or bright yellow well-feathered legs on a White Cochon; yet on reflection it will be thought our old friend was right. The sharp weather, the keen winds, the biting frosts that try the constitutions of our birds,

also purify our houses and walks, and are our efficient sanitary commissioners for our nooks and corners. They search those places that escape the broom; and purify the nooks, corners, and crannies.

Everything has its use, and we are not sure that we do not prefer this weather, unkind as it may appear, to the close unhealthy atmosphere we sometimes have at this time of year.

It is better the sickly should die off now than wait till they cause a heavier disappointment and probable loss, by falling sick when they have been selected as part of a competing pen. Wishing then to derive and administer as much comfort as we can from trying and apparently adverse events, we say, that missing some familiar faces from our stook during our Easter holiday, we consoled ourselves by thinking the hard weather had perhaps made a better selection than we should have done, and that the losses were after all only imaginary.

In every poultry excursion we are anxious to communicate any experience or information we may gain to our readers, and we therefore give the result.

Our January chickens have done well, and have never ceased growing; our old stocks have not suffered, save the cocks' combs that are frost-bitten; but the history of laying is a melancholy one,—we never had so few eggs. Throughout the country we found sitting hens in great request, and not to be had. We therefore expect our early exhibition chickens will be late bred; if they are not, they will be very forward in January. We think from our own observations, there never were fewer in February and March. We look with some anxiety for the test of our anticipations, and Windsor will probably be the first trial.

A Poultry-Raiser's Experience.

FROM THE "AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST."

IN a former number you solicited information respecting the successful management

of fowls. As I was somewhat successful in the business, and the way or reason why I began being rather amusing, I have thought proper to first give you a short history of it, as well as of how I subsequently managed them, with the results, &c.

In the year 1837, I lived high up on the eastern bank of the Kennebec river, away down in Maine, and, although the country is a cold one, I really took the hen-fever in the following manner, and some time after it raged in Massachusetts too, which makes it at first appear strange. At that time my business was supplying my neighbours, and so many others as I could, with any and every variety of dry goods and groceries. As credit was the custom of that place, I had to charge first, and then collect after as best I could, which was generally by taking what I called dunning excursions among my customers. Having spent the entire day without success upon one of these occasions, I felt somewhat wolf or waspish, as I called on my last customer for the amount due to me. The appearances about were such as not to give me hope of the least success, but I had made up my mind to have something, for I felt almost desperate, and, to add to my bad feelings, or to take all the hope out of me, my customer's wife, with a shrill nasal voice that would have done credit to any vixen, anticipated my business, and commenced: "Yer needen't to come here for nothing, for we've got nothing for yer but the old hen and her two chicks, there (pointing them out), and yer'll have to ketch um first; but I guess yer can't, for the foxes have tried a heap o'times, and there she is yet, good as ever, so we're safe this time from yer duns." "How much for the lot?" said I. "O! I allers gets a quarter dollar a piece for my hens, and the chicks are as good as the old 'un, and that's seventy-five cents for the lot, if yer in 'arnest." "Well," said I, "you will, of course, help catch them?" "Not a bit on it, if yer catch them all yer may have them, but it's all yer'll get, anyhow."

From this time I had the hen-fever, for I am certain that I cut some curious geometrical figures in my efforts to catch the old hen. She flew well, but ran better, and, moreover, was blessed with excellent respiratory organs, so much so, that I had well nigh given up the chase, though I had held out to go around the house and hovel several times, and through the latter more, as well as through the potatoes, corn, and several other fields; not a foot of ground within one hundred yards but that I had crossed; fences and stones without number were also crossed in every possible way, until, at last, the old hen dodged into a rock heap, and was soon bagged with the two others. My fever was by this time very high, for within a very short period, I had resolved to go into the business of breeding fowls, as these proved to be so good to lay.

Two years from that time I was settled in Massachusetts, with one hundred and fifty hens to look after, instead of debtor customers; nor have I ever regretted the change, or the hen race either. My flock consisted of Peas, Guineas, Turkeys, Doves, every variety of Polands or top-knots, creepers, all varieties and colours of common Barn Fowls, not excepting the rumpless and frizzled fowls, as well as the Dorkings, Games, Bantams, and Malays.

(To be Continued.)

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WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

SEA-FISHING.

SIR,—I am obliged for your attention in sending me the "Poultry Chronicle." I had previously seen the number, having ordered, and obtained the "Chronicle," stamped, regularly through my bookseller, Mr. Walker, 196 Strand.

I see no practical use in the insertion of the article on the "Guernsey Fishing;" all it says is, that the lead line is used (commonly called the "bob," or "bobbing"); not a word about the bait, the most essential thing to know; the depth of sea where the fish of peculiar habits locate, and feed; the size of the hook, and many other little things and circumstances depending upon the object you are fishing for. I never knew "mackerel" caught by bait, or at deep sea; they swim in shoals, have no particular feeding-ground, as whiting, haddock, cod, gurnet, &c., &c., *cum multis aliis*. Mackerel, in this part of the world, are caught with the fly, made with a piece of red cloth, or red feather, and trolled on the surface, behind the boats, as sometimes herrings are caught, or cuddies. Mackerel are always on the move; at all events it seems to my observation their peculiar habit. That so many were caught in a boat, and by bait (*whatever it may be*), by your Guernsey friend, and that boat stationary, is a wrinkle I must consider, and I hope profit by.

The weight of fish caught in one or two hours, if fish are disposed to bite, is extraordinary—nay, more; and I have often come home with hundreds of whiting, haddock, cod, &c., &c., to the benefit of my poor neighbours. I sometimes procure upwards of a dozen variety of sea-fish, by different baits and cunning. It affords immense amusement to my lady friends in particular; and to have a dozen different sort of fish to select from for your dinner, fresh from the sea, is no trifling desideratum, such as turbot, ling, cod, of 20 lb. and 25 lb. weight. I have repeatedly said that we have works and books on all subjects *but* on sea-fishing, and the thousands who go to the sea-side annually, could they be instructed, or even have a knowledge of how much they may be (so profitably) amused, would all buy the means of possessing it. What live bait could "William" have in a creel pulling behind "Peter's" boat—possibly for mackerel. Whiting, and other white sea-fish, will take dead bait greedily—such as muscle, cockle, sand eel, and herring. The two latter cut into slices.

It is known that 20,000 tons of sea-fish are carried to London by the different railways alone, every

year. It is easy to imagine it possible that much amusement, good occupation, as well as satisfactory interference to the occasional monotony of everyday life of pleasure-seeking people at the sea-side, can be procured from the "vasty deep," where myriads of fish exist, and are inexhaustible.

The pulling-in of a long line on which two or three hundred hooks have been baited and appended, to find you have scores of all sorts of fine fish caught, is most exciting; the satisfaction and pleasure can, however, be only fully realised by those who practically have done it. I have written in much haste, but if you can pick anything out of my observations likely to stimulate others to give you information on sea-fishing—why—do it; but only under the initials

N. B.

EXHIBITION ENTRY FEES.

SIR,—In a former number of the "Poultry Chronicle" (No. 59), your correspondent "S," writing under the head of "Exhibition Pens," says, "would not the first object of exhibitions be best attained by reducing the entry fees to say 1s. each pen, instead of, as is too often the case, 2s. 6d. or 5s. per pen." Now, I think not; and I dare say many of your readers think the same. For instance, look at Birmingham, where there were last year 1712 pens exhibited, at 5s. per pen. Suppose, if the committee of the Birmingham show were to reduce the entrance-fee from 5s. to 1s. per pen, and that they were to have five times the number there this year that they had last (it is not very likely that they would), that would be 8560 pens, where would they put all these? Why, they would want five times the number of pens, five times the number of judges, five times the number of stewards, five times the quantity of corn (we all know what it cost for corn last year, see No. 43 of the "Poultry Chronicle"), five times the number of feeders, and five times many other things too numerous to mention; and of course with all these additional expenses they would want five times the money they had last year. Very true, some committees have a number of annual subscribers to their funds, but not many of them. When the time comes to reduce the entry-fee to 1s. it will be time for poultry exhibitions to "shut up," at least such is the opinion of

J. A. T.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

SCARCITY is still the order of the day, and there is every indication of a continuance of small supplies and high prices.

Large Fowls	7s. 0d. to	8s. 0d.	each.
Smaller do.	4s. 6d. to	6s. 0d.	"
Chickens	4s. 6d. to	5s. 0d.	"
Green Geese	7s. 6d. to	8s. 6d.	"
Ducklings	4s. 0d. to	4s. 6d.	"
Guinea Fowls	3s. 6d. to	4s. 0d.	"
Rabbits	1s. 6d. to	1s. 8d.	"
Wild do.	0s. 10d. to	0s. 0d.	"
Pigeons	0s. 9d. to	0s. 10d.	"
Leverets	3s. 6d. to	4s. 0d.	"
Plover's Eggs, in bulk,	2s. 6d. to	3s.	per doz.

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

MONDAY, APRIL 16.

	Shillings per qt.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	70 to 78
" " " " red	63 .. 68
" " Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	63 .. 67
BARLEY, Malting, new	30 .. 31
" " Chevalier	32 .. 33
" " Distilling	29 .. 30
" " Grinding	27 .. 29
OATS, English, feed	23 .. 24
" " potato	26 .. 27
" " Scotch feed, new	26 .. 27
" " old	30 .. 31
" " potato	30 .. 32
" " Irish feed, white	23 .. 26
" " " " black	22 .. 24
RYE	39 .. 40
BEANS, Mazagan	35 .. 38
" " Ticks	36 .. 40
" " Harrow	36 .. 40
" " Pigeon	38 .. 43
PEAS, White, boilers	37 .. 42
" " Maple	37 .. 39
" " Grey	34 .. 37

Wednesday.—English wheat unchanged from Monday. Foreign held firmly, but sales limited at late rates. Floating cargoes, none off the coast. The last cargo of soft Romelia sold at 60s. Egyptian on passage held 1s. to 2s. over the views of buyers. Indian corn scarce and wanted, but difficult to procure. Barley creeps up, with more export inquiry for Belgium. Rye, malt, peas, and beans as last noted. Oats move off gradually, at our previous currency.

To Correspondents.

Hamburg.—As soon as we receive further information we will give it.

W. S.—We have constantly given burnt oyster shell to poultry, and have never found them injured from

it. *W. S.* inquires, "does not the fire make them caustic, like quick-lime? Also, why do not the shells of hatched eggs answer as lime for fowls? Again, do you approve of giving fish to fowls? a butcher knows at once, by the flesh of a slaughtered pig, if it has had fish to eat, and does not like it." Fish is indigestible and injurious to fowls. We had one killed from accidentally getting to a quantity of fish-*offal*; he gorged himself and never recovered from the effects. Fowls intended for eating, would no doubt be injured in the delicacy of the flesh by such food.

Fishing in the Sea.—Could any of our readers give our correspondent (whose letter is in the "Letter-Box") plain and precise hints on the subject?

Mr. Woodhouse.—We have had much pleasure in forwarding the letter to B. P. B., who would, doubtless, like to see the pigeon, but his residence is not near London.

B. T. S.—We hope to procure the information which our correspondent requests.

B. P. B. inquires of those who have had experience with patent incubators, whether they might not be used with advantage to hatch the eggs of the Brush Turkey, since the hen does not incubate? Could any one oblige us with an account of this bird? Also, has any amateur here met with a fowl from South America like a frizzled Nankeen Bantam?

T. P. E.—We are obliged for the suggestion. We begin to feel the good effects of the exertions made by the kind friends of the "Poultry Chronicle" to make it better known.

A. Z.—The bookseller mentioned must have made a great mistake, as our publishers are still able to supply all the back numbers, and can supply any bookseller or other applicant with them.

Advertisements.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork, Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market, London.

FANCY PIGEONS.—On sale, a quantity of first class Almonds, Short-Faced Mottles, Carriers, Pouters, and a great variety of Toy Pigeons. Apply by letter to **Mr. HENRY CHILD, Jun.**, Poplar Cottage, Sherbourne Road, near Birmingham.

FLOWER SEEDS AND EGGS.—**GEORGE BOOTHBY**, of Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire, offers for 5s. 6d. a dozen packets of very choice flower seeds, selected from the very best varieties, including Phlox, Petunia, Gladiolus, Lobelia, Scabious, German double Wallflower and Stock, Antirrhinum, &c., together with a dozen assorted Eggs from the following birds, which have taken several first prizes—Black Spanish, Buff, White, and Black Cochins, Dorking, Silver Pencilled Hamburg. **G. B.** also offers Eggs of Brahma Pootra and Cossack at 7s. 6d.; Black and White Polands, 10s. 6d.; and erect-crested Parmigans, 15s. per dozen. A few Dorkings at 6s. each; Gold and Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, 15s. per pair. A Price List of Poultry sent free for Two Penny stamps.

BIRMINGHAM FIRST PRIZE SPANISH COCK, in Chicken Class, 1853, was purchased by its present owner at Mrs L. Stow's Sale, at Stevens', last spring, for £5 5s., and it is now offered for £3 10s. for want of room. Also Two First-Class Hens, £1 1s. each, or the Three for £5.

Prize Aylesbury Duck Eggs, £1 1s. a dozen. Apply Mrs. B. FORD, Ido, near Exeter.

FOR SALE, OR EXCHANGE for Gold Spangled Hamburgs, the SPANISH COCK (White-faced) that took the 1st prize at the South-East Hants Poultry Show, 1854, price £2. Also several Cockerels and Pullets, at 7s. 6d.; Eggs at 5s. per dozen. Pair of Ptarmigans, at £1 7s. 6d. and £2 2s. Eggs from erect and lark-crested birds at 10s. per dozen. Apply to Mr. C. COLES, Fareham, Hants.

EGGS.—Dorking, Spanish, and Buff Cochins, from really first-rate birds, including 1st prize and Silver Cup birds at Birmingham and Liverpool; to be sold at the yard of Mrs. DUNNE, Oswestry, £2 2s. per dozen.—Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry.

EGGS FOR SETTING may be had from the Yard of Mr. H. D. DAVIES, whose stock has been carefully bred and selected from all the best strains, and has already taken upwards of 250 prizes.

Spanish, Dorking, Brahma, and Rungeon Eggs, £2 2s., and White Cochins and Aylesbury Ducks, £1 11s. 6d., the dozen, to include basket, &c.

Spanish and Dorking Fowls of all ages may be selected from that portion of the stock not required for breeding or exhibition this season.

For Cock and 1 Pullet	£5 5 0
For Cock and 2 Pullets	7 7 0
For Cock and 4 Pullets	10 10 0

Remittances, by Post-office Order, payable to GEORGE KEEBLE, the Bailiff, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, to accompany all orders.

Mr. Davies will feel obliged if persons who wish to see the Poultry will make it convenient to do so between the hours of 10 and 4 on any Wednesday or Saturday.

EGGS FOR SETTING, all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:

Dorkings, Brahma Pootra (Pencilled and Light), Spanish (Rake's), Cochins, Buff and White, Hambros, Gold and Silver Pencilled and Spangled; Polish and Bantams.

Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers. Pheasants and Partridges' eggs in any numbers. All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.

JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

FOWLS BY JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest, Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a Chapter on the Brahma Pootra Fowl, the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s., or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Paternoster Row.

BRAHMA POOTRA FOWLS, from one of the earliest imported and most successful prize stocks in the kingdom, at one guinea per couple. Eggs from prize birds of the same breed, at 15s. per dozen.—Apply to W. C. G., Sandbach, Cheshire.

SERAI TÁOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan, A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 21s. the Dozen.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from Gray Pea-Combed mature birds, at 21s. the Dozen.

A few good COCHIN HENS at a moderate price. Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

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, 2½d., 2 yards wide, 5d. per yard, 100 yards, 2 yards wide for 34s. Also repaired Tanned Netting for the above purposes: 1 yard wide 1½d., 2 yards wide, 3d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 18s. 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.

A FIRST-RATE DORKING COCK FOR SALE, with Black Breast and Silver Hackle, which gained second prize at Birmingham, 1852, and is three years' old this month, price £2 2s. Also a setting of Eggs from the above bird and first-rate hens, 21s.—Apply to Rev. HERBERT S. HAWKINS, Henry Rectory, Sudbury, Suffolk.

MR. JAMES MONSEY intends to dispose of a limited number of EGGS for setting, from his own prize birds that have taken the number of prizes as follow: Gold and Silver Laced Bantams, 13 prizes; White and Black Bantams, 22 prizes; Silver Polands, 1 Silver Medal and 3 prizes; Game Fowls, 29 prizes. Terns for Eggs: Gold and Silver Laced Bantams £1 1s. per doz.; White Bantams, 10s. 6d. per doz.; Black Bantams, 10s. 6d.; per doz.; Game Fowls of every colour, 10s. 6d. per doz.; first-class Dorking, 15s. per doz.; White-Faced Black Spanish, 10s. 6d. per doz. A few first-rate Game fowls, Dorkings, Silver Polands, Black Bantams; also, a few Gold and Silver-Laced Bantams for sale. Address MR. JAMES MONSEY, Cooper, Thorne Lane, Norwich.

NEST EGGS.—Cochin Colour, White or Bantams, 4s. per dozen. See Vol. 3, No. 56, page 55. May be had of JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount St., Grosvenor Square, London, or HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate Street, Gloucester.

COCHIN CHINAS.—EGGS from the Yards of Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, Haverhill, Suffolk, forwarded in rotation, as orders are received, at the price of ninepence each, package included.

THE DORSETSHIRE ASSOCIATION for THE IMPROVEMENT OF DOMESTIC POULTRY will hold its Annual Exhibition at Dorchester, on the 24th and 25th of October next.

Forms of entry will shortly be issued, and further particulars announced.

SPANISH FOWLS.—The price of the Pen of Spanish Fowls of the Rev. MORTON SHAW, advertised in No. 60, should have been £21.

LORD EDWIN HILL has a few Settings of Black Spanish EGGS to dispose of from his Prize Birds, at £1 1s. per dozen; also Two Black Spanish Cocks for Sale. Apply, J. BLACKALL, Norwood Park, Southwell, Notts.

EGGS FOR SALE.—From the White-Faced Black Spanish Fowls, which obtained all the prizes in their Class at Doncaster, in January, 1855. They are guaranteed perfect and fresh when packed, and will be forwarded according to priority of application. Price per setting of 10 Eggs, £1 10s., package included. Address, THOMAS T. PEARSON, M.D., Bridlington Quay.

N. B. Post-office Orders will receive immediate attention.

April 16th, 1855.

EGGS may be had from DAVID HUME'S well-known Silver-Laced Bantams, at 1s. each, carefully packed. These birds have taken Eleven First Prizes in succession. Chickens may be had from same at 1 guinea the couple. If the respected Judges at the late Darlington Show, will back the decision given by them in the Bantam Class with £20, D. H. will be happy to meet the first prize pen at Windsor. West Hartlepool, April 21st, 1855.

SPANISH HENS AND EGGS FOR SALE.

Two excellent White-Faced Birds of 1853; they are parted with on account of the owner wishing to reduce his stock. Lowest price, £5 6s. for the pair. Also Eggs for setting, from prize and commended Spanish and Dorking Fowls, the former at 15s., the latter at 10s. 6d., per setting of twelve eggs.—Apply to X. S. HARROP, 13, Cooper Street, Manchester.

GOLDEN AND SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG FOWLS.—The Rev. F. W. FREEMAN is prepared to supply EGGS from his splendid Prize Stock at 10s. 6d. per Dozen, and 1s. the Box. Apply to JEREMIAH BAKER, Spoonman's Farm, Stowupland, Suffolk. Both varieties of Fowls are clear-necked, and have gained the following Prizes:—

GOLDEN HAMBURGS.

- 1st Prize at Bury St. Edmunds, 1853.
- 1st " at Diss.
- 2nd " at Norwich.
- Two 1st at Great Metropolitan Exhibition, 1854.
- 1st " at Cambridge.

SILVER HAMBURGS.

- 1st Prize at Bury St. Edmunds, 1853.
- 1st " at Diss, 1853.
- 1st " at Great Metropolitan Exhibition, 1854.

And have not since been exhibited.
Stowmarket, March 25th, 1855.

EGGS from the Yards of Mr. G. BOTHAM, Wexham Court: Prize Spanish, 80s.; ditto Brahma Pootra, 21s.; ditto White Cochins, 21s.; ditto Grey Dorking, ditto Red Speckled Dorking, ditto Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, ditto Duckwing, Game, ditto Rouen and Buenos Ayres Ducks, at 10s. 6d. per setting of 13.—may be had by sending a Post-office Order, payable at Slough. Box and packing, 1s.

SOVEREIGN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. 49, St. James's Street, London.

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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.

"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,600, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d. have been received for new premiums.

"These items, when compared with the business of the preceding year, display an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

"While the income of the Company has thus received so large an accession, the office has only been called on, during the same period, to pay £1,063 19s. 10d. for claims, a sum which bears a remarkably small proportion to the mortality which might justly have been anticipated. This feature in the career of the company has thus been maintained to the ninth year, and the Directors trust that such a fact evidences the care with which the business of the office has been invariably conducted."

The office presents:—

The security of a large paid-up capital.
Very moderate rates for all ages, especially young lives.

No charges whatever, except the premium.

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Prospectuses, copies of reports, forms, and every information can be obtained at the office, 49, St. James's Street, London.

HENRY D. DAVENPORT, Sec.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 17s. 4d.; half-yearly, 8s. 8d.; quarterly, 4s. 4d.; payable in advance.

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The Poultry Chronicle:

A JOURNAL OF

POULTRY, PIGEONS, BEES, FLORICULTURE, AND THE
HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 62.]

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1855.

[PRICE 3D.

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Poultry Shows.

Hexham Third Annual Exhibition, Monday and Tuesday, 14th and 15th of May. Secretaries, Mr. W. Turner, Hexham; and Mr. Jonathan Bell, High Shield. Entries close Saturday, May 5th. (No. 61.)

Paris Agricultural Meeting, June 1st—9th. Entries from English Exhibitors to be sent to the Consul-General for France, King William Street, City, in time to reach Paris by May 24th. (No. 59.)

Bath and West of England, at Tiverton, June 6th, 7th, and 8th. Secretary, J. Kingsbury, Esq., Hammet Street, Taunton. Entries close May 10th. (No. 62.)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st. (No. 52.)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries close June 1st. (No. 57.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday,

Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th.

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq. Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire third annual exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th.

We shall feel obliged if Secretaries and Com-

mittees 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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

IN our impression of this day, we publish a letter from the Minister of Agriculture, on the subject of the poultry to be exhibited at the Agricultural Show in Paris, in June next; and we propose to give further particulars relating to the Paris Agricultural Meeting next week. Foreigners are admitted on the same footing as Frenchmen, and in addition to the liberality we had occasion to notice some time since, further facilities are offered, inasmuch as the entries may be made to the Consul-general of France, in London.

This exhibition will not meet the views of many of our amateurs as our own at Carlisle, because there is not the same variety of classes. But we must recollect our shows had the same beginning. It is always an experiment at first, and originators are not justified in offering large premiums till they are assured there will be sufficient competition. If this be true of England, it is still more so of a country where the pursuit is acknowledged to be in its infancy; and those who desire a more extended prize list must prove it to be required by sending specimens worthy of distinction. We will now analyse the programme.

Crève-cœur: These fowls are little known in England, and pure birds are exceedingly scarce in France. They then concern us but in a small degree.

Cochin China, 1 Cock and 2 Hens; two prizes, £4 and £2. This, at least, offers a good opportunity for us to show our neigh-

bours what we have done in this breed; and we shall be disappointed if one medal at least does not come here. That which is generally Class 42 with us, is here No. 3. We allude to the other varieties. We think there is a good field open for some of the breeds we are proud of. Let our Dorkings, Game, Spanish, and Bantams, testify to the progress we have made since the subject has been taken up in this country, and let the liberal offers of the French government be responded to by a display worthy of our country. This would appear to be a moment of, we had almost said, fusion between the two countries, when identity of interests prevails to an extent hitherto unknown. Let it pervade the whole mass, and let us have *our* poultry meeting.

The next class will be Turkeys. We trust our Norfolk and Cambridge friends will be on the alert, and we have no doubt of the result.

Ducks and Geese we can send in numbers, and of undeniable quality; and we are strong in Pigeons, Pheasants, Guinea Fowls, &c. Surely then some of the fourteen or fifteen prizes to be distributed among these may come to us.

It has often been wished at our large shows that we had foreign competitors, the way to bring them is first to send our birds abroad. Many of the pens will doubtless be claimed, and they will lead to the knowledge of the different breeds as they exist and are known here. We hail with delight the extension of our favourite pursuit, and hope the response of the amateurs of England to the invitation of the French government, will be such as to

lay the foundation of a poultry intercourse, which shall be alike useful and gratifying to the amateurs of both countries.

The Poultry Yard.

MAY 2.

AFTER a most gratifying allusion to the useful information received through the columns of the "Poultry Chronicle," a Correspondent asks for hints "as to the proper feeding and management of a brood of chickens from the time of their hatching until left to themselves?" "I do not ask," continues our Correspondent, "how they are to be treated when hatched in the winter months, but respecting the management of those just now out?" Chickens require good shelter, by night and by day, and good feeding; and the thing which we must aim at is to bestow on them such treatment as shall bring them up healthy, hardy, and hearty, which shall give them a good regular appetite that needs no pampering, and which shall give them, in addition, the opportunity of keeping themselves dry. These we reckon the important points: the manner in which they are aimed at must depend on our opportunities.

If the hen is unwilling to leave her nest on the twentieth day, *i. e.*, the day before the day three weeks from that of setting the eggs, we have her lifted off, and give her food and water, that she may not be fidgetty when she should be quiet, or ravenously hungry when she should be thinking of the wants of her chickens. If some little precocious chicks should already have made their way out of the egg-shell, they are removed from the nest and kept warm until the hen is settled on it again, and then they are restored to her. After the chicks have been hatched from twelve to twenty-four hours, a cup of barley, broken small in a mill, and a flat-bottomed vessel of water are placed before her: she feeds the chickens when she thinks proper, and the cup and pan are refilled when

necessary. As soon as the hatching is over, the hen and her chickens are removed into a clean nest, made warm in the sun or before a fire; this is to prevent the young chicks getting infested with the vermin, which are likely to abound in the nest in which they have been hatched. As soon as the chickens are lively and brisk, and begin to run about round the mother, she may be placed on a lawn under a box coop, that is, a good wooden coop with water-tight top, and front of bars for the chickens to run in and out. In fine weather a lawn, or any bit of grass-land recently mown, is the best place: if the weather be wet, the hen had better be cooped under a shed. Young chickens will avoid getting wet if we give them the opportunity, and those which have had shelter to go to while young, generally run to it in preference to getting wet as they grow older. A little shrubbery for the fowls to run into is capital, and those which have it will seldom stay out in the rain. We think so much of the advantage of *letting* fowls keep themselves dry, that we would never leave a hen-run without a shed, which may be easily made with a frame-work of wood, two to three feet high with a good fall in the roof, covered with patent felt or rough boards; it may measure twelve feet long by four feet wide, or may be made smaller according to the room that can be spared for it.

When the chickens are established out of doors, the next thing is how to feed them. We reckon crushed barley for dry food, and barley-meal with a *little* bran mixed dry and crumbly, the standing dishes for the chickens. When eggs are plentiful we bestow, on each brood daily, one boiled hard, chopped fine, and mixed with crumbled bread: the shell is broken up quite fine and mixed with it, which does for little stones. From the very first, young chickens have the requirements of old fowls: they must have small stones and lime, the last is especially necessary for making the as yet unformed bones, and may be given in the form of pounded

oyster-shell, old mortar, chalk and egg-shell broken up small.

In addition to the staple commodities—crushed barley and meal food—a change is good; but in giving this, take care to avoid pampering their appetites, which would make them dainty instead of promoting growth by encouraging healthy feeding. It is especially natural for young fanciers to carry out to the chickens whatever they are likely to relish; but delicacies should not be lavished before they are wanted, for the time will come when their use will be most valuable. The first three or four weeks of the chicken's life is not the period of greatest trial to it: of the succeeding month or two we will speak in our next number.

The little joyous chick, still covered with its thick warm down, every moment profiting by the never-varying devotion of its watchful mother, with her ample wings and tufted plumage ready for its shelter and comfort, has all its troubles *before it*; it has none at present. It is not generally at this early age that our chickens die off: those which do die thus early have often been hatched poor weakly little things, and their death seems no loss either to themselves or to their owners.

Schedule of the Bath and West of England Society.

THIS Society for the encouragement of agriculture, arts, manufacture, and commerce, will hold the annual meeting at Tiverton, on the 6th, 7th, and 8th days of June.

N. B.—Entries must be made on or before the 30th of April, and Certificates filled up and sent in on or before the 10th of May.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.

Class.	1st.	2nd.
	s.	s.
1. Cock and two Hens	40	20
2. Cock and two Hens (Chickens) ..	40	20
DORKINGS.		
3. Coloured, Cock and two Hens	40	20

DORKINGS, continued.

Class.	1st.	2nd.
	s.	s.
4. Cock and two Hens (Chickens) ...	40	20
5. White, Cock and two Hens	40	20
6. Cock and two Hens (Chickens) ...	40	20
COCHIN CHINA.		
7. Cin., Buff, or Lemon, Cock and two Hens	40	20
8. Cock and two Hens (Chickens) ...	40	20
9. Dark, Cock and two Hens	40	20
10. Cock and two Hens (Chickens) ...	40	20
11. White, Cock and two Hens	40	20
12. Cock and two Hens (Chickens) ...	40	20
13. Black, Cock and two Hens	40	20
BRAHMA POOTRA.		
14. Cock and two Hens	40	20
GAME.		
15. White and Piles, Cock and two Hens	40	20
16. Black-breasted and other Reds, Cock and two Hens	40	20
17. Duckwings and other Greys and Blues, Cock and two Hens ...	40	20
18. Blacks and Brassy-winged, except Greys, Cock and two Hens	40	20
MALAY.		
19. Cock and two Hens	40	20
HAMBURG.		
20. Golden Pencilled, Cock and two Hens	40	20
21. Silver Pencilled, Cock and two Hens	40	20
22. Golden Spangled, Cock and two Hens	40	20
23. Silver Spangled, Cock and two Hens	40	20
POLANDS.		
24. Black, with white crests, Cock and two Hens	40	20
25. Golden, Cock and two Hens	40	20
26. Silver Spangled, Cock and two Hens	40	20
27. Cock and two Hens, any age, and any distinct breed not named in the foregoing classes	40	20
28. Cockerel and two Pullets, ditto ...	40	20
BANTAMS.		
29. Gold Laced, Cock and two Hens...	20	10
30. Silver Laced, Cock and two Hens..	20	10
31. White, Cock and two Hens	20	10
32. Cock and two Hens	20	10
DUCKS.		
33. Aylesbury, Drake and two Ducks...	20	10
34. Rouen, Drake and two Ducks	20	10
35. Any other variety, Drake and two Ducks	20	10

GEESSE.

<i>Class.</i>	<i>1st.</i>	<i>2nd.</i>
36. Gander and two Geese	20	10

TURKEYS.

37. Cock and two Hens	20	10
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PIGEONS.

38. Best pair of Carriers, Barbs, Pouters, Runts, Fantails, Jacobins, Turbits, Nuns, Archangels, Trumpeters, Almond Tumblers, any other variety of Tumblers, Owls, and Dragons... 10s. each.		
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A Silver Cup, value £5, will be awarded to the Exhibitor obtaining the greater number of first prizes, Pigeons excepted.

CONDITIONS AND REGULATIONS.

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

To class 27 inclusive . . .	5s. per pen.
Turkeys and Geese . . .	5s. "
Bantams and Ducks . . .	3s. "
Pigeons	2s. "

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

All certificates must be forwarded to Mr. John Kingsbury, Honorary Secretary, 10, Hammet-street, Taunton, together with fees according to the above rates, on or before the 10th of May, 1855, on printed blank forms, which will be furnished by him on application. Application 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 chickens' prizes must have their EXACT ages entered thereon. A sale must take place if the price be offered through the Secretary.

Birmingham regulations, Nos. 5, 6, and 1.

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, 1855.

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

The society's silver and bronze medals will be given, if desired, in lieu of money.

The specimens must be at the show-yard

before 7 o'clock on the evening of Tuesday the 5th of June, otherwise they will not be admitted; and no specimen can be removed before 12 o'clock at noon of Friday the 8th 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 prices have been affixed may be claimed at the price put upon them after 3 o'clock on the first day. Application to be made at the Secretary's office, where all sales must be effected.

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 fowls which are disposed of privately. Exhibitors who do not wish to effect sales are recommended to state—not for sale. 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 the close.

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

All birds sold will be charged one shilling each, to be paid by the exhibitor, whether they come by railway or not.

All birds purchased must pay full railway fare from the show.

DIRECTORS.

SAMUEL PITMAN, Rumwell Lodge, Taunton.
T. E. KNOLLYS, Fitzhead Court, Taunton.
T. COULSON SAUNDERS, Exeter.

JOHN KINGSBURY, Hammet-street, Taunton,
Secretary.

British Exhibitors at the Paris Exhibition.

SOME time since we gave an abstract of such parts of the Agricultural Show in Paris, in June next, as related to poultry. In order to clear up any doubts, as such had been expressed, whether foreign poultry would be admissible, Mr. Baily, of Mount Street, wrote to the Minister of

Agriculture, and we subjoin the answer which he received.

"MONSIEUR, — Pour faire cesser les doutes que vous m'exprimez par votre lettre du 17 Avril courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous annoncer, que la volaille et tous les animaux de basse-cour appartenant à des étrangers, nés et élevés à l'étranger, sont admis à concourir à l'Exhibition Agricole de Paris du mois de Juin prochain. En vous transmettant un programme de cette exhibition je vous rappellerai que le Consul-général de France à Londres recevra toutes les déclarations qui pourraient être faites à ce sujet.

"Recevez, monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération.

"Le Ministre de l'Agriculture, de Commerce, et des Travaux Publics."

[TRANSLATION.]

"SIR, — To do away with the doubts that you express in your letter of the 17 April, I have the honour to inform you, that poultry and all farm-yard animals belonging to foreigners, bred and reared abroad, are admitted to compete at the Agricultural Exhibition of Paris in the month of June next. In sending you a programme of that exhibition, I will remind you that the Consul-general of France in London will receive all the entries (déclarations) which may be made on the subject.

"Receive, &c.

"Signed by the Minister of Agriculture, Commerce, and Public Works."

[The French Consulate is No. 36, King William Street, City.]

We trust the amateurs of England will answer the appeal liberally. In poultry exhibitions France is yet in its infancy, but we doubt not the time is near when our prize lists will be copied, and the two countries will add to the attractions of their mutual shows by the presence of foreign competitors. We confess we have much pleasure in making this announcement to our readers.

Rules.

"B. P. B." is an excellent and indefatigable amateur, who has evidently closely studied poultry, and from whom any one may acquire sound practical information. I am not sorry he has differed from me, because whatever the result may be we shall be gainers. He says, "a judge should not go into practice when he fears a simple addition sum; a good arithmetician works the sum mentally. Rules are absolutely necessary for every point or part, or judging becomes a mere farce, and to the exhibitor an unsatisfactory lottery."

I never was gifted in arithmetic, and any objection to rules may perhaps be traced thereto. I fear figures and statistics, but I fancy I have a good eye for poultry, and while I might perhaps fear the Dr. and Cr. account of a pen of "Spangles," as my powers of computation might be at fault, I have no dread of making mistakes when I trust to a practised eye. Everything may perhaps be reduced to rules, and they are no doubt essentially useful; but if poultry requirements in the way of points go on as they have done and are published, every amateur will soon be crying for a digest or compendium. The volume will become too bulky. I lately saw thirty-two enumerated points of a Spangled Hamburg. These would require a classification stating which were the most important, and seeing, I fancy, that it would be nearly impossible to produce a bird possessing them all, it should be set forth which were those most essential to success.

When rules are decided upon, the points must become numbers. For instance, say one rule shall be, that no bird shall be considered entitled to a prize, unless it can count fourteen; say comb shall tell for two, spangling for four, tail for two, and so on. "B. P. B." only half meets the question when he says, "Judges must carry their rules in their minds, not in books." They do that now, and thereby arrive at their decisions. It matters not where the rules

are carried, if they are published with their sanction, they are bound by them. Again, if my idea of judging by counting points should appear ridiculous, and if I am told birds must be judged according to the general merit of the pen, I say they are *so now*. Nothing will then be gained by substituting rules, but if they are adopted and made imperative, the bird counting most points *must* have the prize, although they may be joined to defects that under the present system would deservedly disqualify. Poultry judging is a small affair, yet few men have the gift. It depends entirely on the eye. If the comparison may be permitted, two judges, one with rules the other without, may be likened to two generals, one pledged to a particular system, the other open to take advantage of any favourable point. The latter being untrammelled will be speedily successful, while the former must carefully weigh possibilities and consult precedents. There is little occasion to add to the difficulties of a

JUDGE.

St. Petersburg Bird Market.

PERHAPS for a stranger, the most interesting portion of this world of markets is that of the Tshukin Dvor, where the birds are sold. Two long rows of booths are full of living specimens of ornithology; pigeons, fowls, geese, ducks, swans, larks, bullfinches, siskins, and hundreds of other singing birds, are there collected, and form the most picturesque and variegated menageries that can be imagined. Each booth is of wood and open at the front, so that the whole of its contents may be seen at once by the passing stranger, who is saluted with such a concert of cackling, crowing, chattering, cooing, piping, and warbling, as would suffice to furnish the requisite supply of idyllic melodies for a hundred villages. Between the opposite booths are usually such bridges as I have already described, from which the pictures of saints are suspended, for the edification of the devout. On these bridges and on the

booths whole swarms of pigeons are constantly fluttering about, the peaceful Russian being a great lover of this gentle bird. Each swarm knows its own roof, and the birds allow themselves to be caught without much difficulty when a bargain is about to be concluded. The pigeon is never eaten by a Russian, who would hold it a sin to harm an animal in whose form the Holy Ghost is said to have manifested itself. Pigeons are bought, therefore, only as pets, to be fed and schooled by their masters. It is curious to see a Russian merchant directing the flight of his docile scholars. With a little flag fastened to a long staff he conveys his signals to them, makes them at his will rise higher in the air, fly to the right or left, or drop to the ground as if struck by a bullet from a rifle.

The poor little singing birds,—the larks, nightingales, linnets, bullfinches, &c.—must be of a hardier race than in more southern lands; for in spite of the bitter frost they chirrup away merrily, and salute with their songs every straggling ray of sunshine that finds its way into their gloomy abodes. The little creatures receive during the whole long winter not one drop of water, for it would be useless to offer them what a moment afterwards would be converted into a petrified mass. Their troughs are accordingly filled only with snow, which they must liquefy in their own beaks when they wish to assuage their thirst.

Moscow is famed for its cocks, and here the Moscow cock may be seen proudly stalking about, in cages and out of them. The best pigeons are said to come from Novgorod, and Finland furnishes the chief supply of singing birds; geese are brought even from the confines of China, to be sold as rarities in the Tshukin Dvor, after a journey of more than 4000 miles; grey squirrels may be seen rolling about in their cages like incarnate quicksilver; while rabbits and guinea-pigs, without number, gambol their time away in their little wooden hutches. Within the booth, a living centre of all this living merchandise, behold the merchant, closely ensconced in

his wolfskin, and ready to dispose of his little feathered serfs at any acceptable price. At the back of the booth, be sure, there hangs a saintly picture of some sort, its little lamp shedding a cheerful light to guard the feathered crowd against the evil influence of intruding demons; but there are evil spirits that the good saint cannot banish. Man is there to hold in chains or to sentence to death, according as it may suit his calculations of profit, or the caprices of his palate. On shelves around are ranged the trophies of his murderous tribe, and the northern swans, the heathcocks (*reptshiki*), and snow-white partridges (*kurapatki*), are piled up under the very cages from which the captive larks warble their liquid notes.

It is astonishing what a quantity of these birds are yearly consumed at the luxurious tables of St. Petersburg. In winter the cold keeps the meat fresh, and at the same time facilitates its conveyance to market. The partridges come mostly from Saratoff, the swans from Finland, Livonia and Esthonia supply heathcocks and grouse, and the wide steppes must furnish the trapp geese which flutter over their endless plains, where the Cossack hunts them on horseback, and kills them with his formidable whip. All these birds, as soon as the life-blood has flown, are converted into stone by the frost, and packed up in huge chests are sent for sale to the capital. Whole sledgeloads of snow white hares find their way to the market; the little animals are usually frozen in a running position, with their ears pointed and their legs stretched out before and behind, and when placed on the ground look at the first glance as if they were in the act of escaping from the hunter. Bear's flesh is also sometimes offered for sale in this market; and here and there may be seen a frozen reindeer lying in the snow by the side of a booth, its hairy snout stretched forth upon the ground, its knees doubled up under its body, and its antlers rising majestically into the air; it looks as if, on our approaching it, it would spring up, and dash away

once more in search of its native forests. The mighty elk, likewise, is no rare guest in this market, where it patiently presents its horns as a perch for the pigeons that are fluttering about, till, little by little, the axe and the saw have left no fragment of the stately animal, but every part of it has gone its way into the kitchens of the wealthy.

Similar markets for birds and game will be found in every large Russian city. Indeed the habits and fashions of the Russian markets are completely national. Those of Moscow vary but little from those of Tobolsk; and Trkhutsh, Odessa, and Archangel have shown themselves equally servile in their imitation of the metropolitan bazaars. — *From J. G. Kohl's "Russia."*

A Poultry Raiser's Experience.

(Concluded from page 188.)

A FEW were good, but more than four-fifths were worthless as layers. The Guinea Fowls that I had were shy layers, and continually at war with the Turkeys, which were weakly and unprofitable enough at best. The Pea-fowls were of no profit, and cowardly except where they could catch a small chicken alone, and then they were sure to shake the life out of it. I soon found that early chickens would bring as much or more, when the size of robins, than late ones would when full grown, so that with early chickens, squabs, and eggs, I did a very good business. I allowed my hens to mix, and thus got some mongrels that were better layers than the pure breed of either variety, and by selecting the best shaped and quickest growers, having as many other good qualities as possible, I got a stock of nice fowls. They were large, plump, and bright coloured, with yellow legs, which in the Boston market was indispensable for the highest price. The Pea and Guinea Fowls, with Turkeys, to me were not profitable, and so I gave them up, keeping hens and doves only.

As every fancier thinks his own stock best, it was natural that I should think mine

best. None were at that time kept by me except such as would lay nearly 250 eggs per year, and raise one brood of chickens; their weight alive had to be four pounds or upwards. Such hens, well kept, will net five dollars a-piece per year for their eggs; provided the owner has a garden to cultivate, the manure of the hens, and the insects they will destroy, when allowed a proper range, will well pay for their feed, thus leaving the eggs clear profit, and the chickens to pay for the house-room: while the pleasure derived from the business ought to be a sufficient compensation for one's time.

As to the diseases of hens I know but little. My chickens once had the gapes, I suppose, as it is called, for they were continually opening their mouths, and a few died. My hens once caught the croup, or something like it, and a few of them died: a few doses of cayenne pepper, however, stopped the progress of both diseases; and ever after, when there appeared any symptoms of disease among my hens, I fed them for two or three days with Indian meal scalded, and as much of the common red pepper as they would eat, which never failed to restore a healthy appearance in my flock. But as a preventive, I always kept their roost-house well ventilated by day and night too; in warm weather, well cleaned and often sprinkled with lime and plaster; and in winter, their roost poles covered with cloth. For feed, white or yellow corn, wheat and barley in the fall and winter, with a plenty of clean water, and fresh oyster-shells pounded, and a good range; hens, if good, and other things equal, will lay 250 eggs per year apiece, or they did for me, and I tried the business for ten years. Such hens as I kept on the above feed would eat per day, equal in value to one quart of corn to every ten hens, allowing the corn and barley to be the same price, and wheat double to that of either, the hens having always at hand as much as they could eat. Barley will cause hens to be broody; and hence must be fed sparingly, except in cold weather

and early winter. Rye will stop them from laying or anything else, as it is very purgative to fowls.

Morristown, N. J.

H.

The Breeding of Fowls.

EVERY person engaged in the breeding of fowls is interested in the settlement of the question: "How long must fowls be separated in order to ensure purity of blood?" Dr. Bennett, in his Poultry Book, says that after a separation of two days the breed will be perfect. In "Miner's Domestic Poultry," I see Dr. B. corrects this statement. Some items in my own experience show that a *taint* may run through two or three litters of eggs. There are, however, some reliable facts which, if not conclusive, are somewhat puzzling. I find in the "Farmer's Companion and Horticultural Gazette" for July, 1853, a communication from Mr. Freeman, of Schoolcraft, Mich., in which is the following statement:—"A few years since, I kept carefully yarded a few white English game fowls, and preserved all their eggs for hatching. At the same time I had running at a neighbour's a dark Dominico cock. On two occasions I mated a game hen with this cock. The result was, that two Dominico-coloured chicks appeared among the white games. This fact induces me to believe that the male impression is made upon the egg from day to day, at the time the albumen is about to be formed."

Last spring I had a Chittagong and a black Spanish rooster, which I kept carefully separated with their respective flocks of hens. As one yard was much the smaller, I frequently changed them from yard to yard. At one time there was an old Creeper hen that had been yarded with the Chittagong rooster, and as she had nearly finished her litter, and I wanted her to set where she was then laying, I left her when I turned in the black Spanish. Immediately after the black Spanish rooster was let out he took a great fancy to the Creeper hen. In two or three days the hen

was set, and when the young were hatched, there was a chicken distinctly marked after the black Spanish. This and the other like occurrences prove that the effect of a fresh mate is often seen *immediately*. But if, on the other hand, there are facts which prove that the effect of mating with a wrong cock is seen for weeks, every careful breeder will prefer to be on the safe side. Stock breeders inform us that they often see distinctive characteristics of a male animal, whose service dates back two, three, or more years. Why should not the same be true in breeding fowls? My own opinion is, that in order to be sure of a *pure* breed, pullets of different breeds should be separated with their respective cocks before they begin to lay. I think there are many facts which conflict with Mr. Freeman's conclusion—"that the male impression is made upon the egg from day to day." I have at command none now respecting the barn-yard fowl; but I have known in repeated instances a whole litter of eggs of the domestic turkey to be impregnated at once.—*The Northern Farmer*.

Columbarry.

THE SPOT.

ACCORDING to Mr. John Moore, 1735, this variety was brought here from Holland. They were frequently to be met with a few years back, but now seem to be getting scarce. They have a coloured spot on the head over the beak, and the tail is also of the same colour, either black, blue, red, or yellow; the whole of the rest of the plumage is white. They are clean-footed, and occasionally turned crowned, the upper mandible should be dark and the lower light; they are the size of the common Dove-house pigeons. They are active, and field well; and are reported always to breed their young ones of the same colour. Their German name is "Bless-" (spot) or "Maskew-Tauben," (masked pigeons.)

B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

PIGS.

THERE is hardly any animal which is such a gross feeder as the pig. He will eat with avidity roots, fruit, grain, herbs, flesh, and fish, and many much less edible commodities. He is very injurious to grass land, by turning up the earth and roots; and is more liable to injury than many would suppose, as he is affected by change of food or weather, and injured by frozen swill, putrid flesh, night air, and cold rain. With due care, warm sties, and good feeding on steamed roots, with meal, and whey, or even water, pigs will thrive faster than any other animals. Any roots given raw are injurious to young pigs, which require the kind of food calculated to make frame; give older animals the most fattening kinds. Only a very small number should be put up together for fattening.

For breeding, two animals should never be chosen with any great disparity of kind or circumstance, the produce would assuredly be defective in many points; there should be assimilation in size and frame. In crossing, the female should be of the larger breed. Where improvement is desired, a fine well-formed female is most important. The most symmetrical animals of all kinds and breeds, have been produced from a large, good, well-made female, and a good male of moderate size. Breeders of Cochin China fowls have often followed this rule with success, and by doing so have realised size as well as beauty.

There is no animal which will better pay for care and good feeding than the pig. From the birth the young ones should be carefully fed, and brought on continuously until fattened; if left uncared for, or only irregularly attended to, they will prove unprofitable. Many persons leave the pigs far too much to shift for themselves. They will begin to fatten very well upon grains, but afterwards they must have more nutritious food. Fattening on dry grain is

dangerous, as it is apt to swell in the inside; it should be soaked, but it is much better still to use it in the form of meal. If it has been malted, the saccharine principle is valuable. Barley bread, or cake, soaked in milk or whey, is excellent. Bean meal fattens rapidly, but makes the bacon hard. Indian meal fattens quickly, and makes firm, good bacon. Barley meal is superior to either. Pea meal, with whey or milk, fattens young pigs well, and produces capital pork. Wheat meal is expensive, and not good in proportion, as the meat from it is apt to be flabby. Oatmeal fattens well, and produces meat of excellent and delicate flavour; it is expensive, but satisfying. Tare meal is similar to bean meal, but not so good. Linseed meal fattens very quickly, but makes the meat oily and flabby. Acorns and beechmast are good for store pigs, but fatten slowly and not well. Acorns produce much better bacon than beechmast. Bran, pollards, &c., are slow fatteners, but good mixed in small quantities with other kinds of meal.

A correspondent writes,—“The addition of Pigs to the subjects treated of in your ‘Chronicle,’ would, I think, add to its popularity and usefulness, and breeders would gladly avail themselves of your advertising columns.” In reply to which, we have pleasure in stating, that we should like to receive *short* articles on this subject, within the scope of the limited space devoted to “Home and the Homestead;” we think the subject appropriate to our advertising columns, and we are sure many of our readers would be especially pleased to know the points of the best kinds of pigs.

CARROTS.

(Concluded from page 176.)

ABOUT two pounds of good seed will sow an acre; it should not be more than a year old. Roll the land after sowing the seed. When the young plants are well up, thin them out; the smaller kinds to six inches apart, the larger to ten or twelve. After this, keep the surface constantly loose and free from weeds. Among the plants hand-

weeding will be necessary. Liquid manure administered with care will prove beneficial. Give it either in very wet weather, or very much diluted.

For harvesting the carrots, trim off the leaves: better leave an excess of top, than endanger the top by breaking the skin. Let them lie until quite dry, and then store them in a cellar or out-house. Wherever they are placed they must be kept alike from warmth and frost, as either would destroy the saccharine and nutritive qualities. It is said, if well kept they will last and be valuable for feeding until June; but from April there is danger they will sprout.

Raw carrots, cut fine, are good food for horses, cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits, and water-fowl: and when steamed, they are good for pigs and poultry; while the tops form an occasional change, highly relished by all the stock. No animal should be fed entirely on carrots, but as a change they are invaluable.

The use of the carrot as a vegetable at our own table, should not be overlooked as it is; for it is both nutritious in quality, and agreeable in flavour. We generally serve carrots with boiled beef, and then never think of them again until we have boiled beef again; whereas they are excellent with roast meat and other dishes, and are especially valuable from being attainable when vegetables are very scarce. All persons who have a garden, or who can spare a bit of a field for their cultivation, would find a store of carrots for winter use a capital addendum to the larder, and a wholesome and useful addition to our usually scanty store of winter vegetables.

I have never measured a carrot crop per acre; but I have heard that the usual crop is from 300 to 400 bushels.

If there were a more extensive demand for carrots, as an addition to the provender of our stock, and to the dishes on our own tables, they would certainly be well worth cultivating, and would probably prove a crop which would just suit the small landholder. I should feel it a great favour if

some of the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle" would tell me, through the medium of your pages, whether they can name any better kinds, or better modes of tillage, than these I have mentioned.

NO PRACTICAL FARMER.

CURRENT TREES.

CURRENT bushes may as well be made trees as shrubs. In the spring of 1831 my father commenced a garden, and among other things, set cuttings for current bushes. I determined to experiment on one of these cuttings, and as it grew, I pinched off all the leaves except the top tuft, which I let grow. The cutting was about fourteen inches long, and during the summer the sprout from this grew ten inches. The next spring I pinched off all the leaves to about half way up to the first year's growth, so as to leave the lowest limb two feet from the ground. It branched well, and became a handsome little dwarf tree.—When it came to bear fruit, it was more productive than any other bush in the garden, and the fruit larger.

It was less infested with spiders and other insects; hens could not pick off the fruit, and grass and weeds were more easily kept from the roots, and it was an ornament instead of a blemish. Now I would propose that current cuttings be set in rows about four or five feet apart each way (let them be long and straight ones), and trained into trees.—*Michigan Farmer.*

On Bees.

FROM the accounts which have lately been received as to the condition of the beehives this spring, it appears that considerable loss has taken place. The families are reduced in numbers, and are found dead, or the hive is found empty. The cause is assumed to be from the loss of the queen, and thus the matter is shortly disposed of. It will, however, be advisable not to rest quite satisfied with this assump-

tion, but to enquire a little further, for the cause of these losses.

In hives then that have been examined I do not find that the death of the occupants has arisen entirely from this cause, and we know that it is common to find that when the queen has died during the winter, the bees that are left have not entirely disappeared before May or June. It would be interesting to find whether in those hives in which the family has died any remains of stored pollen are to be found. A deficiency of this substance might not only have prevented the rearing of the young for many weeks later than usual, but have been a secondary cause of the loss of life, by the bees being induced to leave the hive in search of their necessary food in ungenial weather, when great numbers would perish and the weakened stock would become a ready prey to more prosperous neighbours. Deaths among the queens do no doubt occur every winter, probably this season there has been a greater proportion than usual of aged queens, but as long as the bees continue in health, I do not think a vigorous queen would suffer from the severity of the winter. The queen appears as superior in strength, as in longevity, to the workers. Her power of enduring fatigue and adversity always appears much greater than that of her subjects. Besides which, she is always spared any hardships. While the ruling sentiment of the workers is an heroic patriotism, which always endangers their lives, where the safety of the queen and community demand the sacrifice, the instinct by which the queen is guided, is always that of self-preservation. The difference between the functions of the two parties, is in no instance more evident than in this. The safety of the queen-mother is equally the object of the solicitude of herself and her guardians, she always avoids danger, they are always on the watch to protect her from it; she always keeps snug in close quarters, they nestle round and secure her in the safest position. Her safety is all important; and nature has adapted even her structure to this great end. The worker in using its

sting generally falls a victim to the attack, being unable to withdraw the sting, except when its foe is one of its own species. The form of the sting of the queen is different, it is shorter and curved, and it is never used, except in combat with her own species. If, as seldom happens, she is thrown into contact with a worker from another hive, her superior strength will at once place victory on her side, but she seldom deigns to engage in duel except with royalty. I have often tried, but never could succeed in inducing a queen to use her sting. The most provoking teasing cannot disturb her equanimity and self-possession. Since, then, we find hives so much reduced in numbers at the end of a severe winter, as not to be able apparently to raise the heat for hatching brood, and yet with plenty of honey and a queen, which, to all appearance, is healthy, it will be important to ascertain, if possible, the true cause of this state of the hive. Such a knowledge may enable us to remedy the evil in some degree, by uniting families of which each may possess some requisite in which the other is deficient, whether it may proceed from scarcity of pollen, want of food, or a defective queen. It is possible that a long continued low temperature may affect the constitution of the royal mother; there are known to be physiological conditions of her system, which prove the extreme delicacy of her organisation, and it may yet remain for naturalists to discover to what extent this is affected by circumstances, during the whole period of her existence. I offer these suggestions in the hope of drawing more especial attention to the physiology of the queen, than perhaps at present naturalists are disposed to accord to the subject. A very ordinary state of the hive is found, where the family is small, in which exactly the opposite to the above view takes place—the industrious queen produces her eggs in greater numbers than the small population is able to rear. In consequence probably of retaining them as long as she is able, two eggs are frequently found in one cell, I have counted as many as four, and have

even seen the queen apparently conscious of the hopelessness of the deposit, stand on the comb, and allow the eggs to drop. But, patterns of carefulness and economy, the bees take them in their mouths and eat them. Nothing is wasted. The little epicures! they like a new laid egg.

Where there is an evident desire to hatch, testified by the carrying of pollen, to a weakly hive, nothing assists the labour of the bees so much as removing the stock into a warm building at night, with a temperature of between 50° and 60°. The little amount of trouble thus entailed will be amply repaid. I find I greatly underrated the advance made by strong hives at this season, when writing my last paper. The quantity of pollen carried in five minutes, may now be very considerable. To a strong hive in a good locality on the 21st of April, one hundred and fifty bees laden with pollen entered during this time. Others in the same apiary and in good condition carried sixty and seventy baskets full. Of all the symptoms of adversity none is more unpropitious than that of a pollen-laden bee coming out of a hive. I think I am safe in asserting that the family is queenless when this happens, and the prudent bee-keeper will not allow the hint to pass without profiting by it. A.

The Profits on Bee Keeping.

FROM THE "AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST."

IN the "American Agriculturist" of January 24, No. 72, there is an article on Poultry, in which are some tall statements of profit. The subject is well finished, and I should have kept silent but for the challenge in these words, "will any of our political economists please to indicate in what branch of rural, or other industry, an equal return can be made for capital and labour?"

Now I am disposed to put in the claims of my little favourites, the bees, and see how they will stand the comparison. "More than double their value may be realised per annum in net profit," and should they

happen to exceed it over "four times," as they do in some seasons, there is no necessity of deducting "economical feed," for it should be remembered, that "the bee works for nothing, and finds itself."

But as a bill of items is more satisfactory than indefinite sundries, I shall give it.

June 1st, 1854, my apiary consisted of eighty-three stocks; a few of them first-rate, most of them light, with stores just sufficient; fifteen were entirely out, and had to be furnished with food in the spring, but they were all strong in numbers, having been wintered in the best possible manner, and the combs all clean and bright without mould, &c. I find these bees charged with—

60 New hives, at 25c. each	\$15 00
50 Covers to boxes, at 10c.	5 00
81 Stands, at 7c.	5 67
188 Glass hives, at 10c.	18 80
48 Ditto 15c.	7 20
Honey fed to some of the lightest	3 00
12 Firkins for strained honey	5 13
12 Cases for packing glass boxes for market, 29c. each	3 48
Team work	5 00
Freight to market	5 17
Time in attendance at \$15 per month	34 00
Board, \$2 per week	16 86
Interest on stock, 83 hives at \$5	29 05

\$153 36

They are credited with honey and wax sold	\$438 41
After selecting out the poorest (over 40) such as contained diseased broods, &c., there were left 123 good stocks for winter, an increase of 38, at \$5 each	190 00
	628 41
Expenses deducted	153 36
Net profit	\$475 05

It will be seen that they have more than doubled in value notwithstanding the dry weather. Also all the new hives are charged to this year, forty emptied and ready for another year are not credited. Hives last several years; the same of covers and stands. The time is the greatest item of expense, being every hour required

in attendance (an item seldom reckoned when figuring the profits of poultry), and includes the time of taking the bees out of the cellar, cartage, placing the stands, looking for and destroying worms, putting on and taking off boxes, watching and hiving for several weeks in the swarming season, from 8 o'clock A.M. till 4 P.M., examining stock for diseased broods, taking up poor stocks, removing the combs, straining the honey, making wax, packing the boxes, taking to market, putting stocks in the house for winter, &c.

Now would you not enhance the value of farmers' products by encouraging *this branch* of rural industry, as well as poultry; it has this advantage, that while fowls are consuming much that is suitable for the food of man, the bee takes nothing? Delicious food is annually wasted that might "be had for the gathering." It is produced by the forest, field, garden, and roadside; no place but the barren desert is destitute. It is yielded in quantities for ten thousand times the number of gatherers that we have at present. "The harvest is abundant, but the labourers are few." Probably one acre of buckwheat will produce 50 lbs. of honey, and white clover the same. Reduce this yield per acre even down to one pound, and we have in the aggregate a product worth looking at.

The reports of poultry profit give us only the cost of feed. Why not give the time necessary for feeding, looking after eggs, packing, taking to market, &c.? I know that to feed a brood of chickens once takes but a short time, that it is a very small matter to set an old hen, and that it only takes a minute to get the eggs from the nest in the grass—after you have found it. "But these items are small trifles; children can do the most of it, or some one that would do nothing else at the time." Yet, most of these things must be done every day; a brood of chickens fed several times; then small matters in the aggregate amount to something. Now, to make a *fair comparison*, let us have the *whole* debit side of the chickens.

I will anticipate one objection which will be urged against raising honey, that is, the "uncertainty of success; that while any one has skill sufficient to raise poultry, few possess requisites for managing bees profitably." I would say in answer; only get a tenth part as many to engage in bee-keeping as have raised chickens, and the amount of experience gained would make success next to certain, or, as common in one as in the other. A practical book on the subject would furnish all the "mysteries" necessary for successful management by any one of common ability. It can be done, too, with the cheapest possible hive *not patented*. I have little doubt that the patent-hive business has done more to retard success in bee-culture than all other causes combined! It discourages by the expense; by failing to perform what is promised; by falsely representing that there are secrets and difficulties in the way, which *their* particular hive alone will obviate; that a peculiar shape to the hive is *all important*; that it is *first* and *last*, and everything necessary for complete success throughout the whole business. In this matter it would be well to do like some of our politicians—"go back to first principles"—the nature of the bee, and take a new start. Remove this erroneous impression respecting expense, that now extends through all the intermediate ranks, from the patent-buyer to the patent-granter, the whole of whom seem to know about as much of the *real* nature of the bee as Sambo did of the telegraph.

M. QUINBY.

Palatine Church, N. Y.

Floriculture.

MAY 2.

THE sharp bleak winds now prevalent are most unfavourable to vegetation. The hot sun with the east wind, and frosty nights prove so destructive to plants and trees which are rather forward, that we may be well pleased to see our gardens a

little backward. Many delicate roses have been killed in spite of careful protection.

The Auriculas, which were brought forward toward blooming by the few warm days we had, must be carefully guarded; care must also be taken that Carnations which have thrown up their stems for flowering do not get snapped off, and the same with Hyacinths and Tulips in the open borders. For the Carnations use strips of laths, 10 or 12 inches long, and as thick as a stout quill; fix one on each side the plant to prevent its rocking to and fro. These are to save them from injury until they are tall enough to require the regular sticks. Seeds of tender annuals may be sown on a fresh hot-bed. If the present chilly weather should change to mild rain, pricking out may be carried on briskly. Myrtles and other greenhouse plants which have grown irregularly, or which have dead branches, should be trimmed or headed down, whichever will best produce a handsome regular shape, after which they may be shifted into larger pots. Carnations, layered late in the autumn, may be taken up and planted; the best sorts in pots, the remainder in the borders. Keep them all free from weeds. If the weather should change to be mild and moist, plant cuttings of the handsomest kind of Dahlias. If the weather should change to wet, place a shelter over Auriculas set aside for seed, as the rain would spoil the pollen. Autumn flowering bulbs generally now decay in the foliage, and the roots take rest for a time; at this season, therefore, take them up, either every year, or every two or three years: of this kind are the Saffron-bearing Crocus, Colchicum, autumnal Narcissus, &c. Choose dry weather, separate the offsets, dry the bulbs in the shade, and either plant them again, or reserve them until July. This treatment will give vigour to the roots, and improve the size of the flowers.

Most houses in the neighbourhood of large towns have a little bit of garden ground, often a piece which will make a pretty flower garden, but which is too

small to turn to account for vegetables. In the arrangement of such pieces of ground there are some useful appliances for which convenient corners out of sight should be reserved. These are, first, a hot-bed or two, in a sunny sheltered spot; secondly, a corner for a compost heap, to be composed of dead leaves and other matter from the garden, the sweepings of poultry houses, if poultry is kept, and the refuse vegetables from the family: if this is remote from the olfactory as well as visual sense, the slops from the house may be thrown upon it with great advantage. Thirdly, every flower garden should have a nursery: a small border or a good bit of ground according to its size, on which to raise young plants to remove into the flower borders, and to keep plants ready for a gay succession.

Even a small garden may also boast its herb bed on which to grow roots of thyme, lemon thyme, red and white sage, winter savoury, sweet marjoram, wormwood, and hissope (for those who love bitter herbs) a row of parsley, and a little cress, with a bed of mint, which will easily grow from slips.

The Hydrangea.

THIS showy and handsome plant has certainly been very much neglected of late years. It is, however, still prized by a few, who find it particularly useful for greenhouse and conservatory decoration, displaying its enormous heads of pink and blue flowers in abundance, and remaining a long time in perfection. The following mode of treatment will enable all who practice it to have *large heads* of blossom from plants even in small pots. If cuttings are taken off in August, potted in a mixture of leaf-mould, loam, and sand, in a well drained pot, and placed in an old cucumber or melon frame, they will root freely, and should be potted into four-inch pots as soon as they have become sufficiently rooted. The plants should be kept to one leader, the top bud of which should not be pinched

out, but all lateral or side shoots be removed as soon as they appear. When sufficiently established in their pots, move them to the greenhouse, where they should be wintered. Early in spring shift them into five or six-inch pots, as may best suit your convenience, and as soon as they have commenced growth liberally supply them with water, using the syringe freely at all times. Perhaps the most convenient place for them at this season is a vinery, which I find suits them well, and brings them on gently until the blossoms make their appearance. Water at this stage must on no account be neglected. If large specimen plants are required, they should be grown another season, when they will form a fine bush and produce many heads of blossom, although inferior in size to those on plants kept to one leader. I have grown the same plants for years; in this way they have made fine specimens, and amply repaid me for my trouble; but if small plants with large heads are preferred, they should be grown from cuttings every season. I have also struck cuttings in February, and grown them on until the following season, using a slight bottom-heat, and disbudding the useless eyes; such plants have produced enormous heads, superior in size to those struck in August, but then the plants are longer in hand, which, in many cases, is a consideration. The soil best suited for their culture is equal portions of cow-dung, leaf-mould, fibrous loam, peat, and sand, well mixed in a rough state. The pots should be thoroughly drained, and, during the blooming season, the plants will be benefited by being placed in a pan of water. Manure-water may be used freely while the plants are in bloom. In order to change them from pink to blues of different shades, put them in Norwood loam, or common red sand; potting in peat and watering with alum-water will also produce the same effect; but the two former kinds of material are the best. If planted on well-drained ground, and slightly protected in winter, the Hydrangea will form an ornament in the flower garden such as

few can equal; but it must be liberally supplied with water during the blooming season.—*Floricultural Cabinet.*

Hen Feathered Hamburgs.

As I perceive your valued correspondent "B. P. B." hopes some real Yorkshire fancier will favour him with a description of the Henny birds, I will contribute my mite of information. It was, I believe, in 1850, when I first saw a hen feathered bird, which belonged to Mr. Nutt, of York, a very clean bird, orange ground with crescent spangles; and being much struck with the uniformity and elegance of the pen, I put myself in the way of procuring one. This I accomplished through the instrumentality of a judge, but the bird he procured me was materially darker, having very nearly a black neck hackle, in fact, being a dark bird; he was, however, compact, and had a very respectable tail.

Having nothing but sickle tailed hens, [quarry, hens bred from sickle-tailed cocks?] I placed him with them; and although out of a dozen cocks only one showed hen feathered the first year, still I believe every one did the second, and all their tails were good. I parted with the old bird, and retained the hen feathered and a golden sickle tailed;—the first of these turned at three years old sickle, and the latter a most complete and beautiful hen-feathered.

I claim an extra share of credit for being one of the most successful breeders of golden hen-feathered cocks; and my superiority consists in the plumpness of their shape, their full tails, and their even spangling. This may appear like boasting and may be disputed by some, but I can produce evidence of dozens of good birds having sprung originally from my stock. The ground colour the richest golden orange, body plump, comb double, compact, and nicely piked; ears white, neck green centre, with a good gold margin, breast and thighs well spangled; back and saddle-hackle evenly spangled, each feather

showing the rich ground with the beautiful spangle, it being about a third of a circle; wings closely spangled at top, then two distinct bars, their clear orange ground met by the regular single line of spangles; tail full; legs slaty blue.

With due deference to variety of opinions, I consider the really perfect hen-feathered cocks vastly superior in plumage to the long-feathered saddle-hackled;—but let every variety be kept distinct when breeding. A Yorkshire hen being adapted either to breed long-feathered or spangled cocks, and a Lancashire cock and hen, a mooney cock. Each is beautiful, though the former has it in size, the latter in richness and depth of marking—I allude to the hens.

"Judge" has quite forgotten the success of Messrs. Nutt and Jolly, first, with the after-palmy days of Mr. Henry Clapham, of Aireworth. All the names he enumerates have sprung up since into celebrity as regards hen-feathered; and I have often said with respect to the best birds exhibited by Mr. Clapham, we shall never look upon their like again for beauty.

The judges have misled the admirers of the Spangled Hambro' class; it is for the respected breeders of that variety, such as "Mooney" and others to set them right, and lay down rules which should be adhered to: not that I would allude disrespectfully at all to that respected body, but one man may be an excellent judge of a Cochin, Spanish, or Dorking, by having been a breeder of some of these varieties, but who knows (experimentally) no more about Game and Hamburgs further than the definition given by the old gentleman of what steam was? who replied, steam is—steam! A. G.

HEALTH, AND PREVENTION OF DISEASE IN POULTRY.—Feed fowls and young chickens with onions, finely chopped, mixed with a little meal twice a week; they may have as much as they can eat. For gapes, inflammation of the throat, eyes, and head, they are almost a specific.

The Red-cap Pheasant Fowls.

As in reading the "Poultry Chronicle" I see you request to know the laying qualities of different kinds of poultry, I wish you to publish a few lines on the description of fowls which I keep, and which are called the Red-cap Pheasants. They are bred more in South Staffordshire than in any other place I know. My relatives live there; I have procured some of these fowls, they are considered the best layers in that part of the country, and the egg is large: I had two pullets last year; they began to lay the first week in February, and they laid till moulting—the two laid 365 eggs. I have four more pullets now, the first began to lay on the 13th of January, the second on the 16th, the third on the 18th of the same month, and the fourth on the 1st of February, and up to the 23rd of April the four have laid 246 eggs. I have little doubt that they will lay 11 eggs a fortnight up to moulting time, for that is what they have laid since the warm weather set in. They are very hardy; I have no more trouble with them than to feed them. I have a trough in which I always keep plenty of food, and I give them plenty of fresh water in their fountain, and I have no more trouble with them. They never incubate, and I think a poultry keeper cannot keep a more profitable kind for egg production. I have never seen any of this kind about London or in the south of England, but more about the northern counties of England; they are handsome as well as profitable. I have not entered into a description of them, because so many of the readers of the "Chronicle" know what they are. T. P. T.

[We should be much obliged if our correspondent would describe his fowls exactly. ED.]

Geese at our Exhibitions.

I DESIRE, through the medium of your columns, to draw the attention of the committees of the forthcoming poultry shows to a bird which, though of very great im-

portance in our poultry yards, has not as yet received that amount of attention and encouragement which its merits deserve. I allude to the Goose. Whatever may have been the origin of the varieties of this bird which we now possess, I believe that we are all pretty generally agreed that those called the Embden and Toulouse are as distinct from each other as an Aylesbury duck is from a Rouen. I know there are many other varieties, and amongst them, probably, some very valuable ones; they have not, however, yet become sufficiently known to make it desirable to offer any distinct prizes for them, and I take it for granted that, with a few exceptions not worth mentioning, the birds shown in the class for geese are either pure birds of the varieties I have mentioned, or the result of the crossing of them.

On reference to the Birmingham schedule, the rules of which may be taken as containing the gist of every other show in the kingdom, it will be observed that rule 5 has the following declaration:— "High condition, &c., &c., *purity of race*, &c., will, in all the classes for fowls, be taken into consideration in a greater degree than mere weight without these distinctions."

This rule is a very desirable one, but do not committees practically render it a dead letter by offering prizes for the "best gander and two geese," without at the same time stating what variety of goose is intended? If geese of a *pure race* are intended, how is it that one of the best prizes at Birmingham was last year awarded to mottled birds, in preference to a pen of first-rate Embden geese, their near neighbours. I cannot understand why, unless "*mere weight*" turned the scale in favour of the former.

If "*purity of race*" is not essential in prize geese, I should like to be informed why it is less necessary in their case than in that of ducks, which almost invariably have prizes offered for the best Aylesbury, Rouen, and any other variety.

I see that under the Birmingham list for the present year, the geese are to be represented by one pure class only, viz., class

49; 50 includes Toulouse, and any mongrels that exhibitors may fancy.

In these days it would be considered absurd for any Poultry Show Committee to offer prizes for the "best cock and two hens," without saying of what breed; yet it seems to me to be equally absurd for prizes to be offered simply for the "best gander and two geese." If committees cannot afford to give prizes on more than one class, then a clause should be added to their rules to this effect: "The prizes offered for geese will be awarded to pure bred birds of the Embden and Toulouse varieties; in preference to cross-bred birds, provided the former are of an average degree of merit; in no case, however, will any first prize be awarded to any other than pure bred birds."

It would, of course be desirable, where it is practicable, to offer prizes for the best gander and two geese of both the Embden and Toulouse varieties, and for any other variety; but where the funds of committees are limited the rule I propose would be found sufficient to encourage the breeding of pure specimens, or at any rate to discourage the exhibition of the mongrels which now (dis?) grace our show pens.

ZENAS.

The Wild Goose—A Dangerous Feat.

MANY a daring adventure had Aleck Brent, the trapper, in his lonely quarters by Pawah lake.

The history of this man, a hermit yet hospitable, taciturn yet full of interesting lore, is the history of a race whose fortunate description immortalised Cooper. They are fading fast away, and to find them even now, requires a journey far beyond the *ultima thule* of city travellers and sportsmen. The reader will not complain, especially he who loves wild romance and startling peculiarities of character, if I rescue from oblivion some fragments that have long remained fading and useless in my memorandum-book.

Many a daring adventure had Aleck

Brent in his lonely quarters; of such was the following:—

The lake by which his cabin was pitched was a horrid pool: in summer, the headquarters of alligators, water moccasin snakes and gar-fish; in winter, backed up by the Mississippi river, until it frequently backed Aleck clean out of his little home, and drove him to the hills. Why he lived in such a horrid spot, none could say. Probably it was for the convenience of fish, which were abundant, and to be handy to the deer and bears that came down to the lake to drink. But whatever the cause, there lived Aleck, summer and winter, for thirty years, fishing when he chose it, hunting a day or two in the week—just long enough in fact to knock up a fat buck or bear, and drinking the lake water until its very slime was relished as *sauce piquante* to a Frenchman. With this introduction I enter the story of the Wild Goose.

One rainy bleak March day, Aleck found upon examination of his larder that his provisions were out. Bread he had never cared for, and there had been so much wet weather, that the hunter, who was getting rheumatic from a life of continued exposure, had kept within doors, smoking his Indian pipe, till the last piece of dried venison gave out; so with an ill-natured growl, he shouldered his old gun that had done him service from a boy, and took the way to his favourite deer-haunts. But the deer were closely housed and did not afford him a single shot. Wearied and wet, he turned back with the uncomfortable prospect of sleeping supperless, when his eye fell upon a large gander that had pitched into the lake some sixty yards from shore, and was swimming temptingly about, quite regardless of his proximity.

With but little reflection Aleck levelled the piece, and had spread the bird headless upon the water before he had time to think how he was to get it out.

The alligators were so abundant that a dog could not swim across without being picked up, and even the deer were frequently attacked attempting the passage.

But night was coming on, his canoe was a mile off, at least, and it was the gander or no supper.

Aleck stripped his buckskins for the attempt. He attached his hunting knife by a thong to his neck, took a stout chunk for support, and a club for defence, then boldly plunged in. The first dash nearly chilled him to the heart; but he reached the prize, fastened it around him and started back. Scarcely had he turned, however, when he was startled by a well-known sound, and a glance over his shoulder assured him that an old soldier, a bull alligator, to use the language of the frontiers, was upon his track, length ten or fifteen feet, teeth long enough to carve him at a nip, stomach sufficiently capacious to hold every ounce of him, and an appetite to match all three. It is unnecessary to remark on the velocity with which Aleck's fins were moved, following this interesting discovery. Danger may sometimes render men reckless, but the prospect of such an ending to his wild-goose adventure, only rendered Aleck swift; he had seen a fellow hunter dissected at his very side, when their canoe was upset, and the sight was one of unmitigated horror.

The alligator struck two to his one, and the race was a short one. Aleck tossed the bird from his back, and to his great satisfaction, the reptile stopped a moment to smell it, which slight delay saved his life. But he had only reached the top of the bank as his pursuer thrust his ugly nose high up on the mud at his feet. His gun being already loaded—for when did genuine hunter fail to load before leaving his tracks?—gave him now an advantage and an opportunity for revenge; and as the alligator, stimulated to unwonted rapacity by his long winter's fast, came on up the bank in his clumsy way, the enraged hunter, putting the muzzle of his piece into his very mouth, fired a ball down the throat he had so narrowly escaped, a mode of operation that killed him as quickly as such hardy chaps ever die.

Will the reader believe me that Aleck

Brent was reckless enough to plunge the second time into the lake and bring out the bird—even while his enemy was floundering half dead upon the shore, and hundreds more were within sound of his voice.—*The Northern Farmer.*

Silver Vase at Newcastle.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your correcting a mistake made in a late number of the "Poultry Chronicle," respecting the hens in the 1st prize pen at Newcastle, and to which also the silver vase was awarded.

Neither of them was, as you stated, a "Stanton" hen. One was bred by Mr. Marshall himself, the other by me, from whom Mr. Marshall very lately purchased her. Indeed, nearly all the buff chickens I have bred this year are from eggs laid by the hen in question. I am, sir, your obedient servant,
W. H. SNELL.

Erratum.—No. 61, page 175, second column, line 20, for "Tee Pigeons," read "Ice Pigeons."

Page 190, second column, line 24, for "Brush Turkey," read "Australian Bush Turkey."

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

BRAHMAS AND MALAYS.

SIR,—In a late number of the "Poultry Chronicle" I notice that one of your correspondents, signing himself "Brahma," advocates as strongly as he can, by means of numbers, the cause of the Brahma-Pootras in preference to the Malays. I gather from your correspondent's letter, that *he*

considers it wrong for the Malays at Birmingham to contend for prizes equal in amount to the prizes that are given for Brahmas. Will you allow me to protest against all such remarks, for the Malay, being one of our oldest and most useful fowls, ought not to be excluded from the prize lists, but some inducement ought to be held out to breeders of that variety to cultivate the Malays in a greater degree. Has your correspondent "Brahma" ever bred the Malays? I suspect not, or he may have tried his hand with them and failed in carrying off the 3*l*. medal at Birmingham. Having so failed, he may have turned to Brahmas, being the variety which makes the next least show; but allow me to call his attention to the chicken class of "any other variety of Polands" at Birmingham. Here *only* four pens were entered (all the property of one family), and yet he does not complain of a 3*l*. and 2*l*. prize being awarded there. Trusting you will insert this, in justice to the breeders of Malays, I am, sir, yours,

NOT A MALAY BREEDER.

A CAUTION.

PERMIT me, Mr. Editor, through the medium of your widely circulating pages, to address a word of warning to my brother poultry amateurs to prevent their falling into the snares of a flock of swindlers, who decoy the unwary into their meshes, by writing plausible letters of inquiry whether they have birds of a particular description to dispose of? If the letter be answered in the affirmative, a second follows, containing an order (howbeit, *not a post-office order*), and the fowls are sent! Sometimes a third letter arrives, asking for another fowl or two, and expressive of great satisfaction and admiration for those already received, with a promise (light, however, as a feather) that a post-office order shall then be immediately remitted for the whole set.

This, however, proves an adde promise. The plan has been laid and hatched, and nothing more is heard of these lovers of your poultry! In this way we ourselves have recently been duped, and lost some valuable Dorkings, for which we were to have received 6*l*.; some of them were "highly commended" birds at the last Birmingham show. We feel ourselves worthy of the title of "Maniacs" for our credulity, but we fear we are not the only sufferers who have recently fallen into the net of the fowler, who hovers about Manchester, Liverpool, &c. We would therefore urge all our friends in the Poultry world to be wide awake when they peruse and answer letters of application for birds from *unknown pens!* and we sincerely hope the police may be spurred on to discover this nest of *foul* characters, and that their flight may be arrested, and they safely *pinioned*

and *penned* in one of her Majesty's strongholds, to await the awards of the judges.

By inserting this caution, sir, you will oblige many, and your constant reader,

E. S. P.

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

ON strong land the Wheat has weathered the winter well, but on light soils it is much tried by the absence of genial showers. The current prices on Monday, April 23rd. were—

	BRITISH.	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	red	71 to 79
"	Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	64 .. 68
BARLEY, Maltng, new		30 .. 31
"	Chevalier	32 .. 33
"	Distilling	29 .. 30
"	Grinding	27 .. 29
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new	old	65 .. 70
"	Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new	70 .. 72
"	old	68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed		23 .. 24
"	potato	26 .. 27
"	Scotch feed, new	26 .. 27
"	old	30 .. 31
"	potato	30 .. 32
"	Irish feed, white	23 .. 26
"	black	22 .. 24
RYE		39 .. 40
BEANS, Mazagan		35 .. 38
"	Ticks	36 .. 40
"	Harrow	36 .. 40
"	Pigeon	38 .. 43
PEAS, White, boilers		37 .. 42
"	Maple	37 .. 39
"	Grey	34 .. 37

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25.

The breaking up of the conference at Vienna has imparted confidence to importers and factors, who look for higher rates; and, as buyers now display a desire to increase their stocks, the aspect of the trade is quite changed, and activity begins to prevail, extensive purchases being stopped by the high pretensions of holders. English and foreign wheat—an advance of 3*s*. to 4*s*. per qr. is generally demanded, with buyers at 1*s*. to 2*s*. Floating cargoes—none off the coast, and but little on passage, except Egyptian, which is in good request at 1*s*. to 2*s*. advance, with more buyers than sellers. No arrivals of Indian corn—cargoes near at hand are held fully 2*s*. higher. Oats participated in the im-

proved tone, and 1s. more money being required, checked business. In other grain advanced rates were required, and the market looked healthy.

The prices of wheaten bread in the Metropolis are from 9½ to 10d.; and household ditto, 8d. to 9d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE effect of two months snow is bitterly felt in Leadenhall Market. The supply is barely half what it should be. The quality is most inferior, and the price unreasonably high. It is matter of regret that so many confine themselves entirely to exhibitions, and neglect the certain and solid return for young poultry at this time of year.

Large Fowls	7s. 6d. to	8s. 0d. each.
Smaller do.	5s. 6d. to	7s. 0d. "
Inferior do.	4s. 0d. to	5s. 0d. "
Chickens	4s. 6d. to	5s. 0d. "
Inferior do.	3s. 6d. to	4s. 0d. "
Green Geese	7s. 6d. to	8s. 0d. "
Ducklings	5s. 6d. to	6s. 6d. "
Guinea Fowls	4s. 0d. to	4s. 6d. "
Pigeons	0s. 9d. to	0s. 10d. "
Quails	2s. 6d. to	2s. 9d. "
Leverets	3s. 6d. to	4s. 6d. "
Plover's Eggs, in bulk,	2s. 6d. to	3s. per doz.

To Correspondents.

To Z. Messrs. Bradbury and Evans' agent in Manchester is Mr. G. Simms, No. 16, St. Anns Square, of whom all our back numbers can be procured.

An Unfortunate. Chickens hatching badly is a usual complaint just now, no doubt greatly owing to the dryness of the weather. When the hens leave the nests to feed in the morning, let them run out upon the grass. Last week we had 12 chickens from 27 eggs, and the week before 1 from 13.

Alice will be greatly obliged if A. will explain to her the meaning of "a hive which 'drives' well." She would feel afraid to go very near the hives, much more to lift them up, or handle the bees.

B. T. S. We beg to refer our correspondent to Nos. 49 and 50 of the "Poultry Chronicle," and if he is still at a loss on any particular point, the writer of those papers will kindly answer any question he may send us.

A. L. K. Nothing can be better for fowls and chickens than a good grass run.

Emily. It is curious that three fowls should all be attacked with a peculiar disorder. We have met with some instances of it lately, but it has been only

one fowl in a yard. The treatment is to foment well and frequently with hot water, and then to open with a sharp knife or a razor. It must then be washed with a sponge and warm water every morning and evening. If this be done they will recover. If the swelling extends all round the eye, it is roup, and must be treated accordingly. Whatever it may be, it will be well to give a table-spoonful of castor oil twice every week, and to feed entirely on meal. The fowls should have plenty of grass.

A Subscriber. Your request shall be complied with in our next. The paper will take some time, as it is necessary to make enquiries.

Advertisements.

BUDDING'S LAWN-MOWING MACHINES.

£5 10s.	£5 15s.	£6	£8	£11	£15.
16 in.	19 in.	22 in.	26 in.	28 in.	30 in.

FOR HAND POWER.

FOR HORSE POWER.

Including packing case and delivery free in London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester.

WATERING ENGINES, ON WHEELS,

WOOD TUB AND HANDLE.

£4	£5	£7 in Birmingham.
15 gallons,	20 gallons.	30 gallons.

LADIES' HAND SYRINGES, 4s.—FULL SIZE, 8s. 6d., 10s., and 14s. each.

GARDEN ROLLERS, VASES, SEATS, FLOWER POT STANDS, STEEL DIGGING FORKS, SPADES, And every conceivable Instrument for Gardening operations may be obtained from
MAPPLEBECK AND LOWE,
 BIRMINGHAM.

BATH and WEST of ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—GRAND POULTRY EXHIBITION to be held at Tiverton on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of June, 1855. Open to all England. Prize Lists and Certificates obtained of the Secretary, Mr. KINGSBURY, Hammet Street, Taunton. Entries finally close on the 10th of May.

FOR IMMEDIATE DISPOSAL, Nine Splendid Dorking Hens, one and two years old, several of them prize birds, bred by Boys, Brevington, and Lewry, price, from 25s. to 30s. These Hens have been running with first class Cocks, and are laying. Also, a Rouch Drake and two Ducks, very large, price, 30s. Apply to D. HARRISON, Singleton Park, Kendal.

POLAND FOWLS.—For Sale or Exchange.

A White Crested Black Poland Cockerel and two Pullets, an excellent Buff Poland Cock, one Silver and two Golden Poland Cockerels. A few Sitings of Eggs from each variety at 13s. per dozen. Wanted, a very first rate White Crested Black Poland Cock and two Silver Poland (bearded) Hens or Pullets. Address, E. W. HASLEWOOD, Bridgenorth.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork, Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market, London.

PURE AYLESBURY DUCKS' EGGS, 6s.
per setting, including package. Pale Buff Cochins, perfectly clear hackle, 12s. Silver Spangled Hamburgs, 8s. for 15 eggs. The stock on sight on application to Wm. Joshua, Esq., Perrott's Brook, Cirencester.

FOR SALE.—Pure Brown Single-Comb Dorking EGGS, £1 1s. per dozen. Coloured do. do., 10s. 6d. per dozen. Pea-combed Brahmas £1 1s. per dozen. Single do. do. 10s. 6d. per dozen. Many of the above are prize birds. Apply Rev. F. THURSBY, Abington, Northampton.

SPANISH HENS AND EGGS FOR SALE.
Two excellent White-Faced Birds of 1853; they are parted with on account of the owner wishing to reduce his stock. Lowest price, £6 6s. for the pair. Also Eggs for setting, from prize and commended Spanish and Dorking Fowls, the former at 15s., the latter at 10s. 6d., per setting of twelve eggs.—Apply to X. S. HARBOR, 18, Cooper Street, Manchester.

SERAI TAOK, or Fowls of the Sultan,
A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 21s. the Dozen.
BRAMA POOTRA EGGS from Gray Pea-Combed mature birds, at 21s. the Dozen.
A few good COCHIN HENS at a moderate price. Apply to Miss E. WARRE, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

EGGS from the Yards of Mr. G. BOTHAM,
Wexham Court: Prize Spanish, 30s.; ditto Brahma Pootra, 21s.; ditto White Cochins, 21s.; ditto Grey Dorking, ditto Red Speckled Dorking, ditto Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, ditto Duckwing, Game, ditto Rouen and Buenos Ayres Ducks, at 10s. 6d. per setting of 13.—may be had by sending a Post-office Order, payable at Slough. Box and packing, 1s.

NEST EGGS.—Cochin Colour, White or Bantams, 4s. per dozen. See Vol. 3, No. 56, page 55. May be had of JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount St., Grosvenor Square, London, or HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate Street, Gloucester.

COCHIN CHINAS.—EGGS from the Yards of Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, Haverhill, Suffolk, forwarded in rotation, as orders are received, at the price of ninepence each, package included.

THE DORSETSHIRE ASSOCIATION for the IMPROVEMENT of DOMESTIC POULTRY will hold its Annual Exhibition at Dorchester, on the 24th and 25th of October next.
Forms of entry will shortly be issued, and further particulars announced.

PRIZE SILVER PENCILLED HAMBURGS for Sale, Cock and two Hens, which took four first prizes, £2; pair of White Shanghaies, four months old, 12s.; pair of Ptarmigans, with upright crests, Hen took two prizes, Cock never exhibited, £1 15s. Eggs from Silver Pencilled and Silver Spangled Hamburgs, Golden Mooneys and Ptarmigans, all at 8s. the setting, carefully packed, to be had of T. MOORE, West Street, Fareham, Hants.

FLOWER SEEDS AND EGGS.—GEORGE BOOTHBY, of Holme Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire, offers for 5s. 6d. a dozen packets of very choice flower seeds, selected from the very best varieties, including Phlox, Pectunia, Gladiolus, Lobelia, Scabiosa, German double Wallflower and Stock, Antirrhinum, &c., together with a dozen assorted Eggs from the following birds, which have taken several first prizes—Black Spanish, Buff, White, and Black Cochins, Dorking, Silver Pencilled Hamburg, G. B. also offers Eggs of Brahma Pootra and Cossack at 7s. 6d.; Black and White Polands, 10s. 6d.; and erect-crested Ptarmigans, 15s. per dozen. A few Dorkings at 6s. each; Gold and Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, 15s. per pair. A Price List of Poultry sent free for Two Penny stamps.

HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate Street, Gloucester, will be prepared to supply amateurs or their friends with EGGS from specimens of the most choice varieties of poultry at the following rates.

	Per Doz.	Each.
	s.	d.
White Polands, 1st, Gloucester and 3rd, Birmingham	15	1 6
Silver Polands, 2nd, Birmingham	15	1 6
Gold Polands, 1st, Bedford and Norwich	15	1 6
Chamois, Yellow or Buff, Commended, Gloucester	15	1 6
Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, 1st prize and Silver Vase at Birmingham, 1st, Bath, Norwich, Colchester, and Gloucester	15	1 6
Silver Spangled Hamburgs, 1st, Birmingham, Bury, and several others	15	1 6
Dorking, 3rd, and highly commended, Gloucester	10	1 0
File Game, 1st, Bedford	10	1 0
Black Bantams, 2nd prize, Cheltenham and Bedford	10	1 0
Scotch Bantams, Black Polands, and Frizzled, bred from prize birds, but never shown	10	1 0
Buff Cochins, from 1st at Hereford and Gloucester	5	0 6
Nest Eggs	4	0 4
Laying Nests		2 0

EGGS FOR SITTING.—All warranted from first rate birds of the following breeds, at moderate prices. BUFF COCHINS, from the same stock as the Metropolitan First Prize Chickens of 1853 and the Royal Agricultural Society's Prize Cock of 1854. GREY DORKINGS, from birds bred by the Rev. Mr. Boys, Mrs. Herbert, and Mr. Fairlie, American, Black, and Cambridge, Prize Turkeys. GOLD and SILVER PENCILLED HAMBURG'S; also, for want of room, a first rate Rose-combed Dorking Cock, prize bird in chicken class at Eastern Counties Show in 1853, price £1 1s. Apply to Mr. C. POCKLINGTON, Boston, Lincolnshire.

JAMES DIXON, Bradford, Yorkshire, will continue to sell EGGS during the season from his prize Golden and Silver Spangled, and Golden and Silver Pencilled Hamburg Fowls, Bearded Golden Polands, and White-faced Black Spanish. Price 10s. the setting of 15.

PRIZE BRAHMAS FOR SALE. By private contract.

FALCON } Perfectly pencilled all over, and dark
VULTURE } hackle:—

1st prize, Cambridge.

1st prize, Norwich.

2nd prize, Colchester.

HERO. Imported by Mr. Baily:—

2nd prize, Great Metropolitan.

Highly commended, Southampton.

Highly commended, Birmingham.

2nd prize, Colchester.

NOBLE. Bred by Garbonate:—

1st prize, Cambridge.

1st prize, Norwich.

The only times exhibited.

Address, REV. C. CROSSE, New Square, Cambridge.

EGGS FOR SETTING may be had from the Yard of Mr. H. D. DAVIES, whose stock has been carefully bred and selected from all the best strains, and has already taken upwards of 250 prizes. Spanish, Dorking, Brahma, and Rangoon Eggs, £2 2s., and White Cochins and Aylesbury Ducks, £1 1s. 6d., the dozen, to include basket, &c. Spanish and Dorking Fowls of all ages may be selected from that portion of the stock not required for breeding or exhibition this season.

For Cock and 1 Pullet £5 5 0

For Cock and 2 Pullets 7 7 0

For Cock and 4 Pullets 10 10 0

Remittances, by Post-office Order, payable to GEORGE KEEBLE, the Bailiff, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, to accompany all orders.

Mr. Davies will feel obliged if persons who wish to see the Poultry will make it convenient to do so between the hours of 10 and 4 on any Wednesday or Saturday.

EGGS FOR SETTING, (prices reduced from 1st of May), all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:

Dorkings, Brahma Pootra (Pencilled and Light).

Spanish (Rake's), Cochins, Buff and White.

Hambros, Gold and Silver Pencilled and Spangled; Polish and Bantams.

Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers.

Pheasants and Partridges' eggs in any numbers.

All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.

JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

FOWLS BY JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest,

Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a Chapter on the Bramah Pootra Fowl, the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s., or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Paternoster Row.

EGGS.—Dorking, Spanish, and Buff Cochins, from really first-rate birds, including 1st prize and Silver Cup birds at Birmingham and Liverpool; to be sold at the yard of Mrs. Donne, Oswestry, £2 2s. per dozen.—Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry.

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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.

"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,600, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d. have been received for new premiums.

"These items, when compared with the business of the preceding year, display an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

"While the income of the Company has thus received so large an accession, the office has only been called on, during the same period, to pay £1,663 19s. 10d. for claims, a sum which bears a remarkably small proportion to the mortality which might justly have been anticipated. This feature in the career of the company has thus been maintained to the ninth year, and the Directors trust that such a fact evidences the care with which the business of the office has been invariably conducted."

The office presents:—

The security of a large paid-up capital.

Very moderate rates for all ages, especially young lives.

No charges whatever, except the premium.

Policies indisputable.

Prospectuses, copies of reports, forms, and every information can be obtained at the office, 49, St. James's Street, London.

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Six Lines 3s. 0d.

For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 17s. 4d.; half-yearly, 8s. 8d.; quarterly, 4s. 4d.; payable in advance.

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A JOURNAL OF

POULTRY, PIGEONS, BEES, FLORICULTURE, AND THE
HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 63.]

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1855.

[PRICE 3D.

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Poultry Shows.

Hexham Third Annual Exhibition, Monday and Tuesday, 14th and 15th of May. Secretaries, Mr. W. Turner, Hexham; and Mr. Jonathan Bell, High Shield. Entries close Saturday, May 5th. (No. 61.)

Paris Agricultural Meeting, June 1st—9th. Entries from English Exhibitors to be sent to the Consul-General for France, King William Street, City, in time to reach Paris by May 24th. (No. 59.)

Bath and West of England, at Tiverton, June 6th, 7th, and 8th. Secretary, J. Kingsbury, Esq., Hammet Street, Taunton. Entries close May 10th. (No. 62.)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st. (No. 52.)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries close June 1st. (No. 57.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday,

Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th.

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire third annual exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley,

Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th.

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

NUMEROUS and varied are the queries addressed to us respecting the mode of exhibiting at the forthcoming AGRICULTURAL MEETING at PARIS, and as it gives us pleasure to gain for our readers all necessary intelligence on this subject, so interesting to the owners of stock of every description, we will recapitulate the intelligence contained in the Schedule respecting the entries, at the risk of a little repetition.

The entries for the said exhibition must be forwarded in time to reach Paris on or before THURSDAY, MAY 24. They may be sent to M. LE MINISTRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, 78, RUE DE VARENNE, FAUBOURG ST. GERMAIN, PARIS, or to the FRENCH CONSUL-GENERAL IN ENGLAND, KING WILLIAM STREET, CITY. The Schedule may be procured at the Consulate, or we shall be happy to forward one to any applicant who will send us a stamped directed envelope. No entry fees are charged. As the accession of British exhibitors to this exhibition may possibly be greater than is at present anticipated in Paris, we strongly advise all who may be desirous of exhibiting either animals or poultry, to send in their certificates of entry *as soon as possible*: as much before the specified 24th of May as they find practicable. A certificate of entry is appended to the Schedule.

We had been informed that the French

Government would undertake all charge of the animals exhibited, from the frontier, and return them to the same locality, free of charge; we have applied for official confirmation of this, and find the owners will be reimbursed the carriage of the stock, but that exhibitors must be prepared to take charge of their stock at Paris, immediately on the close of the exhibition, June 8th and 9th, according to Article 17 in the French Schedule; this is the letter we have received:—

"SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the letter you did me the honour to write yesterday. In reply to your inquiries, I have the honour to inform you that the exhibitors, or, if they are not in Paris themselves, those they have delegated for such a purpose, will have to remove the animals exhibited from the place of the meeting, as expressed in Articles 24 and 25. I have likewise to answer affirmatively to the two other questions, viz.:—1st, That the two above Articles relate to foreign as well as to French stock; 2nd, that responsible persons will be appointed by the French Government to take charge of the animals, but only during the period of the show.—I have the honour to remain, Sir, your very obedient servant,

ED. HERBERT.

Consul General of France.

"London, 4th May, 1855."

One hundred francs (four pounds sterling) will be given in prizes to pigeons, pheasants, and guinea fowl, but how it is to be divided into separate prizes is not stated.

In letters which we have given in our Letter-box to-day,—hoping that they may suggest to some one who has the necessary knowledge and appliances to organise a system for the conveyance of animals and poultry to and from France at a moderate charge,—some questions are put respecting

the cost of carriage; and Crocus asks, "Could you not appoint some one to carry for English exhibitors?" to which we reply, If we were to make the attempt, we should acquit ourselves about as well (perhaps not quite so well) as would the members of Messrs. Chaplin and Horne's establishment, if required to fill the columns of the "Poultry Chronicle" and print them.

No doubt, however, in our land of order and speculation, some system will be organised; and we shall be glad to make the particulars known, both in our advertising columns and in those conveying news to our readers. Our readers will find the rules relating to animals in our present number, under the head the "Homestead;" and those which have reference to Poultry in Number 59.

The Poultry Yard.

MAY 9.

FROM three weeks old until the chickens are entirely fledged, and perhaps some little time afterwards, is their period of greatest trial. At this time there is a great and continual draught on their tiny systems for the growth of bone, muscle, feathers, and other ingredients which go to make a chicken. The amount of nourishment consumed in the formation of the feather is proved by the rapid start of growth which the youngsters take *as soon as they are fledged*. Even chickens which receive the most constant care will often, while fledging, grow tall and lanky, with the breast-bone sharper than that of poultry should be at any age. At this time a change to better, more expensive and more varied food will have great value. We give this change when the little ones seem to require it, not before. While

quite tiny they are fed on crushed barley, barley meal (mixed crumbly), a little sopped bread and chopped egg when convenient.

When a change is wanted, we may have recourse to wheat, boiled pearl barley, boiled barley meal, buckwheat, and a little hempseed in cold weather. In giving this change the object is to promote an appetite and to give strength; the thing to be avoided is to make the chicks dainty by pampering them too much.

Never throw down two kinds of food at once, nor give much more than the chickens will eat up; neither feed them before they are hungry, nor let them remain hungry without food. Young chickens can scarcely be fed too often, as long as they run to the food with an appetite every time it is given to them: scatter it well that they may have a little work to pick it up.

Chickens get through their fledging the worst which have been fed on groats or rice, nor have we ever found advantage in feeding on oatmeal, to make up for its extra cost. Oats are good for a change. Cooked food is best rolled dry in bran or pollard. In giving a portion of bran with the food it must not be forgotten that it is relaxing; but the husk of the corn is said to be valuable as bone-making food. Let the chickens also continue to have access to lime, broken oyster shells, &c.

If the broods are housed at night, about twenty chickens with their mothers, are as many as can be well lodged in a good high house, about ten feet by seven. If our space is circumscribed, let us content ourselves with a few fine chickens, rather than run the risk of having a number of poor little things by attempting too much.

Cooing out upon the grass is a great save of hen-house room. Let the coops be moved very often. We had many broods last year which were never in a hen-house until Christmas, and they did very well, although it was not a favourable season for camping out.

The present season is, so far, very unfavourable for hatching, and for the young

chickens also. The cold drying wind is bad for the first, and its coldness very trying to the little ones. We have heard sad accounts of deaths among Dorking chickens, and even among Brahmias, although they are so hardy. An account of our own success so far, the result of 15 hens set, may be interesting to amateurs who may take a pleasure in comparing notes with others, in sympathising with fellow unfortunates, or in triumphing in better success.

Hatched, Jan. 17.—Eleven chickens from 16 eggs in two nests. Feb. 9.—Twelve chickens from 16 eggs in two nests. March 29.—One chicken from 13 eggs in two nests. April 20.—Eleven chickens from 27 eggs in three nests. April 27.—Eighteen chickens from 29 eggs in three nests. May 5.—Twelve Chickens from 32 eggs in three nests. The nests generally contained eggs from Brahmias, Cochins, and Serai-Taooks all together.

Schedule of the Tottington Exhibition of Poultry,

AUGUST 17, 1855.

Class.	1st.	2nd.
	s.	s.
DORKINGS.		
1. Cockerel and three Pullets	20	10
2. Cock and two Hens	10	
3. Single Cock	10	
SPANISH.		
4. Cockerel and three Pullets	20	10
5. Cock and two Hens	10	
6. Single Cock	10	
COCHIN CHINA.		
7. Cockerel and three Pullets	20	10
8. Cock and two Hens	10	
9. Single Cock	10	
GAME FOWLS.		
10. Cockerel and three Pullets	20	10
11. Cock and two Hens	10	
12. Single Cock	10	
HAMBURGS.		
13. Cockerel and three Pullets	20	10
14. Cock and two Hens	10	
15. Single Cock	10	
POLANDS.		
16. Cockerel and three Pullets	20	10
17. Cock and two Hens	10	
18. Single Cock	10	

BANTAMS.

Class.	1st.	2nd.
	s.	d.
19. Cock and two Hens, or Cockerel and Pullets	15	5
Ducks.		
20. Aylesbury.....	15	5
21. Rouen	15	5
GEESE	15	5
TURKEYS	15	5

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 1855 cannot be shown in the classes for birds above one year old.

4. Specimens may be sent from any part of the United Kingdom.

5. Exhibitors must state a price for all specimens on sale.

6. The whole of the specimens must be at the show-yard before nine o'clock on the morning of the exhibition.

7. The entries must be with the secretary on or before the 7th of August, 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 fee, 2s. per pen, must be paid when the entry is made, or the pens cannot be entered for competition.

8. Subscribers of 10s. will be entitled to one ticket of admission on the day of exhibition; and every such subscriber will be entitled to exhibit six pens, and as many additional pens as he may think fit, on payment of 2s. per extra pen.

9. Proper direction labels will be supplied by the secretary.

ELI ROBERTS, Hon. Sec.
Tottington, near Bury, Lancashire,
May, 1855.

AN immense pike has just been taken in Derwent-water. It weighed twenty-four and a half pounds.

The Prevalent Epidemic.

SUCH is the term, Mr. Editor, I apply to the so-called poultry mania; and having observed the phenomena or symptoms of many epidemics in the human race, as well as the lower animals, I am inclined to think the present one by no means so hurtful, it being, in fact, an agreeable occupation of the mind, instead of a destructive or injurious disease of the body. Yet it has its various changes according to locality, &c.; and being entirely mental in its nature is subject to considerable influence from the press. Thus we see, in some of the cheap monthly periodicals, an article depreciating the Cochins and praising the Dorkings; forthwith we have an outcry that Cochins may be had for as many pence as they formerly cost pounds. If, however, any one wishes to procure first-rate stock let him try the cost, and his experience will teach truer things than what is sometimes printed. Now, Mr. Editor, I am not so sadly afflicted as to undergo such variations, but must do my duty and say such notions are fallacious. In the excitement concerning Cochins a great number of degenerate birds have spread over all the country, and what would be the case with Dorkings, Brahmas, or any other bird, if multiplied so indiscriminately as the Cochins have been. I think, after the present epidemic has somewhat exhausted itself, and things have resumed a healthy state, we shall discover that over-rating and over-depreciating any breed has been the result of over-excitement. What bird can excel the Cochin (I mean first quality) as winter layers, and in being easily kept? What can excel the Brahmas for all the Cochin qualities? What will excel the Dorking as a table fowl? What the Hambro', as everlasting layers? What the Crested-fowls, as ornamental poultry? Surely they all deserve their admirers; some will suit one place better than another, according to circumstances: the result, however, will be, that our old barn-door race will be much improved by the crossing with some of the

above breeds, both as layers and table fowls.

I have tried, successfully, a cross between the Malay and Golden-Spangled Hambro', between the former and Silver-Pencilled Hambro', and also the Black Polish, and all have been excellent layers, and good table fowls. Brahmas and Cochins, as well as Malays, will give weight without impairing the Hambro's much, as layers. Thus we shall see that even an epidemic may produce good results. R. G.
Cumberland.

On Purity of Breed in Animals and Poultry.

I RECOLLECT (many years since—I think in "Blackwood's Farmers' Magazine," old series) an account of what took place at Dalmahoy, the seat of the Earl of Morton: a mare was covered by a zebra, the produce of which died; next season she was covered by a horse, and the foal had distinct marks of the zebra.

A breeder of cattle informs me that when he crosses an Ayrshire cow with a short-horn bull, he finds that the calves of future years have the impress of the first bull.

A correspondent in the "Chronicle" informs us, that the eggs of a turkey hen have been known to be fertile after eight months' widowhood. In Ireland, one turkey cock is kept for several flocks. A gentleman near where I reside, who is famous for his Dorkings, got a present from a friend of a Cochin cock and hen; he was ashamed to kill them, and allowed them to go with his Dorkings all winter, but parted with them early in spring; however, to his sorrow, there appeared occasionally, during the following summer, chickens with feathers on their legs.

From the above facts I conclude, that when it is wished to keep a breed of fowls pure, the safest plan is, not to allow (at any season of the year) hens to associate with a cock of another variety, or even with an inferior cock of the same breed.

I would further recommend that even

hens of decided different colours should not be allowed in the same walk, grounding my recommendation on the plan of Jacob (already noticed by one of your correspondents), who by placing wands of trees of various colours before the females of Laban's flocks got produce speckled and spotted. For example, a pugnacious black hen being associated with a set of buff Cochins, and beating them, the terror of her is constantly before them, and the colour impressed upon them, which may injure the buff colour. If there is truth in this, a white gander should be kept by those who wish to have light-coloured buff birds, as the hens are afraid of him: and as hempseed makes a bullfinch black, that seed should not be given to light-coloured chickens, although a little of it is good for Spaniards, or even for Dorkings.

I hope what I have written may teach some the impropriety of keeping a variety of fowls, unless at detached farms or cottages, for with the best arrangement there is a great chance of a gate being occasionally left open.

W. S.

P.S.—May I ask if any eggs are ever found in the ovary of a broody hen after hatching her chickens?

Bad Luck in Raising Fowls.

FROM THE AMERICAN COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

It has been no uncommon thing with us, for many years past, to hear persons say in excuse for not having turkeys, or improved breeds of fowls, or a variety of poultry, or for some other reason, "Oh! we have no luck at all in raising chickens." Now, this bad luck, or no luck at all, must, like everything else, have some cause. And, if inquired into, it will be found that bad luck in rearing broods of any kind of fowls arises very often, perhaps most frequently, from want of care to keep the young and tender chicks from *wet* and *cold*. How often have we been pained by the sight of a brood of young fowls running round among the grass, wet with dew, in the morning; and how often have we prophe-

sied, aloud or to ourselves, the death of a large share of the broods thus miserably managed.

Having often had our cautions and counsels on this subject passed unheeded by, or smiled at as some are wont to smile or sneer at an old wife's *particular notions*, we were much pleased to find ourselves 'backed up' by such excellent authority as that of the Editor of the "New England Farmer," whose statements grow out of an actual experience of many years in rearing turkeys and other fowls. He has lately said, that it is easier to *prevent* disease than to *cure* it. "When poultry is properly sheltered and fed, disease will only be the exception to the rule of general health. Want of proper food, irregular feeding, too many occupying a small space, exposure to cold, and more than all these combined, *exposure to wet*, are the prolific sources of disease in the poultry-yard. We believe that exposure to *wet* and *cold* is the *principal cause* of loss of the young of all kinds of domestic fowls, including even ducklings. Nearly the whole dismal catalogue of diseases—the pip or gapes, diarrhoea, indigestion, asthma, fever, consumption, moping, rheumatism, roup and vermin, may be traced to this. We have lost fifty chickens in a single storm where wind and rain found their way to broods which we supposed were safe." We trust that some of those who wonder and wonder why they should have such terrible bad luck in raising chickens, if any such can be got to read this paper, will get a hint from the above that will be worth the price of more than one year's subscription. L.

Weights of Prize Poultry, 1854.

In compliance with the expressed wishes of some of our subscribers, we write a paper on the weights of poultry exhibited at some of the principal shows of last year. At the same time we are bound to express our opinion that *mere weight* will never carry a prize in any class. It is, however, a point which, in many breeds, will turn the scale

in favour of a first-class pen. Dorkings should be large: among the heaviest we may name a cock exhibited by Mr. Davies, at Southampton, $10\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; two hens belonging to the same gentleman, at Lincoln, 17 lbs.; three belonging to Dr. Hitchman, exhibited at Derby, $25\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; three belonging to Mr. Loder, shown at Southampton and Dorchester, 24 lbs.; three belonging to Rev. Mr. Boys, $26\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; three belonging to Colonel Howard Vyse, at Colchester, 25 lbs.; two cocks belonging to Mr. Fisher Hobbs, and Mr. Terry, 10 lbs. and $9\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; three belonging to the Rev. S. Donne, at Liverpool and Birmingham, 26 lbs.

Cochins were not so heavy last year as they have been in former times, and we looked in vain for such a pen as Mr. Sturgeon's in 1853, when the hens averaged $10\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. each. Mr. Punchard's silver cup pen, at Birmingham, weighed, for four birds, 39 lbs., and many of the others were very heavy. The Rev. S. Donne's birds, at Liverpool, weighed 9 lbs. each. The prize chickens at Malvern, belonging to Mr. Sanday, weighed 8 lbs. each; and the second pen, belonging to Mr. J. Harrison, were as heavy; some of these, later in the year, were shown at $9\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. each. In geese, Mr. Terry has several times shown three, weighing 57 lbs., and Mrs. Townley Parker 59 lbs.; Mr. Breavington, 57 lbs., and the Rev. John Robinson once showed a gander weighing $29\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; Mr. Davies, at Southampton, showed three ducks, 24 lbs.; Mr. Mortimer Ford showed, at Cambridge, three ducks, $22\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; Messrs. Perry, Fowler, Davies, Green, Fisher Hobbs, and Breavington, generally show pens that will average from 19 lbs. to 21 lbs.; all their pens did so at Colchester. One exhibitor at Cambridge showed three pens of young turkeys, three birds in each, averaging 50 lbs. each pen, and Mr. Fairlie has shown old birds heavier than this. Mr. Davies' celebrated Brahma Pootra cock has weighed 15 lbs., and birds of this breed commonly make from 11 to $12\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. each. We expect these fowls, carefully bred, will be the heaviest we have.

We have been at some pains to compile this paper from accurate data, and we purpose continuing such notices and information. But if by so doing we make amateurs dissatisfied with their stock because they do not attain to the weights we have mentioned, we shall have done harm. They must bear in mind the weights quoted are of birds belonging to the best strains we have, and each pen comprised the pickings of yards, and not the average of them. We have only mentioned a few out of the many hundreds of prizes taken. Careful breeding and feeding will do much. Every season brings out new names and good birds, and this should be encouragement to all; there is no royal road to prize-taking. Care in selecting stock, careful rearing, and a knowledge of choosing well-matched birds, will inevitably be successful.

A LARGE EGG.—An account appeared a few weeks back in the "Poultry Chronicle," detailing particulars of a hen's egg of very unusual size. I therefore forward you the dimensions of a Rouen duck's egg, which I consider equally extraordinary; it was laid by a bird belonging to a friend of mine, on April the 26th, and has been placed under a hen for incubation. The duck referred to has generally laid eggs weighing from three and a-half to four ounces, and never yet produced a *double-yolked* one; neither, judging from outward appearances, is the one now in question; she is a bird of last season, hatched early in August, and the purity of her breed is undoubted. Girth, 8 inches; circumference, lengthwise, $9\frac{3}{8}$ in.; weight, $4\frac{1}{2}$ ounces (avoirdupois).—EDWARD HEWITT.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—A correspondent wishes to know, "What line in Shakespeare is entirely entomological?"

We cannot say, unless somebody has been found sufficiently barbarous to read a certain passage of Macbeth in this wise:

"Fly, Flea ance—(ants)—fly, fly, fly!"

New York Post.

Crève-cœur Fowls.

A CORRESPONDENT wishes for an account of this breed of fowls. It is one which was once, and still is, very popular in France. The name is derived from the form of the comb, which is an exaggeration of the largest development in some of our Polands, and somewhat resembles a cleft heart, hence the name Crève-cœur. The consideration with which they are still looked upon in France, may be judged by the circumstance that one of the three categories of poultry at the forthcoming exhibition is devoted to them; while one only is given to *all* the breeds (except Cochin Chinas) which we know and admire. The best account of this fowl to be met with in books, is to be found in Mr. Wingfield's Poultry Book. Most books pass the fowl over entirely, while others appear only to have borrowed from this, which we will give, being only sorry to find it so short:

"Mr. Vivian describes specimens of this bird now in his possession as of very compact form, with small top-knots, bearded, and with horned combs like those of the Polish, only very much larger. There would appear to be two varieties, since the hens in one case are represented as quite black; the cock is also of that colour, but marked with yellow on the back, neck, and top-knot. The latter is a very heavy bird, weighing no less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; the hen $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. The eggs are large and white; the legs unfeathered."

"Of the other variety," says Mr. Vivian, "I had given me by Lady Chesterfield, a cock and three hens, black and white, somewhat after the fashion of an irregularly marked silver Poland; they are smaller and more slightly made than the black birds."

"From all we can learn, they seem to have been a black and white bird of intermediate size, between the Bantam and common fowl; they have been occasionally called 'Crève-cœur Bantams,' but erroneously, since they have no feature in common with that family."

"Since writing the above, we have received a letter from Mr. Vivian containing the following passage:—

"I differ from you in respect to the black Crève-cœur not being pure, as the head of the cock is so wonderful, from the immense size of his horns, that I am certain seeing him would convince any one of his being the correct Crève-cœur, from his possession of the regular crève-cœur (broken heart), formed by his comb over his back; and with his wattles, in addition, he conveys the idea of a goat's head, from the immense size of his horns."

We reckon that the Crève-cœur should be a full-sized, weighty fowl, laying a full-sized egg; and consider that those mentioned as intermediate between the common fowl and the Bantam, must have been degenerate. We shall be much obliged if any of our contributors can oblige us with a good account, and exact description of the French Crève-cœur.

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DELEGATE FROM THE UNITED STATES TO PARIS.—At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, Henry Wager, Esq., of Rome, was appointed a delegate to represent the New York State Agricultural Society, at the French Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations, which is to be opened in Paris, next month. Mr. W. had previously received a similar appointment from the United States Agricultural Society.—*American Country Gentleman.*

COMPOSITION OF EGGS.—An examination of the eggs of numerous animals proves that these bodies are as varied as the animals which they produce. They differ in the elements present, in their organisms, and in their structure. Some of them do not harden by exposure in boiling water. In the eggs of some birds, the white is almost fluid; in others, it is gelatinous. The colour of the white of a hen's egg, after boiling, is pure, opaque, white, and solid. That of the lapwing, after cooking, becomes transparent, opaline, greenish, and so hard that it may be cut into little stones, used in some

parts of Germany for common jewelry. The chemical constitution of the eggs of various birds differs very materially. Turning to the eggs of fishes, it is found that the new-laid egg of the ray is covered with a shell of a bronzed-green, whose tissue is made up of short, felty fibres; its general form is rectangular, more or less elongated and curved on both sides. The internal organism is also peculiar, and among other differences it is found that the yellow is not separated from the white by any membrane. The white also differs from the white of a bird's egg in its chemical properties.

The eggs of a bounce shark are rectangular, much longer but much narrower than those of the ray. Its shell is hard, resisting, yellowish, horny. The vitellus or yolk occupies the greater part of it, and the white is more viscous than that of the ray.—*American Journal of Arts and Sciences.*

The Sexes of Chickens, &c.

RESPONDING to a contributor whose name is "K.," I should like amateurs to consider whether the ages and relative ages of the parent birds does not influence the sex of the chickens? Last year I bred chickens from a mature cock and one year old hens. I then had a surplus of pullets among the chickens; is this the case generally when the male has the advantage in age? I often hear of whole broods of cockerels. I wish their owners would tell us through your columns what were the relative ages of the parent birds.

"K.'s" suggestions have made me look about me a bit, and I hope other amateurs will do ditto, for we cannot better fill up the time until poultry shows come into season again than compare notes and prepare for them. One thing I am sure of, the most expensively kept fowls are not always the best kept. Good plain feeding I find the best as well as the cheapest.

Apropos to my first subject, I have now a Cochin cock, which is four years old, mated with hens about one year younger;

when I see the sexes of the chickens I shall take note of them.

In reply to "H. F.," the silver cup for bantams is for gold or silver laced, so whichever display can show the best pen will have the cup.

A Hamburg's tail ought to be like anybody else's tail (*i.e.* any feathered body's), a fine flowing full-sized tail, with long sickle feathers—

His gawie tail with backward curl
Hangs from his hurdies w' a swirl.

I want to know too, as much as. "H F." why people play cheating tricks, why judges don't find 'em out, and why committees *pretend* to shut out dealers, &c., when they can't do it?

PAUL PRY.

INCOMBUSTIBLE WASH FOR THE ROOFS AND WALLS OF BUILDINGS.—Take of common water a quantity proportionate to the surface to be protected, and stir in potash as long as it will dissolve. When the water is perfectly saturated, stir in first, a quantity of pure clay, to render the mass as thick as cream. When the ingredients are well mixed, the preparation is to be applied to the wood, and will be found efficient in protecting it from the action of both fire and rain. It is asserted by those who have tested its value, that wood work exposed to intense heat, if coated with this cement, may be charred or carbonated, but cannot be made to burn. When desirable, a very agreeable colour may be imparted to the wash by adding a small quantity of red or yellow ochre.

A LIVE toad, in a torpid state, was recently dug out of "hard pan" at Rutland, Vermont, some fifteen feet below the surface.

A TROUT was caught in the lakes at Killarney, thirty-three and a half inches in length; width across the tail, ten inches; circumference near dorsal fin, twenty-one and a half inches.

Columbary.

FRENCH POULTRY AND PIGEONS.

As the Paris Agricultural Exhibition is to include poultry and pigeons, it will not be out of place to offer a few remarks on the birds that will probably form a part of that exhibition; not that I feel myself capable of fully describing the poultry and pigeon fancy of our tasteful allies, who cultivate these domestic pets in great variety and perfection in most of their cities and large towns, but merely to make a few observations on what may interest the amateurs in this country.

The "*Crève-cœur*" are, I believe, the common topknotted, or crested fowls, and derive that name from their small crescent-shaped comb (or broken-heart). "*Le Coq Huppé*," or combless St. Jago (Poland), is nearly as rare a bird there as here; while "*Le Coq de Hambourg*," here commonly called bearded Polish, is in some parts very plentiful, and of very various plumage. The Malays, often called by the French "*Le Coq de Combat*," is cultivated with much care, and very fine specimens of this noble race are there often to be met with, much superior to the crane-like birds so often lauded in England.

In French Flanders, a very large sort of fowl is bred, much resembling the description given in some books of the Columbian; they are large, hardy, layers of large eggs, and make fine capons; their colour is various, but usually blue-dun, or black; and their combs varying from a single, through all the gradations that our so-called Brahmas show, to the warty truncated comb of the Malay, being evidently a mixture of Spanish and Malay.

Among pigeons, the short-faced Jacobins, if exhibited, will doubtless be a great attraction to the English fancier; if I remember right, their French name is "*Pigeon Carme*," or "*Carmelite*." Turbits and Barbs are often there seen in perfection. The Egyptian Carriers, "*Les Egyptiens cou de Cygne*," are what we term

Horsemen, and show in a most marked manner the difference between that bird and the beautiful English Carrier. Powters are of various forms and colours; and good Fantails are not wanting. The Runts are the Roman and Spanish; the latter called "*Tigre Espagnol*," are very good, showing the short legs and elongated form of the pure race; but there is a still larger Runt that is very scarce, and I do not remember ever seeing but one pair; they were white with feathered feet, and were complete giants of the race Columba. Tumblers, Lace pigeons, and various Toys, are also to be met with, but of them I know but little.

B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT PARIS.

June 1st—9th.

SECTION 1, in the schedule comprises male and female animals of foreign breeds, born and reared in foreign countries, imported into France; belonging either to Frenchmen or foreigners.

1st Class.—CATTLE.

1st Category.—Short Horns; or improved Durhams.

	1st. Francs.	2nd. Francs.	3rd. Francs.	4th. Francs.
Bull.....	1000	900	800	
Cow.....	700	600	500	

2nd Cat.—Any other English breed.

Bull.....	1000	900	800	700
Cow.....	700	600	500	400

3rd Cat.—Dutch or Swiss breeds, or any not named above.

Bull.....	1000	900	800	700
Cow.....	700	600	500	400

2nd Class.—SHEEP.

1st Cat.—Merinos, or half-bred Merinos.

Ram	600	500	450	400
Pen of 3 Ewes..	300	280	250	

2nd Cat.—Long wool,—Dishley, New-Leicester, &c.

Ram	600	500	450	400
Pen of 3 Ewes..	300	280	250	

3rd Cat.—Short wool, South-down, &c.

	1st. Francs.	2nd. Francs.	3rd. Francs.	4th. Francs.
Ram	600	500	450	400
Pen of 3 Ewes..	300	280	250	

3rd Class.—PIGS.**1st Cat.—Large breeds.**

Boar	300	250	200
Sow	200	180	

2nd Cat.—Small breeds.

Boar	300	250	200
Sow	200	180	150

The Second section includes animals (male and female) of breeds either French or foreign, pure or crossed, which have been bred and reared in France. The breeds of cattle specified are:—1st. Race Normande; 2nd. Race Flamande; 3rd. Race Charollaise; 4th. Race Garonnaise; 5th. Race Comtoise; 6th. Race des Pays de Montaigne; 7th. Race Parthénaise; 8th. Race Bretonne; 9th. French breeds not named above; 10th & 11th. The Durham and other English breeds; 12th. Sub-varieties made by crossing. The sheep, which are mentioned in this section, are—1st. Merino, pure or half-bred; 2nd. Foreign long-wool breeds; 3rd. Foreign short-wool breeds; 4th. French breeds, or cross-breeds, not before mentioned. Pigs, 1st. Indigenous breeds, pure; 2nd. Foreign breeds, pure or crossed.

Class 4, includes goats, rabbits, and other animals not before enumerated; and Class 5, all kinds of domestic poultry.

To be admitted to competition the cattle and sheep must have been born, the males before May 1st, 1854, the females before Nov. 1st, 1853; pigs before the 1st of Oct., 1854. Bulls must have the necessary rings, cords, &c., and boars ought to be buckled. At the time of the exhibition, the animals included in the 2nd section, must have belonged to the exhibitor more than three months. To exhibitors in the 1st section this rule is not imperative. Animals will be excluded which the jury may consider to have been fattened up in an excessive manner. The first prizes for

animals will be accompanied by a gold medal; the second by a silver medal; and the others, each by a bronze medal. In cases in which the exhibitor is not the breeder, a similar medal will be awarded to the breeder, if he can prove his claim. The judges will award first class medals to breeders of an animal or animals of especial merit. Exhibitors who endeavour to deceive the jury will be excluded from exhibiting. Each exhibitor can receive but one prize, for each sex, in each category; but can exhibit any number.

Two special juries will be appointed (one for cattle, the other for sheep, pigs, &c.) by the Minister of Agriculture, who will also name the presidents and vice-presidents. Each jury will consist of two members of the administration and four landowners. Visitors will be excluded until the jury have made their decisions. Animals exhibited by foreigners will be conveyed, free of expense, from the frontiers. The animals must arrive on the 1st of June, between 8 A.M. and 2 P.M.

The exhibition will open to the public on Tuesday, June 5th, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., at 3 francs each person; Wednesday, June 6th, same time, 2 francs; Thursday, June 7th, distribution of prizes, and gratuitous exhibition; Friday, June 8th, exhibition and private or public sale, (the expense of which will be defrayed by the French Government) from 8 A.M. to noon; entrance, 50 centimes. The prize animals must remain during June 9th.

British exhibitors can send their entries to the Consul-general of France in London; and those who may afterwards wish to withdraw their entries are requested to make the wish known at least five days before the meeting.

The prize money will be paid to foreign exhibitors at the time. The owners of animals not taking prizes must remove them by four in the afternoon of the 8th of June.

These rules will hold good during the years 1855, 1856, and 1857.

STOCK AND POULTRY.

FROM the report of the recent sale at Hendon, so much talked of amongst agriculturists, it appears that one hundred head of cattle sold for 7447 guineas, averaging £78 3s. 10d. each. Seventy-six cows, heifers, and calves sold for 5610 guineas, averaging £73 7s. each; and of these 24 were under 12 months old. Twenty-four bulls and calves sold for 1837 guineas, averaging £76 11s. 3d. each, and of these 19 were under one year old.

The prices reached in particular instances are even more extraordinary than the averages. Oxford 11th, purchased by Mr. Tanqueray at Lord Ducie's sale for 250 guineas, was here bought by Mr. Gunter for 525 guineas. Oxford 16th, sold a calf of a few weeks old at Lord Ducie's sale for 180 guineas, was here sold for 480 guineas. And among the bulls, the sixth Duke of Oxford, now a yearling, was purchased by Mr. Gunter for 200 guineas. His dam, Oxford 11th, and himself sold for 725 guineas, she having been bought in calf at Lord Ducie's sale for about one-third that sum—an enormous price as it was then thought, but one which the sale of herself and her produce has certainly more than justified. The competition of this family of short-horns which has led to these extraordinary prices lay chiefly between Mr. Gunter and Messrs. Becar and Morriss of New York. Mr. Gunter is now the owner of more of the two fashionable short-horn races—the Duchesses and Oxfords—than any other breeder in the country; and though they have been acquired at enormous prices, they will doubtless at any time repay their cost, while American and English judgment unite in attributing to them the high qualities which they undoubtedly possess. The Americans carried off Minerva 2d and Minerva 4th, at 140 guineas each; also Victoria, at 160 guineas; Surprise, at 80 guineas; Delia, at 65 guineas, among the cows and heifers. They did not purchase among the bulls. The highest prize bull,

Duke of Cambridge, was purchased by Sir C. Knightley for 280 guineas.

These are astounding figures, even in the present day; what would have been said a few years ago had any one ventured to predict that the improvement of the various kinds of cattle, brought about principally by the annual shows of live stock, would be productive of such extraordinary results. Fortunately for this country we took the lead and still keep it, for not only have we the best stocks amongst us, but many of our most successful and painstaking breeders have realised large sums by the competition existing between farmers at home and the agents from the various countries of Europe, and also from some of the States of America.

But my principal object in directing the attention of your readers to this subject is to suggest there is yet a larger field and greater necessity for attaining the same results in regard to our poultry. Before the first poultry show our fowls were in a much more degenerated condition than ever our cattle had been, and even now it is a rare occurrence to meet with a farmyard well stocked with a profitable and well-bred race of poultry. For the most part farmers keep birds merely as layers of eggs and producers of chickens, which fetch a certain market price, not even attempting to improve the value of the stock; and not believing that anything beyond this common standard can be attained. But only once let some of our "amateurs" come forward with Spanish eggs twice as large and much more palatable than those usually sold, and with Dorking chickens weighing nearly twice as much as the wretched mongrels now sent to market, and the result already gained by our breeders of cattle and pigs will soon be gained likewise by those fortunate enough to possess the best kinds and strains of poultry, with this additional advantage—that whilst the sale of cattle is confined exclusively to persons in the position and with the conveniences of farmers, the demand for poultry is universal, as it forms

not only an item in our farm-yards, but is also the favourite pursuit of thousands who keep their feathered favourites only on account of the pleasure they afford, either by their triumphs at our Poultry Shows or their more homely, but not less useful, domestic qualities.

Our French neighbours are quickly following in our steps; the Americans are well on the way: and whilst it can be proved that Dorkings from particular yards in full condition, average 8 lbs. each instead of 4; that Geese can be brought to 25 or 30 lbs. instead of 10 or 12; and Ducks to 8 or 9 lbs. instead of 3 or 4, and this by an increase of frame and flesh and not of fat, and consequently at no proportionate increase of expense, what is there to prevent the birds of some of our best breeders from fetching *much higher prices* than first-rate birds already command.

The French are beginning as we began at Birmingham, and no doubt will proceed in like manner, with the advantage of our experience. But we have the lead, let us keep it; and who can tell, what in a few years' time, may not be the result.

S. G.

On Bees.

As the season advances, the proceedings of the bees increase in interest; everything betokens the approach of the grand climax of their being—the production of swarms. Every detail leading to this result is fraught with interest in the mind of the reflective bee-keeper. The prodigious productive powers of the queen; the supply of drones, in anticipation of their required presence; and the preparations for the birth of those most important personages, the young queens; and the prudent care by which the fatal rivalry between the queen-mother and her royal daughters is avoided, are stirring events in the history of a hive. “The swarming season is to the amateur in bee-economy, a most interesting period in the life and operations of these extraordinary

insects, and affords, perhaps, fully as much gratification as any other part of their proceedings. By the pure practical bee-master, who looks almost exclusively to the return of profit arising from their culture, the honey-harvest will, of course, be regarded as the period of most interest. But by the naturalist, the season of swarming, by bringing into view some of the most striking features of their marvellous instincts, and thus affording additional scope for his favourite studies, will ever be hailed with the most intense delight.”

The causes of swarming are obvious. It is the method by which it has been ordained that the species shall be multiplied. The number and strength of swarms, and, indeed, their actual production, depends principally on the supply of food within reach of the parent hive. A dry spring is considered the precursor of a bad swarming season. And why, but because the usual secretion of honey has not taken place, the rearing of the young has been retarded, and the wisdom of the bee teaches it the folly of setting up a house without the means of providing it with food. “The swarming of bees may be compared to the migrations of colonies from populous communities of men, and it is liable to similar uncertainty; for though an exuberant population seems to be a *sine qua non* in both cases, it appears, nevertheless, in each of them to be finally determined by other circumstances. However populous a stock of bees may be in the autumn, its numbers are greatly decreased during winter, perhaps by six or seven-eighths. This loss is more than replaced in the spring, by the amazing fecundity of the queen. Hence arises the disposition to throw off swarms, which, of course, will issue more or less early, and in greater or less force, according to the temperature of the season, the populousness of the stock, and the attention that has been paid to early feeding.” “It is not surprising, that about Midsummer, or even before it, there seems a want of room in the hive, and a determination on the part of the bees to desert their crowded

habitation, and to seek for a new one elsewhere. A crowded population may not be the sole cause of this periodical emigration of the bees; but it seems consonant to the usual course of nature that it should be the principal cause, and that others which may be alleged, are but subservient to it. No royal brood is reared, unless the population fill the hive almost to overflowing. This takes place sooner or later, according to the size of the domicile; and hence we find that, generally speaking, small hives swarm sooner than those of larger dimensions."

"As soon as warm weather sets in, a common hive becomes filled with an augmented population. Every part is crowded to excess; no storing-room is left; the heat becomes insupportable, and at length the emigration of a part of the inhabitants must take place." These are the views of some of our standard authorities; an ancient bee-keeper tells us, "the swarming of my bees is a pleasure I ardently look and long for every spring; and which I am more delighted with than all the other pleasures of the month of May." Whether we must allow ourselves this enjoyment is a question for future discussion; at any rate we must get our bees well on, and up to the swarming point. The following doggerel "proverbial philosophy," will give the supposed relative values of early and late swarms:

"A swarm in May,
Is worth a load of hay;
A swarm in June,
Is worth a silver spoon;
A swarm in July,
Is not worth a fly."

A.

FLOWERS FOR OUR BEES.

AFTER the timely aid which we may have afforded our bees by providing a few very early flowering plants, the garden cultivation of flowers is necessarily on too small a scale to be of much assistance. We find the bees thrive best where honey-producing flowers are collected in masses of the same species. By the wonderful arrangement by which every link in the great chain of creation becomes subservient to the perfection

of the whole, we shall see that the bee, in fructifying the blossoms by the dissemination of the pollen which it is collecting, carries no disorder into the laws of the vegetable kingdom. The pollen on the legs of each bee is composed of that from one species of flower only. In colour it is never seen mixed, though in storing it in the cells each bee sometimes deposits its collection on that which has preceded it, of quite a different colour, and the provender in one cell is thus formed of numerous layers of all shades of colour.

We are often surprised in spring at the quantity of pollen carried, where we can scarcely discover a flower. The neighbourhood of willows is of great advantage.

The end of March, 1830, the weather was so favourable, that Mr. Golding found single hives, in some days, gained upwards of 3lbs. in weight; in 1841, it was very similar, and in consequence, drones were seen on the 15th of April, and swarms came off on the 29th of that month. Many of our common weeds are rich in pollen or honey; the bees find the humble dandelion more attractive than the most lovely rose with which the skill of the florist adorns our gardens; and we find that those flowers which high cultivation has raised to the standard of perfection, securing the perfect globular form, are thenceforward utterly neglected by the bees. The delicate tints of the pink and carnation, the gorgeous dahlia, or the brilliant verbena, are passed without a sign of recognition. But now our fruit-trees lend their aid, the blossom of the wall-fruit and cherry take the lead; then in succession, the gooseberry, the apple, the pear, and the black, but not the red, currant. Who has not stood under the sycamore, on a sunny day in June, and fancied there must be a swarm settling in the branches, so loud is the hum of the busy thousands culling its sweets. The flowers of the turnip, the white clover, the tares, the furze contribute their share; honey-dew, in some seasons, becomes a fruitful source of honey; and in autumn, the vicinity of heaths affords a second harvest.

Thus it appears that the staple of the bees' food must depend on the nature of the productions of the locality, much more than on any aid we can offer. Still we can do a little. Every one likes to have some large patches of mignonette in the flower-garden; and another very useful autumn flower is the common borage. The blossom never closes in wet weather; and immediately after a shower, when all other flowers are drenched, the bees find the borage still inviting their notice. It should be sown in spring, and will bloom for many weeks, and if the birds will allow its seeds to ripen and fall, it is sure to appear again the next year. *Melilotus leucantha*, the Bokhara Clover, is much recommended as a favourite of the bees. A few of our hardy annuals are useful, as *Nemophylla*, *Eschscholtzia*, *Campanula*, &c., and it may be pleasant to feel we are contributing something, however, little it may be, towards their welfare. A.

BEGINNERS IN BEE-KEEPING.

ALTHOUGH the information sought by a "Novice in Bee-keeping" has been satisfactorily answered, and your present number (No. 61) contains a long paper on the subject, with many useful and interesting remarks, so much remains still to be said before he would obtain that complete knowledge of the subject which he would think entirely satisfactory, or that would be quite safe to rely upon, that I feel disposed to make an attempt to give my quota of information. Having found a kindly-disposed apiarian, willing to part with a stock of bees, which at this time of the year perhaps he will find as difficult a task as any part of the business, he must then find out if his friend is possessed with superstitious fears, a subject by the way of considerable importance; perhaps it is of little consequence what his own fears may be. I have, from my earliest years, spent many moments of enjoyment among those who possessed bees, without having had any permission from them at all. After fifteen years I purchased my first

hive for a *whole guinea*. I had some great luck—my first, in the best country perhaps in England—and great delight in extracting from Greek hives (or as I then called them, Huish's,) immense and splendid heavy snow-white combs. I would have every novice come to this, but I must add, with less risk, by better contrived inventions; then he and his neighbours may try from the use of Huish's hive. Superstition, I possessed none, though it cannot be doubted that some superstitions, vulgar errors as they are called, are neither more nor less than crumbling useless structures raised on solid foundations. The gift of a beehive, when they were first imported, like Cochin China fowls, could scarcely be paid for in money; and the present value of our well-stocked bee-hives, taking into consideration the late bad seasons, the great failure in the stocks, and the difficulty of keeping up an apiary, coupled with the enormous sum paid by the nation for honey and wax, would apparently almost demand the same answer.

The novice will lose many opportunities of information, and much enjoyment, if he is not an early riser. He should examine the hive in its own garden, on the first dawn of light, and he may see perhaps a fine bee crawl out of the hive, unable to support its own weight on its legs, its wings extended at full stretch, quite horizontal and still, its legs much the same, and its tail much expanded both in length and width; this bee falls to the ground, only to die. The novice may by this learn that injudicious feeding has been resorted to, and that sour food is in the combs, which is gradually killing the bees; and, with a cottage hive he cannot extract it, but it must do its work to the end. His next visit to the hive must be in the middle of a fine day. J. S.

—
TO MAKE YELLOW BUTTER IN WINTER.
 —Put in the yolk of an egg just before the butter is coming, near the termination of churning. This has been repeatedly tried, and found to make very fine, sweet butter.

Floriculture.

MAY 9.

WE may expect rain before long, and indeed our gardens require it very much. Compost prepared for potting had better be put under shelter; and as soon as the rain comes, the auriculas and other flowers intended to go to seed, must be sheltered. The flower-stems of pinks now throwing up, should be a little thinned out that the bloom may be large. The present season is so backward, that many roots are at present making no show of the kind. For the same reason, many hardy annuals may still be sown; such as candy-tuft, hawkweed, ketmia, sweet-peas, lavatera, nolana, convolvulus. These will come up with little hindrance, and be useful either as a succession, or to supply the place of those which may have perished in the weather which we have had. They may be sown in little patches in the borders. Sow the seed thinly, and give them water, unless we get rain. The climbing kinds, when a few inches high, must have sticks for their support.

Seeds of stocks, African marigolds, and Indian pinks had better still be sown on a slight hot-bed, as the wind and nights are so cold. They are never so fine if raised in the open air. Hardy annuals may be removed into the borders, taking care to leave a good ball of earth about the roots. When the rain comes, this kind of work will prosper well. In arranging them in the borders we must calculate their future height, and plant the low-growing flowers in front, and those which will become tall further back, according to the height.

Plants of large growth should be planted singly: ten-week stocks, convolvulus-minor, and plants of similar size, in groups of three or four; hawkweed, candytuft, Virginian stock, and such like, in little tufts. Seeds of wall-flower, sweet-william, stocks, carnations, and many besides, may still be sown in the nursery for future use. Scatter the seed scantily and regularly,

rake it over, and in dry weather water the bed.

Many perennials and biennials which were raised early on the hot-bed, may be planted out into the nursery to give them room to grow and gain strength against the following year. Let the ground be good and plant each sort by itself, pricking the young plants about six inches apart; keep them free from weeds.

Cuttings may now be made of lychnis, rockets, &c. Choose the young flower-stalks, cut them close off at the bottom, divide them in lengths of three, four, or five joints, and plant them in a shady border of rich earth; place them two-thirds deep in the mould about four inches apart, cover them with a hand glass, and by the autumn they will be strong plants. Many fibrous-rooted perennial plants which produce double flowers and no seed, or scarcely any, may be propagated in this manner, and will not lose either colour or doubleness.

The double wall-flower may now be propagated by slips from shoots of the present year's growth. Take them from the parent plant when three, four, or five inches long, by cutting them close to the branch. Moist weather must be chosen for the work. Strip off the lower leaves and plant them in a shady situation, in light, rich earth, four or five inches asunder. Give them a little water in dry weather. If a hand-glass can be spared for them it will greatly assist the rooting; and in the autumn they may be removed with good balls of earth to the roots, when the best kinds may be potted for winter. Wall-flower seed may still be sown, if not done already. A good authority states, "florists prefer those from plants now in bloom, which have five or six petals of a deep red colour, as there is a great chance of their producing double flowers, particularly when in a bed with those of a similar kind."

Carnations in pots will now be growing, and progressing a little towards flowering; they must have every encouragement to shoot with vigour and strength. Clear

away decayed leaves, stir the mould, and if it seems required, add a little fresh earth. If it is wished to have large and very handsome flowers, only the top buds must be allowed to bloom. While the weather continues dry the pots must be watered.

The borders and garden generally now require great care to keep under the weeds, and when rain comes this will be a still more difficult task; but it is one which will repay itself, not only at the present time, but at future seasons, and even in future years. Support plants which require it with sticks, and let irregular growth of plants be set to rights, and the dead parts cleared away. Cut away decayed branches close to the living wood, and shorten or cut off any irregular or rambling shoots.

INTRODUCTION OF PLANTS INTO ENGLAND.

PINE apples were first grown by Rose, gardener to Charles II.

Sir Walter Raleigh introduced the potato. Sir Anthony Ashley, the ancestor of Lord Shaftesbury, first planted cabbages in this country, and a cabbage appears at his feet on his monument.

Figs were planted in Henry VIII.'s reign, at Lambeth by Cardinal Pole, and it is said that the identical trees are yet remaining.

Spelman, who erected the first paper mill at Dartford, brought over the two first lime trees, which he planted at Dartford and which are still growing there.

Thomas Cromwell enriched the garden of England with three different kinds of plums.

It was Evelyn, whose patriotism was not exceeded by his learning, who largely propagated the noble oak in this country; so much so, that the trees which he planted have supplied the navy of Great Britain with its chief proportion of the timber.

Cherries were first planted in Kent, by the Knight Templars, who brought them from the East; and the first mulberry trees were also planted in Kent by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.

Aubrey says that Sir Richard Weston first brought clover grass out of Brabant. The introduction of turnips, and also of

sainfoin, is attributed to him, and his memory is still revered by every inhabitant of Surrey acquainted with his deeds.

SEEDS.

WILL any writer in the "Poultry Chronicle" tell me whether the quantity of seed per acre stated below is right?

Barley, broadcast, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels; in drills, $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels; beans, 2 to 3 bushels; beets, 3 to 5 lbs.; buckwheat, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels; carrots, 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; corn (Indian), $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels; broom corn, $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels; flax, for seed, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 bushel; for fiber, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels; grasses, red clover, 10 to 16 lbs.; white clover, 4 to 8 lbs.; blue grass (Kentucky), 10 to 16 lbs.; herds grass (red top), 12 to 18 quarts; orchard grass, 20 to 30 lbs.; timothy, 12 to 18 quarts; hemp, for seed, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 bushel; for fiber, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels; millet, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushel; mustard, 10 to 20 quarts; oats, 2 to 4 bushels; onions, 4 to 5 lbs.; parsnips, 3 to 6 lbs.; peas, in drills, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ bushels; broadcast, 2 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ bushels; according to size of seed; peanuts, in hills or drills, 1 to 2 bushels; rye, in drills, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 bushel; broadcast, 1 to 2 bushels; turnips, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; wheat, in drills, $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels; broadcast, $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ bushels.

NO PRACTICAL FARMER.

Brahmas.

I AM greatly obliged to the Editor, to Dr. Gwynne, and to P. J., for their kindness in replying to my queries. The answers were exceedingly encouraging and satisfactory to me, as an incipient amateur in the Brahma line of fancy poultry, and I doubt not will be equally so to all who are unbiassed and disinterested. It is clear to me from those answers, that the good qualities of the Brahmas entitle them to a position surpassed by none in the poultry world; and those of my fellow "maniacs" who, like me, were in the dark before, are now enlightened by information on which they can depend, as to all those points and characteristics of the fowl, so necessary to be known before giving it a preference.

But there is still one other important point upon which it is desirable that some understanding should prevail, and that is with respect to *colour*. I mention this, because in the printed list of the poultry show at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, there were two prizes held out to exhibitors in the Brahma class, viz., one for the *best*, and the other for the *second* best Cock and two Hens. Tempted by this assurance, there were nine pens of Brahmas exhibited from distant parts; Durham, Northumberland, Yorkshire, and Cumberland having each contributed its quota. The first prize only was allotted to a solitary pen of *dark* coloured birds; the second prize having been coolly withheld from the eight *light* coloured pens. Now, without saying a word in disparagement of the *dark* birds to which the first prize was allotted, there were certainly birds in some of the eight *light* coloured pens, which were as fairly entitled to an allotment of the second prize as the *dark* birds were to the first; and I can only attribute the withholding of the second prize to the same *predetermination* to give prizes to *dark* birds only, which prevailed and gave such dissatisfaction at Birmingham last year. If the intention was to confine the prizes to dark birds only, an announcement to that effect should have been made in the published list, so as for distant holders of light-coloured birds to have been saved the trouble, expense, and annoyance of a long journey; and an unsuccessful competition, without, as it now appears, a chance of success.

I suggest, that as a remedy in future for this unsatisfactory state of things, there should be a distinct prize for *dark* coloured Brahmas, and a distinct one also for those of a *light* colour. This is now invariably the practice in Cochin China and other classes, and unless it be adopted in the Brahma class likewise, all light-coloured birds of the latter variety must be considered as designedly banished from poultry shows, no matter what (their colour being light) may be their other excellences in shape, purity, uniformity, and goodness.

In making these remarks, I cast not the slightest imputation on the Secretaries or Committee of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Show, whose exertions were crowned with success, and are deserving the thanks of the district.
T. S.

Notes and Queries.

I HAVE to render M. S. thanks and an apology; thanks for communicating his opinion respecting the moulting of fowls, and an apology for having, even by implication, termed him (with the rest of our brotherhood), a maniac. The information he gives about the process of changing feathers, exactly coincides with my own inferences.

I am convinced that by stimulating food the season may be brought forward, while poor or cooling diet keeps it back. I have, however, tried no experiments. Has any one noticed that preventing the hens from sitting in July and August, or removing the chickens as soon as hatched in these months, puts off moulting for some weeks longer than otherwise would have been the case.

I have no wish (to use M. S.'s phrase), "to tamper with the fundamental laws of nature;" but rather, by nice observation, to make those laws help rather than hinder us. And hinder us the law of moulting certainly does, when one wants to have a bird shown in form at a particular show, and the fowl goes all to pieces sooner than we anticipated.

My own idea is, but it is not a tried recipe that I give, but only an idea, that if one is desirous of showing a spring hen of last year at one of this November's shows, it would be politic to let her hatch a brood about August, and run with the chickens. The moulting will then, I fancy, come on soon after hatching, and the fowl will be in good condition by the middle of November, whereas my belief is, that if the bird be broken from sitting in her August broodiness, she will begin to lay again, and the moulting will be deferred until

that batch of eggs is exhausted, and the incubating process has been gone through in the regular way. At any rate, last year (the first year of my knowing anything about fowls), I noticed that all the hens which were running with late chickens, *i. e.*, July and August broods, were the first to moult and to get into condition. I thought, too, that no birds got so well through the trying season of moulting, as those which had chickens by their side at the time. I now refer to the Cochins family.

I have another appeal for facts to make to your contributors. Is it really true, as stated by P. J. (p. 185, No. 61), that Brahmas "lay more frequently than Cochins, particularly during winter?"

You, Mr. Editor, in answering a correspondent in the Letter Box, No. 55, say you have had from Brahmas no eggs; but from Cochins a good supply during the past most inclement winter. A friend of my own gives a similar report. I know that the Brahma strains vary very much in this respect; some very good layers, while others are but lazy ones. Will any one give us a return of the eggs produced by his Brahmas during the last four months? I subjoin a table of the produce of six Cochins hens during that period.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	Total.
No. 1 ...	23	19	23	24	89
" 2 ...	9	12	16	23	60
" 3 ...	10	...	21	21	52
" 4 ...	26	13	11	5	55
" 5 ...	18	...	5	19	42
" 6 ...	3	26	2	21	52
Total ...	89	70	78	113	350

No. 1 and 2 are birds of 1853. The other four are two May, and two July pullets, 1854.

No. 1 has never been broody. No. 2 has, but has not been allowed to sit. No. 3 has hatched a brood, which were removed from her at a day old. No. 6 was treated in the same way. No. 4 has hatched and

reared a brood. No. 5 has done the same, and has been sitting for the second time these last ten days. Altogether 350 eggs, and four broods, from six hens, in the past four months of cold weather. K.

Mr. Cooke's Inventions.

PERFECTION may be unattainable, but as soon as anything is brought prominently before the public, improvement is sure to take place. Let then losers by endeavours to please society at large in catering for their wants or pleasures, be satisfied or consoled by the idea that they have, even in their failures, been working out a successful idea, or contributing to a permanent good. Many a poultry show committee-man may lay this flattering unction to his soul, and against his small cash loss, place the public gain. The few exhibitions that have proved unsuccessful, may with few exceptions trace their failure to their large outlay, and to their inexperience. Many will agree with me when I say that the estimates on paper have proved very different from the bills delivered. Nothing has proved a greater difficulty than to obtain proper pens, at a reasonable rate. It has been necessary to hire the wire work from London, then to have the wood-work made up at home; and after all, the pens, instead of being a source of profit, have proved a heavy expense. It was necessary to have pens at a fixed and moderate price. This has now been accomplished, and I consider it one of the greatest boons conferred on the world of amateurs and exhibitors.

The requirements of a pen are, that it shall be light, roomy, airy, cleanly, and lofty. That it be provided with a perch, and easy to clean. Facility should be afforded for judges to take out birds, and it should be capable of being packed in a small compass, in order that it may travel at a small cost.

Mr. Cooke, of Colchester, has accomplished all this in his Registered Exhibition Pen. The back, front, and top, are

of wire; the front moves easily up and down; a slide at the bottom shuts down close, so that there is no waste of food by scratching out on the ground, nor can the dirt be thrown out and scattered abroad; this slide is easily removable, as it is independent of the wire front; one of the greatest improvements is the perch; this is suspended to two rods, which are fastened to the top; at night this is lowered; when not wanted, it is by means of a spring drawn up again to the top. It is impossible to overrate the importance of this point; instead of crouching at the bottom of the cage in wet and dirt, all night, the birds will be comfortably perched. It is a work of time to place perches at night, and remove them in the morning, and the fowls are worried by it; but in this the slightest pressure brings it down, and a touch with a stick removes it from sight. A vessel for drink is suspended to one side. The whole of this admirable invention shuts up in a small space. Four or six pens will pack in each case, and the cases will form the supports for the pens during the exhibition. Provision is made for their being put one on the other.

Nothing will render exhibitions so manageable as these pens. The exact number required can be hired; the price will be a fixed one, and so low, that a profit will accrue to every pen. They may be cleared away and packed up in an hour or two when the show is over. Two or three discoveries or inventions like this will render a poultry show as easy to manage as it has hitherto been difficult.

There is also a case in front for cards, doing away with the necessity of nailing, and making it impossible for them to be torn off by accident.

Considering that at many exhibitions it may be desirable to add poultry without incurring the risk or expense of hiring or fitting pens, Mr. Cooke has turned his attention to a basket which, admirably fitted for travelling, will on its arrival, serve as an exhibition pen. It is square, and when the lid is raised, it discovers a

wire top. The front side is lined with wood, and has deal rims all round. Being placed on its side, and the lid folded over backwards, it forms a very useful pen. As the wire front runs in a groove, it can at any time be used for a hen and chickens, or any other purpose.

Both these contrivances are cheap and durable, and may be recommended to the notice of all interested in the poultry movement. They will facilitate shows where none have before existed, and will render them less expensive than they have hitherto been.

Useful Receipts.

TO PRESERVE EGGS.—Put into a tub or barrel a quantity of quick lime, which is to be slacked by the addition of water. To this add two pounds of salt, and half a pound of cream of tartar. Then continue to add water till an egg will just swim in it. Now let this composition be put into a good barrel that can be headed up *tight*; after the eggs shall have been packed in with the small end downwards, let the barrel stand on one end for two weeks, and then on the other end, and the eggs will be preserved good for a year, or even longer.

TO STOP THE RAVAGES OF CATERPILLARS.—Take a pan with lighted charcoal, and place it under the branches of the tree or bush on which are the caterpillars. Throw a little brimstone on the coals; the vapour thence arising will be mortal to these insects, and destroy all that are on the tree.

HAMBURG MARKINGS.—In reply to "B. P. B.'s" inquiries, the full moon is the correct form of the spangle in a perfect feather. The bars of the wings are formed by the spangle or moon at the end of the feathers, between the saddle and flight. Moon'd Pheasant is the name they were and are exhibited under; and the Yorkshire birds are called Moss Pheasants.

MOONEY.

FACTS FOR NATURALISTS.—The following curious facts, which must be interesting to naturalists, have been communicated by the Rev. G. Lowe, of Upottery:—"On the 20th of March, a swallow entered my house, and resumed its nest, the history of which may prove interesting to some of your readers. Early in 1852, a pair of swallows commenced building in a corner of my entrance, half resting their nest on the wire of the door bell. The pulling of the bell repeatedly destroyed their work in different stages of its progress; once or twice when completed. Each time they recommenced their building without delay, and, at length, successfully reared two broods. The two following years they reappeared about the 20th of April, and, after meeting with similar obstacles and disappointments, again reared their young. Once their nest and unfledged birds were destroyed together; and late last summer, it was accidentally knocked down just as the second brood was about to burst the shell. The swallows rebuilt their nest from its foundation in ten days; laid their eggs; and remained behind their fellows till the young were reared. The house door was regularly closed from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.; but, notwithstanding the well-known early habits of the swallow tribe, this pair would remain quietly in their nest till the latter hour. Neither this confinement, nor the being occasionally excluded from their nest for two or three consecutive hours, nor the continual passing and re-passing of a numerous family, nor the presence of cats and dogs annoyed them; for, as before stated, the male bird has returned, though without its mate, which probably perished by the way."

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their ac-

quaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

PARIS SHOW.

SIR,—Can you give any information in regard to the Paris exhibition of poultry. In category 3 it gives four prizes to any breed: does it mean for each breed separately?—viz., Hamburgs, four prizes, Spanish, four, &c., or only four amongst the whole of them? What is the meaning of Crèvecoeurs? I am desirous of exhibiting at the Paris Exhibition, but do not know how to send them. Could not you appoint some one to carry for English exhibitors? I have no doubt many of your readers are anxious to show as well; and if you could arrange with some one you could depend upon, you would be conferring a great favour upon amateurs, and I have no doubt but it would answer the purpose of the person you would employ.

If you think this worthy of notice you will oblige me by finding a place in your valuable paper for your opinion on the subject. Can you also tell what are the most popular birds in France of fowl and pigeons.

Your well-wisher,

CROCUS.

[It is the present meaning of the French schedule to divide four prizes only amongst all breeds of fowls except those named in classes 1 and 2. Crocus will find information on other points which he names in other portions of this Number.—Ed.]

PIGEONS &C. FOR THE PARIS SHOW.

DEAR SIR,—Would it not be a great accommodation to intending English exhibitors, if you were to give the following particulars respecting the Paris exhibition of poultry:—First, as to the exact amount of entry, in English money? Secondly, the last day the entries must be sent in to the Consul-General in London? Thirdly, what would be the expense of sending a pen of poultry from Birmingham, the double journey, and likewise of pigeons? Fourthly, would it do to send birds the distance of say from Birmingham, without any one with them to take care of them? I think by your answering the above questions in the next number you would greatly oblige a great many of your readers, and your obedient servant,

Birmingham.

H. C. J.

P.S.—Please likewise state how many prizes

there will be awarded to pigeons, and other particulars respecting them likely to be useful.

ROSE-COMBED DORKINGS.

SIR,—A question of much interest naturally presents itself at this time to the minds of those desirous to send Dorkings to the exhibitions of this year. Are rose-combed and single-combed birds to be judged by the ordinary rules, without reference to comb? Last year, some of the very best birds ever exhibited were totally neglected by some judges because they were rose-combed, while the very same birds stood at the head of the prize-list where gentlemen of different opinions decided the fate of the day.

I think, as far as I can see at present, the rose-combs are rising in the estimation of the poultry world in general, and they certainly excel their rivals in weight and size. Out of a large yard, I can produce six rose-combed birds weighing as much as any eight single-combed birds, though the latter have never been beaten at any show.

For my own part I am resolved what to exhibit and what to withhold from exhibition, inasmuch as I have both kinds; but I think the question is one needing an answer, as the non-decision must cause much difficulty to those who are not in the same position. On this account I beg you will excuse my troubling you to give these few lines a space in your admirable "Chronicle," and believe me, sir, your

CONSTANT READER.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

So long as the present unkind weather shall last, we might to save trouble, repeat one cry, "Bad trade, no supply, and very high prices." Chickens should be coming in plentifully, but they will not till rain and warmer weather enables them to grow. The same causes may explain the comparative scarcity of plover's eggs.

Large Fowls	7s. 6d. to	8s. 0d. each.
Smaller do.	6s. 0d. to	6s. 6d. "
Inferior do.	4s. 0d. to	4s. 6d. "
Chickens	4s. 6d. to	5s. 0d. "
Inferior do.	3s. 3d. to	3s. 6d. "
Green Geese	7s. 6d. to	8s. 0d. "
Ducklings	6s. 6d. to	0s. 0d. "
Guinea Fowls	4s. 0d. to	4s. 3d. "
Leverets	3s. 0d. to	4s. 6d. "
Pigeons	0s. 10d. to	0s. 11d. "
Quails	2s. 6d. to	2s. 9d. "
Dottrells	3s. 6d. to	4s. 0d. "
Plover's Eggs, in bulk,	3s. 3d. to	3s. 6d. per doz.

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

On Monday, April 30, with scarcely the same activity in trade at Mark Lane as on Friday, the advance of the week was 5s. per sack on flour. Barley, 1s. more than the week before. Oats, 1s. to 2s. advance.

	BRITISH.	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	red	77 to 86
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	red	70 .. 78
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	70 .. 77
BARLEY, Malting, new		30 .. 31
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Chevalier	32 .. 34
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Distilling	29 .. 32
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Grinding	29 .. 31
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new		65 .. 70
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	old	66 .. 70
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new	70 .. 72
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	old	68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed		26 .. 26
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	potato	26 .. 29
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Scotch feed, new	28 .. 29
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	old	32 .. 33
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	potato	32 .. 34
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Irish feed, white	25 .. 28
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	black	24 .. 26
RYE		40 .. 42
BEANS, Mazagan		36 .. 40
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Ticks	37 .. 42
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Harrow	38 .. 42
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Pigeon	40 .. 47
PEAS, White, boilers		40 .. 46
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Maple	39 .. 41
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Grey	36 .. 39
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.		65 .. 70
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Households, town	65 .. 66
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	country	56 .. 59
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship	52 .. 55

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2.

VERY little English wheat on show. In foreign a further advance of 2s. per quarter was generally demanded, but this checked buyers, who were inclined to take at Monday's advance. Floating cargoes on passage from Egypt have been in good request—50s. paid for Saide, and 44s. 9d. and 45s. for Bahera. Only two arrived cargoes on sale, and they held for high rates. No Indian corn off the coast; most of the cargoes on passage, near at hand, have changed hands at higher rates. Barley stiffens, but not so active as other grain. Rye wanted for the continent, but difficult to procure. Malt and peas fully support Monday's improvement. Beans held very firmly, and for more money. A

fair sprinkling of foreign oats have got in, and importers being anxious to realise their profits, found ready buyers without further advance; but in Irish the transactions were quite in retail.

To Correspondents.

Tyro.—Although there may be no discharge from the nostrils of the Cochins cock, you may be sure that rattling in the throat is a symptom which, if neglected, will lead to that and every other attendant on roup. It is caused by the dry weather and cold winds. Give a table-spoonful of castor oil; use afterwards Bailey's pills, or any other remedy you prefer. Feed on soft food, such as slaked meal; and if the cold wind lasts, give him some stale bread soaked in strong beer. Separate him from the other fowls.

Brahmas as Winter Layers, K.—We have not found Brahmas quite such good winter layers as Cochins. Before the past winter they laid most abundantly all through the autumn, but left off in December. The Cochins laid throughout the winter months. The Brahmas began to lay abundantly in February, and have laid well to the present time, when some are getting broody. The eggs are very large, and they generally lay every day. So far as we can judge, without registering the eggs regularly, we should think the Brahmas lay the greatest number in the year, the Cochins most about Christmas.

A Working Man must send us his address, and we will give him the best advice we can offer. "What is your opinion of Mr. Somebody's stock?" is scarcely a fair question to put to an editor, especially with the expectation of having it answered in print; as, if the opinion were not favourable, Mr. Somebody's fowls might feel aggrieved.

Advertisements.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork, Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market, London.

PURE BRED AND PRIZE AYLESBURY DUCKS.—An Amateur has for immediate Sale, in consequence of want of accommodation for the same, the Drake and three Ducks of this valuable breed, that gained the first prize at Birmingham in the Cottagers' Class, December last.—Apply to Mr. WILLIAM TAYLOR, Hashenden Farm, Rochester, Kent.

MR. DANIEL PARSLEY, of Rock Cottage, Stapleton Road, Bristol, will continue to supply EGGS from his large White-face 1st prize Spanish fowls, at £1 per dozen. The produce of the above fowls took 1st prize at the last Yeovil Show; 1st prize at the last Taunton Show; 1st prize at the Gloucester Show. They also beat twenty-four pens of Spanish at the last Reading Poultry Show, thus D. P.'s adult Spanish and their produce have beaten most of the best Spanish in England.

EGGS FOR SETTING may be had from the Yard of Mr. H. D. DAVIES, whose stock has been carefully bred and selected from all the best strains, and has already taken upwards of 250 prizes. Spanish, Dorking, Brahma, and Rangoon Eggs, £2 2s., and White Cochins and Aylesbury Ducks, £1 11s. 6d., the dozen, to include basket, &c. Spanish and Dorking Fowls of all ages may be selected from that portion of the stock not required for breeding or exhibition this season.

For Cock and 1 Pullet	£5 5 0
For Cock and 2 Pullets	7 7 0
For Cock and 4 Pullets	10 10 0

Remittances, by Post-office Order, payable to GEORGE KEEBLE, the Bailiff, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, to accompany all orders.

Mr. Davies will feel obliged if persons who wish to see the Poultry will make it convenient to do so between the hours of 10 and 4 on any Wednesday or Saturday.

EGGS FOR SETTING, (prices reduced from 1st of May), all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:

Dorkings, Brahma Pootra (Pencilled and Light). Spanish (Rake's), Cochins, Buff and White. Hambros, Gold and Silver Pencilled and Spangled; Polish and Bantams.

Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers. Pheasants and Partridges' eggs in any numbers. All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.

JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

FOWLS BY JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest, Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a Chapter on the Bramah Pootra Fowl the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s., or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Fater-noster Row.

EGGS.—Dorking, Spanish, and Buff Cochins, from really first-rate birds, including 1st prize and Silver Cup birds at Birmingham and Liverpool; to be sold at the yard of Mrs. Donne, Oswestry, £2 2s. per dozen.—Apply to Mr. JOHN CHIDLAW, Oswestry.

COCHIN CHINAS.—EGGS from the Yards of Mr. PUNCHARD, of Blunt's Hall, Haverhill, Suffolk, forwarded in rotation, as orders are received, at the price of ninepence each, package included.

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, 2yd., 2 yards wide, 5d. per yard, 100 yards, 2 yards wide for 34s. Also repaired Tanned Netting for the above purposes: 1 yard wide 1yd., 2 yards wide, 3d. per yard; 100 yards, 2 yards wide, for 18s. 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.

BRAHMAS and HAMBURGS FOR SALE.

—Brahma Cock and three well-matched Pullets, of Gilbert's Breed, £2 the lot. Also three Golden Spangled Hamburg Pullets, of Conyer's Breed, 10s. each. Dorking and Cochín Eggs, 10s. the dozen. Apply to Rev. GEORGE HUSTLER, Appleton, Tadcaster.

FIRST CLASS SPANISH EGGS.—For Sale,

from Birds that took first prizes at Cambridge and Colchester Shows, 1854, late the property of the Rev. Morton Shaw. Price, £2 per dozen.—Apply, with Post-office Order, to JAMES F. DIXON, Cotgrave, near Nottingham.

FOR SALE, Two ROUEN DUCKS, from

Mr. Worrall's stock, of Knotty Ash, a Drake, bred by Mrs. Henderson, perfect in colour and of a large size, price 35s. A Buff Cochín China Cock, a son of Salopian and Dido, well-feathered and vulture hocks. A Lemon-coloured Cochín China Cock, with well-feathered legs, and a Buff tail, price, 21s. each. A Brahma Pootra Cock, two years old, Pea-comb, has weighed fifteen pounds, imported from Dr. Bennett's stock, heavily feathered legs, and in all respects a first rate bird, price £2. Address, R. S., Post-office, Hereford.

NEST EGGS.—Cochín Colour, White or

Bantams, 4s. per dozen. See Vol. 3, No. 56, page 55. May be had of JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount St., Grosvenor Square, London, or HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate Street, Gloucester.

JAMES DIXON, Bradford, Yorkshire, will

continue to sell EGGS during the season from his prize Golden and Silver Spangled, and Golden and Silver Pencilled Hamburg Fowls, Bearded Golden Polands, and White-faced Black Spanish. Price 10s. the setting of 15.

THE DORSETSHIRE ASSOCIATION for

the IMPROVEMENT of DOMESTIC POULTRY will hold its Annual Exhibition at Dorchester, on the 24th and 25th of October next.

Forms of entry will shortly be issued, and further particulars announced.

PURE AYLESBURY DUCK EGGS, 15s.

a setting of twelve. Post-office Order, DANIEL RUSSELL, Reading, Berks. One setting now ready.

SERAI TÁOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan,

A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 21s. the Dozen.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from Gray Pea-Combed mature birds, at 21s. the Dozen.

A few good **COCHÍN HENS** at a moderate price. Apply to Miss E. WATTS, 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, 15th May, at 12 o'clock precisely, a Selection of **CHOICE POULTRY**, from the yards of several breeders of First-class Stock; including Spanish, Dorkings, Brahma, Cochíns, Hamburgs, Polands, &c. Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope, to Mr. J. C. Stevens, 38, King-street, Covent Garden.

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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.

"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,600, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d. have been received for new premiums.

"These items, when compared with the business of the preceding year, display an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

"While the income of the Company has thus received so large an accession, the office has only been called on, during the same period, to pay £1,663 19s. 10d. for claims, a sum which bears a remarkably small proportion to the mortality which might justly have been anticipated. This feature in the career of the company has thus been maintained to the ninth year, and the Directors trust that such a fact evidences the care with which the business of the office has been invariably conducted."

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HENRY D. DAVENPORT, Sec.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.
Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 17s. 4d.; half-yearly, 8s. 8d.; quarterly, 4s. 4d.; payable in advance.

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HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 64.]

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1855.

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Poultry Shows.

Hexham Third Annual Exhibition, Monday and Tuesday, 14th and 15th of May. Secretaries, Mr. W. Turner, Hexham; and Mr. Jonathan Bell, High Shield. Entries close Saturday, May 5th. (No. 61.)

Paris Agricultural Meeting, June 1st—9th. Entries from English Exhibitors to be sent to the Consul-General for France, King William Street, City, in time to reach Paris by May 24th. (No. 59 and 63.)

Bath and West of England, at Tiverton, June 6th, 7th, and 8th. Secretary, J. Kingsbury, Esq., Hammet Street, Taunton. Entries close May 10th. (No. 62.)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st. (No. 52.)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries close June 1st. (No. 57.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at

Boston, Thursday, July 26. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close Wednesday, July 11th. (No. 64.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th.

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Keighly Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighly. Entries close Saturday, August 25th.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh

Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition. at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th.

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

WE know nothing so elastic or so plastic as the human mind; nothing so comprehensive; it embraces all things and knows no bounds. It descends to the smallest pursuits, and brings all its mighty energies and capabilities to bear upon the most minute subject. Yet it is like everything else, more or less, the slave of custom and association. The inventor of a new theory, the discoverer of a new science is seldom appreciated, because he has to be weighed and estimated by minds of a lower calibre than his own. Ordinary minds will ever be swayed by appearances and guided by the past; extraordinary ones will go beyond the knowledge of the times in which they live. Custom or familiarity will reconcile us to things that would otherwise appear ridiculous. The genius of Garrick made spectators forget his eccentricities of costume. In the remarkable artistic conceptions of Martin, now exhibiting at the Hall of Commerce in the City, although professing to describe on canvas the sublime things of revelation, he has not hesitated to introduce a railroad. Familiarity with the object has excused the

introduction and disarmed criticism. What would have been thought some years since of men of talent and fortune, devoting both to the conception and making pens for exhibiting fowls. It would have been the signal for all sorts of ridicule, and simply because shows were not then in existence; yet such is now the case, and the public appreciate their efforts and will gratefully support them. Association causes this. There is now hardly a locality that has not a poultry show within reach, and although the duration of the show itself may be only two or three days, yet it connects itself with the whole year. Men are gregarious, they like to be assembled together; they are fond of excitement, as competitions of every sort will prove. But some sports are not within reach of many, and are objectionable to others. Hence the popularity of archery meetings, flower shows, and last, not least, poultry shows. Here all grades and all purses meet; the silver medal or cup is within reach of all. The most fastidious can urge no objection. Those then who by the use of their intelligence and means can render these exhibitions more perfect and less expensive, deserve the thanks of all who delight in an innocent and eminently useful recreation.

We believe the present age to be pre-eminently practical. Things are estimated at their real value, and there is only a general demand for those that are really wanted; let the prices now realised by superior fowls speak for the soundness of the poultry pursuit. They are not the result of a fancy, but the dissemination of poultry knowledge has taught people that

the best stock is that which can be brought to insure a certain return. Shows are the means whereby this knowledge is to be gained, and those who can simplify their details, or render them more remunerative, may confidently do so with the full belief that their time and efforts are not thrown away on an unimportant or ephemeral pursuit. The arrival of a cook for the army in the Peninsula, to undertake his art on a large scale, would have been hailed perhaps with contempt or mockery; but the advent of M. Soyer at Constantinople has been the signal for immense improvement, and wishes are expressed that he should proceed to the Crimea. Every man is a link in the great social chain, and he who by understanding one thing thoroughly can thereby add to the comfort, pleasure, or prosperity of his fellows, deserves well of the whole body.

The Poultry Yard.

MAY 16.

If we take a strolling wander among sweet shady lanes, or loiter away an hour upon the gorse-covered heath, during the months of May and June, we may, perchance, be threatened with a shower, and have to share the scanty shelter of the straggling cluster of sloe-bushes, with the turkey-hen and her brood belonging to some neighbouring cottager; and if the cottager's wife or daughter rush out, regardless of her occupation, to see to the safety of her turkey-chicks, driving them in, secure from the least sprinkle of wet, we may note her whereabouts, for there we shall find a fine turkey for our Christmas dinner, if they are not all sold before. No youngsters of the poultry yard require more watchful care than turkey chicks; and the most important point is; never let them get

wet, keep them in until the dew is off the grass, and never let them be caught in rain or hail. Hail is most destructive to the young broods. The turkey-hen is a kind mother, but not always a wise one. It is better, therefore, to coop her; and, that she she may not trample on her little ones, let the coop be abundantly roomy. All birds which are delicate while young, should be encouraged to eat a little *very often*. In giving this close attention to young turkeys, we may have the satisfaction of knowing that our trouble will not be of long continuance, for the little charge soon outgrows this early delicacy.

Wet is almost as injurious to ducklings as to turkey chicks. Keep them from the water for a few weeks, and give them plenty of food, to which attention they will respond by rapid growth. The plumage of the duck resists the water; she does not get wet to the skin, which the duckling, with only its covering of down, does.

In setting the eggs of guinea-fowls, the circumstance must be remembered that these birds mate in pairs; consequently, if several hens are kept with one cock, the eggs of all except one will prove unfertile. The guinea-hen generally lays astray; and if she is wise in the choice of a convenient, snug, safe spot, perhaps it is as well to let her choose for herself; but it is also well to find out what she fancies her secret, which may be done by watching the cock: while the hen is laying, he invariably mounts guard over her hiding-place. It is best to let her still fancy that her whereabouts is a profound secret, in the safe keeping of herself and her lord only.

These birds are worth keeping where there is sufficient range for them, as they are very nice for the table when a change is most needed, just as game goes out of season, and the hens lay a good number of eggs, of a very delicate flavour.

THE throat of birds is generally very small, but hawks, nevertheless, often take quite large *swallows*.

Schedule of North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting.

THE eighteenth annual meeting of this Society will be held at Boston on Thursday, July 26. Persons residing in any part of the kingdom may exhibit, and *no entrance fee is required*. All entries must be lodged with the secretary on or before Wednesday, July 11.

Sweepstakes of one sovereign each will be opened by the secretary on application.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

FOWLS.

Class.	1st. s.	2nd. s.
31. For the best Cock and two Hens, Dorking breed	10	5 0
32. For the best Cock and two Hens, Spanish breed	10	5 0
33. For the best Cock and two Hens, Malay breed	10	5 0
34. For the best Cock and two Hens, Cochin China breed	10	5 0
35. For the best Cock and two Hens, Game breed	10	5 0
36. For the best Cock and two Hens, Golden Spangled or Pencilled, Hamburg breed	10	5 0
37. For the best Cock and two Hens, Silver Spangled or Pencilled, Hamburg breed	10	5 0
38. For the best Cock and two Hens, Poland breed	10	5 0
39. For the best Cock and two Hens, Bantam breed	10	5 0

DUCKS.

40. For the best Drake and two Ducks, Aylesbury breed	10	5 0
41. For the best Drake and two Ducks, Rouen breed	10	5 0
42. For the best Drake and two Ducks of any other breed	10	5 0

GEESE.

43. For the best Gander and Goose...	15	7 6
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TURKEYS.

44. For the best Cock and Hen	15	7 6
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GUINEA FOWLS.

45. For the best Cock and Hen	10	5 0
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PIGEONS.

46. For the best six Fancy Pigeons...	10	
47. For the best six Common ditto ...	10	

EXTRA LIVE STOCK.

The Judges will have power to award premiums for extra Live Stock, not entered to compete in any class, if deemed of sufficient merit, not exceeding in the whole £10

CONDITIONS AND REGULATIONS.

Entries for premiums and sweepstakes, and of extra stock, must be made in writing, and lodged with the Secretary on or before Wednesday, the 11th July, 1855, and no entry received afterwards will be noticed. The name and residence of the exhibitor must be stated in the entry.

Blank forms of entry may be had on application to the Secretary, at Brigg, Lincolnshire.

No animal shall take more than one premium at this exhibition, nor shall any animal after taking a first premium compete in the same class at any subsequent exhibition.

Competitors, if required, must produce satisfactory evidence to the Committee, that the animals exhibited come strictly within the conditions for which the premiums are offered.

Parties objecting to the qualification of any animal must state the grounds of objection to the Secretary, in writing, before the premium or sweepstakes be paid.

All disputes and questions respecting the premiums and sweepstakes shall be settled by any five of the Committee.

The Stock must be upon the ground on the 26th of July by 8 o'clock in the morning, or they positively will be excluded, and remain until 3.

Exhibitors must provide coops for their poultry, and the Society will prepare stands to place them upon. The poultry entered for each class must be in a separate coop.

The Auctioneer, appointed by the Society, will attend to dispose of any stock entered for a premium or sweepstakes, or as extra stock, immediately after the Judges have made their award.

The Judges, without enquiry as to the names of the parties, are to determine by reference to the number affixed to each animal, &c., and in forming their judgment they are requested to make due allowance for age, and circumstances peculiar to the cases that may come before them.

The Judges are requested to withhold any of the premiums if they think the stock exhibited not worthy of them.

Every person not being a member, who

obtains a premium of upwards of £1, shall subscribe 10s. for the present year.

N. B. The Secretary will attend at the Peacock Inn, Boston, on Wednesday, the 11th of July, to receive entries.

By Order,

JOHN HERT, Secretary.

Brigg, Lincolnshire.

Colour of Dorkings.

I OBSERVE in your number for April 25, a letter from "Anglo-Hibernian," headed "Dorkings at Dublin," on which I beg to offer some remarks as to the colour of Dorkings. He refers to the prize birds in the chicken class, and says "they were objected to (I presume by a spectator) as being of the wrong colour, and then was shown a pen known in this country as Lord Hill's colour." I beg to say that all the birds that obtained the prizes were birds of Lord Hill's colour, viz., black-breasted birchins, in which I was adjudged second prizes in both classes.

"Anglo-Hibernian" "was informed it was decidedly wrong for a Dorking cock to have a white feather in his tail." I have been a breeder of Dorking fowl for many years, my stock originally obtained from the late Lord Derby, and the cocks invariably had the root of the sickle feathers for about four inches white, on the second moult; I beg to state that I never heard such being used as an objection to the purity of breed of a Dorking cock. "Anglo-Hibernian" was sorry to hear this, as he continues, "It has long been ruled in this country that Dorkings have no colour." To this remark I shall only say, I hope not, and cannot believe such to be the case, and I warn the English public against being misled by such a supposition. Dorkings have not only a colour and distinct specific markings, but they have more a *peculiar shape* that cannot be mongrelised with impurity; I regret to agree so far with "Anglo-Hibernian" that for the last two years a great effort has been made in England to make Dorkings of *no colour*, but I hope the good sense of the public,

and above all increasing knowledge, will put an extinguisher on such ideas. It was melancholy to observe at the last Birmingham Show that the birds were indeed of *no colour*, and why? Because they were not thorough-bred Dorkings, but Dorkings crossed with the coarse Sussex and other breeds of apparent size, in which the bone has been increased but not the shape or flesh, in some instances painful to look at for their highly feathered legs and feet.

I shall not comment on "Anglo-Hibernian's" advice to the Irish poultry exporters; both may be right, but shall conclude by informing him if such a thing exists as "a poultry-yard of Dorkings of all hues," it is but to say that the stock has been most inconsiderately selected, and although the same idea is broached in the poultry book, I beg to place it on record that at least one breeder of Dorkings for a long series of years, never knew an instance of grey or black-breasted birchin Dorkings producing any other than grey Dorkings. Feather and distinctive characteristics must be closely adhered to, or poultry improvement will soon have an end.

R. PALMER WILLIAMS.

THE SHOW AT PARIS.—There appears to be some difficulty about a proper person to take charge of the poultry on its arrival. Would it not be well for the exhibitors to engage some competent person to do so? Divided among several, the expense would be trifling to each.

IMPORTATIONS.—Attempts are being made to compile accurate accounts of the quantity of poultry, and number of eggs, imported yearly into London. We have always advocated such a work, we expect valuable results from it, and we heartily wish it success.

BARNUM'S BOOK.—We see in the "American Country Gentleman" this is a drug in the market. We are glad to find such good sense in our trans-Atlantic friends.

Rules for Judging.

YOUR correspondent, who signs himself "A Judge," thinks that no rules are necessary for the guidance of the gentlemen who make the awards at poultry shows. I am sorry that my experience leads me to form a contrary opinion; and I know that many amateurs, who (like myself) are *not* disappointed exhibitors, think that some change is necessary to secure that uniformity in the awards which ought to, but unfortunately does not, at present exist. I consider facts carry greater weight than arguments, and will therefore mention a few discrepancies in the decisions at three exhibitions last season. I speak from memory, and am not certain that the dates given are quite correct, but I believe the Birmingham Show took place Dec. 13, 1854; Colchester, Dec. 27; Liverpool, January 17, 1855. The Golden-laced Bantams that took 1st prize at Birmingham, were not even commended by the judges at Colchester, but were again awarded 1st prize at Liverpool! Surely these birds, if they merited 1st prizes at Birmingham and Liverpool, ought to have been commended at the Colchester show, which took place in the mean time. The largest class in the Birmingham exhibition was young Dorkings, of which 117 pens were entered; three prizes were awarded, a large number commended, and the judges stated that the whole class was deserving of the "highest commendation;" yet the birds that took the 2nd prize were not thought worthy of any kind of notice by the Liverpool judges. A pen of black Cochins, which passed without remark at Colchester, took 1st prize at Liverpool. The game fowls that won the vase as the best pen at Birmingham, were passed by the judges at Liverpool without comment, but the cup was given to a pen which took 2nd prize at Birmingham, and which, although exhibited at Colchester, were not noticed by the judges in any way. All the discrepancies that I have mentioned, came under my notice without being in

any way sought after by me; it is fair, therefore, to presume that many similar cases have occurred, although I have not heard of them; in fact at different times, great numbers have come under my observation, and I will cite one or two of them simply to show that such things are by no means rare. The Golden-spangled Hamburgs that took 1st prize at Shrewsbury as old birds in November last, and were mentioned in several reports of the show as being very superior specimens, were considered unworthy of notice at Birmingham three weeks afterwards! and this could not be from the quality of the birds in the same class, for the 1st prize was withheld. At Birmingham, in 1853, two pens of Golden-spangled Hamburgs belonging to the same exhibitor, took 1st and 2nd prizes (as old birds); the same two pens were sent to Baker Street a few weeks afterwards, with a totally different result. The fowls that received 1st prize at Birmingham were not noticed, but the 2nd prize pen were again awarded a 2nd prize. At the London Show, in January, 1853, the 1st prize for Golden-laced Bantams was awarded to birds that had been exhibited at Birmingham a few weeks previously without remark, although the pen which had been brought into successful competition with them at Birmingham was present, which also in its turn was unnoticed by the judges in London. The fact of my being able to quote from my own observation the five or six cases of want of uniformity in the awards that occurred at the first three shows, alone proves that something must be wrong either in the system itself, or in the way in which it is carried out. It would probably be difficult to find gentlemen better qualified for the office of arbitrators than those who acted at the exhibitions in question; I consider it therefore to be a fair inference that the system is faulty; and the only remedy I can suggest, is the formation of a code of rules such as I before advocated in your columns.

A. A. A.

Broody Hens.

IN last week's "Chronicle" I see a post-script to the letter signed "W. S.," asking whether "eggs are ever found in the ovary of a broody hen after hatching her chickens."

Having had some experience in fowl breeding, I can vouch for the fact, that a hen sometimes lays in the coop after being shut up with her chicks a short time since hatching. It has more than once happened in my yard, and must show that there were eggs in the ovary: and as eggs are some time coming to maturity, they would have been in existence for an uncertain period.

Is there any reason to suppose, that when a hen becomes broody she no longer contains the seeds, so to speak, of eggs? and if not, why may these not be gradually growing during the period of incubation? though generally not produced till some excitement, such as being turned away from her chickens to the yard with the cock, hurries them forward.

Rabbits have been known to contain young of different ages at the same time, and to give birth to a second litter before the previous lot had finished suckling; and in my experience as a rabbit keeper, I have always found the doe most ready to meet the advances of the buck a day or two after kindling.

I will not trespass further on your space than to add, that I believe it is not necessary for a hen turkey to visit the cock more than once at the beginning of the season to render her eggs productive; and that the fact of the zebra-marked colts may be found in the "Penny Encyclopædia," under the head of "Horse" or "Equus."

E. M. N.

Royal Agricultural Society.

THE Country Meeting at Lincoln, last year, proved the most successful, in every respect, hitherto held by the society. The cordial greeting and hospitality the members received, the liberality of the Mayor, and the co-operation of the local com-

mittee, alike contributed effectively to promote the objects of the society; while the special prizes offered by the Mayor to the owners of hunting horses, and to the breeders of improved Lincoln sheep, and those for long wool offered by the local committee, increased the variety of the show.

A peculiar international interest was at the same time given to the proceedings by the presence of a body of gentlemen, deputed specially to attend the meeting by His Majesty the Emperor of the French, as a mark of his respect towards the society and the agriculturists of our country.

The Council accepted the invitation of the authorities of Carlisle, to hold the society's country meeting of 1855 in that city, and measures were taken for preparing the land for the trial of implements, and for the purposes of the show-yard.

The French government transmitted to the society, through the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in Paris, a valuable collection of important agricultural works published in France; intimating that all requests from the society for information from France would be complied with. The Council, in acknowledging this mark of consideration on the part of the French government, availed themselves of the opportunity to transmit a complete set of the Society's Journal for their acceptance.

The constant accession of new members from every part of the kingdom, is sufficient evidence of the increasing usefulness of the society, and of the advantages derived from a national institution; which uniting a large proportion of the agricultural community, becomes a powerful engine towards improvements, and which, while tending to advance individual interests, promotes the general welfare of the nation.

—From "Report of General Meeting."

WEAR YOUR LEARNING like your watch, in a private pocket, and don't pull it out to show that you have one; but if you are asked what is't o'clock, then tell it.

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YOUR correspondent, who signs himself "A Judge," thinks that no rules are necessary for the guidance of the gentlemen who make the awards at poultry shows. I am sorry that my experience leads me to form a contrary opinion; and I know that many amateurs, who (like myself) are *not* disappointed exhibitors, think that some change is necessary to secure that uniformity in the awards which ought to, but unfortunately does not, at present exist. I consider facts carry greater weight than arguments, and will therefore mention a few discrepancies in the decisions at three exhibitions last season. I speak from memory, and am not certain that the dates given are quite correct, but I believe the Birmingham Show took place Dec. 13, 1854; Colchester, Dec. 27; Liverpool, January 17, 1855. The Golden-faced Bantams that took 1st prize at Birmingham, were not even commended by the judges at Colchester, but were again awarded 1st prize at Liverpool! Surely these birds, if they merited 1st prizes at Birmingham and Liverpool, ought to have been commended at the Colchester show, which took place in the mean time. The largest class in the Birmingham exhibition was young Dorkings, of which 117 pens were entered; three prizes were awarded, a large number commended, and the judges stated that the whole class was deserving of the "highest commendation;" yet the birds that took the 2nd prize were not thought worthy of any kind of notice by the Liverpool judges. A pen of black Cochins, which passed without remark at Colchester, took 1st prize at Liverpool. The game fowls that won the vase as the best pen at Birmingham, were passed by the judges at Liverpool without comment, but the cup was given to a pen which took 2nd prize at Birmingham, and which, although exhibited at Colchester, were not noticed by the judges in any way. All the discrepancies that I have mentioned, came under my notice without being in

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It does not seem to suppose, that when a hen becomes broody she no longer continues the work, as to speak, of eggs; and if not, why may these not be gradually growing during the period of incubation? I thought generally not produced till some excitement, such as being turned away from her chickens to the yard with the work, hurries them forward.

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ere awarded first prize by judges, Messrs. Baily and

lained, to my sorrow; and I of them till the following complaint was made "that bers." I at once said, "That a time had been allowed re any complaint was made, either to allow their present t from my best goslings of ve the decision, as to what I the matter, to the committee—in short, I would do what-an should do, under the cir-

s offer through one of the m whom I have not since few days ago I received a to say that unless I imme- even a larger sum of money eived from the Committee, ings" would be adopted. "That he knows I can have a threat;—that I am in the ommittee, and will act by without any regard to any l proceedings."

omment on this matter be- at great allowance must be sappointment of a purchaser, the spring pass, without from his highly priced and pen: and I do not think am to blame in the matter, ot breed those goslings, but ;—and I cannot think that I claim on my North Country end, whose answer to my com- ld be, "Why did you not find re?"

ve everybody will allow the diffi- judging the sex of young geese. st judges are at fault. After their d spring, there can be no mistake t it; but I would suggest, that if (as n poultry) there were two classes for ese,—for a gander and two geese more an a year old, and for three goslings under a year old,—any claimant of a gosling pen

Another Poultry Pen.

A VERY pretty model of a poultry pen has been forwarded to us, the intention of which is to unite a coop in which to pack the birds, send them by rail or other conveyance, and afterwards exhibit them in the show-room. The model represents a neat deal case of ample exhibition dimensions; the top is of wire, set straight in a frame of wood, and opens as a lid. The front is of wires placed perpendicularly, a portion of which is fixed to a bit of wood for the convenience of drawing them up to take out or replace a fowl. The pen is furnished with a wooden tray like that of a bird-cage, and can have a perch. It is accompanied by a crate of rough laths, into which it can be slipped for travelling.

The inventor thus speaks of it: "I find an opinion very prevalent, that a plan is needed by means of which fowls could be, with one contrivance, sent by rail and furnished with convenience for their exhibition. I have endeavoured to design a model comprising these two objects. It is composed of two parts, both very cheap and simple. *One* is a pen of light wood, made according to a scale. In this the birds are to be sent and exhibited. The *other* is a crate or framework of rough, coarse laths. The pen is dropped inside this by a cord fixed for the purpose, when the birds are sent on long or exposed journeys, thus giving protection to both fowls and pen, while full ventilation is secured.

"When the fowls arrive at the place of exhibition, nothing more is required than to lift the pen out of the crate and place it in the row. The crate may be used as a stand for the pen. I shall be much gratified, should my endeavour prove of service, and be found to answer a want becoming, as I understand, of a very serious character in the management of poultry shows."

At the North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, to be held at Boston next July, exhibitors are to provide their own pens; but no particular standard is set forth. This will be a good opportunity for testing

and comparing the different pens which we have lately had the pleasure of noticing and discussing. We fear the plan of getting exhibitors to send birds to exhibitions in pens in which they may be exhibited, has difficulties in its way which will interfere with its working smoothly. The chief of these is expense—the expense of purchasing the coops—the expense of carriage of coops large enough for the exhibition room. We shall be much obliged if all our contributors who have made their inventions and ideas known in our pages, will kindly complete their communications by telling us (and our readers) the cost of each respectively.

Exhibitors at Shows.

THE agricultural interest is greatly indebted to Professor Symonds for his able exposition of the dentition of animals as indicative of age; and I trust that the clear rules he has laid down, together with the determination of the Royal Agricultural, and of the Birmingham Societies, not only to disqualify, but to expose all attempts at deception as to age, may deter dishonest exhibitors from persevering in a practice hitherto very prevalent.

A similar exposure is much required at poultry shows, especially as regards black Spanish chickens; in many instances, last winter, I observed hens of at least twenty months old entered as pullets, and in some, cocks with cut spurs entered as cockerels. Public exposure, and disqualification from exhibiting at any future shows of the same society, are the only means of effectually preventing such dishonesty.

A paper on the "indications of age in poultry," at successive periods of their growth, would, I think, be interesting to many of your subscribers.

I have never seen any satisfactory explanation of the cause of the financial failure of the Manchester Poultry Show, and such an unfortunate result in a large town is certainly singular.

Intending to exhibit, and observing in

the advertisements and premium list that the only name given was that of the secretary, I wrote to him to inquire the names of the committee responsible for the safe custody of the birds; and in reply he stated, "that the committee consisted of the same gentlemen as last year, but that they did not wish their names to be made public!!!" Of course I did not send any of my best birds, and I daresay many other breeders, like myself, were unwilling to trust their favourites to an unknown committee, and a secretary no doubt highly respectable, but also unknown to us.

I think you will bear me out in the opinion, that a well-known and influential committee is one of the first essentials to a successful poultry show. M. S.

The Controversy.

WE are getting into most admired confusion with "Moonies," "Hamburgs," "Pheasants," "Boltons," "Chitteprats," "Full-tails," and "Hen-tails." The wars of the Roses were nothing to it, and yet the two counties of York and Lancaster are the prominent combatants. B. P. B. is a stout antagonist, and surrounded by opponents:—

"Alone, but undismayed, he holds them all at bay."

Although differing from him, I cannot say I consider him beaten; but if beating is to signify a number of hard knocks rather than being vanquished, I would paraphrase an old saw and say,—

"A woman, a spaniel, and B. P. B.,
The more you beat them, the better they be."

He and I are both old writers of the "Chronicle," and we do not agree. I wish to exclude hen-cocks, because they are not cocks in appearance; but so far from wishing to introduce cock hens, it is precisely because the admission of the first would open the door to the second that I object to them. Many months since, I said

that the time would come, if hen-tails became the fashion, that three hens should be successfully exhibited, in a class for a cock and two hens. Such a pen was shown but not rewarded with a prize, at the last Dorchester show. They were duck-wing game. Whether the bird be a freak of nature from the birth, or whether change of plumage be the result of age or disease, I have the same objection to it. It is not a proper cock. They are common in coverts among pheasants, and the change has been always found on dissection to be caused by or connected with disease of the ovary.

I find that reading B. P. B.'s excellent papers has led me into the Hamburg controversy deeper than I intended.

The name of Hamburg, given to the Pencilled variety, is easily accounted for. They have been known as such for very many years, and have been constantly imported from Holland, where they were known by that name by Englishmen trading backwards and forwards. I quite agree with B. P. B., the Spangled Hamburgs are improperly named. In much experience I have never seen one of them from Holland, or from any part of the continent. I cannot agree with him they have any pretension to the name of Pheasants. I will call them Moonies, because I can see a reason or derivation, in the moon or crescent that *should be* on each feather. I will call them mosses if he likes, because there is nothing repugnant in it to my ears, although I see no reason for it. But we know that they were named Pheasants, because there is a tradition that there is a mixture of that bird in their composition. Now, nothing can be so ridiculous, and while every show in its rules sets forth that it is desirable birds should be correctly named, no one is justified in adhering to such notions. Let it once be admitted, and Pheasant Polands, Pheasant Malays, and Pheasant Dorkings will all spring up; every bird that has a spangle will claim affinity to the beautiful tenant of the woods. I am disposed to let them

rest as Pencilled and Spangled Hamburgs, whether right or wrong, rather than rush into a labyrinth ending in a distinction without a difference. X.

Entomology.

CHAP. I.

INTRODUCTORY.

AFTER the masterly defence of the lovers of this science contained in that admirable work by Kirby and Spence, "The Introduction to the Study of Entomology," it is as unnecessary as it would be presumptuous in me to attempt to add to the unanswerable arguments they have advanced, to prove that it is worthy, not only of the attention of him who in studying the works of nature seeks healthy recreation and instruction, but also of him who, too cold to feel the exquisite pleasure and profit which the soul enjoys in contemplating the works of the Almighty in all their wondrous varieties of form and colour, and hugging himself with the idea that he is not so weak-minded as to trouble his head about beetles and butterflies, only values a science by the amount of pecuniary profit to be obtained by the study of it. To this latter class of persons I do not address myself, they know nothing of the enjoyment which a true lover of nature feels in holding "conversation with nature's self." To them the warble of the nightingale, now gushing forth in silver flute-like tones, now in soft sobbing notes, the joyous carolling of the lark, as heavenward it wings its way, the brilliant hues of the butterfly as glancing in the sun it seems to court pursuit, the beetle clad in its burnished mail, the dragon-fly with wings of gauze and eyes of gold awake in them no interest; they pass by all, unheeding as the dead; not so with the true lover of nature, the songs of birds awaken in his breast the silent chords, and in his heart he swells the chorus with those tiny throats which sing in reason's ear glad praises to their Maker, whilst the resplendent hues and varied forms of the insect world, and the wonderful provision

made for all their wants, remind him of the boundless resources, the omnipotent power, and the fatherly care of him, who is the maker and preserver of the humblest as well as of the highest of his creatures. Before, however, giving, as I hope to do, in some future numbers, a short account of all the different orders of British insects, with a notice of some of the most remarkable species, I would just remind my readers that whilst on the one hand it has pleased Providence that we should owe to the labours of insects some of the most valuable of our articles of merchandise, as silk, cochineal, shell lac, and coral, honey, and wax, which, I believe, are all the produce of insects, so on the other it often happens that by the agency of these apparently insignificant animals some of our greatest losses arise, our wheat, peas, hops, clover, fruit, in fact all our crops are more or less subject to their ravages, in some cases the entire failure of the crop ensuing. We know too that in Africa myriads of locusts sometimes appear sweeping over countries a few hours before green and flourishing now left brown and withered, as if a blast of fire had passed over the land.

How strikingly, too, does the career of an insect shadow forth that of man as an immortal being. I well remember how forcibly I was reminded of the similitude when I first began to pay any attention to entomology, and long before I ever saw the fact alluded to in any book; and as it may be new to some one of my readers, I will mention some of the leading points of this remarkable resemblance. First, then, we have the insect as a caterpillar, a mere worm, unable to lift itself from the earth, intent only on satisfying its appetites; the more it eats the more it seems to crave, "as if increase of appetite did grow by what it fed on." At last, come to the full measure of its days, it becomes the chrysalis, lying all the winter in the dull, cold, cheerless grave, waiting till the summer sun awakens it from what seems death. See now that gorgeous insect! resplendent in its azure hues! No longer crawling on

the earth, but floating gaily in the full rays of the meridian which called it up to light and life. Anon, it hovers o'er some fragrant flower, sipping the honey from the nectar cup: now joyously careering through the air, it chases in fantastic paths its not less joyous, though more sober love. So man, like the poor caterpillar, crawls helpless on the earth; he, too, is intent on satisfying his craving appetites. He, too, must die, and for a season be a tenant of the lonely tomb, till waked to life by the sun, for him the Sun of Righteousness, he bursts the bands of death, he rises from the tomb, he revels in the light of Life and Love which angels share; he sips pure pleasures unalloyed; he joins again those dear ones loved on earth, whose upward flight preceded his. But here all comparisons fail; the insect, when the sun grows cold, must die and turn again to dust; whilst man, immortal as his Maker, will live through endless ages. But I fear I shall take up too much of your space, if I lengthen my "Introduction to Papers on Entomology," and I must, therefore, defer till my next a short view which I propose to give of the precise position of insects in the animal kingdom, with the different orders into which insects are scientifically divided.

MAC.

Is Poultry Keeping Profitable?

FROM "THE AMERICAN COUNTRY GENTLEMAN."

THIS is a question that is frequently asked, and I think is generally answered in the negative. It seems to be the general opinion among farmers, that it is an unprofitable business—that it will not pay, and they are only tolerated on the farm as a necessary evil. As they are generally managed—being compelled to shirk for themselves one half of the year, and not half taken care of the other part, it is no wonder that the balance of profit is against them. For one, I am satisfied that if judiciously managed, hens will pay as good dividends as any other farm stock, according to the amount of capital invested. In

the first place, it is necessary to have good *blood*, and then they should have good *care* and good *keeping*. This rule I think will invariably apply to all kinds of farm stock where they are profitably managed.

For a few years past, much attention has been given to the breeding of various kinds of poultry, and the breeders of the different kinds have claimed superiority for their favourites over all others. For my own part, I am willing that each kind should stand or fall on their own merits. I have lately seen an article in several papers, purporting to be "advice to young farmers," in which they are advised to keep clear of *Shanghais*, but no reason was given why they should do it. As I am a young farmer, I suppose that advice was meant for me; but instead of discarding them, I am inclined to adopt them in preference to any other kind that I have ever had. Two years last December, I bought a pair of *Shanghais*, for which I paid one dollar. The hen commenced laying the April following, and continued to lay till about the middle of the next November. Up to this time she had laid about 150 eggs. The January following she commenced laying again, and continued to lay till the present winter set in. She has now commenced laying again. Last year she laid about the same number of eggs as first year, making some 300 eggs in two years. From the time she commenced laying till the present time, she has never sat, or shown any disposition to sit; consequently we have been obliged to put her eggs under other hens to hatch in order to obtain chickens from them. It appears quite singular that although the old hen has never been known to sit, yet the chickens which we obtained from her eggs, after they commenced laying, and had laid a short time, would commence sitting, and continue to sit the usual time for hatching, notwithstanding all our efforts to the contrary. Indeed they were the most inveterate sitters I ever saw.

Last year I kept ten hens and one rooster, and as they commenced laying about the first of January, I concluded to

keep an account of their eggs, and during the year 1854 we saved over one thousand eggs from them. These were exclusive of those which were lost and accidentally broken, and also those which were set for chickens, which were about thirty, from which we raised twenty-five chickens. The average price of eggs for the year in this place, was twelve cents per dozen.

Every one accustomed to keep poultry, will at once see that the expense of keeping them, will depend very much on the cost of fixtures for their accommodation, and the kind and amount of food they consume, the prices of which will vary in different locations. I shall, therefore, simply furnish the facts, and let others make their own deductions. My hen-house consists simply of a tight warm shed joining my barn, and opening to the south. In this shed is a place for them to roost, and also permanent boxes for nests, easy of access, and secure from intrusion. While the ground is covered with snow, they are confined to this shed and the barn-yard, and are kept constantly supplied with *lime* and *gravel*, (or its substitute). In cold weather, they are usually fed once a day with corn-meal mixed with hot water; the rest of the time either with oats, barley, or buckwheat; they are fed occasionally with chopped raw vegetables, and also such fresh meat as can conveniently be obtained for them. I also take the bones which are obtained from the fresh meat used in the family, and pound them up for them. They have access to running water in the yard, and also to dry dirt in which they can wallow at pleasure. During the time that the ground is bare, they are allowed to run at large, except at such times as they would be likely to injure the crops, when they are confined. I am satisfied that poultry, at all times, require a supply of exercise, fresh air, and water, and a portion of animal and green vegetable food. If they run at large a part of the time, they will supply themselves with these things. If they are confined they must be supplied with them. If they range about the orchard,

garden, and fields, they destroy a large quantity of insects which would otherwise be destructive to the crops, and what they procure in this way, materially lessens the expense of their keeping, and for a portion of the season they will obtain their entire living in this way. I am aware that many who keep hens cannot let them run at large, but are obliged to keep them confined all of the time. This will increase the expense of keeping, yet I know of no reason why, if they are supplied with a suitable quantity and quality of food, with room for air and exercise, they will not produce as well as those that run at large. I have not written this article for the purpose of puffing the Shanghais, for other breeds, with the same treatment, might have done as well, and even better than this kind, but simply to give my method of managing them, and the produce which I have received from them.

C. T. ALVORD.

Wilmington, Vi., March, 1855.

Columbary.

NO. IX. THE WHITE SPOT, OR MASKED PIGEON.

THIS variety is very scarce in England, but common in Germany, where they are known as "Die Weiszblessige Taube," white-spotted pigeon; or "Weiszmasken Taube," white-masked pigeon. They are rather smaller and slighter made than the common dove-house pigeons, also quicker and more active, and take willingly to the fields to cater for themselves; they are smooth-headed, and generally slightly feathered on the feet, the upper mandible is white, the lower dark, on the head directly over the beak is an oval white spot, the tail also is white, the rest of the body being coloured, so that they are exactly opposite to the spot pigeons last described; some few, however, have white wing bars.

Herr Gottlob Neumeister enumerates five sub-varieties, as follows:—

1. The Black — white spot, with and

without white wing bars, and occasionally with white spangled shoulders.

2. The Blue—white spot, with the same markings as the above.

3. The Red—white spot, of a fine copper brown red, without wing bars.

4. The Yellow—white spot, their colour brown yellow; they also have no wing bars.

5. The Copper-shouldered—white spots, their ground colour is dark slaty black, the neck changes to shining olive-green, the shoulders of the wings are deep copper red, and the under parts of the body light ash grey.

B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

At the North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, to be held at Boston on the 26th of July, 1st and 2nd prizes, of £5 and £3, are offered to the agricultural foreman or bailiff, and also to the shepherd who has lived the greatest number of years in the same family or on the same farm, the number of years being not less than five; the size of the farm will be considered. Prizes of £5, £3, and £2 will be given to the shepherd who has been most successful in rearing lambs. Prizes from £5 to £1 are also offered to the labourer who has brought up the greatest number of children without receiving parochial relief, to wagoners, to farm labourers, and to female servants.

Prizes to short-horns are, one of £20 to the best bull above one year old; and eighteen prizes from £5 to £1, for bulls, cows, and heifers.

The prizes to sheep are, one of £10 to the best ram of any age, and twelve from £7 to £1 to rams, pens of ewes, and lambs.

The prizes to horses are, nine from £10 to £1.

There are also prizes for implements, for fleeces of wool; and several extra

prizes of £5, £3, and £2, offered by gentlemen.

Sweepstakes of one sovereign each, will be opened by the secretary on application.

TO MAKE GOOD BREAD.

In order to make good bread, an indispensable ingredient is good yeast. My mode of making yeast is as follows: To three pints of water add one handful of hops, boil well together, strain, and put the liquor into the pot again, then take three large-sized potatoes, wash and pare and grate them, and stir into the liquor while boiling, then add one table-spoonful of salt, one teacupful of sugar or molasses, and thicken with a spoonful of flour; pour it out, and when cool enough, add yeast sufficient to rise it; when light, set it in a cool place for use.

To make bread, pare and cut two quarts of potatoes, boil them in water enough to mix one gallon of sponge; when well boiled, mash and strain through a colander, stir in flour while hot, when cool enough stir in a teacupful of yeast, then set to rise, and next morning make up your bread in the usual way; when light, mould it into loaves, and let it stand until fit to put in the oven.

This is my way of making good bread, and I know of none better. AUNT DERBY.
—*Ohio Cultivator*.

THE FARMER'S HOME.

WHAT signify all the improvements in agricultural processes which are constantly urged upon the acceptance of farmers, if the farmer's *home* is not what it ought to be? Deep cultivation, draining, ditching, mulching, composting, &c., are all important, as a means: but the proper end to be accomplished is not the multiplication of £ s. d.—not the laying up in store of "much goods," but the most desirable of all earthly ultimates, a pleasant, attractive, happy *home*. The farmer's home should not be so much his castle as his sanctuary. Over its threshold disorders and discontents should never be allowed to step. Har-

mony, order, love, and peace, as well as plenty, should reign within the farmer's abode, making it a paradise, as little marred by gross and corrupting desires as may be; where the intellect, the taste, and the affections may seek and find their appropriate and full gratification. What desolation—nay, what wants abound within those walls where mere animal desires are cloyed with material profusion, to the exclusion of that higher food of the spiritual nature, which is, in fact, "the bread of life!" There the physical man may grow and fatten, and rejoice at its ease and its indolence, with a sort of porcine satisfaction; while the inner life, the manhood, the God-spark, faints, famishes, and dies. The fields are the places where the head, aided by the strong arm, should triumph in material achievements. In the true home, the heart, aided by the head, should emulate the industry of the bee in storing its treasures, and like the treasury of the bee, those of the human home should be of honeyed sweetness. Wealth may build palaces to shelter gilded misery. Poverty, by making a true home in an unpretending cottage, hallows itself and shames the power of gold. It is astonishing with what facility the cultivated spirit changes even material objects into high spiritual individualities. A tree, a shrub, a flower—nay, a stone may have its history—a history, the recital of which shall agitate the listener's heart with joy, or blur his eyes with tears of sadness. Inanimate objects (only so perhaps to our thinking) may speak a language which the heart shall hear, and feel, and answer. Around the true home, sacred as were held the household duties of olden times, cluster these objects of man's æsthetic nature. They make him happier and wiser; opening up to him, even here, a manifold life, and enable him to read sermons in stones, and to behold good in everything.

A EWE of the Devon horn breed, in the possession of Mr. James Hosegood, of Bridge Farm, Williton, has brought

forth and reared six lambs in the short space of thirteen months, viz., one in February, 1854; two in August of the same year; and three in March last. She has had five lambs around her at the same time, all of which are doing well.—*The Field.*

On Bees.

THERE are but few instances in which the triumph of intellect over physical infirmity appears more conspicuous than in that which is presented to us in the history of Francis Huber. Totally deprived of the blessing of sight at an early age, he had happily acquired a love of science, which proved an unceasing source of amusement in after life, while the intelligence and penetration with which his researches were conducted, and the accuracy of his observations, enabled him to clear away the mists and darkness in which the history and habits of the bee had been enveloped. It seems strange to speak of the observations made by a blind man; but Huber was fortunate in having obtained the services of an assistant exactly calculated for an office in which enthusiasm in the pursuit, combined with patient assiduity, steadiness, and courage, were indispensable qualities. The observations made on the laws of swarming, and all their attendant circumstances, revealed by the invention of his glass hives, startled the scientific world; but with some modifications of rules which he at first laid down as imperative, the opinions of Huber have been re-echoed by his successors in this branch of natural history, and we find ourselves willing and charmed disciples of the venerable old man.

The results of his experiments and observations on the laws of swarming, are thus briefly recapitulated in the letters addressed to the celebrated naturalist, Bonnet: "*In the first place, if, on the return of spring, we examine a hive well peopled, and governed by a ferile queen, we shall*

see her lay a prodigious number of the eggs of males in the course of May, and the workers will choose that period for constructing several royal cells of the kind described by M. de Reaumur." Here I may offer a remark. We sometimes find bee-keepers speak of brood-comb and honey-comb, as if there was some difference in the form in which they are constructed. Such a mode of expression arises either from an erroneous idea, or an indistinct conception of the rules by which the cells are formed. The perfect cells are of two uniform dimensions—the size in which the workers are hatched, or the larger size designed for the drones, *except* when after rows of one of these descriptions of cells, the bees design to construct the other, when transition cells, imperfect in size and form, gradually approach the size which is required. "From this uniform, unvarying diameter of the brood cells, when completed, their use has been suggested as an universal standard of measure, which would be understood in all countries to the end of time." "These cells," says Reaumur, "are the invariable dimensions of all cells that ever were or ever will be made."

Our bees, then, offer us in their architecture, a measure as unvarying as that standard which has been established by the vibration of the pendulum as the lineal yard.

The combs which are first constructed in a hive are placed at very regular distances, the width of each being about an inch; but sometimes in compartments added when the collection of honey is abundant, the width of the comb is increased, while the diameter of the cell will be found to be that of the drone cell. It is these prolonged cells which alone can be described as honey-comb, as distinguished from that which is adapted both for honey and brood. For this reason these compartments are not generally suitable for the permanent abode of the family. We receive the above proposition of Huber as a law, and will for the present postpone any remarks on his enunciation of it.

He says, secondly,—"*When the larvae hatched from the eggs laid by the queen in the royal cells, are ready to transform to nymphs, this queen leaves the hive, conducting a swarm along with her; and the first swarm that issues from the hive is uniformly conducted by the old queen.*"

Thirdly,—"*After the old queen has conducted the first swarm from the hive, the remaining bees take particular care of the royal cells, and prevent the young queens successively hatched from leaving them, unless at an interval of several days between the departure of each.*"

And fourthly,—"*Young queens conducting swarms from their native hive are still in a virgin state.*"

The proceedings of the bees during this exciting and eventful period governed by these rules, are yet subject to some variations, some exceptions, which we advise all bee-keepers to note and study when they meet with them: in the mean time we will take Huber's laws as our basis, and apply them to the management of the swarms, which ere long will greet our eyes and ears.

WINTER SUCCESS WITH BEES.

As there have been many articles in the "Poultry Chronicle" about bees, perhaps a few remarks from one who has kept them for several years, and suffered in the winter of 1854 the loss of twenty-five hives from the severity of the frost, and want of experience, will be acceptable to other apiarians. I determined to try a different system in the winter of 1855.

In the former year the hives were only covered with bee-pots, and not ventilated; in the latter they were covered with straw and all ventilated; and the consequence has been, that while in the former period I lost four-fifths of my stock, in the latter I only lost one-fifth, and that not from the severity of the frost (which was much more intense), but from the loss of the queens.

A COUNTRY RECTOR.

Floriculture.

MAY 16.

IN planting flower roots in the garden, several circumstances should be borne in mind. First, the height to which the plants will attain; in beds the tallest look well towards the centre, and the low flowers round the edge; in the borders the tallest look well for a back ground, and those of dwarfish growth in front. Secondly, the colour of the flowers must be held in remembrance, so that gay contrast and pleasing harmony may continually present themselves. The third consideration of importance is the time of flowering; we must not crowd our borders with abundance of bloom in June, to leave it bare of flowers in July, but manage so in planting and in the succession provided in the nursery, that gay hosts of flowers shall follow each other, until the approach of winter warns them away. Creepers on walls and trellises must be neatly trained, and should not be allowed to get entangled. Flower stems should be kept neatly tied. When the stems of fuschias have grown to a good length, some may be layered. Make an incision on the upper side, after stripping the leaves from the lower part of the stem, place it beneath the loosened mould, leaving the top above the earth, and fix it so with a little hooked stick. These will make nice plants for flowering in autumn. Unless there seems danger of more frosty nights, in the locality, dahlias may be finally planted out; a fresh, loamy soil suits them best. If circumstances render it necessary to let them grow year after year on the same spot, some of the old soil should be removed, and replaced with fresh. The holes which are made for them should be broken up eighteen inches deep; if the soil is light, loam should be added. The crowns of the roots should be planted so deep as to admit of their being mulched, and then made level with the border with

a thin covering of mould; this not only hides the mulching, but prevents insects harbouring in it. Thin out the shoots of hydrangeas where they are too crowded, leaving only the strongest. The points of some of the best of the bits may make cuttings. Roots of marvel of Peru may be planted in a warm situation. Sow seed of giant and Brompton stocks, and also of annuals for late flowering. Ten-week stocks and China asters may be planted out. Climbing roses may be planted. Cuttings may be put in of heaths and of China roses. Spring crocus roots, snowdrops, crown imperials, and other early flowering bulbs should be taken up when the leaves decay, but this year that is not at present, for in all things the season is very late. Ranunculuses and anemones should be kept free from weeds, and well watered, when it can be done without danger of frost, all over the beds. The earth should be stirred on the surface, and well closed about the roots.

COLOURS IN FLOWER-BEDS.

And now let the ladies of the household bestow a little care on the selection and combination of colours in their flower-beds. An old and valued friend of ours, Mr. Donald Beaton—than whom no man in Britain is better versed in all that regards this question—used to suggest that those who did not know or did not care for theory in the combination of colours, would do well to throw flowers of all hues into their hat, and after a good shake or two, like drawing a lottery, to toss them at random on the green sward; and with a well-judging eye to seize on any happy groupings or associations of colour, and endeavour to plan beds thereby. In our next we will go into this question in a suggestive way; knowing that not only our lady readers, but that even gentlemen, love to see a well-planned flower-garden; for even sporting gentlemen cannot always shoot, fish, or hunt.—*The Field.*

CULTIVATION OF THE PETUNIA.

FOR seedlings, procure seeds from the best varieties; sow them in a fine rich soil, and an open, sunny situation, but where they will have plenty of moisture. When the plants are five or six inches high, select for transplanting those which have broad, thick leaves, of the lightest colour, with thick, stout stems; or if you wait till they make the first bud, which will be when they are about seven or eight inches high, you can then readily select those which will have the finest flowers, as the bud will be short and square, instead of long and pointed, as is the case with the small flowered varieties; and so certain is this indication, that out of a thousand seedlings you may select every plant that will bring large flowers, without being once mistaken.

The petunia requires a very deep, rich soil, and an open, sunny situation; perhaps no flower endures better a hot summer's sun; the colours are much richer and brighter than when grown in the shade. Give it a deep soil, bright sunshine, and plenty of moisture, and no flower will better repay the trouble or make a richer mass of bloom through the whole summer and autumn. When seedlings or cuttings are first transplanted, they should be either shaded or mulched round the collar to protect them from the hot sun till they become well established, when they will take care of themselves, and brave every change of weather, and even a pretty severe frost without injury.

The petunia is much improved by the application of liquid manure. I had one last summer, growing in a good garden soil, the flowers about two inches and a half across, of a purplish colour, and very much ruffled, a fault very common with the large varieties, and which greatly diminishes the beauty of their appearance; in July I commenced watering it twice a week with very weak liquid manure; it soon threw out a shoot of uncommon size, which produced flowers three inches and a quarter in diameter, of a beautiful rose-colour, and perfectly flat. Several others, treated in the

same way, changed from ruffled to flat, and the flowers were much enlarged.

I am well persuaded that petunias may be grown double. I have had several flowers with one or two small but perfect petals in the centre, and I have no doubt but double petunias will, in a few years, be as common as double dahlias are at present.

Petunias are easily propagated by layers; in fact I have had vines strike root of themselves, when trailing over moist ground, and any shoot will strike readily if covered over a joint or two with moist earth. Tongueing on the under side of the shoot will facilitate their striking, but this must be carefully done, or the shoots will break off, as they are very brittle. Layers should be watered freely, as considerable moisture is necessary to make them strike well. Petunias are also easily propagated by cuttings.

N. STONE.

The Cottager's Prize.

THE success of a cottager at a poultry show is always a pleasing feature in these exhibitions, and never was a first prize more honourably won than that which I named to you as having been gained by a poor workman.

My acquaintance with him began by his coming to see my fowls. Though he had had little opportunity of seeing good poultry, the knowledge of their points seemed to come intuitively; he saw what a bird was at a glance, and his quick eye at once detected an incipient disease in a cockerel, which I had regarded as unimportant. But he foresaw how it would progress, and from that time became the medical attendant of the poor bird. He was evidently a true lover of fowls, and his skill could only be equalled by his kindness. He took the cockerel to his own home at one time, when it required constant attention and doctoring; and though my fowls are always attended with the greatest care, he returned his charge from his little confined yard infinitely improved in condition.

To make my story short, when changes were to be made among my stock some months ago, on looking round for a home for the delicate bird, though there were many very superior walks where he would have been gladly received, there was none where I was certain he would be so well cared for and valued, and I gave him to the cottager, who had grown very fond of him.

The severe winter tried his delicate constitution, but then he shared his master's room, and fared sumptuously on porridge mixed with raw eggs, and other good things. An acquaintance who had some good poultry gave him a few eggs last year, and from one of them he raised the hen which shared the honours of the prize. The welcome addition of the prize to his purse, has not been the only advantage derived from this success, as he has been able to dispose of eggs at a fancy price, and this is no small boon to a poor man who often finds it difficult to obtain employment. A.

Chit Chat.

PARIS SHOW.—The "Constitutionnel" has an article on the subject of the immense advance in price of the necessaries of life, by a combination of certain classes, who are resolved to make the most of strangers on their visit to the Exhibition. Only think of being threatened with a rise to three or four francs a pound for the best beef. It seems fabulous, yet the "Constitutionnel" says so. Fowls are doubled in price, and game is "worth its weight in gold."

THE WEATHER.—The snow was three inches deep in the Isle of Purbeck on the morning of the 4th inst. The Winchester Hills were also covered with snow, and at Southampton too there was a smart fall of snow on the same day.

FLOWER SHOW AT THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS.—The first flower show of the year was held on Wednesday, and was, notwithstanding the lateness of the present season, very successful. The roses were

fewer in number than some years, but were good in bloom; the ericas and exotic orchids attracted great attention; the azaleas included a new kind from China, "the Bealia," and another, the Azalea Amena; a remarkable novelty was the rhododendron Edgworthii, brought from the Himalayas by Dr. Hooker. It is sweet-scented. Her Majesty and Prince Albert, with the Prince of Saxe Coburg, and the Princess Hohenlohe Langenburg, honoured the gardens with their presence.

Poultry for Paris.

BEING an enterprising character, and perceiving many of our amateurs are wishing for some one to take charge of their poultry to the Paris Exhibition and back, I beg to offer my services, being well acquainted with all kinds of poultry,—doubt not but I should give every satisfaction. The way I propose to do is as follows:—To keep a correct account of all my expenses, and on my return, if required, let the same appear in the "Poultry Chronicle," and the expenses be equally divided amongst the exhibitors according to the number of lots each exhibitor sends; the remainder, for my trouble, I will leave to the honour of the ladies and gentlemen who may send poultry. Should my proposals meet the views of our poultry amateurs, I would be most happy to engage. I beg you will do as you think best with this letter. I shall be exceedingly economical in all my expenditure, which will be only for travelling, board, &c. MATTHEW LENO, Jun.

The Kennels, Kinsbourne Green,
near Harpenden, Herts.

P.S.—There must be no delay in letting me know the persons wishing to send, that I may make arrangements as to where I will receive the poultry previous to starting. My name can be made use of in any way you may think proper. Doubtless I am known in the poultry world by many, and I beg to assure them that every attention shall be given to the poultry that may be confided to me.

ORIGIN OF VEGETABLES.—Asia has given us hemp, the cherry, the peach, the French bean, the tarragon, the onion, rhubarb, mint, the mulberry, the citron, the lime, the orange, the chestnut, the pine of Siberia, the pine of Jerusalem, the plane tree of the East, the aloe, the rose of Provence, the mallow rose, the millet, the cyprus, and so forth. Grain and buck-wheat we get from the Levant; and the olive from Africa. Europe has borrowed from America the potato, the maize, tobacco, the banana, the love apple, the strawberry, the medlar tree, and a hundred other trees, fruits, plants, and flowers.—*Observer.*

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

FISHING.

SIR,—For the information of one of your Letter-Box friends, under the initials "N. B.," I beg to say he will find all he wants to know in the sea-fishing line in a work just out, entitled "Hints on Shooting and Fishing," by Christopher Idle, and published by Longman, Brown, & Co., price 5s.—Yours, obediently,
J. S.

HOWDENSHERE PRIZE LIST.

SIR,—Being a contributor to your interesting journal, and noticing your wish for correct information, I beg to inform you, that with respect to the late poultry show at Howden, a certain portion of the prizes awarded by the judges have been omitted in your report, which of course ought not to be. Mr. Nicholson had the first and second prizes awarded to him. You only notice

his first prize, and give the second to Mr. Jackson, of York. I am aware that the committee for the Howden poultry show only award *one* first-class prize for the Cochins China tribe; but give *two* second and *two* third prizes in the class No. 3—that is, for all grades and colours—for a cock and two hens. Mr. Nicholson's were both buff, and as he got the first and second prize, surely he was entitled to the honour in the public print! For what, sir, do we show for?—Surely not profit, but honour, if anything; or, I ought to say, pleasure in being either first, second, or third. If, therefore, no notice be taken in our public reports of second and third class prize birds, the effect to the owners will be most chilling; for believe me, although "a young 'un," I have often, in these public meetings, heard the voice of the public, doubting, which of the two were the best—the first prize or the second.

The first prize for the best cock bird is named in your report, but nothing said for the second best. The committee here again only give a *first* prize; but if the judges, finding *another* bird infinitely *superior in colour but lacking age*, feel compelled to award a second prize, surely the breeder ought not to be passed over in silence.—I am, sir, yours,
ALPHA.

[It is always our wish to give the prize lists with the greatest exactitude, and to correct mistakes when they occur. The omission of Mr. Nicholson's second prize for Cochins was a mistake of the printer. As our reporter at the Howdenshire show did not name a second prize to a single cock or to a single hen, we conclude no such prizes were awarded; but if Alpha can furnish us with official information that such prizes were awarded, we will, with pleasure, give them insertion.—ED.]

MARKET FOR TABLE FOWLS.

SIR,—In looking over your publication I have often been struck with the high price of fowl in the Leadenhall market. I have read, too, your observations on the scarcity of fowls in that market. You appear to be ignorant of the cause, and wonder that these high prices don't induce a better supply. A circumstance came under my own observation some time ago, which will in some measure explain the why and the wherefore of the scarcity.

A friend of mine was, like myself, struck with the high prices of the Leadenhall market; he determined to try if he could turn the penny. He wrote to a poultry salesman to see if he could sell him some fowls, who returned an answer, stating that any goods consigned to him should receive his best attention. Accordingly my friend bought some excellent farm-door chickens, about

five months old, and in excellent condition; he paid for 1s. 6d. to 2s. each for them in Darlington market. A few geese he also bought at 5s. to 5s. 6d. each; also, two or three turkeys. The fowls and turkeys he killed and dressed—the geese were dressed when bought—and sent them off a fortnight before last Christmas, when prices were good. It was some time before the money came, and the prices he got from the great Leadenhall market were very short of his expectations. For the fowls the salesman had the good conscience to return 1s. each, being 9d. less than they were bought for; and for the geese, which averaged 9½ lbs., he sent 4s. 6d. each. For the turkeys, he got near upon the cost price.

Now, sir, these prices were less than they could be bought for in any market in England at the time. My friend lost about 16s. on the transaction. When such is the case, can it be any wonder that there is scarcity? and how to account for the great difference in your prices and his I am at a loss. If your prices are correct he must be anything but a fair-dealing man. I could assure you that baskets of fowls might be sent from here weekly, if one half of your quotations could be got in return.

If you could direct me to some honest dealer, who would buy either per head or by weight, I would be glad to deal with him at half, or less than half, the prices which are weekly in the "Chronicle."—I am, sir, yours, &c.,

ROGER DEA.

Coatham, Mundiville, near Darlington.

[The number of profits to be deducted between the producer and consumer of commodities is a circumstance which cannot fail to render price small to the one and high to the other. Can any of our readers suggest improvement on the present plan?

We have before stated that the prices in our Leadenhall report refer to first-class poultry.—ED.]

NAMES OF FOWLS.

SIR,—In the schedule of the Hexham exhibition of poultry, in No. 61 of the "Chronicle," it names Gold and Silver Spangled Hamburgs; and then, when we came to Polands, it says "Gold and Silver," but does not name *spangled*; consequently I cannot understand whether we are to exhibit Silver *white* or Silver *spangled*.

In the Howdenshire schedule the Silver Pheasant (or Hamburg) is called the Chittyprat, which is a mistake, as the Silver-Pencilled Hamburg is the fowl which that *old* name is given to.

I think secretaries should be as careful as they can in giving the correct names in their lists.

How is it that very few societies give a premium for the Black Hamburg and Andalusian

fowls, which are quite as worthy as several other varieties?—Yours, &c.,
SALVIA.

[Gold and Silver Polands are terms which have been familiarly used to indicate Gold and Silver Spangled Polands, by the Birmingham and other committees. We should like to see prizes offered to Black Hamburgs, and all other handsome varieties, but believe committees can hardly, at present, afford to increase expenses.—ED.]

WEIGHT OF AYLESBURY DUCKS.

SIR,—In the "Poultry Chronicle" of to-day I observe a slight mistake which perhaps you would not consider it presumptuous in me to correct; it occurs in the article headed "Weights of Prize Poultry." It is there stated that at Southampton last year Mr. Davies showed three Aylesbury ducks, weighing 24 lbs. Now, your reporter, in his account of the above show, states, that the ducks exhibited by that gentleman (which were excellent) weighed 20½ lbs.; Mr. Breavington's three birds, which were second, weighing 1 lb. less.—I remain, sir, yours, &c.
W. R. R.

May 9, 1855.

ROSE-COMB DORKINGS.

SIR,—I am a Rose-comb Dorking of no mean appearance; indeed, I have heard my master and his friends say they doubted if my match could be found in all England. Well, sir, I have been in a great state of anxiety during the last six weeks, for I know the exhibition time is coming on, and if I am to be made to endure over again all the sorrows of last year's shows, I believe I shall soon be consigned to the grave.

I write to you now, sir, because I heard my master read a letter from your "Chronicle" to a friend this morning. It was from some one desirous to know whether Rose-comb or Single-comb birds were to claim precedence in the exhibitions of this year. Dear sir, on this point hangs all my sorrow, and I am very glad the subject has been taken up by some kind friend. I have a near neighbour, with whom, up to one of the early shows of last year, I was on the strictest terms of intimacy; but, alas! the contest which then took place as to our respective merits, put an end to our friendship. Pray, sir, why should this be so, and why should our difference of comb cause such animosity of feeling? I wish, sir, to be on good terms with my neighbour, who is a very fine specimen of single-comb, but admitted to be my inferior in all essential points. I feel, however, until this matter is settled by yourself, all hope of peace is at an end. I hope, therefore, you will immediately attend to my request, and enable us to come before the public to be judged according to our respective

merits, without reference to comb, for in so doing you will restore our mutual feelings of good-will, and increase our regard for you.

Believe me, sir, your humble servant,
ROSE-COMB.

THE LATE NEWCASTLE POULTRY SHOW.

SIR,—Well knowing the great exertions you and many of your constant subscribers have made in your valuable publication, not only in improving the breed of the different varieties of domestic fowls, but also in establishing their reputation (at the exhibitions now so frequently held in all parts of the country) on honest and honourable principles, I wish to direct your early attention to a disreputable system, which I have every reason to believe was practised to a considerable extent, and with success, at the above-named show last month; and in no class so much as in the Spanish Fowls. I allude to the very common practice in that neighbourhood of borrowing and lending fowls to each other; and they have even been sent a considerable distance, if required, to make up a pen of *first-class birds*, and shown, of course, as the *bona fide* property of the person entering them; no doubt with a perfect understanding, if successful, they should divide the value of the prize thus obtained. Also the method of exhibiting pens of late Spanish chickens of 1853 (*the pullets with very perfect white faces*, but the birds small) as early chickens of 1854, and without detection; though I very much question the utility of a *chicken class* at so late a period as April the following year, unless to afford unprincipled persons an opportunity of practising such deception on unsuspecting judges. I remember an instance of an *attempt* at the above place a short time ago, in the Cochin China Fowl, when both the hen and her late autumn chickens died during the winter, in the persons endeavouring to rear early spring chickens. If the two methods I have alluded to are to be tolerated, few honest persons will be induced to send their birds in future to Newcastle, and other poultry shows must suffer in consequence, as it is not the breeder exhibiting his birds against another in open, honourable, competition, but against a whole district of picked and borrowed birds for the occasion.—I remain, Sir, your constant reader,
SCRUTATOR.

[There is no question about the unfairness of such doings as these mentioned by "Scrutator," but a difficult question arises—if persons are so unscrupulous as to have recourse to such doings, how can either committees of poultry shows or their judges detect or prevent it? The cure must rest with the individuals to whom the

circumstances become known; they should, for the public good (however unpleasant to themselves), ascertain the full particulars, and make them known to the committee DURING THE SHOW, when it will become the duty of the gentlemen composing it to make the matter known, to put in force Birmingham rule 7, and to withhold any prize which may have been awarded to the birds which are misrepresented.—Ed.]

DUCKS.

SIR,—Having purchased some white French Call Ducks in the autumn of last year, they began to lay in the end of March, and my first two sittings, under Cochin China hens, have just come off (much to my surprise on the 24th day, the time required being stated, if I mistake not, in all books, twenty-eight days)—twenty-three ducklings out of twenty-five eggs. Perhaps some of your numerous correspondents could inform me when is the best time to pinion them.

A COUNTRY RECTOR.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

So long as unkind weather lasts, our report will be monotonous to make, and equally so to read. Scarcity and discontent pervade the trade. Retailers are buying at rates that leave no room for profit; and in the fowl counties the competition is so great for the London market, that they are bought equally dear alive.

Large Fowls	8s.	0d.	to	9s.	0d.	each.
Smaller do.	6s.	6d.	to	7s.	6d.	"
Inferior do.	4s.	4s.	6d.	to	5s.	0d.
Chickens	4s.	6d.	to	5s.	0d.	"
Inferior do.	3s.	6d.	to	4s.	0d.	"
Green Geese	7s.	0d.	to	7s.	6d.	"
Ducklings	6s.	6d.	to	7s.	0d.	"
Pigeons	9s.	0d.	to	10s.	0d.	"
Leverets	4s.	5s.	0d.	to	5s.	6d.
Quails	2s.	3d.	to	2s.	6d.	"
Plover's Eggs, in bulk,	3s.	6d.	per doz.			

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

MONDAY, May 7.

There was a large arrival of foreign wheat and oats, with the average supply of grain coastwise; and a rather better supply of

Essex and Kentish wheat. The greater abundance of samples—with a favourable change of the weather, indicating rain—gave an altered tone to trade. Sales proceeded slowly at the Kentish stands, with a reduction of 1s. to 2s. per qr.; while Essex factors, who were indisposed to sell on these terms, seemed likely to hold over their samples. There was also a diminished inquiry for foreign wheat. Barley was in less abundance, and attracting more attention, the improved tone of Friday being more than confirmed by a clear advance of 1s. per qr. on all qualities, with greater facilities of sale. In malt no alteration.

	BRITISH.	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	76 to 85
" " red	69 .. 77
" " Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	69 .. 76
BARLEY, Maltng, new	31 .. 32
" " Chevalier	33 .. 35
" " Distilling	30 .. 33
" " Grinding	30 .. 32
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new	65 .. 70
" " old	66 .. 70
" " Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new	70 .. 72
" " old	68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed	26 .. 27
" " potato	27 .. 30
" " Scotch feed, new	29 .. 30
" " old	33 .. 34
" " potato	33 .. 35
" " Irish feed, white	26 .. 29
" " black	25 .. 27
RYE	40 .. 44
BEANS, Mazagan	38 .. 42
" " Ticks	39 .. 44
" " Harrow	39 .. 44
" " Pigeon	42 .. 49
PEAS, White, boilers	42 .. 47
" " Maple	40 .. 42
" " Grey	37 .. 40
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.	65 .. 70
" " Households, town	65 .. 66
" " country	56 .. 59
" " Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship	62 .. 65

WEDNESDAY, May 9.

English wheat can hardly be called lower than Monday; for foreign factors displayed firmness, but buyers acted on the reserve. Floating cargoes off the coast are a few Egyptians—50s. 6d., the last price paid; all held firmly, with buyers at 46s. for Baheira, and 50s. for good Saide. Indian corn continues very scarce, and daily stiffens in value. It is difficult to execute orders from the fact of so little

offering near at hand. Barley, for grinding, in better demand. Peas and beans firm.

To Correspondents.

J. H.—We are much obliged for the contribution, which will be inserted in our next number.

A. Z.—We publish the schedules of poultry shows either in the order in which they are forwarded to us, or in that in which the entries close. Except in an urgent case, we cannot insert more than one in one number. We have still two or three for which we have not at present been able to find space, but we shall give them very shortly. In our list of shows the number after each one indicates the number of the "Poultry Chronicle" in which the schedule has been printed: those without numbers have not yet been given.

Scrutator.—We have heard of but one instance of poisoning fowls at exhibitions. If such an abominable deed is ever done, the perpetrator should be found out and punished if possible. We hope all would have public spirit enough to work towards this end.

Age of Fowls.—We should be much obliged if our contributors and readers would compare notes on the "indications of age in poultry."

Sea-Green "would feel very much obliged for any hints as to the best sort of beehive. She is just starting as a bee-keeper, but knows nothing about it. A cottage hive of bees has been given her, but she wants to know what sort of hive to have ready for the first swarm." We recommend "Sea Green" carefully to read over the papers on Bees by our valued contributor "A." commencing in No. 35 of the "Poultry Chronicle," and to purchase, as there recommended, *Golding's Shilling Bee-book*.

To T. P. T.—We shall be obliged if "T. P. T." will send us his address, as a correspondent wishes to communicate with him about his Red-cap Pheasant Fowls.

American purchasers and subscribers will be able at all times to get the "Poultry Chronicle" of Messrs. Willmer and Rogers, European Times Office, New York.

A Contributor would be much obliged if any correspondent could describe or invent a simple non-expensive movable oven to bake bread, etc., for a small family. It must be bought or erected, and heated, without great cost.

Advertisements.

WANTED, a Second-hand Menasi's Incubator, a good Malay Cock, and two or three first-rate Cochinchina Pullots (Buff) of this year. Also, for sale, or exchange, five beautiful Ptarmigan Fowls, two cocks and three hens, one cock and two hens of which have taken two first prizes; they are from Dr. Burvey's celebrated stock, price £3 10s.: the other two at £2 2s., or £5 for the lot. All the hens lay. Also for sale a fine White Italian Wolfdog, price £3 3s. These dogs are extremely scarce and valuable.—Apply, A. B., 31, Norfolk Square, Brighton.

EGGS FOR SETTING may be had from the Yard of Mr. H. D. DAVIES, whose stock has been carefully bred and selected from all the best strains, and has already taken upwards of 250 prizes.

Spanish, Dorking, Brahma, and Rangpoot Eggs, £2 2s., and White Cochins and Aylesbury Ducks, £1 11s. 6d., the dozen, to include basket, &c.

Spanish and Dorking Fowls of all ages may be selected from that portion of the stock not required for breeding or exhibition this season.

For Cock and 1 Pullet	£5	5	0
For Cock and 2 Pullets	7	7	0
For Cock and 4 Pullets	10	10	0

Remittances, by Post-office Order, payable to GEORGE KESELE, the Bailiff, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, to accompany all orders.

Mr. Davies will feel obliged if persons who wish to see the Poultry will make it convenient to do so between the hours of 10 and 4 on any Wednesday or Saturday.

EGGS FOR SETTING, (prices reduced from 1st of May,) all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:

Dorkings, Brahma Pootra (Pencilled and Light). Spanish (Bake's), Cochins, Buff and White. Hambros, Gold and Silver Pencilled and Spangled; Polish and Bantams.

Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers. Pheasants and Partridges' eggs in any numbers. All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.

JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

FOWLS BY JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest,

Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a Chapter on the Bramah Pootra Fowl, the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s., or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Paternoster Row.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT POULTRY SOCIETY having altered the place for their Exhibition from Newport to Ryde, their Third Exhibition will take place at that town in August next, and the day when fixed will be announced in the "Poultry Chronicle."

JOHN VAUX, Esq. } Hon. Secs.
Mr. GEO. W. LOCKE }

PHEASANT EGGS.—For Sale, at 12s. per dozen, at PHILIP CASTANO'S, Leadenhall Market, Golden Pheasants' Eggs, £1 10s. per dozen; Silver Pheasants, ditto, £1 1s. per dozen; and the following Eggs at 12s. per dozen, Wild Turkeys, Skield or Burrow Ducks, pure white-faced Spanish Speckled Dorkings, and pure White Aylesbury Ducks.—Apply to PHILIP CASTANO, purveyor of every description of Ornamental Water Fowl, Poultry and Pheasants to her Majesty the Queen and H. R. H. the Prince Albert. Live Stock sold on commission.

THOMAS FRICKER, Game, Poultry, Pork, Venison, and Egg Salesman, Leadenhall Market, London.

SEBRIGHT BANTAMS.—Wanted, a Golden Laced Subright Bantam Cock, hatched in 1854, perfectly laced, and of small size.—Apply, stating age, price, and weight, to EDWARD H. STRANGE, Amphill, Beds.

FOR SALE.—A Pair of Musk Ducks.—Two ducks now laying; eggs from the same at 1s. each, and eggs from 1st prize Black Poles, with white crests, 12s. 6d. the set, package included.—Apply to Mr. W. BROMWICH, Sutton Coldfield.

Post-office Orders payable to Miss Steele Perkins, Sutton Coldfield.

SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURGS.—First Prize Southampton, 1854.—A few sittings from the above birds for disposal, at 15s. per sitting of thirteen, package included.—Address, Mr. FARRANT, 184, High Street, Southampton.

HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate Street, Gloucester, will be prepared to supply amateurs or their friends with EGGS from specimens of the most choice varieties of poultry at the following rates.

	Per Doz.	Each.
	s.	s. d.
White Polands, 1st, Gloucester and 3rd, Birmingham	15	1 6
Silver Polands, 2nd, Birmingham	15	1 6
Gold Polands, 1st, Norwich, and highly commended at Bedford	15	1 6
Chamois, Yellow or Buff, Commended, Gloucester	15	1 6
Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, 1st prize and Silver Vase at Birmingham, 1st, Bath, Norwich, Colchester, and Gloucester	15	1 6
Silver Spangled Hamburgs, 1st, Birmingham, Bury, and several others	15	1 6
Dorking, 3rd, and highly commended, Gloucester	10	1 0
Pile Game, 1st, Bedford	10	1 0
Black Bantams, 2nd prize, Cheltenham and Bedford	10	1 0
Scotch Bakes, Black Polands, and Frizzled, bred from prize birds, but never shown	10	1 0
Buff Cochins, from 1st at Hereford and Gloucester	5	0 6
Nest Eggs	4	0 4
Laying Nests	2	0 0

NEST EGGS.—Cochin Colour, White or Bantams, 4s. per dozen. See Vol. 3, No. 56, page 55. May be had of JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount St., Grosvenor Square, London, or HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate Street, Gloucester.

PIGEONS.—A Diagram or Plan of fitting up a Pigeonary in a room, Aviary, or place, &c., price 2s., by the author of the "Almond Tumbler;" also the author of the "Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing all the known tame domesticated and Fancy Pigeons," with seven exquisitely engraved coloured portraits large as life, price 10s. post free.—Published by, and to be obtained of the Author, JOHN MATTHEWS EATON, 7, Islington Green, London. Money Orders payable at 86, Upper Street, Islington.

MR. DANIEL PARSLEY, of Rock Cottage, Stapleton Road, Bristol, will continue to supply EGGS from his large White-face 1st prize Spanish fowls, at £1 per dozen. The produce of the above fowls took 1st prize at the last Yeovil Show; 1st prize at the last Taunton Show; 1st prize at the Gloucester Show. They also beat twenty-two pens of Spanish at the last Reading Poultry Show; thus D. P.'s adult Spanish and their produce have beaten most of the best Spanish in England.

THE REGISTERED PORTABLE POULTRY EXHIBITION PEN.—The inventor of the above-named Poultry Pen invites the attention of Committees of Poultry Associations to his invention (see "Poultry Chronicle" of May 9), and will be happy to communicate with them on application as to terms of hire, &c. Address, Mr. JOSEPH COOKE, Hlead Street, Colchester.

N.B. One of the Pens is on view at Mr. J. Baily's, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

MR. J. JORDEN can supply EGGS from his well-known prize stock of Hamburgs at the following prices:—Golden Spangled, 12s.; Silver Spangled, 10s.; Black Hamburgs, 10s. per dozen, including box. Also on Sale two hen-feathered Golden Spangled Cocks, old birds.—Direct, JOSEPH JORDEN, Waterfall Cottage, Wheeler Street, Birmingham.

THE DORSETSHIRE ASSOCIATION for the IMPROVEMENT of DOMESTIC POULTRY will hold its Annual Exhibition at Dorchester, on the 24th and 25th of October next.

Forms of entry will shortly be issued, and further particulars announced.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POULTRY ASSOCIATION will hold its Third Annual Exhibition at Southwell on the 19th and 20th of December next. Prize Lists and any further information can be obtained on application to RICHARD HAWKSLEY, Jun., Hon. Secretary, Southwell, Notts.

SERAI TAOKO, or Fowls of the Sultan, A few Settings of EGGS from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 2/6s. the Dozen.

BRAHMA FOOTRA EGGS from Gray Pea-Combed mature birds, at 2/6s. the Dozen.

A few good COCHIN HENS at a moderate price. Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

JAMES DIXON, Bradford, Yorkshire, will continue to sell EGGS during the season from his prize Golden and Silver Spangled, and Golden and Silver Pencilled Hamburg Fowls, Bearded Golden Polands, and White-faced Black Spanish. Price 10s. the setting of 15.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION OF POULTRY.—PHILIP CASTANG, Leadenhall Market, purveyor to her Majesty the Queen and H. R. H. the Prince Albert, and Superintendent of the London and Royal Surrey Poultry Exhibitions, begs leave respectfully to offer his services to his patrons and customers to undertake the conveyance and entire charge of poultry direct from London to Paris and back.

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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.
"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,600, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d. have been received for new premiums.

"These items, when compared with the business of the preceding year, display an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

"While the income of the Company has thus received so large an accession, the office has only been called on, during the same period, to pay £1,663 19s. 10d. for claims, a sum which bears a remarkably small proportion to the mortality which might justly have been anticipated. This feature in the career of the company has thus been maintained to the ninth year, and the Directors trust that such a fact evidences the care with which the business of the office has been invariably conducted."

The office presents:—

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HENRY D. DAVENPORT, Sec.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines 8s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 17s. 4d.; half-yearly, 8s. 8d.; quarterly, 4s. 4d.; payable in advance.

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The Poultry Chronicle:

A JOURNAL OF

POULTRY, PIGEONS, BEES, FLORICULTURE, AND THE
HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 65.]

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1855.

[PRICE 3D.

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Poultry Shows.

Paris Agricultural Meeting, June 1st—9th. Entries from English Exhibitors to be sent to the Consul-General for France, King William Street, City, in time to reach Paris by May 24th. (No. 59 and 63.)

Bath and West of England, at Tiverton, June 6th, 7th, and 8th. Secretary, J. Kingsbury, Esq., Hammet Street, Taunton. Entries close May 10th. (No. 62.)

Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire, at Hull, June 27th. Secretary, B. L. Wells, Esq., Bishop's Lane, Hull. Entries close, June 20th. (No. 65.)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st. (No. 52.)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries close June 1st. (No. 57.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at

Boston, Thursday, July 26. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close Wednesday, July 11th. (No. 64.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th.

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Keighly Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighly. Entries close Saturday, August 25th.

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

Bedford : in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December

6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

WE are seldom so fortunate, or perhaps it should rather be said our doings have seldom been so completely guided by prudence and judgment, that when we look back upon past mischances, or even on past successes, we cannot see that we might have done better than we have done; and since "trifles make the sum of human things," the rules which govern the more important circumstances of life may have reference likewise to our fancies and our pleasures. Procrastination is the thief of time; if the poet had never sung the mischief it creates, experience would have told us the tale in prose; and as in other things, so in the management of our poultry, it is a fault which often leads to failure and miscarriage.

It is stated in most rules and regulations of poultry shows that the certificates of entry shall be sent in ON or BEFORE a certain day named, and that the entries will close ON that day; yet how often do we only *post the entries* at that time. It

is generally quite as easy to make our entries by the time specified, as at a time which according to the wording of the rules must be considered one day too late, and our doing so would prove much more convenient to the secretary and committee, who are often overdone with work at one time.

We are particularly anxious that the British exhibitors should be in good time with their entries for the Paris agricultural meeting. The arrangement of an exhibition of this description is a novelty with our Gallic friends and neighbours; the day of entry is not very distant from that on which the exhibition commences, and we ought not to throw impediments in the way of orderly and complete arrangements by troubling them with late entries.

When the amateur walks forth among his stock of youngsters, taking a casual survey of several broods of fine well-grown thriving chickens, and finding all healthy and good looking as they run, it seems the easiest thing in the world to pick out two or three faultless pens, almost certain to win prizes. Prudence whispers, pick up the chickens, handle, examine, and match them before making the entries: but time presses, perhaps the day of entry has arrived, the suggestions of prudence are unheeded, and the entries are made. Afterwards the chickens must be selected, many which seemed perfect as they ran are found to be not quite faultless; casualties occur, and the owner finds too late that he had better have calculated his chances *in good time*, and acknowledges that in entering for exhibition it is best not only to make sure in good time that there is a

good pen, but also to have in reserve an addendum of two or three good chickens to each pen in case of accidents.

Procrastination is no less an enemy to the amateur in his home arrangements than in his transactions with the poultry shows, at which he may wish to exhibit his birds.

The neglect of a broken fence may bring a host of evils in its train worthy of a second Homer to sing its story. The neglect of a sick fowl in an early stage of the disorder is very likely to result in its death. And many other evils might be named if it were not quite superfluous to prove that success in poultry keeping can only be achieved by prompt and timely attention to all its little details.

The Poultry Yard.

MAY 23.

As this year, more than most years, the hatching of the broods in many poultry yards is attended with great disappointment, the amateur will naturally feel interested in making enquiries which may lead him to ascertain the cause of this non-success.

In the first place, the weather (the poor weather which so often bears the blame of half the ills that flesh is heir to) has been unfavourable. Warm moisture is congenial to hatching; this year we have had its opposite. The weather, cold and dry, has been accompanied by sharp, drying winds, with sometimes frost at night, and in some parts snow.

The mischances which have attended the hatching have not in all instances ended there; in some places the stocks of chickens have been diminished by many deaths. The cold wind, so bad for the hatching, is also very prejudicial to the young broods,

unless they can be placed in a sheltered spot. In a locality much exposed to the east, a few hurdles or any rough shelter of the sort may be worth putting up.

There are, however, other circumstances which may account for unusual delicacy in chickens. The parents may be related to each other, the cock may have too many companions; one or both the old birds may have been unhealthy, or may have been of immature age. Good judges have sometimes reckoned that a pullet's chickens are as good as any, and so probably they may be in size and beauty; but are they not much more delicate, and more likely in consequence to be thinned off, while still young, by death?

When many accidental deaths take place among the chickens, perhaps it is even more vexatious than when they occur through sickness. The use of deep water-pans is very dangerous in the run where young chickens are kept, or where they *can get*. Even when fountains or shallow pans are placed for their use, they will get on the edge of the larger pan and fall in by accident, or flutter in from fear. Fountains and shallow pans only should be used where the young chickens are reared, and also (for they are such little vagrants) in the adjoining runs.

In the environs of towns, chickens and other juveniles of the poultry yard, have no greater enemies than the cats of the neighbourhood. Marauding, greedy, and sly, it is very difficult to prevent their depredations, but a good cat-trap, baited with a dead chicken, is generally successful. In the place, however, of this one annoyance in and near towns, in country districts we have many: hawks, kites, pole-cats, weasels, stoats, and foxes. In town and country alike we have thieves and rats; the last, perhaps, the most difficult to guard against of any. Terriers and traps are tolerably successful; but poison seems the only effectual cure, and that is cruel and dangerous.

When we look back upon all the dangers of the chickenhood of these our useful

and pleasing servitors—dangers transmitted through their parent, or conveyed in the weather—with the subsequent danger of being drowned, hunted, devoured; we may really think ourselves very lucky when we see a tolerable stock, hatched and reared without many losses.

Schedule of the Hull and East Riding Poultry Society.

The First Annual Show of this Society will be held in the Hull Zoological Gardens, Spring Bank, on Wednesday, the 27th day of June, 1855, when the following prizes will be offered, viz. :—

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Class.	SPANISH.	
	1st. s.	2nd. s. d.
1. Cock and two hens	15	7 6
2. Cock and three Pullets, hatched in 1855	5	2 6
COCHIN CHINA.		
3. Buff or Cinnamon, Cock and two Hens	15	7 6
4. Black or White, Cock and two Hens	45	7 6
5. Partridge or Grouse, Cock and two Hens	15	7 6
6. Cock and three Pullets, 1855, any variety	10	5 0
Third best	2s.	6d.
DORKINGS.		
7. Cock and two Hens	10	5 0
8. Cock and three Pullets 1855.....	5	
GOLDEN PHEASANTS.		
9. Cock and two Hens	10	5 0
SILVER PHEASANTS.		
10. Cock and two Hens	10	5 0
GOLDEN HAMBURGS.		
11. Cock and two Hens	10	5 0
SILVER HAMBURGS OR CHITTYPRATS.		
12. Cock and two Hens	10	5 0
GOLDEN OR SILVER POLANDS.		
13. Cock and two Hens	10	5 0
14. Cock and two Hens, any other variety	10	5 0
GAME.		
15. Cock and two Hens	10	5 0

GOLDEN OR SILVER BANTAMS.

Class.	1st.		2nd.	
	s.	s.	s.	s.
16. Cock and two Hens	10	...	5	0
17. Cock and two Hens, any other variety of Bantams	10	...	5	0
18. Cock and two Hens, any other variety, or Farm-yard Cross	10			

EXTRA PRIZES.

19. Best Cock of any breed	5
20. Best Hen ditto	5

DUCKS.

21. Best Pair of any breed	7 6	...	2 6
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PIGEONS.

22 to 33. Best pair of Carriers, Crop-pers, Trumpeters, Short-faced Tumblers, any other variety of Tumblers, Jacobins, Fantails, Antwerp, Nuns, Owls, Barbs, and any other variety	5 0	each.
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RULES.

Subscribers of ten shillings each, and upwards, shall be entitled to four tickets of admission, or four pens free; subscribers of five shillings each shall be entitled to two tickets, or two pens free; and subscribers of two shillings and sixpence each shall be entitled to one ticket, or one pen free. Members requiring additional pens and non-members to pay one shilling for each pen at the time of entry. The subscriptions shall be considered due at the time of subscribing, and in each future year on the 1st of January. All entries shall be made with the Secretary on or before the 20th of June.

All stock must be *bonâ fide* the property of the exhibitor at the time of entry.

All poultry must be on the ground by 10 o'clock on the morning of the show, and not be removed before 7 o'clock in the evening, excepting exhibitors from a distance wishing to leave Hull by an early train, who may do so on obtaining the permission of the Secretary.

All pens of poultry or pigeons will be disqualified if the plumage of the birds have been trimmed, removed, or otherwise tampered with.

The Judges are not to award any prize unless they shall deem the specimens exhibited for such prize to have sufficient merit. Exhibitors of pigeons must provide their own pens or cages, and pay one shilling for each entry.

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 of 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. All sales to be made through the medium of the Secretary.

B. L. WELLS, Secretary.

Office, 23, Bishop-lane.

ROBT. BOWSER, Treasurer.

Office, 5, High-street.

Chickens of 1855.

I FELT much interested in your remarks in the "Chronicle" of the 9th instant, to find that the number of chickens (65) hatched by you up to that period, corresponded exactly with my own, thus showing a remarkable coincidence between *North* and *South*. There is, however, a little difference between us in the mode of arriving at this result, not so much in the number of eggs from which they are produced, as in the number of hens which produced them. You set 133 eggs under 15 hens, whereas I set 128 eggs under 10 hens only, as the following table will show:—

<i>Dats.</i>	<i>No. of Eggs.</i>	<i>No. of Hens.</i>	<i>No. hatched.</i>
Feb. 26	11	1	1
March 22	10	1	9
April 2	23	2	19
" 26	26	2	8
" 28	13	1	11
" 30	45	3	17
	128	10	65

All the foregoing, except the 11 hatched on the 28th of April (which were Golden Pencilled Hambro's, and most lovely little dears they are), are Brahmans and White and Black Cochins; my worst luck has been with eggs from Black Cochins, most of them proving addle; whilst my best luck has been with Brahmans. Amongst these I have some strong bony chickens, and some of my White Cochins are perfect "loves."

I have not lost a single chicken; they are all doing remarkably well, and I already begin to flatter myself that from these—my early stock—(for I say nothing of the scores I expect to be hatched shortly) that I am well laid in for prize chickens, and fondly fancy, with a fancier's eye, that some of my little interesting family begin already to look vastly like Birmingham winners; at all events, if tried, they will be found hard to beat. At the same time, candour compels me to say that I have several promising candidates for the table. If my pains in breeding only get rewarded with the "Blue Riband,"—not of the turf, as Mr. Disraeli calls it—but of the first poultry exhibition in the world, won't I be "up in the stirrups," and shan't I vie with Chanticleer himself in crowing over some of my brother amateurs! But "there's many a slip between the cup and the lip," as the old adage says, and therefore I must not be too sanguine, lest I should be doomed to disappointment. *Apropos* as to the figurative expression above-mentioned. Would it not be worth while for the Birmingham authorities to adopt the "blue riband" literally? Supposing, in addition to the white cards affixed to all the successful pens, rosettes, say of blue for the first prize, pink for the second, green for the third (white, if necessary, being added for commendations), were tied to the front of the prize pens, as is the case in many of the provincial shows, including some of the leading agricultural societies, don't you think every person, but especially the persons who have but a limited time to spare in the exhibition, would be materially assisted in picking out at a glance the prize birds? for the eye, in looking down those long avenues, would speedily be attracted to the pens most sought after—a thing quite impossible now, without making up to every pen where a white card is exhibited, and spelling it over.

I feel desirous, Mr. Editor, of throwing out a few more hints on different matters connected with poultry; for, having been very many years a fancier in rather an extensive,

and (as my bank-book can testify) an expensive way; a devourer of all sorts of poultry literature (and I may add particularly fond of the "Chronicle"), an occasional contributor too (but never before to your columns, and now only under an assumed name); one of the earliest Cochin China breeders in this country (my original stock dating back to 1846); many times a successful exhibitor in the provinces, but once only in the "metropolis" (Birmingham, of course); and often clothed with the "ermine," in officiating as judge, into the bargain—I may, without vanity, claim to know "a thing or two" about poultry; but for the present I forbear; regard for your space and your patience, and a horror of being set down either as a "bore" or a "twaddler," by your numerous and increasing readers, induces me to stop.

One query, however, by way of conclusion. Do you or any of your correspondents happen to know anything of a breed of poultry called "Demeraras," imported, in fact, from Demerara, from which they take their name (I suppose for want of a better)? If so, I should be glad to have my limited knowledge of them improved, and in the meantime, beg to subscribe myself, your faithful servant,

BERRY BANKS.

Yorkshire.

—♦—
SUCCESS IN HATCHING.—A rough statement of my success in hatching this season, may be interesting to the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle." February, 5 nests, 45 eggs, 25 chickens; March, 3 nests, 33 eggs, 17 chickens; April, 6 nests, 75 eggs, 61 chickens. Nearly all the settings were a mixture of Spanish, Cochins, and Poldands.
 P. J.

It is said that a fifth of the bees in France have been killed by the severity of the winter, and much of the honey was so severely frozen as to be spoiled.

A HAWK, attracted by an aviary at Killee, county Clare, dashed through a pane of glass. So violent was the concussion that he lay stunned, and was captured.

The Comic Poultry Guide.

POULTRY keepers may be divided into two parts: those who keep for fancy, and those who keep for profit. These may again be divided into two: those who keep fowls,—first, because it is the fashion; and afterwards, with an object in view: like a young man who smokes,—first, because everyone else does; and afterwards, in order to black a pipe.

The sailor commences housekeeping by providing a wife, and then a house; but as this system has its inconveniences, we recommend to begin with the house. We know that those who inhabit the lower parts of large mansions, always declare that pains and money are lavished on the upper stories at the expense of the "offices;" and certain styles are said to be more favourable to universal comfort than others. Now those of whom we treat are indifferent whether the exteriors of their dwellings harmonise with Florentine, Gothic, Hanoverian, Roman, Composite, or Elizabethan.

The talented auctioneer said, "As we are not selling Chatsworth, or Blenheim, we will not dilate on the beauties of those places; we will drop hyperbole, and declare the property we have for sale to possess all the comforts usually found in a six-roomed house." We will follow his example. Our friends require only a southern or western aspect, ample ventilation, but not of the varied character in which our Houses of Parliament, and some of our courts of law, luxuriate; good wide round perches, within two feet of the ground, and a well-gravelled floor. Queen Elizabeth had her rooms strewn with rushes, and these were replaced every day; but in this case it is only necessary to draw a broom slightly over the surface every morning, and even the visits of a sanitary commission may be contemplated without misgivings.

It is a common error to suppose fowls are teetotallers, far from it; they will drink beer, and even wine when they can get it.

They, nevertheless, have a great aversion to draughts, and the ventilation should consequently be as high as possible above the perches.

The wants of the animals are various, and must be provided for. They must have two apartments: the first will serve only for dormitories, and laying, not for feeding; reminding one of some first floors at the West End, where it is impressed on those who look at them, "they must not dine at home." The other is used for sitting, and should any but a pullet suffering from that want intrude therein, she must be informed in the language addressed to Mr. Fergusson, that she does not lodge there.

As we believe nothing gives so good an idea of a thing as a familiar comparison, we would say the laying and sitting places should be on the ground, but made something like the boxes of a coffee-room, or those convenient places to be met with in first-rate pawnbrokers'. With the hens, as with the visitors to the latter place, privacy is desirable; and neighbours should be unable either to look round or over, or meddle with their neighbour's business.

The house then may be compared to a Club: all its members resort to it. They are all Travellers; and provided the arrangements are Conservative of their health, nothing about them will demand Reform. It has another point of similarity: no children are allowed in it. There are many reasons for this. The uncle spoken of in the "Children in the Wood," is not the only one who lusts after the provision made for the nephews and nieces. The delicacies provided for the chickens would be devoured by the old birds. Maternity has its cares and its anxieties, as well as its pride and joy, and ladies are not always even-tempered. Mrs. Smith will box her child's ears, and call it an ugly, disagreeable little plague; but if Mrs. Jones were to say the same, there would be active hostilities between them. They should then be kept in the nursery,

seeing the common room has many and divers occupants.

As the cares and delights of being a mother will not always extinguish the desire for the pleasures of liberty and single life; and as there is no way of overcoming temptation so effectual as to prevent its gratification; we will close this part by advising that the hen and chickens be removed from the other fowls, and that the hen be put under a rip.

(To be continued.)

Home and the Homestead.

THE POINTS OF A JERSEY COW.

THE following points of an Alderney or Jersey cow, translated from the French, were appointed for the guidance of the Judges at the Agricultural Exhibitions:—

	<i>Points.</i>
1. Genealogy on the side of the male parent	1
2. Genealogy on the side of the female parent	1
3. Head small, fine, and tapering	1
4. Chaps small	1
5. Throat clean made	1
6. Muzzle fine, and clear coloured	1
7. Nostrils high and open	1
8. Horns smooth, bent, not too thick at the base, tapering, and ending with a black point	1
9. Ears small and thin	1
10. Ears dun-coloured, darker in the inside	1
11. Eye full and mild	1
12. Neck straight, fine, and well placed on the shoulders	1
13. Chest wide and deep	1
14. Shape, round-made, wide, and deep	1
15. Fine-limbed, leaving small space between the last rib and the haunch	1
16. Back straight from the shoulders to the top of the haunches	1
17. Back straight from above the haunches to the root of the tail, and the tail at right angles with the back	1
18. Tail fine	1
19. Tail falling to the hocks	1
20. Skin thin, flexible, not too tight	1
21. Coat fine and sleek	1
22. Skin good in colour	1
23. Fore-legs short, straight, and fine	1

	<i>Points</i>
24. Fore-legs very full above the joint, and fine below it	1
25. Hind-quarters, from the hams to the rump, long and plump	1
26. Hind-legs short, straight below the hams, and fine in the bone	1
27. Hind-legs planted square, and not too near together when the animal is seen from behind	1
28. Hind-legs must not cross in walking	1
29. Hoofs small	1
30. Udder in a line with the abdomen	1
31. Udder large and well shaped	1
32. Teats large, placed square, and far apart. 1	1
33. Milk-vein, well developed	1
34. Well grown	1
35. Good general appearance	1
36. Good condition	1

Perfection 36

PRODUCE OF TWO COWS.—A neighbour, a man whose accuracy may, I believe, be implicitly relied on, gives this account of the produce of his two cows. He says, "I never had my cows do so well. I have, certainly, fed them most liberally; but even with the most liberal keep, their produce is remarkable. I sent out a gallon of new milk night and morning on the whole seven days, and yet made 27½ lbs. of butter from the remaining milk of two cows in one week. Perhaps this report may interest some of your subscribers. The cows were well-bred beasts of the Durham or Short-horn kind."

ANONYMOUS.

Columbary.

NO. XI. THE STARLING-BREADED PIGEON.

THIS variety resembles the common Dovecote pigeon in size, shape, and habits, and they field well; they are generally smooth-headed and clean-footed. The colour is almost always black, though occasionally blue or red; they have gravel eyes, and dark beaks. Their markings are as follows: two white bars on each wing, and a white speckled crescent-shaped band

below the fore part of the neck across the crop, about an inch broad; the feathers which compose this band being tipped with white somewhat after the manner of a starling's plumage, from which they derive their name, and which looks very pretty on the dark glossy ground colour of the pigeon's neck.

In the young, the white markings are of a rosy red until the first moult, when they become white.

These white markings retain their regularity only until the third or fourth moult; they generally become lighter, the points of the flight feathers get white, and the crown of the head grey; and the beautiful breast band becomes lighter, larger, and more unsightly with age.

I have had a few with white heads like the Priest pigeons; they had also turned crowns, the upper mandible was white, and the eyes dark.

Their German name is "Staar-hälsige Taube."

B. P. BRENT.

On Bees.

WE are in the middle of May, enduring the alternations of frost, snow, rain, a piercing east wind, and, few and far between, gleams of sunshine; we sit down to write about swarms, we look on the snow-clad hills before us, and are puzzled. And the subjects of our theme are puzzled too. How is the advance of vegetation to be calculated on; shall we start from winter into summer, passing over the gradual developments of spring? We hope not, for the sake of our bees, who have not yet attained the power of going at railway speed. Their progress must be gradual; but the elements defy the cares of the most vigilant bee-keeper, who may be able to supply one portion of the food requisite for the growing swarm, and yet his care may be lavished in vain, while the bees are unable to provide the other portion, which is not less necessary, viz., the pollen.

Under these circumstances, the practical question arises, whether it is advisable to stimulate the hives by a supply of food. Day after day we think this must be the last of the cold weather, and still our bees are collecting pollen in quantities quite disproportionate to the usual gathering at this season. Hence we conclude that swarming must of necessity be late this season, as it is the instinct of these insects not to rear more young than there is food enough to maintain, and the forming of the swarms is extended over a space of several weeks. The perfect insect reaches maturity three weeks after the egg is laid, the time between the hatching of the egg, and the acquiring of the full size of the insect, is but five days, so we may conceive what an enormous consumption of food takes place during this short interval. Supposing the queen to lay rather more than 300 eggs a day, this gives no more than between 6000 and 7000 in the three weeks; and as a first swarm is calculated at about 20,000 bees, while a considerable number remain with the parent hive, and the combs are filled with brood of all ages, it is evident that the preparations for swarming must extend over a period of at least three months, and that on the near approach of this important event, any check to the importation of supplies of food, might produce serious consequences. And we do sometimes experience this effect. While as we have seen in a state of prosperity, "a prodigious number of the eggs of males are laid in the course of May," should famine threaten the family, the whole course of proceeding is changed, the intention of swarming is abandoned, and the now useless drones are destroyed. But the thrifty bee wastes nothing, and in the day of necessity, the bodies of the larvæ are sucked of the juices they contain, and the mere shell of the insect, white in colour, is borne out of the hive. The bodies of the workers sometimes share the same fate, and then the bee-keeper, perceiving these symptoms of extreme distress, must lend his aid, for the life of the

hive is in peril. One season, resembling the present, I found the bee-keeper to whose successful management I have before alluded, on a day in the middle of May, preparing a stone of sugar, which the bees would consume during the night. And two years ago, I nearly lost a hive from this want of food in June. It was full of bees, and was one morning on the point of swarming. A cloud intervened, and the bees returned. Several days of wet weather succeeded, till at length, knowing the hive was light, and that the large quantity of brood was continually diminishing its stores, I gave a saucer of food, though I had discovered no fragments of nymphs ejected. The food remained untouched; a few weak bees crawled out of the hive, and the truth flashed on my mind, that thousands were dying of hunger. I tapped the hive; no prolonged buzz gave the wished for answer; I turned it up, and to my joy found nearly all alive, though dull and stupid, and the hive as light as it could be. I dropped syrup among the combs, and soon revived them, and gave as much as they would eat till the weather changed; but this check delayed the swarm a fortnight. Last summer many hives full of bees died just before swarming, their owners having neglected to provide them with the food they were unable to go out and collect for themselves.

The appearance of drones in great numbers is the first precursor of swarming; to the real lover of bees, the sound of their loud hum in flying, and the sight of their sleek velvety bodies, is a source of real pleasure; their presence is associated with the hours of mirth and prosperity, with those days only when industry and wealth and joy, render the bees so interesting. Next, the building of the royal cells bespeaks the intention of swarming at an early day. Sometimes in a hive which has a window at the back, with the edges of the combs against it, one or two royal cells are constructed near the glass, and the fortunate bee-keeper will be enabled to watch the most curious of all the proceedings

which take place in this wonderful household; he will see the cradle of royalty constructed on the edge of the comb, not bearing any resemblance to the birthplace of the commoners of the community, which are used also as the receptacles of honey, but suspended in a vertical position, composed apparently of a mixture of pollen and wax, expended in such profusion, that one of them outweighs 100 common cells; its appearance thus pointing it out as destined for receiving and rearing the most important personage of the colony—the mother and queen. The royal cell at first has the appearance of the upper part of an acorn; when the egg is deposited, as the larva increases in size, it is gradually lengthened, till it reaches about an inch in length, of an oblong cylindrical form, and then it is closed at the end, and the nymph undergoes her transformations. The number of these cells at the time of swarming, usually varies from five to eight or nine; they are, however, sometimes more numerous; I had fourteen young queens raised on one occasion, while Huber records having found as many as twenty-seven.

It appears he had been making experiments, for which purpose he had removed the royal cells and young queens, and the bees, resolved on following their own plans, had increased the number of princesses, so as to insure the safety and production of at least one queen. Usually some of the royal cells are closed, others not advanced much beyond the size of an acorn when the mother-queen quits her habitation. When we reflect on the result of swarming, it becomes evident that there are some circumstances under which it becomes more advantageous to prevent it. These are where the honey season is short, and it is not desired to increase the number of stocks, or change the abodes of the bees. The first work of the new settlers is to construct comb; this, it has been shown, is effected by the expenditure of an enormous quantity of honey. In this comb the queen immediately lays her eggs, and it is thenceforward

discoloured. Comb after comb becomes appropriated for the brood, which is also consuming a considerable portion of the daily collection, till at the end of the season the bee-keeper finds himself the possessor of perhaps a good strong stock, well furnished for standing over the winter, but supplying no rich store of pure honey; and the parent hive is in the same condition. The young queen has replenished the numbers of the family, which may have sufficient food to carry it through the winter, but the owner's share of honey is nowhere to be found. Had swarming, on the contrary, been prevented, and additional room been given, the new combs would have remained pure, and been filled with honey, while the *old lady* and her family would have continued to prosper in their first home. Many bee-keepers pursue this plan; the only exception should be made where from old age or other defect it is desirable to obtain a young queen, and then the old one is allowed to swarm and is then removed. Additional compartments, whether boxes or glasses, added now, *may* have the effect of preventing swarming, but as I have said, these little people are fond of following their own devices, and no proceedings on the part of the proprietor can positively determine the course they may think it proper to pursue. A.

DRIVING.

IN answer to the inquiry of your correspondent "Alice," which I am sorry I have only just now seen, the term "driving" is applied to that operation by which bees are impelled to quit their settled habitation. The method of proceeding is plainly and fully described in the *Shilling Bee Book*, page 47. Your correspondent must not imagine our little pets are irresistible adversaries; but, accoutred in the armour described in No. 44 of the "Poultry Chronicle," with a pair of very thick gloves, or, better still, two pairs fitting loosely, and accompanied by an assistant, who is ready to blow a few puffs of smoke

among the bees, let her proceed to work, to turn up the hive or do anything else she may wish, *quietly* and *boldly*, with a resolution not to run away when the enemy appears. It may be a satisfaction to our gentle readers to know, that it has been remarked that bees always show a preference for ladies. A.

ROBBERS AND SWARMING.

"GET up early, dooo!" as the Cochinchina cock says, when he is afraid the hot sun will deprive him of his early breakfast, and when the thieves are gone to bed, or are at work in the fields, and the master ought to be out with his keys in his hands, looking about him. So having given a useful reason for being out early, the novice may next visit the hive in the middle of a fine day, and after watching for some time, it may be within the hour, he may see some bees come out with their tails contracted, and drawn up short beneath them; some fly, some fall to the ground, and though all is quiet at the doorway of the hive, and the bees going in and out, apparently working steadily and quietly, he will know that *robbing* is going on, and that the robbers have long been at work, the bees of the hive have given up the fight, and that the robbers are quite too strong for the hive bees, that they will soon kill them all; and that if he has bees in his own neighbourhood, he cannot stop this robbing, though he remove the bees and their hive from John o'Groat's to the Land's End. To be kept alive they must be fed; to keep out robbers, they must be shut in; but unfortunately the two are incompatible; for, if fed, they must be let out, or they die with the continued fretting to regain their liberty.

The season for swarming varies considerably in different localities, and from causes that at first are not apparent,—climate, food, and aspect, all combine to cause it. Among the interminable forests of oak wood, or dense brushwood of mixed growth, it would scarcely be supposed that bees would flourish at all; but here swarm-

ing is general before the end of April, and the principal swarming over by the middle of May: and whilst the honey-gathering season has, in general, little to boast of in these districts, I have, nevertheless, from a large-sized compound hive, part of it a Nutt's box, extracted, in their second season, a hundred and eleven pounds of honey-comb, leaving the compartment containing the bees fifty-six pounds in weight; this part of the hive itself only weighing four or five pounds. An immense swarm had, during the summer, risen from this hive. These bees I spread out to find their queen, and in returning the bees to the hive, which I did in three journeys, shaking a quantity of them into a cottage hive, the quantity of bees nearly filled three good-sized cottage hives, besides the number that returned to the hive of themselves; and this I did in a small garden, not ten yards from a wall only eight feet high, that separated me from the street of a town, with its numerous passengers and vehicles, without anyone being aware of what was going on, or being in the least annoyed by the bees, so manageable are they under suitable contrivances and care. T. S.

Chit Chat.

A BAG OF GAME.—Lieutenants Baker and Gubbins, of her Majesty's 37th Regiment, have just returned from a shooting excursion in the south and east of the island, and the result of their trip is the following extraordinary bag. They had forty-seven days of actual shooting in the jungles, and it resulted in—90 elephants, 39 wild buffaloes, 3 bears, and 1 chetah, besides a number of deer, pea-fowl, wild hog, hares, wild ducks, &c.—*Ceylon Times*.

QUAILS.—The Indus, which arrived at Southampton from Alexandria and Malta on Friday last, brought among her live cargo about 2000 quails. When English game is not in season, quails are eaten as a substitute, and taste like a partridge, but, being very small, are sold at from 6d. to 1s. a head retail.

THE "Doncaster Gazette" says, that a person living near Silkstone, brought a fighting cock in front of a large swing glass. The fowl made a plunge at his supposed antagonist, and shivered the glass to atoms.

JOHN KING, Esq., of Kinnordy-house, killed with the rod and single gut, April 23 and 24, four salmon of the following weight: 24, 21, 12, and 8 pounds.

MARKET SUPPLIES.—We should not like to class our readers among those who are pleased when they hear others are involved in the same misfortunes as themselves. But as many are now attributing partial failure either to badness of stock, or to mismanagement, it may be some comfort to them to know that the number of eggs imported this year in the first quarter, is less than usual by 10,000,000. This has not arisen from any failure in the demand, but from cold or some other cause, there have been fewer laid abroad. For the like reasons the scarcity of good poultry in Leadenhall Market is much complained of. High prices are being realised, and there is every prospect of their continuance.

SHEPHERD AND SHEPHERD'S DOGS.—A gentleman in North Carolina, wishes to employ a person competent to take charge of a large flock of sheep—also to procure a pair of shepherd's dogs. Letters, stating terms, may be addressed to this office.—The above is from a transatlantic contemporary "The Country Gentleman," published at Albany. Our English shepherd dogs are much valued in America.

Hexham Poultry Show.

THE Hexham Poultry Show was held in the garden of the White Hart Inn on the 14th and 15th inst. There were about 160 pens of poultry entered; and taking into consideration the district, and also the unwillingness of breeders to part with their birds even for a day at this season, it was

a goodly assemblage of fowls, and a decided improvement on the show of last year.

In Spanish, old birds, Mr. Lightfoot had no opponent, and indeed they must have been really good birds to beat him.

In the class of Spanish, cock and one hen, pen No. 6, was very good, and probably the judges would have made a different award had the cock not been blind of one eye.

In Dorkings, some good birds were shown; amongst the coloured birds, a cock that took a prize at Newcastle was beaten here, but this was not surprising, as he looked starved and miserable, his feathers ruffled, and his tail drooping; indeed the cold day must have disappointed many an exhibitor, as the birds, generally, looked starved.

The Cochins, generally, were fair specimens; a pen of Captain Snell's Partridge-feathered birds were particularly good. The remainder of the birds belonging to Captain Snell, and also those of Mr. E. Swarbreck were not sent.

There were a good many pens of Silver Pencilled Hamburgs shown. The second prize in the cock and one hen class at first sight appeared indifferent; however, on carefully going over the pens, they seemed to be the best birds.

In game there were very good black reds.

The Polands wanted more white and less black in their top-knots, nevertheless there were some respectable birds in this class.

The first prize in Andalusians were very good.

In the other classes there was nothing particular to remark.

In conclusion, we must congratulate Mr. England and the committee on their endeavours to promote the improvement of the different breeds of poultry in the neighbourhood. The only regret we felt was that from the ungenial state of the weather many exhibitors must have been disappointed at their birds not appearing to greater advantage. The Rev. R. Pulleine and Mr. Jefferson of Hexham officiated as judges.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.—Class 1. (Cock and two Hens.) 1st and 2nd prizes, W. Lightfoot, Shieldfield, Newcastle. Class 2. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, J. Shorthose, Newcastle. 2nd prize, G. Dixon, Riding. Class 3. (Cockerel and two Pullets.) 1st prize, W. Lightfoot.

DORKING, COLOURED.—Class 4. (Cock and two Hens.) 1st prize, I. Lawson, Holme House, Carlisle. 2nd prize, J. Waugh, Warwickbridge Mill, Carlisle. Class 5. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, I. Lawson. 2nd prize, J. Graham, Cottager, West Jesmond, Newcastle. **WHITE.**—Class 6. (Cock and two Hens.) 1st prize, L. W. Atkinson, Esq., Newbiggin. Class 7. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, L. W. Atkinson, Esq. 2nd prize, Mrs. John Stokoe, Hexham. **EITHER COLOUR.**—Class 8. (Cockerel and two Pullets.) 1st prize, I. Lawson.

COCHIN, CINNAMON AND BUFF.—Class 9. (Cock and two Hens.) 1st prize, Mrs. John Stokoe. 2nd prize, J. Waugh. Class 10. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, Mrs. Mary Parker, Coalstaiths, Brampton. 2nd prize, J. Waugh. **BROWN AND PARTRIDGE.**—Class 11. (Cock and two Hens.) 1st prize, T. Bridges, Esq., Croydon, Surrey. 2nd prize, M. Smith, Loughbrow, Hexham. Class 12. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, Captain W. H. Snell, St. Swithin's Lane. **BLACK.**—Classes 13 and 14.—**WHITE.**—Class 15. No Entries. **WHITE.**—Class 16. (Cock and Hen.) 2nd prize, Mrs. Smith, Loughbrow. **OTHER COLOURS.**—Class 17. 1st prize, Mrs. J. Stokoe. 2nd prize, Mrs. England, Hexham.

MALAYS.—Classes 18 and 19. No Entries.

GAME FOWL, WHITE, PILES, DUCKWINGS, GREYS, AND BLUES.—Class 20. (Cock and two Hens.) 1st prize, R. Lyon, Hexham. 2nd prize, M. Brown, Hexham. **CLASS 21.** (Cock and Hen.) No Entries. **BLACK-BREASTED AND OTHER REDS.**—Class 22. 1st prize, T. Whaley, Anick Cottage, Hexham. 2nd prize, W. Rowell, Haydonbridge. Class 23. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, M. Brown. 2nd prize, N. Rewcastle, Hexham. **ANY VARIETY.**—Class 24. (Cockerel and two Pullets.) 2nd prize, Mrs. England.

GOLD PENCILLED HAMBURGS.—Class 25. (Cock and two Hens.) 1st prize, G. Dixon. 2nd prize, T. Forster, Slaley. Class 26. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, Mrs. Lamb, Comb-hills, Slaley. 2nd prize, J. Blackburn, Holly-hill, Slaley. **SILVER PENCILLED.**—Class 27. 1st prize, J. Bell, High Shield. 2nd prize, Mrs. J. Pearson, East Law Toll-Bar, Shotley Bridge. Class 28. (Cock and

Hen.) 1st prize, Mrs. H. Swallow, Slaley. 2nd prize, J. Coulson, Shotley Hill. **GOLDEN SPANGLED.**—Class 29. 1st prize, J. Bell. 2nd prize, W. Forster, Oxen Rods. Class 30. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, Mrs. J. Stokoe. 2nd prize, J. Anderson, Dipton Mill. **SILVER SPANGLED.**—Class 31. 1st prize, G. Dixon. Class 32. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, Miss G. M. Tregelles, Derwent Hills, Gateshead. 2nd prize, J. Bell.

POLAND FOWL, BLACK WITH WHITE CRESTS.—Class 33. 1st prize, Mrs. J. Stokoe. 2nd prize, Mrs. England. Class 34. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, W. Forster. 2nd prize, Mrs. J. Stokoe. **GOLDEN.**—Class 35. 1st prize, J. Blackburn, Holly-hill, Slaley. 2nd prize, G. Dixon. Class 36. (Cock and Hen.) 1st and 2nd prizes, Mrs. J. Stokoe. **SILVER.**—Class 37. No prize. Class 38. No entries.

ANDALUSIAN.—Class 39. 1st prize, J. Short-hose. 2nd prize, Master G. Dinning, Hexham. Class 40. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, E. Dixon, Gold Island.

BANTAMS, GOLD-LACED.—Class 41. **SILVER-LACED.**—Class 42. **WHITE.** Class 43. No entries. **BLACK.**—Class 44. 1st prize, J. Rutherford, Dean-street, Hexham. **ANY OTHER VARIETY.** 1st prize, Mrs. Smith. 2nd prize, T. Dinning, Hexham. **CROSS BETWEEN ANY OTHER BREEDS.**—Class 46. 1st prize, T. Forster. **ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.** Class 47. No prize.

TURKEYS, BLACK AND WHITE.—Classes 48 and 49. No prize. **ANY OTHER COLOUR.**—Class 50. (Cock and Hen.) 1st prize, Master C. Walker, Hexham.

GERSE.—Class 51. No prize.

DUCKS, AYLESBURY.—Class 52. 1st prize, L. W. Atkinson. 2nd prize, J. Waugh. **MUSCOVY.**—Class 53. No entries. **ROUEN.**—Class 54. 1st and 2nd prizes, J. Bell. **ANY OTHER VARIETY.**—Class 55. 1st prize, J. Bell. 2nd prize, J. WAUGH.

GUINEA FOWL.—Class 56. Best pair, 1st prize, J. Bell.

PEACOCKS.—Class 57. No entries.

EXTRA STOCK.—Class 58. No prizes.

CHEAP hen-coops may easily be made of bacon, soap, or egg-boxes, which can be bought of any wholesale grocer for about ninepence; there is wood and nails enough in a box to make a large coop; the front might be covered with galvanised netting.

Floriculture.

MAY 23.

AURICULAS which have bloomed in pots, and of which the flowers have gone off, must be new-potted this month, as the excellence of the bloom next season will much depend on the strength they gain now. The best judges are convinced that autumn potting does not produce such fine bloom for the following spring, and it is now time to get the plants into their summer quarters, under a north wall or fence, well protected from the mid-day sun. Attend to the watering, for they will require frequent supplies, and must be kept moist.

Carnations, picotees, and pinks, should now be in nice order for showing well in bloom; decayed foliage and weeds must be neatly trimmed away, and the flower-stalks tied to nice-looking sticks. This will require frequent attention until the flower stems are as tall as they will become. In dry weather they will require frequent watering. It is a good precaution to protect the pots containing carnations and picotees from the power of the sun (the excessive heat of which would injure the roots on that side), by laying any convenient material along the side reaching to the rims. The surface of the beds of pinks may be stirred, and cleared of weeds, and a little top-dressing may be given with advantage. Thinning out the bloom stems is a work which may be done when they are tall enough to show their future promise of bloom. The thin flowering, and long podded varieties may be reduced considerably in number, even to one or two stems, according to the strength of the plants; but the short podded, and those difficult to flower whole podded, had better not be thinned out so much. In thinning out, take care to leave some of the late stems, that there may be blooms for every show, if they are to be exhibited, or to look pretty at home if not.

Defend tulip beds from the full sun,

from heavy rain, strong wind, cold nights, and all inclement weather. When hyacinths are past flowering, and the leaves begin to decay, take up the roots, especially those of the fine double kinds. As soon as taken up, let the roots be spread to dry and harden, in a dry, shady place, on a mat, on clean dry ground, or on the floor of an airy room; when they are dry, *i. e.*, in about a fortnight or three weeks, trim and clean them, and place them on shelves or in boxes until autumn. Some persons recommend that the roots shall be placed in the ground again, laying them sideways into a ridge of dry, light earth, covering the roots, but leaving the stalks and leaves out of the ground hanging down the side of the ridge; when they are dry, they may be trimmed, and put by, the same as if dried out of the ground.

Plants in pots should be watched, for the appearance of the green fly, which is most injurious to carnations, and in fact to everything: have immediate recourse to fumigation of tobacco. As the present season is so very late, flower seeds of various kinds may still be sown. Make cuttings, as mentioned last week; wage continual war against weeds, especially groundsel, now coming into full flower; and attend to the general neatness of the garden.

LIST OF HARDY ANNUALS.

With their height and colour.

SIX TO FOURTEEN INCHES HIGH.—Cape marigold, *purple and white*. Large caterpillar, *yellow*. Venus looking-glass, *light purple*. Ram's horns and snails, *yellow*: in these and the caterpillar plant, the curious pod is the beauty. Dwarf variegated lychnis, *crimson and white*. Blue meadow lychnis, *sky blue*. Dwarf Virginia stock, *lilac*. Woodrooffe, *light blue*. Pink hawkweed.

TWELVE TO TWENTY INCHES HIGH.—Oak of Jerusalem, *yellowish, fragrant*. White and purple candytuft. Convolvulus

minor, *bright blue*. White and red lobel's catchfly. Snapdragon, *lilac and yellow*. Scarlet peas, *light and dark*. Striped convolvulus minor, *blue and white*. Dwarf nasturtium, *deep orange and maroon*. Broad Spanish nigella, *deep blue*. Flos Adonis, *dark red*.

TWENTY TO TWENTY-EIGHT INCHES HIGH.—Spanish nigella, *light blue*. Spanish hawkweed, *pale yellow, with purple eye*. Moldavian balm, *blue and white, fragrant*. Double Roman nigella, *white, mixed with blue*. Running nasturtium, *orange and maroon*. Larkspur, *pink and white*. Sweet lupins, *bright yellow*. Dutch lupins, *fine blue*. Hare's ear, *pale yellow*. Purple Jacobus. Dutch ranunculus marigold, *sulphur colour*. Red-topped clary, *pale red and pink leaves*.

TWO TO THREE FEET HIGH.—Small flowered mallow, *purplish white*. Double crimson jagged leaf poppy, *dark crimson*. Tall wallflower, *yellow*. Arack, *deep crimson*. Carnation double poppy, *red and white*. Sweet trefail, *lead colour*. Red and white lavatera. Branching larkspur, *blue and white*. Tall white lupine. Lord Anson's peas, *fine blue*. Dwarf double and quilled yellow sunflower. Bladder ketmia, *pale sulphur and purple*.

FIVE TO TEN FEET HIGH.—Tall yellow sunflower. Painted lady sweet scented peas, *pink and white*. Arack, *sulphur colour*. Purple sweet scented peas. Tall Indian persicaria, *bright crimson*. Painted lady crown peas, *black and white*. Convolvulus major, *all colours*. White crown peas. Large Indian nasturtium. White sweet-scented peas. Plain Tangier peas, *crimson*. Tall oriental mallow, *purple*. Painted lady Tangier peas, *pale red and white*. Scarlet beans, *fine scarlet*. Curled leaf upright mallow, *white tinged with purple*.

All annuals should be carefully trimmed and prevented from straggling; some require thinning. Preserve the strongest blossoms for seed, and remove the withered blossoms, to give strength to those which remain.

Crested Fowls.

NO. IV.

I HAVE recently described the three breeds of crested or topknotted fowls, commonly known in this country, namely, the Persian or Turkish, the St. Jago or beardless Polands, and the Hamburg or bearded Polish. There is, however, another breed known on the Continent, which is distinct from these, which has been described by Aldrovandi, as the Padua Fowls, and by Dr. Bechstein as Das Paduanische Huhn; and which I believe is the original of the Crevecoeur Fowls, the insertion of which name at the head of the Paris poultry list, has attracted considerable attention towards a breed but little known in this country; but I don't expect many pure birds will there be seen, as I am of the opinion that as the principal feature in this breed is a crest or topknot, so, in France, all crested or topknotted fowls have indiscriminately received the name of Crevecoeur, irrespective of origin, breed, or purity; even as our own topknotted fowls are jumbled together as Polands, or anything with five toes is here denominated a Dorking.

I make these remarks, simply as a warning to those amateurs who may intend to be purchasers at the Paris Exhibition, not to purchase any trash simply because they have a French name, but to observe that they are really something unknown in this country.

Padua is a town in Austrian Italy, once famous for its university, to which students formerly resorted from all parts of Europe, and where the arts and sciences were fostered and advanced, there this breed was cultivated, and from thence it was carried into other countries,—from which cause it was known as the Paduan fowls. I am inclined to regard it as a crested variety, of the Malay or Gallus Giganteus, and believe it has often been confused with the St. Jago (Polands), simply because it was crested; not being acquainted with this breed, I shall refer the reader to the Rev. E. S. Dixon's translation from Aldro-

vandi, page 365, of his "Ornamental and Domestic Poultry;" and conclude this paper with Mr. J. M. Moffatt's description:—"The gigantic cock, also called the Paduan, is the largest of the kind, being twice the size of the finest barn door or dunghill cock. This gigantic fowl is found wild in the forests of Java, and in the western parts of Sumatra; it stands so high, that it can take food with the bill off a common dining-table. When fatigued, the bird rests on the first joints of the legs; and in this crouching attitude it is higher than a common cock standing upright. These magnificent fowls have been domesticated, and are kept tame at Padua in Italy; and also at Caux in Normandy, where they often attain such a size as to weigh ten pounds. Both the cock and hen birds have large denticulated or notched combs, frequently double,"—(is not this probably the horned or broken-heart form?)—"of a red colour, as also are the carbuncles or wattles. They have, likewise, tufts of feathers on the head; that of the hen being larger or fuller than that of the cock. Their plumage is diversified with dark green, orange, red, and other brilliant colours, like some others of the common species. The noise they make is loud, harsh, and disagreeable. The eggs of this fowl are, as might be expected, large in proportion to its size, compared with other domesticated fowls. They require a warm, dry, open situation to thrive in."

B. P. B.

POULTRY PEN AND CRATE.—The Rev. Francis Trench is much obliged for the kind notice of his pen, for the combined object of safe travelling and convenient exhibition, in the last number of the "Poultry Chronicle." He will send, according to the Editor's desire, an accurate estimate of the cost, for insertion next week; and will also forward an advertisement for transmitting small models of the same to any part of the country.

Southern Hill, Reading, May 18, 1855.

Nutrition.

IMPORTANT constituents in the living frame of man and animals, are fat, muscle, and bone. The new born animal and the newly hatched bird, have these to make, while in the creature of mature growth they are subject to waste, which must be compensated: whether for new formation or restitution, their ingredients must be supplied by the food which is eaten. Vegetables contain these necessary substances ready for immediate application. As the mill receives into the hopper the whole corn and distributes it in separate items, the flour, the seconds, the middlings, the pollard, and the bran, so does the machinery of the living creature divide things needful for its growth: the fat is garnered up for future calls, giving at present rotundity and beauty to the form, the muscle forming material gives strength to the muscle, and the bone is deposited for growth or restitution. The fluids of the body contain the same substances in a liquid form, with the addition of saline matter.

That food must be most nourishing, and most advantageous, to the system to which it is applied, which gives all the required ingredients in abundance or in proportion to the creature's wants.

For human food what is the difference between brown bread and white? between finely sifted flour and simple meal of wheat?

The inner grain of wheat gives white flour, the skin forms the bran. By sifting, the two are separated more or less completely, making fine flour, seconds, middlings, &c. Thus, while whole meal contains *all* the bran, fine flour has *none*. In what portions do these two parts of the corn contain fat, muscle, and bone.

1st. Fat. One thousand pounds of whole grain contain 28 lb. of fat, 1000 lb. of fine flour, 20; 1000 lb. of bran, 60. So that bran is much richer in fat than the other part of the corn, and the whole meal richer than the fine flour.

2nd. Muscular matter. In all grain the whole grain contains more of this material than when the skin is sifted from it. With wheat and Indian corn the proportions in 1000 pounds are:—

	Whole grain.	Fine flour.
Wheat	156	130
Indian corn.....	140	110

Thus the whole grain of wheat (or whole meal) contains more muscle-making food than fine flour by little short of $\frac{1}{3}$ th.

3rd. Bone material and saline matter. Of these a thousand pounds of bran, whole meal, and fine flour, contain respectively:—

Bran	700 lb.
Whole meal	170 „
Fine Flour	60 „

Since then the whole corn contains so much larger a proportion of things necessary for animal growth than fine flour, we ought on no account to exclude the husk, especially in feeding *young growing* animals. Since a thousand pounds contain,

	Whole meal.	Fine flour.
Muscular matter ...	156 lb.	130 lb.
Bone material	170 „	60 „
Fat	28 „	20 „
	354	210

it follows that whole meal is very much more valuable for the purposes of nutrition than fine flour.

The use of the entire corn is more wholesome as well as more nutritive. Fine flour alone would not support life for a continuance, but whole meal would.

Providence has appointed that corn, especially wheat, shall contain materials which work well together: bran alone is difficult of digestion and contains a larger proportion of bone-making and saline matter, compared with its other ingredients, than the system can make use of: consequently, this surplus, as nutritive matter, is wasted. Bran contains an insufficient quantity of starch, which renders it improper food if used alone. The proportion of ingredients as united in the corn form at once the most nutritive, wholesome, and economical food.

Man is essentially a cooking animal: we cook for ourselves and for our stock, and in both instances our trouble is repaid. But why cannot we, any of us, invent the wherewithal as well as use it. How often families would find it beneficial to be able to bake, for various purposes, but have not the convenience. To build an oven of brick is expensive, and requires room besides which it can occupy permanently. Could not any of our manufacturers invent a portable oven, not too heavy to be moved by two maid servants, a woman and a boy, or a maid and her mistress, if you will, I for one should think none the worse of the bonny housewife for catching her at such a job. An oven is wanted which could be temporarily placed in a back kitchen or washhouse, which could be heated without great expense or difficulty, used and then set aside in any outhouse until it is wanted again.

NO PRACTICAL FARMER.

Our Poultry Show.

“WE must have a poultry show; let us appoint a provisional committee.” “To be sure,” echoed all, “let us have a poultry show.” So said some of the principal inhabitants of Hardington.

Now the easiest thing in the world is the formation of a committee to carry out an object which has elicited the sympathies of all present for some hours. Every person is sure to join it, and our good friends of whom we write soon put down twelve names. It was unanimously decided that “the squire,” who also was member for the borough, should be asked to act as patron. The post of secretary went begging for some time, but was at last accepted by an ardent amateur.

After having decided that the first meeting should be held on the Wednesday following, they separated full of enthusiasm and pledged to attend with ample and accurate information.

Time crept on at a laggard pace with many of them till the day came, and numerous were the meetings of threes and

fours at doorways and in back parlours. It came at last and brought a full attendance. A letter was read from the squire apologising for non-attendance, approving the object, and enclosing five guineas as a subscription. This infused vigour into all the proceedings; they elected a chairman of committee, and immediately christened their undertaking "The Hardington Association for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry."

The next proposition was, that it be immediately and extensively advertised. As we have now done with routine and must enter into particulars, it is well we should premise by saying that this committee was like most others, and was made up of the usual materials. Sanguine, desponding, quarrelsome, conciliating, conceited, retiring, hot, cool, rash, and cautious. Trade and professions all were there represented.

"What," said Cautious, "are you going to advertise?"

"The show, to be sure," said Rash.

"Had you not better wait till everything is settled," said Cautious.

"I do not know when that will be," rejoined Rash, "if we wait till you are satisfied."

"Gentlemen," said the clergyman, who occupied the chair, "let us proceed to know what we shall advertise. Let the rules be made first. It strikes me those of other shows may be adopted. I move that the secretary read these I have in my hand, and that they be adopted." This was done.

"Now," said the chairman, "for the prize list."

"Let us have a liberal one," said Sanguine.

"Offer Silver Cups," said Rash.

"Let us do it well or not at all," said Hot.

"I fear it will be very expensive," said Desponding.

"Let us look before we leap," said Cool.

"How much money have you in hand?" said Cautious.

The last question caused a little enquiry, all the cash consisted of the five guineas the squire had sent.

"Of course," said Hot, "every member of the committee will subscribe now."

"I shall wait," said Cautious, "till I know more about it."

"This is all nonsense," said Sanguine, "there will be plenty of money."

"I should like," said Desponding, "to be convinced of that."

This brought on a long and animated conversation; after which it was agreed that applications should be made to the inhabitants of Hardington, and to the neighbouring gentry and clergy for subscriptions. It was also found that nothing could be really settled till they had funds in hand. The meeting did little more than decide the name, adopt rules, and give orders to the secretary. They did not part with such enthusiasm as when they met the week before. They went away in little parties: Sanguine, Hot and Rash walking together decided that Desponding, Cool and Cautious were far too slow; while they voted that if they were not very careful, the others would lead them into mischief. The secretary, half serious and half jesting, said he would resign, for orders were given to him as though he were a paid instead of an honorary secretary. Quarrelsome said if he was to remain a member they must not badger him, for he would not stand it. Conceited said they only wanted putting right, and they had a man among them who could do it, and would when the time came.

The next two or three days brought them together again to consider a proposition from their chairman of committee, that they should ask the attendance of a gentleman in the neighbourhood who was conversant with these matters, at their next meeting. This appeared so desirable, and seemed so likely to help them in their dilemma, that it was caught at by them all.

Before the day most of the committee had seen him. Sanguine told him most of

the committee were well-meaning men; but they were sadly slow, they wanted driving. Cautious told him they were disposed to go hand over head. Conceited said he would find there were members who did not want much teaching. Quarrelsome told him to put them sharply to rights, and he would stand by him. A retired London Tradesman warned him against the ridiculous provincial prejudices he would meet with; and the Lawyer said they were good men enough, but had not an idea beyond their counting-houses; how should they?

All prepared him for the meeting, and when he entered the room where they were assembled in full numbers, almost everyone gave him a nod of recognition, and felt he had done wisely in securing him as his own particular supporter.

"Sir," said the chairman, "knowing your experience in these matters, we have asked you to favour us with your advice. How shall we begin?"

"By ascertaining what amount of money you can depend upon."

"The right sort of man," whispered the retired London Tradesman to his neighbour; "he cuts his coat according to the cloth."

"Another slow coach!" said Hot to Rash.

"No conjuror!" said Conceited to himself.

"One of us," said Cool to Cautious.

"All fools together!" thought Quarrelsome.

"I am afraid," said the chairman, "our funds are very small at present: will you oblige us with the amount?" turning to the secretary.

"Our amount in hand," said that gentleman, "is five guineas; but the members of the committee, twenty-four in number, are all pledged to—"

"What?" cried Cool, Cautious, and Retiring in a breath.

"Subscribe," continued the secretary.

"Very well," said they, "we thought you were going to pledge us to everything."

"Could not you wait till he had done?" said Hot.

"My friend," said Conciliating, "had we not better go quietly on? this is our third meeting, and nothing is yet done."

(To be Continued.)

American Experience of Poultry Keeping in Large Numbers.

FROM THE AMERICAN "COUNTRY GENTLEMAN."

D. H. R. of Hartford, Ct., wants to know how to build a chicken house for "about 1000 fowls." If my poor opinion is worth anything *he will not build it at all*. Fowls, in any large number, will not thrive, unless they have a *wide range*. They are, partially, *grazing animals*. When the ground is bare of snow in winter, they pick the grass if they can get it, and are fond of *green* vegetables of any kind. In summer, they pick and eat grass every day. They are great scavengers after slugs, insects, and all kinds of flesh. They are better also, for having some fresh food in winter; and abundant *air, fresh and pure*, they must have, *always*. Although I have seen it tried, I never knew a large collection of several hundred fowls, succeed in a *confined place*.

A few years ago some enterprising man from the country came near town, and enclosed an acre or two of ground with a high picket fence, and put up a building, at an expense of near, or quite a thousand dollars, intending to supply eggs for the Buffalo market. He had his barn well done off with any quantity of roosts, nesting places, and other conveniences. He started his concern with seven or eight hundred chickens, and for a few weeks, crowing, cockfighting, laying and cackling went on to his heart's content. He had food of all kinds for them, and great anticipations were indulged of fortune-making in his chicken enterprise. But three or four winter months told the story. The fowls got diseased—the hens first eat the feathers off the *roosters*—or what were left of them

after they had *fought* themselves almost bare, and then unfleeced, in the same way, each other. They stopped laying, were tormented with lice, got the "roup," went moping about the place, and died off as with a pestilence; and by spring, but a few miserable, sickly things were left, with scarce life enough in them to crow up the morning!

The difficulty was not in want of food, nor care. But, from the necessity of the case, they were crowded in their roosts; they were disturbed by each other in their nests, and had not room enough any where, even with the outside range of an acre of land. The truth is, that to flourish, hens must have their *liberty*, when kept in large numbers. They want to range the fields by day, and not be crowded at night. They want a *variety* of food, and to *help themselves* to it. They need *exercise*, pure air, and enough of both.

I knew one man, or rather the man's wife, in the Scioto Valley, in Ohio, who kept five or six hundred fowls—that is, she told me she had that many—and I don't doubt it, for the whole territory, for acres about the farm, was speckled with them by day, and the trees, and the corn-cribs, and the barns, and the sheds were filled with them at night. They had a great big farm of a thousand acres or more, and full corn cribs for many rods in length, where the hens went at pleasure, and they made nests under the trees, and among the bushes, and all about the buildings, and in the back kitchen, and just where they had a mind to; and they sat on their eggs, and hatched out their chickens at will—a self-sustaining poultry establishment, in fact. This plan worked; but as to the *profit* of it, I doubt whether the old lady could give any intelligible account in the matter.

No; I believe, the only way to make poultry profitable, is to keep them in the "old way." Proportion the number to the ground and buildings you have. Give them liberty to run at large for a portion of each day in warm weather, with comfortable quarters in winter, and pure air, always. I have

known sundry other enterprises, like the Buffalo one I mention, tried; but I never knew one *permanently* successful. They were all in turn abandoned. Yours truly,
L. F. A. *Black Rock, Jan. 2, 1855.*

A correspondent, D. H. R., of Hartford, Ct. in a late No. of the "Country Gentleman," wishes to know how to build a chicken house for about 1000 fowls. I herewith give him some account of one built by one of my neighbours, in this town, several years ago. The building was 120 feet long, 16 feet wide, 8 feet posts. The sides boarded with good seasoned matched pine boards; roof boarded and shingled. The house was well lighted with (grated) glass windows. A large yard was enclosed with a high picket fence. Late in Autumn he purchased over nine hundred chickens, and placed in his henary. The results were precisely as described by Mr. Allen of Black Rock, in the "Country Gentleman" of 8th inst. He kept them through winter and summer; late in the fall, he killed off the *survivors*; sold his building and appurtenances, &c., and in striking the balance sheet, found himself in consequence of the experiment, *minus* over 1000 dollars. If D. H. R. does not wish to be *hen-pecked* by his wife, and *crowed* over by his neighbours, he had better keep clear of the *hen* and *egg* speculation, upon a large scale.—LEVI BARTLETT, *Warner, N.H., Feb. 12, 1855.*

CEMENT TO RESIST FIRE AND WATER.—Half a pint of new milk, and half a pint of good vinegar. Stir them together until the milk coagulates; remove the curd, and mix with the whey the whites of five eggs well beaten up; when those are well mixed, add sifted quick-lime, until the whole is about as thick as putty. If this mixture be carefully applied, and properly dried, it will firmly join what is broken, or fill up cracks of any kind, and will resist fire and water.

It is no small commendation to manage a little well. He is a good waggoner that can turn in a little room. To live well in abundance, is the praise of the estate, not of the person. Study more how to give a good account of your little, than how to make it more.

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

EXHIBITORS AT SHOWS.

SIR,—Under this head, on the 16th May, you published an anonymous letter with the initials "M. S.," in which the writer, after some very proper remarks on the disqualifying of wrongly entered birds, suddenly digresses into a series of attacks on the committees of the Manchester poultry shows.

He complains that he has not seen any satisfactory explanation of the cause of the financial failure of the last show, and adds that such a result in a large town is certainly singular. I can assure "M. S." that if HE had responded, with other contributors, liberally, to the solicitation of the committee, to assist them in meeting the large deficiency of 400*l.*, he would have been honoured with their confidence, and have had a most satisfactory explanation; but the committee receiving only 15*l.* from the exhibitors for that appeal, very properly came to the conclusion that the exhibitors cared very little for the welfare of the Manchester shows, and that it was needless to trouble them any more on the subject: still, if "M. S." will put himself in a position to entitle him to examine the accounts, I shall be very happy to furnish them for his benefit.

His next remarks are the more disagreeable, reflecting or insinuating unpleasant suspicions on the character of the committee men. Such comments ought to have borne the name of the

writer, that the committee might know who they had to reply to. The application for the names of the committee, if made by "M. S.," was an improper and an impertinent one, and I need only refer to your advertisements to convince any reasonable person that committees don't usually publish their names. His remark, that *of course* he did not send his best birds, may be told to the marines, but will hardly be swallowed by your readers; for though he may have written a foolish letter, yet I don't think he would be so great a simpleton as to keep his best birds at home and send his common ones—that's an old story, belonging to disappointed exhibitors.

I quite agree with his concluding remarks, and suggest, that before he again makes an attack on the Manchester committee, that he will take the trouble of asking any respectable person in Manchester, or any of the usual poultry judges, if the committee are not sufficiently substantial in all essentials.—Your obedient servant,

W. WANKLYN, Jun.,

One of the Committee.

MARKING YOUNG CHICKENS.

SIR,—An amateur in the country would feel greatly obliged to any one of the numerous readers of your valuable periodical who would furnish him with a plain and simple method of marking chickens, so that broods of the same variety, but of different strains, might be distinguished from each other when grown up to maturity.

E. H. S.

[Whenever it is desirable not to lose sight of the marks on chickens, they must be looked over about once a month. Many persons have found a tie of worsted—using a different colour for each brood—sufficient; but these are apt to get off, or if forgotten to become tight. While the chickens are quite small it is easy to distinguish the broods, and as they fledge we have found the best mark to be, cutting saw-like notches from one of the larger feathers of the wing, when the different broods may be marked by making a memorandum whether the marking is on the right wing or left, which side of the feather, &c.—ED.]

MANUFACTURED CRÈVECŒURS.

SIR,—I see, in the last "Poultry Chronicle," some enquiries about the Crèveœur fowls. My only knowledge of them is derived from some birds exhibited under that name by Mr. Vivian, at the last Metropolitan Exhibition. These, no doubt, are the birds described by him in the Poultry Book: from a careful inspection I should give the following recipe for their manufacture. Take a large-combed silver-spangled Polish cock,

put him down in a farm-yard full of hens of no breed at all, and two years afterwards you will find a number of forked-combed, mottled, small-crested birds, which are exactly the Crèveçours exhibited at Baker Street. Whether these were the breed which goes under that name in France I am unable to say. The breed seemed to me to be one quarter Polish and three quarters indescribable.—I remain yours, &c.

May 15, 1855.

DUCKWING.

[We have reason to think pretty well of the Crèveçours, but shall be glad to receive more evidence. The true kind is said to be difficult to get now.—ED.]

MINASI'S INCUBATOR.

SIR,—As a constant subscriber to your valuable periodical, I should be extremely obliged to any person who would give me any information respecting the *capabilities* and present *success* of Carlo Minasi's patent incubator, described in your numbers.

Your obedient servant,

N. N.

[We should be much obliged if any one who has used the above-named incubator would favour our correspondent with his experience.—We have just placed in one some eggs which have been found very difficult to hatch under a hen, and will with pleasure give our experience when the time arrives.—ED.]

PILE GAME FOWLS.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged if you will inform me in your next "Poultry Chronicle" whether my ideas respecting the origin of the Pile Game fowl are correct. I suppose they are obtained by a cross between a white hen and a black-breasted red cock, or a duckwing grey cock and a white hen, or (in either case) vice versa. They should have, I believe, brown breasts and yellow legs. Do you think a Pile fowl, possessing the general characteristics of a good game bird, viz., of a compact form, rather short leg and graceful carriage, but with green or blue legs, would stand as good a chance in competing for a prize at an exhibition as one not more meritorious in other respects, but with yellow legs. I am but a young amateur, which must be my apology for troubling you with these queries. With best wishes for the success of your valuable "Chronicle," I remain, sir, yours, very obediently,

W. C.

[We should be much obliged if breeders of Pile Game fowl would give W. C. their opinion as to their origin. As there is no imperative colour for the legs of Game fowl, the competition must be *very close indeed* for it to tell against a pen, although light legs agree better with a light fowl than green or blue.—ED.]

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

WE are not surprised to hear complaints that the prices quoted by us are not realised by those who send chickens to market. It requires practice to make and kill poultry of the quality required for our first quotations. Even the second, which we have quoted of late, must be moderately fat and well killed. This is neither difficult to learn or to accomplish, but nevertheless it must be acquired. The fowls and chickens now making *ridiculous* prices, are birds of 1855, perfectly fatted, well tasted and killed, and sent in perfect order. They have neither yellow, black, or blue legs. Those who send up a few chickens alive, and in mere running condition, cannot expect to rival those of which we speak. In the poultry counties, Sussex, Surrey, and Kent, it is known to all that our figures are correct. There is a famine of poultry. The supply is not nearly equal to the demand, and the *enormous* prices we give are readily realised. Really good poultry is not to be had for money.

Large Fowls	7s. 0d. to	9s. 0d. each.
Smaller do.	6s. 6d. to	7s. 0d. "
Inferior do.	4s. 6d. to	5s. 0d. "
Chickens	5s. 0d. to	5s. 6d. "
Inferior do.	4s. 0d. to	4s. 6d. "
Green Geese	8s. 0d. to	8s. 6d. "
Ducklings	7s. 0d. to	8s. 0d. "
Guinea Fowls	4s. 6d. to	5s. 0d. "
Rabbits	1s. 5d. to	1s. 6d. "
Wild do.	0s. 10d. to	0s. 11d. "
Quails	2s. 6d. to	0s. 0d. "
Pigeons	0s. 10d. to	0s. 11d. "
Dottrells	2s. 0d. to	2s. 6d. "
Leverets	3s. 6d. to	5s. 0d. "

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

AT Mark Lane on Monday, May 14th, the weather continuing cold, and some country markets being dearer, full terms were asked at the commencement of the market, which checked business, till holders generally consenting to accept a rise of 1s. per qr. there was a ready clearance, and in some instances this advance was exceeded. The same improvement is to be

noted in sales of foreign, without equal facility of sales. There was a great falling off in barley, the total quantity, including foreign, being only 2,269 qrs. A better feeling continues towards this grain, and without any actual advance, prices continue firm.

	BRITISH.	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	77 to 86
" " red	70 .. 78
" " Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	70 .. 77
BARLEY, Maltng, new	31 .. 32
" Chevalier	33 .. 35
" Distilling	30 .. 33
" Grinding	30 .. 32
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new	65 .. 70
" " old	66 .. 70
" " Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new	70 .. 72
" " old	68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed	26 .. 27
" " potato	27 .. 30
" " Scotch feed, new	29 .. 30
" " old	33 .. 34
" " potato	33 .. 35
" " Irish feed, white	26 .. 29
" " " black	25 .. 27
RYE	40 .. 44
BEANS, Mazagan	38 .. 42
" " Ticks	39 .. 44
" " Harrow	39 .. 44
" " Pigeon	42 .. 49
PEAS, White, boilers	42 .. 47
" " Maple	40 .. 42
" " Grey	27 .. 40
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.	65 .. 70
" " Households, town	65 .. 66
" " country	56 .. 60
" " Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship	52 .. 55

On Wednesday, English wheat fully supported Monday's advance. Foreign had a fair consumptive demand, and rather dearer—certainly more difficult to buy. Floating cargoes—Egyptian off the coast in active demand and dearer, with buyers of Saide at 50s., and good Baheira at 47s.; on passage, too, there are buyers of fine, and 52s. has been refused for fine Saide. No Indian corn offering on the coast, and but little near at hand, and 1s. advance required. Barley in better demand.

To Correspondents.

American Purchasers and Subscribers can, at any time, get the "Poultry Chronicle" of Messrs. Willmer and Rogers, "European Times" Office, New York.

One.—The wish is but expressed for some one to take charge of poultry to Paris, when two persons

make known their willingness to undertake the commission, and both are names well known in the poultry world. One is Mr. Castang, the son of Mr. P. Castang, so well known as a breeder of M. d'lays;—the other, Mr. Matthew Leno, no less celebrated as a fancier of Bantams.

J. A. T.—We were much obliged for the suggestion, which we acted upon immediately.

P. J. considers that K. questioned one of his answers to the Brahma queries rather unceremoniously. His opinions were formed on his own experience, and he does not hesitate to aver still, that, with him, from November to March, Brahmas laid a much larger number of eggs than Cochins.

To Secretaries of Poultry Shows.—We have several schedules by us which shall receive insertion in the order in which they have been received, except in instances when the near approach of the closing of the entries demands immediate attention. We cannot spare space for more than one schedule each week.

J. S. Various treatments have been recommended for leg weakness. In heavy fowls, we believe, it sometimes arises from over-feeding, producing more size and weight of body than the legs can bear. The use of citrate of iron has been recommended by many persons, and we have found it beneficial. The cheapest way is to buy it by the ounce, and mix it by adding beer; the chemist of whom it is bought will give the proportion. Let the fowl have access to plenty of lime, give good wholesome nourishing food; but as his appetite is so good avoid over-feeding, and throw old iron into the water-pan. We would give him a little meat.

To Contributors and Correspondents.—We are much obliged for several contributions which arrived after our columns were filled. They will appear next week.

Advertisements.

EGGS (prices reduced) from White-Crested Black and Silver-Spangled Polands, 10s. 6d. per dozen; also a few settings of White Aylesbury Ducks Eggs, at 7s. 6d. per dozen, box, &c., included. Post-office Orders payable to THOMAS P. EDWARDS, Lyndhurst, Hants.

FOWLS BY JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest, Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a Chapter on the Bramah Pootra Fowl, the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl," and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s., or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Paternoster Row.

THE REGISTERED PORTABLE POULTRY EXHIBITION PEN.—The inventor of the above-named Poultry Pen invites the attention of Committees of Poultry Associations to his invention (see "Poultry Chronicle" of May 9), and will be happy to communicate with them on application as to terms of hire, &c. Address, Mr. JOSEPH COOKE, Head Street, Colchester.

N.B. One of the Pens is on view at Mr. J. Baily's, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

THE DORSETSHIRE ASSOCIATION for the IMPROVEMENT of DOMESTIC POULTRY will hold its Annual Exhibition at Dorchester, on the 24th and 25th of October next.

Forms of entry will shortly be issued, and further particulars announced.

SERAI TÁOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan, A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 2s. the Dozen.
BRABMA POOTRA EGGS from Gray Pea-Combed mature birds, at 2s. the Dozen.

A few good **COCHIN HENS** at a moderate price. Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

EGGS FOR SETTING may be had from the Yard of Mr. H. D. DAVIES, whose stock has been carefully bred and selected from all the best strains, and has already taken upwards of 250 prizes.

Spanish, Dorking, Brahma, and Rangoon Eggs, £2 2s., and White Cochin and Aylesbury Ducks, £1 11s. 6d., the dozen, to include basket, &c.

Spanish and Dorking Fowls of all ages may be selected from that portion of the stock not required for breeding or exhibition this season.

For Cock and 1 Pullet	£5 5 0
For Cock and 2 Pullets	7 7 0
For Cock and 4 Pullets	10 10 0

Remittances, by Post-office Order, payable to GEORGE KEEBLE, the Bailiff, Spring Grove House, Hounslow, to accompany all orders.

Mr. Davies will feel obliged if persons who wish to see the Poultry will make it convenient to do so between the hours of 10 and 4 on any Wednesday or Saturday.

EGGS FOR SETTING, (prices reduced from 1st of May,) all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:

Dorkings, Brahma Pootra (Pencilled and Light).
Spanish (Rake's), Cochins, Buff and White.
Hambros, Gold and Silver Pencilled and Spangled; Polish and Bantams.
Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers.
Pheasants and Partridges' eggs in any numbers.
All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.

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JAMES DIXON, Bradford, Yorkshire, will continue to sell EGGS during the season from his prize Golden and Silver Spangled, and Golden and Silver Pencilled Hamburg Fowls, Bearded Golden Polands, and White-faced Black Spanish. Price 10s. the setting of 15.

PIGEONS.—A Diagram or Plan of fitting up a Pigeonary in a room, Aviary, or place, &c., price 2s., by the author of the "Almond Tumbler"; also the author of the "Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing all the known tame domesticated and Fancy Pigeons," with seven exquisitely engraved coloured portraits large as life, price 10s. post free.—Published by, and to be obtained of the Author, JOHN MATTHEWS EATON, 7, Islington Green, London. Money Orders payable at 86, Upper Street, Islington.

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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.

"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,600, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d. have been received for new premiums.

"These items, when compared with the business of the preceding year, display an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

"While the income of the Company has thus received so large an accession, the office has only been called on, during the same period, to pay £1,663 19s. 10d. for claims, a sum which bears a remarkably small proportion to the mortality which might justly have been anticipated. This feature in the career of the company has thus been maintained to the ninth year, and the Directors trust that such a fact evidences the care with which the business of the office has been invariably conducted."

The office presents:—

The security of a large paid-up capital.
Very moderate rates for all ages, especially young lives.

No charges whatever, except the premium.
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Poultry Shows.

Paris Agricultural Meeting, June 1st—9th. Entries from English Exhibitors were to be sent to the Consul-General for France, King William Street, City, in time to reach Paris by May 24th. (No. 59 and 63.)

Bath and West of England, at Tiverton, June 6th, 7th, and 8th. Secretary, J. Kingsbury, Esq., Hammet Street, Taunton. Entries are closed. (No. 62.)

Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire, at Hull, June 27th. Secretary, B. L. Wells, Esq., Bishop's Lane, Hull. Entries close, June 20th. (No. 65.)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries close June the 1st. (No. 52.)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries close June 1st. (No. 57.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at

Boston, Thursday, July 26. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close Wednesday, July 11th. (No. 64.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th.

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Keighly Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighly. Entries close Saturday, August 25th.

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December

6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

WE are not racing people, but, like the rest of the world, we read the "Times," and on Wednesday last, in common with every other cockney, we looked to see the report of the doings at Epsom. The first thing that met our view was—"The Craven Stakes, &c., Mr. Palmer's 'The Chicken,' by 'Chanticleer,' 1." We did not, like some of our old writers, immediately go to sleep and dream, and report what we dreamed, but we thought of the connection of the subjects. Racing is become identified with Englishmen. The presence of Cosacks, the visitations of shells, the lack of leisure, trainers, training-grounds, official starters, and grand stands, have not prevented our gallant countrymen from having their races in the Crimea.

In the same paper we read that the naval officers disembarked, and played a match at cricket in sight of the garrison at Revel.

Horse-racing and cricket had their small beginnings; but they were congenial to the English people, and hence their popu-

larity. It is in the nature of man to like excitement, but some are more scrupulous than others in the means of indulging it. If there be any which can be sought and followed with more than usual eagerness, which cannot raise a doubt in the mind of the most fastidious, it is a Poultry Show. It has a great advantage, inasmuch as it is a pursuit which can be followed by ladies, and it has a practical benefit attached to it. One by one the difficulties that beset their early promoters are disappearing. The subject is becoming well understood, and we look for a great increase in their numbers. We believe the day is not far distant when they will be as regular as racing meetings, and as well supported. The improvements now taking place in pens is an important step, and we think the time may not be distant when a building may be hired for a fixed sum, leaving to committees only the task of finding a fitting site. Cast iron churches and houses may be seen at Birkenhead and at Limehouse. The pavilion in which the Royal Agricultural Society of England holds its banquets follows it everywhere; and if it can be proved that they would let, we doubt not enterprising people might be found to make tents or houses for the purpose. But for summer shows no place is so beautiful as a garden, nothing gives such an idea of a treat to a townsman. It is, therefore, with much pleasure we mention a rumour that has reached us on good authority, that there will probably be a show in some celebrated gardens near town. London is unquestionably a place of marvels, but it does not afford a fitting building for an exhibition of this nature. Such a show, then, as we

mention, must be called ours, and we trust the entries will be worthy of the metropolis of the world.

The Poultry Yard.

MAY 30.

THE end of May approached us with a chilled and lingering pace, and a season of the year which has often found us surrounded by half-grown chickens, and flowers in rich and variegated abundance, this year has nipped them with chilling blasts. Experience has shown us that Cochín China hens desert their chickens very early, and chickens, this year, which are left at a month old, suffer from the cold. When the old hen begins by unkindly refusing to brood her little flock in the day, a spare coop may be placed alongside of hers, with a nice little bed of hay spread at the back of it; and if the food is given in it, the little deserted ones will not fail to take, beneath its shelter, the occasional day rest which chickens require, especially when the weather is clouded and chilly, or the wind cold and bleak.

There is no time more trying to chickens than when the mother turns them off before they are quite fledged. If they can then have a good, warm, sheltered run given up to them, it is an indulgence which will tell upon their growth and prosperity. The old fowls must expect to be a little put about at this time, as in most poultry yards, the consideration which has greatest weight, is bringing the youngsters forward towards exhibition prize taking, vigour, and perfection. When chickens fledge badly, *i. e.*, lose the soft tufty down without getting feathers in its place, we have generally been able to trace the fault to over-heating food, to privation from a sufficient quantity of green food, or to the fact of their having been bred from pullets. We have not noticed this backwardness in fledging to the same degree when the

chickens are bred from old hens and a cockerel.

When a sufficient number of eggs, of any particular sort, have been set, getting rid of all the cocks which are not looked on by their owners with especial admiration, makes a good clearance for the growing youngsters; not to overfill the henhouse or houses, cooping out may be had recourse to with advantage. Take especial care that no deep water pans are left in the way of young broods; continue to wage war against vermin of all kinds, both small and great, by occasional white-washing, by seeking rats, setting traps, &c., &c. The house in which hens have set should be thoroughly cleaned and lime-washed before being used for other fowls, especially for the broods, which will sometimes be tormented with insects until they become unhealthy and die.

SUMMARY.—Give a little extra care to chickens when first beaten off by the mother, and a warm, sheltered run to unfledged motherless broods; decrease the number of old fowls; remove deep water-pans; and get rid of vermin if you can.

Schedule of the Nottinghamshire Poultry Association.

THE Third Annual Exhibition of this Society (open to all competitors) will be held at Southwell, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 19th and 20th of December, 1855, under the patronage of Lord A. E. Hill, M. P., Lord Galway, M. P., and other families of the locality.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Each Pen to contain a Cock and two Hens.

		SPANISH.	
		1st.	2nd.
Class.		£.	£.
1.	Fowls	20	10
2.	Chickens	20	10
		DORKING.	
3.	Fowls	20	10
4.	Chickens	20	10

COCHIN CHINA.		1st.	2nd.
Class.		£.	£.
5. Fowls, Cinnamon and Buff	.....	20	10
6. Chickens	.....	20	10
7. Fowls, Brown and Partridge feather	.....	20	10
8. Chickens	.....	20	10
9. Fowls, White	.....	20	10
10. Chickens	.....	20	10
11. Fowls, Black	.....	20	
12. Chickens	.....	20	
BRAMAH POOTRA.			
13. Fowls	.....	20	
14. Chickens	.....	20	
GAME FOWL.			
15. Fowls, Black Breasted and other Reds	.....	20	10
16. Chickens	.....	20	10
17. Fowls, any other Variety	.....	20	10
18. Chickens	.....	20	10
HAMBURGS.			
19. Fowls, Golden Spangled	.....	15	
20. Chickens	.....	15	
21. Fowls, Silver Spangled	.....	15	
22. Chickens	.....	15	
23. Fowls, Golden Pencilled	.....	15	
24. Chickens	.....	15	
25. Fowls, Silver Pencilled	.....	15	
26. Chickens	.....	15	
POLAND FOWL.			
27. Fowls, any Colour	.....	15	
28. Chickens	.....	15	
HYBRIDS OR CROSS-BRED.			
29. Fowls	.....	7	6
30. Chickens	.....	7	6
BANTAMS.			
31. Golden Laced	.....	10	
32. Silver Laced	.....	10	
33. Black	.....	10	
34. Any other Variety	.....	10	
GEESE.			
35. For the best Gander and Goose	..	10	
DUCKS.			
36. Aylesbury Drake and two Ducks.	10		
37. Rouen Drake and two Ducks	.....	10	
38. Any other Variety, Drake and two Ducks	.....	10	
TURKEYS.			
39. Mature Turkey, Cock and Hen	..	10	
40. Cock and Hen, hatched in 1855	..	10	

REGULATIONS.

Regulations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8, are like those of Birmingham Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11, except in the following particulars:

Trimming, or artificial alteration of the plumage, or of any other part of a bird (except in the comb of the game fowl) will disqualify it for receiving a prize.

All the specimens must be *bona fide* the property of the Exhibitor.

Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales. The baskets in which the birds are sent will in cases of sale, become the property of the purchaser.

The specimens must be sold in pens and not divided. Exhibitors may state on certificate, not for sale.

Chickens of 1855 cannot be shown as fowls. In the adult class it is not necessary to state the age.

7. Should any doubt arise as to the age of any stock exhibited, the Stewards and Judges will be empowered, if they consider it necessary to do so, to call in some competent person to their assistance; and, if perfectly satisfied that the age has been incorrectly stated on the certificate of entry to disqualify such stock.

9. The Committee wish to assure Exhibitors that every care and attention will be paid to the stock when in their possession, but they cannot be answerable for any losses that may occur through accident or mistake.

10. All eggs laid during the time the birds are exhibited will be destroyed.

11. No tape or markings allowed on the birds.
12. The whole of the poultry must be in the place of Exhibition not later than 2 o'clock, on Tuesday the 18th of December, but specimens will be received during the whole of Monday the 17th of December. Each pen of birds must be packed in a separate hamper, carriage paid, with its direction securely and prominently fixed on the top. Any hamper with more than one pen of birds will not be received unless proper divisions are placed between each lot and labelled accordingly. Proper direction labels will be supplied by the Secretary, and the reverse side must have the sender's name and address legibly written thereon for the return of the birds.

13. The certificates of entry will be ready on the 24th of October next. Entries must be made on the forms of certificate, and accompanied by the subscription or entrance fee. The entry closes on Tuesday the 20th day of November.

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

15. Subscribers of £1 and upwards, entitled to exhibit six pens of poultry, and have one card of admission; subscribers of 10s. entitled to exhibit four pens; of 5s. two pens. Subscribers of £1 and upwards, non-exhibitors, allowed two cards of admission; subscribers of 10s., non-exhibitors, one card of admission.

Non-subscribers can exhibit one pen for 5s., and additional pens 3s. each.

16. No exhibitor can enter more than two pens in one class, nor *six* pens in all.

17. Subscriptions or Donations to be paid to the Secretary, or to any member of the Committee.

18. The Show will be open for exhibition on Wednesday from 11 o'clock till 4, admission, 2s. 6d. each; and on Thursday, at 9 o'clock, from which time till 1 o'clock, admission, 1s. each; and from that time till 4 o'clock, 6d. each.

19. Exhibitors will not be allowed to enter the exhibition until after the Prizes have been awarded.

20. With all letters requiring a reply a postage stamp must be sent; and requiring a Prize List and Certificate of entry to be transmitted by post, must enclose two postage stamps.

21. Proper arrangements will be made at the Fiskerton Station (on the Midland Railway) for the reception of birds sent without a servant in charge. The Committee will superintend their transmission to the Exhibition, so that every care and attention may be paid to them; after the Exhibition they will be forwarded as early as possible.

By Order of the Committee,

RICHARD HAWKESLEY, Jun.,

Southwell, Hon. Secretary, &c.
April, 1855.

Chit-Chat.

OUR day of publication this week is in good time to remind our readers that on the 1st of June the entries close for the Royal Agricultural Society's Exhibition at Carlisle, and also for the Windsor Show.

It has been officially announced that all British workmen desirous of visiting the Paris Exhibition, who are furnished with Foreign Office passports in a form agreed

upon, shall be allowed to land in France, and proceed on their journey without any hindrance whatever. In order to carry this arrangement into effect, Her Majesty's Government will grant passports without payment of fee or stamp duty, according to the following regulations.

The Mayors of towns and other municipal and local authorities will send to the Foreign Office lists of workmen wishing to visit the Exhibition, and passports will be prepared and transmitted to the respective local authorities for distribution.

Within the metropolitan police district, application for these passports must be made at the nearest metropolitan police station.

The local authorities must forward applications for these passports to the Foreign Office, with a list according to the annexed form:—

Local authority applying _____,
Date of application _____,
(Name of workman to be inserted).

PARIS EXHIBITION.—The further communications which we have received, infer rather than state, that the birds must be sent in coops for exhibition. It is stated clearly, that the exhibitor must have his own delegate to take charge of the birds as soon as the show closes. The animals and birds must be delivered at the Champs de Mars at the appointed time, and removed by the owners if not sold: it will, therefore, be quite necessary for exhibitors to have some person in attendance.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER.—The *Sir Francis Drake*, steamer, sailed last week from Jersey with at least eighty emigrants for the Salt Lake. Never, perhaps, did drake swim in company with so many geese.—*Punch*.

WINE JELLY.—1½ ounces of isinglass, 1½ lbs. of sugar, 2 lemons, 1 quart of wine. Make a syrup of the sugar, and clear it by putting in the lemon, cut in slices. When you put on to boil, the isinglass must be dissolved into the syrup. When nearly cold, add the wine.

The Comic Poultry Guide.

(Continued from page 71.)

THE rip, in which the hen is confined, will remind anyone of a convent, inasmuch as it is closed to the world on all sides but one, and that is made of bars, or a grating, through which the immured one may see her friends, and even shake hands with them, but like Sterne's Starling, she can't get out. The chickens go in and out as they will between the bars, like the boarders of the convent; and like them, if any coercion or undue interference is attempted when out, they can threaten to return. In both cases, the older they get the more difficult they are to manage and provide for. One young lady may be educated for a peerage at least, another may be intended merely to "suckle fools and chronicle small beer." In the former case, not only the mistress but masters innumerable are in requisition; the latter may glean what she can. So, some fowls are intended for exhibition, others for food. Every care must be lavished on the first, and as masters in this case are not available, the good old lady who ushers the brood into the world, must not have too much put upon her. She can fit a dozen for the spit, but not more than seven for silver cups and medals. However doctors may differ on some points, there is one on which all are agreed, that is, the beneficial effects of early rising; some say, go out before breakfast; others say, rise early, but breakfast before you go out. We say, feed the chickens at day-break. Their food should be, eggs boiled hard and chopped fine, meal slaked with milk, and tailing wheat; onion-tops are good things, and if the weather is severe, stale bread soaked in strong beer is good for them. We wish the guardians of the poor throughout the country would treat poor children as we do our chickens. But all this care and feeding will not afford exemption from the ills "chickens are heirs to." The growth of tail and crown feathers is to them what dentition is to children. They are also subject to others. Parasites have always

been considered the inmates of courts, but vice finds ready imitators, and they lurk under the feathers of our young pets. Alas, that we should have to write such a word, but lice torment chickens. A pretty good remedy for them is to anoint the back of the head and under the wings with salad oil. In chickens, as in larger bipeds, they delight in getting to the head, as the scratching in both instances testifies; the oil stops their progress and kills them. Another remedy is to provide the young brood with plenty of dry dust to serve as a bath. They roll in it, to the discomfort of their inhabitants, and as these small particles are many of them as large as the heads of the creatures in question, we may imagine they are to them what paving-stones are to us. This subject will bring us to another. We say to children towards the close of the day, when they gape and yawn, "The dustman is coming round;" but where chickens gape, the cause is different. Human beings have the blue devils, the mulligrubs, and the all-overs, but chickens have the gapes. They are produced by small red worms in the windpipe; these cause a tickling in the throat, and naturally enough a desire to get rid of them; the gaping is an abortive attempt to do so. If a feather, dipped in turpentine, is put down the windpipe it will kill them. It is, however, necessary to inform our readers it is much easier to put it down the gullet than the windpipe, but that is about as effectual as oiling the front wheel of a carriage because the hind one creaks. As there is no law in force among hens, to punish them for deserting their offspring, and as they are sometimes tempted to do so, it is well to confine them to their ribs and their maternal duties till the young voluntarily give them up. As in warm countries, young people call themselves adults at twelve to fourteen, while in our more northern latitudes they are five or six years later; so in the maturity of chickens, temperature must be considered. They will grow more in three summer than in five winter months.

This brings us nearly to the close of our first chapter, which has been devoted to chickens. We must, however, say a few words on that name. Some people call all fowls at whatever age, chickens, just in the same way as they term good respectable men of half a century, drummer-boys and post-boys. We recollect an old lady wasting much eloquence in pointing out the cruelty of sending a boy out with a detachment when he was severely wounded. She was, however, informed by an officer of the company, the drummer was the oldest man in it. Children may be allowed to term all animals of the canine species puppy-dogs; but an adult fowl is no more a chicken than an old dog a puppy. Old folks may dress, paint, and look like young ones, but on trial the age will show itself in some way. Just so an old fowl may be called chicken, and may appear at table with white sauce, bread sauce, oyster sauce, or parsley and butter; and so far as appearances are concerned, the deceit is successful, but attempted dissection or mastication will reveal the cheat. To invite a person to dine on veal, and to set roast beef before him, would be ridiculous: but it is not more so than to puthens on the table, and call them chickens. The law says, all people are infants till they are of age, *i.e.*, ladies at eighteen, gentlemen twenty-one. There is no poultry parliament, or we would ask an especial enactment, setting forth the exact time when adolescence ceases in the gallinaeous tribes.

Burnham's Book on the Hen Fever.

A WORK bearing the above title has lately been published in the United States. We have not seen the volume, but from the account given of it in the *Northern Farmer* (a monthly periodical, published at Utica), we do not appear to have any great loss. A part of the article, from which we extract the portions only which relate to the book, refer to Mr. Burnham's life and character, with which we have nothing to do further than to remark that

a man who deceives persons with whom he has dealings, and then makes having done so a matter of pleasantry, can scarcely be spoken of with too much severity.

"A slang style pervades his book on the 'Hen Fever,'" the editor remarks; "and we wish we could say that this is the only bad trait in its style; but the work is *profane* and vulgar in the extreme, and wholly unfit to be read by the youth of our land.

"It appears from Burnham's own confessions, that the great principle on which his business acts revolved was this, 'Get money.'

"Burnham had procured a series of portraits of his 'Royal Cochins,' and 'Gray Shanghaes,' which he *now* admits in his book were not fair representations of them, but got up to 'take down' his customers, to use his own classic expression. He says, in his book on the 'Hen fever,' page 175, 'Such portraits *might* chance to be a little fanciful; or, *perhaps* it might be a trifling exaggeration you see; yet this was the breed that were always put in the newspapers. You very rarely find them in your coops, though!' He informs us in his book that when men wrote to him in regard to his fowls, he sent them their portraits, which always 'took them down,' and an order, with the cash, was sure to follow.

"In 1853 Burnham commenced a series of wanton attacks on Dr. Bennett and ourselves (the editor of the *Northern Farmer*), because we had the independence to question the correctness of his nomenclature of certain fowls. He began to imagine that the only man who had a right either to sell fowls, or to discuss the merits of their names was himself. He even wrote to Dr. Bennett as follows:—'*What I don't know about fowls is not worth knowing!*'

"We showed him up so fully to the world, that many of his customers wrote us that we had made such havoc with his character, that they could not even dispose of the *chickens* bred from his stock. These

expositions of his dealings were made in self defence in part, and partly from a sense of duty to the public, in answer to the calls of many who had purchased fowls of him, and our strictures *now* are shown to be well deserved by his own confessions.

“Our opinion of the publishing his work, is, that it was to make money by the operation, like Barnum, the great show-man, first, to cheat the people out of 30,000 dollars, as he admits he has done, and then to make as much more by telling them *how he did it!* If there is anything in this world that is mean and contemptible, that is deserving of the universal execration of honest men, it is this, and unless we mistake the character of the Press generally, Burnham will receive a castigation that he will long remember.

“He even publishes letters received from his customers who have been ‘*taken down*’ by him, and which serve no other purpose than to show the gross deception practised on them. The following is a sample:—

“MR. BURNHAM—Sir.—I am a gentleman, and I have no disposition to be fractious. I sent you twelve dollars, in a letter, for a dozen ‘Cochin’ eggs, and I set them. After waiting twenty-three days, I found two grizzled-coloured chickens in the nest yesterday, both of them with huge *top-knots* on their polls! What does this mean? Am I to be swindled out of my money thus? By return of mail if you do not refund the money, if I live I will prosecute you, if it costs me a thousand dollars. You may rely on this. I am not a man to be trifled with, and I refer you to Messrs. _____ & _____, who know me; you evidently do *not!*

“In haste,
“_____”

“Burnham says that he paid no attention to this letter, nor to others in a similar strain, as such ‘*missives*’ did not disturb him.

“In another letter one of his customers complains bitterly of losing his fowls soon after being received, by disease, and requests another pair. Burnham adds, ‘I

sent this man another pair—*only I didn’t!*’ This simple remark shows what the man is. It does not require another word. After publishing twenty-five such letters, he says:—‘I was threatened with civil prosecutions, with the House of Correction, the State Prison, the Penitentiary, and all sorts of other punishments.’ In another place he continues, ‘I was charged with lying generally, with *sheep stealing*, and with selling Premium fowls over and over again!’ Now, he does not deny any of these accusations, but seems to take pride in holding himself up to the gaze of the public.”

Rearing Bantams.

FROM THE “NORTHERN FARMER.”

As it is now as much an object with some people to raise fowls of the smallest possible size, as of the largest, I have taken the liberty of making a few suggestions, hoping they may be of advantage to some of your many readers.

It is known to all who have been engaged in raising this species of fowl for any length of time, that for the first few weeks after they leave the shell, they are very apt to become dumpish or stupid, and die off in great numbers. The cause of this in my opinion, is the rapidity with which they feather, and their exposure to dews, storms, &c. The cure, or rather preventive, is this. Give them a dry warm coop, so constructed that you can shut it up at night, keeping the cats and rats out, and the chicks in, until the dew is off, and the ground warm; at which time they should be allowed to run out, and the hen kept shut in, as she would rove farther than would be good for the chickens.

When the hen has hatched, remove the shells from the nest, and feed the chicks for the first two or three days on coarse Indian meal dough. After this, until feathered, they should be fed on rich food, and as often as four or five times a day, on boiled rice, wheat, Indian meal dough,

boiled eggs, occasionally a little meat chopped fine, also crumbs from the table, &c. At six weeks old, they are feathered and out of danger; and if you wish them to be small, feed light, or rather let them take care of themselves. If they can run in the garden (where I would recommend every one to place their coops), they will nearly get their living on insects without injuring the vegetables. Among squash vines they are indispensable, as they are sure to find, and devour every egg which is deposited on the underside of the leaves, thereby preventing an increase of these pests.

In raising bantams, always select your smallest, perfectly marked, and best modeled fowls for breeding purposes, and avoid breeding in-and-in by all means, which you can do by changing your cocks yearly, or breeding from your old stock, if fine.

H. S. BALLOU.

Blackstone, Mass. Feb., 1855.

Poultry Experience.

THE article in your last number, on the weights of prize pens of fowls, was very interesting. It set me on to weigh my own birds. The adult ones are, of course, quite out of condition. I subjoin the weights of my oldest trio of chickens. They are Cochins, were hatched on the 16th of January, and put into the scales on the 14th of May.

Yellow Cockerel weighed 4 lbs. 9 oz.

Yellow Pullet (same brood).... 3 ,, 9 ,,

Yellow Pullet (Feb. 16)..... 2 ,, 8 ,,

How do your contributors' young stock weigh in comparison with these?

I thank you for your information respecting Bramahs, and their produce, in No. 63. I was vexed, on reading over my query of P. J.'s assertion (that Bramahs excel Cochins as layers, especially in winter), to see how abruptly it was worded. I should have written not "is this true?" (for I have no doubt but that it was so in P. J.'s case), but—"is this generally found to be the rule?" I asked, not be-

cause I doubted the assertion made by one observer, but, because I wished to know how far other observations confirm that declaration. I wish to keep the most productive fowls, and if it can be shown that Brahmas excel the Cochins on this, the strong point of the Cochins, I mean their laying in winter, I shall abandon the latter, and take up with the former.

I have been a good deal troubled with the Cochins as mothers in spring, because they leave their chickens at so early an age. I have had a Cochin lay on the 19th day after hatching, and leave her brood; it was half of Hamburgs and half of Cochins. The first all died of cold; all the latter struggled on, and came to maturity, with the exception of one. I tried an experiment this spring, and it has answered admirably. Instead of leaving a Cochin pullet with her brood to run in the common airing field with the rest of the hens, I moved her into a yard apart, where there were no other fowls, except another hen and chickens. The Cochin began as usual to lay when her brood was three weeks old, but having no company to tempt her away, she returned to her chickens, and nursed them as carefully as before, night and day, until last evening, when I found that, having laid twenty-one eggs, and her chickens being six weeks old, she was on her nest with every sign of broodiness.

I do not find the Cochins thus precocious earlier or later in the year, but only in March, April, May, and June.

Some months ago, one of your contributors recommended half-bred Cochins and Spanish as mothers. I have one hen of that cross, who fully deserves the praise lavished by your subscriber. I found besides chickens between the Spanish and Cochins, excellent for the table, being quick growing, hardy birds, with beautifully white skins, and plenty of meat on the breast. K.

TAKE good care of the young chickens if you want to make profit.

Columbary.

NO. XII. THE SWISS PIGEON.

NOT having seen this variety, which is to be met with in both Germany and France, I shall make no apology for giving the following description from Herr Gottlob Neumeister's work, "Das Ganzeder Tauben-zucht." "The Swiss pigeon (Die Schweitzer-Taube), also known by the name of Half-moon pigeon (Halbmonds-taube), is of the size of the common field pigeon (Dove-house pigeon), and equally light and quick in flight.

"Their feet are heavily feathered, their ground colour is almost white, only a slight shade of colour to be seen; on the breast they have a coloured marking which resembles a half-moon, or only a finger-broad band, which passes in a curve over the crop; and on the wings they have two narrow, curved, coloured bars."

From a translation of the French work on Pigeons by MM. Boitard and Corbie, in the "Cottage Gardener," it appears the varieties of this breed are much more numerous in France, as seven varieties, or rather colours, are there mentioned; all distinguished by their breast-plates and barred wings, with the exception of the whole coloured variety, which has no markings, and is evidently the pigeon known in Germany as the Stock-Dove, or Wild Blue Pigeon. Some of the varieties of the Swiss pigeons are very beautiful coloured Toys.

The Ice pigeon is another variety of the German Toys, known there by the names of "Eis-," "Mehl-," or "Silberfarbige-Taube." In size they are rather stouter than a Dove-house pigeon; the beak is dark-horn coloured, the eyes a bright gravel; the head is smooth, and the feet heavily feathered. Their colour is light blue, and when in condition, the feathers have so much bloom on them that they appear powdered, or as if they were frosted or iced, from which they derive their name. The green gloss on the neck is but slightly

perceptible; they have a broad black bar across the end of the tail, and two narrow bars, either black or white, across the wings: they are rather scarce.

The Stock-Dove, or Wild Blue Pigeon, "Die Holtaube" of the German fanciers, derives its name from its colour resembling that of the Wild Stock-Dove, the whole plumage being of a light blue; and they are entirely without any bars on the wings, a curious deviation from the general rule. A black bar in the tail is their only marking; the gloss on the neck is more red than green; and the feet are short and heavily feathered. B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR SUGAR-CANE.

THE annexed letter from the Rev. Mr. Wilder, a missionary of the American Board in South Africa, says one of the editors of the "Journal of Commerce," will be interesting to agriculturists, as bringing to their knowledge a substitute for the sugar-cane, which is represented to be capable of culture wherever Indian corn will grow. The general name of the new plant is IMFE, of which there are several varieties. Mr. Wilder has sent us three of them, as will be seen by his letter. The seed is small, about the size of broom-corn seed, which it resembles. Indeed the plant itself, from the description given of it by our correspondent, must belong to the Indian corn family. The stalk of our common Indian corn contains much saccharine matter, and it has sometimes been expressed, and reduced to molasses by boiling. We shall give the IMFE a fair trial, so far as culture is concerned, and will report the result to our readers in due time:—

"I herewith send you a few seeds of a plant indigenous to this country, for the manufacture of which into sugar a patent has recently been obtained in England by a gentleman from this colony. Those interested in the patent have no doubt of its

entire success, and that it will bring streams of gold into their pockets.

"The plant is called *Imfe* (vowels as in French) by the Kafirs, but they distinguish some two dozen varieties by specific names. I send you three varieties, with names on each paper, viz: *Ufatana*, *Umofwini*, *Ihlosa*. While growing, it resembles Broom corn, and produces its seed after the same manner. The natives of Natal plant it with Indian corn, and cultivate it in the same manner, and it comes to perfection in about the same time, say from 3 to 4½ months. They cultivate it wholly for its saccharine juice, of which, under but slight pressure, it yields a much larger quantity than does the common sugar-cane, but not of so rich a quality. I should say that the same bulk of juice contained from one-half to three-fourths as much sugar as the juice of common cane. The advantages it has over common cane, are, that it grows well wherever Indian corn does; it is raised from the seed in four months, ready to be made into sugar; it grows on high lands as well as on low, and the abundance of seed it produces, may be used for provender for horses.

"I give you below the names as called by the Kafirs, of the different varieties with which I am acquainted:—*Ilitwe*—very long, 12 feet or so, one-half the head hangs down. *Ilibohla*—head hangs flowing around the stem. *Unyezana*, *Ihlosa*—has two black stripes on the stem, just below the head. *Ufatana*—small erect head, an excellent kind. *Ilienga*—drooping head. *Uboleka*—has an appearance of decay. *Usonopofu*—buff-coloured. *Ubchhana*—seeds like Guinea corn of West Coast. *Uhubemba*—has two distinct heads. *Ubozana*—has down on the seed. *Utyaka*. *Imfemkulu*—tall thick stem; spreading head. *Unfambalutyapa*—very long joints. *Umhambahlale*. *Umhlagonde*—red leaves and erect head. *Inyao*—long joints, drooping head. *Ilidakandoda*—erect head, black seeds; fit for use before the seed ripens. *Amazehwaako*—red cane. *Umswazi*, *Ihlokonde*, *Umofwini*, *Umdendebula*.

"I hope you will cultivate the seed I send, or give it to some agricultural friend who will, and if you think proper, notice it in the 'Journal of Commerce.' I understand that there will be an effort made to take out a patent for its manufacture into sugar in the United States."

ON BEES.

PERHAPS it may be useful to say a few words about the prevention of swarming. Where the honey-season—that is to say, the great gathering—terminates in July or the beginning of August, there can be little doubt that this is the most profitable practice; the affording of additional room may induce some hives to give up the intention of swarming, and the bees will enter their new store-house more readily if they find a little comb attached to it, and will work most actively where the spaces through which they pass from one hive to the other are of considerable dimensions. The adapting-board, which is placed above the Grecian hive, and forms the floor of the super, has interstices corresponding with those between the combs of the hive; and the labour of the bees is thereby greatly facilitated.

Pieces of comb about two inches square are sufficient as guides, and they should be attached to the top of the box by a little liquified wax in which the bit of comb is fixed, care being taken that the original inclination of the cells is preserved. Glasses may be prepared in the same manner, by pouring a thin stream of melted wax down the side of the glass. This the bees will readily adopt as the foundation of the comb.

Still we must not be surprised or disappointed if the little ladies prefer their own devices to following ours. They may have set their hearts on swarming, and no pains of their owners can turn them.

"If she will, *she will*, you may depend on't."

I have heard it suggested by more than

one bee-keeper, that when the combs of a stock hive are built obliquely, instead of being at right angles with the entrance, the disposition to swarm is much lessened. I cannot verify the hypothesis, but I have found hives in which the combs ranged in the way most common, from front to back, indifferently swarmers or non-swarmers. If resolved, no additional room, or regulation of temperature by a thermometer, had any effect; the hive would swarm, if favoured by the weather, day after day, till at length all the supernumerary queens had been captured. Should a hive, then, be possessed with this spirit of swarming, the bee-keeper must be ready to return the swarms. If there is reason to think the queen has attained the age of three years, the hive should be allowed to swarm, and the queen may then be easily removed. It is said, the first swarm is invariably accompanied by the old queen; to this rule there is this possible exception, that the old queen occasionally dies just before swarming. When the numbers of the drones have increased to some thousands, and the hive is overflowing, the combs being filled with brood, the clustering of the bees outside the hive, may be the first symptom of the approaching migration, but is not an invariable precursor of the great event. Honey now flows in, and the inmates are justified in anticipating an abundant supply for the provision of a future abode. The queen deposits the eggs which are to be reared into royalty, in the royal cells, at intervals of a day between each; her figure has become more slender, and the evening before her departure she may be observed traversing the hive, examining with especial care the royal infants, apparently lingering with regret among the scenes where her active happy life has been spent; and at length reposing on the cell of one of the first-born princesses, evincing a tender solicitude for its welfare, rather than the jealous hatred which, under all other circumstances, queens entertain towards each other. Evidently everything is ready, and the calm

stillness is broken only by the low hum of the bees as they fan their wings at the entrance, throwing a breath of fresh air into the sultry habitation.

Huber and some of his successors considered that the impulse of swarming is given by the queen. We think that the workers take their full share, sometimes even impel the queen against her will to leave the hive; this I have witnessed in an after-swarm, when the young queen, apparently conscious that the hive could bear no further reduction in numbers, exhibiting a higher power of *reason* than her subjects, absolutely refused to accompany the swarm. This view is corroborated by a most curious instance with which Mr. Golding furnishes us. A large swarm left a hive, the queen of which was four years old, and noticing a cluster of bees on the ground, he found on examination that they had a *dead* queen among them. The bees, intent on swarming, had brought her body out with them. Of course the swarm returned to the hive, and subsequently swarmed with the young queens.

As to the propriety of the first issue taking place, there is evidently no difference of opinion between the queen and the workers; there is none of that indecision, and confusion, and returning, which often happens when the second swarms are ready to leave the hive. There is almost a stillness about the abode in the morning; some bees go off to work as usual; many seem waiting about the entrance, fanning their wings most vigorously. A first swarm usually comes off between nine and twelve o'clock, but it is occasionally earlier or later. I knew of one which impatiently departed at a little after seven A.M.; and am told of a cottager who went to milk her cow at six o'clock P.M., leaving two hives "hanging out." On returning she was surprised to find both swarms had disappeared, and after a short search discovered them hanging on a hedge, within three yards of each other. However about nine or ten o'clock we shall most probably find some bustle taking place among the bees on the combs

nearest to the entrance. This gradually extends itself, till all are in a state of excitement, and the queen herself becomes affected by it. Some rush to the door, while her majesty prepares for the exit; and with great care, gives the finishing stroke to her toilet. Such rubbing and stroking of the eyes and antennæ, and such brushing down of the wings!

For a moment she loses her calmness; abandoning the slow and stately step which was her wont, she traverses the hive in agitation. "A loud confused noise is heard throughout the hive, and hardly any of the workers are observed going abroad to forage; numbers are whirling about in an unsettled manner in front of the hive; and the moment is come, to a considerable portion of the family, for bidding adieu to their ancient abode. All at once the noise in the interior ceases, and the whole of the bees about the door re-enter; while those returning loaded from the fields, instead of hurrying in as usual, hover on the wing as if in eager expectation. In a second or two, some workers present themselves again at the door, turn round, re-enter, and return instantaneously in additional numbers, smartly vibrating their wings as if sounding the march; and at this signal the whole swarm rushes to the entrance in an overwhelming crowd, streaming forth with astonishing rapidity, and filling the air in an instant like a dark cloud overhanging their late habitation.

"There they hover for a moment, reeling backwards and forwards, while some of the body search in the vicinity for a tree or bush which may serve as a rallying-point for the emigrants. To this they repair by degrees, and provided their queen has alighted there, all, or at least the greater part, crowd around and form a dense group, sometimes rounded like a ball, sometimes clustered like a bunch of grapes, according to the nature of the resting-place they have fixed on. The queen is not always foremost; it is frequently, or rather generally, not till after the departure of a considerable number of workers, that she makes her

appearance; and when she does come, it is with a timid irresolute air, as if she were borne along, almost against her will, by the torrent that streams out of the hive,—for she often turns on the threshold, as if about to re-enter, and in fact frequently does so, but cannot long resist the opposing crowd." We are indebted for this graphic description to Feburier, in the Naturalists' Library. The first swarm never departs but in fine weather. The passing of a cloud over the face of the sun, causing a sudden diminution of the light, is sufficient to stop the emigration for a time, although all is in perfect readiness. Should the swarm even be delayed many days, the queen mother will not be discomposed, the royal nymphs which approach nearest to maturity will be destroyed by her; the bees will not interfere to prevent her taking this measure, as they do when the young queens attempt to attack their rivals. If it is desired to remove the old queen on account of old age, or any defect, this is the time to accomplish the capture, and it is easy to cover her with a wine glass as she appears on the entrance-board; and if she then eludes the eye of the bee-keeper, as soon as the swarm is hived, which, under all circumstances, should be done as quickly as possible, the cluster may be dashed down on a cloth in the shade, and search made for the queen. Bees are not disposed to sting while swarming; if we are careful not to crush any, we may do what we like with them. I have picked off a queen at the moment of her alighting amid the swarm, and have pulled swarms to pieces, without the defence of a glove, in order to take out the queen. I could tell our timid readers of a lady who takes up the bees in handfuls as unconcernedly as if they were a bunch of violets. In a few minutes the bees will miss their queen, the alarm will be given throughout the swarm, and they will return to the hive almost as rapidly as they left it. As soon as a swarm has settled, the first thing to be done is to hive it in a cottage hive, and, as soon as they have all ascended, to place the hive on its stand; the bees will

commence working immediately. Therefore, if it is desired to transfer them to any particular kind of hive, this should be done at once, by turning up the hive in which they are clustering, and placing the other on the top. If the swarm is tardy in entering the hive, a puff of smoke below will accelerate their movements. "By associating the earliest proceedings of the bees with their new standing, it will prevent their loitering about the settling place, and consequently that loss of their labour which is produced by leaving them where first hived during the first day's occupation of their new dwelling." A.

THE BEE MOTH.

FROM THE AMERICAN "COUNTRY GENTLEMAN."

MR. B. N. WARNER, in a late No. of your paper says: "Will some experienced person inform me through the 'Cultivator,' what will destroy the bee-moth or worms, and what kind of boxes are best suited to prevent their depredations." This subject being in my line, it may be a duty to offer a few suggestions, even if I fail to answer his questions satisfactorily.

The following is perhaps as effectual as anything. Mix with water, molasses and vinegar in proportions to be palatable, and place it in shallow dishes among the hives at night; while sipping this, the moth is apt to fall in and drown. Also, put up a cage or box for the wren: he is a valuable assistant, and will pick up hundreds of moths and larva. Crush the heads of all the worms found under the hive, particularly in spring. After the hive becomes full of bees, and the worms are no longer found on the floor, split elders lengthwise, scrape out the pith, and lay them pith side down on the floor; a great many will creep inside to spin their cocoons; they should be destroyed once or twice a week. Having found most of these remedies in some agricultural papers, I have tried them to some extent; they are good as far as they go, because every moth or its larva destroyed is one the less; yet there are always

"enough more left of the same sort," to eat up the contents of any hive left exposed.

As to "what kind of boxes" (hives I suppose) "are best suited to prevent their depredations," I would say the hive "best suited" to the wants of the bee. I use the common hive, and for the last twenty years, the loss of stocks by the moth has been less than one per cent.

I presume Mr. Warner is like thousands of others, who suppose the moth the principal cause of failure in bee-culture, and flatters himself that if he get rid of *them*, success would be next to certain; hence the inquiry for some particular hive, and means to destroy them. I would advise him and all others, who expect success with bees, to depend on nothing of the kind—it will prove a "broken staff." A moth-proof hive is not yet invented—shall I say, never will be. To save from the worms the contents of a hive in warm weather, accessible to the bees without *them* to help defend it, is beyond the skill of the apiarian. I can assure him that nine stocks in ten destroyed by the moth, would be as effectually lost without them. Consequently, we must go beyond these effects for the cause: the worms are only secondary, or carrying out some other fatality, and are found in the last link of cause and effect instead of the first. Prevention is better than cure. Let us study the causes of a failure of the bees—the natural guardians. Keep the stocks strong in numbers, and *they* will *defy* the attacks of the moth. Here then, is the whole secret of success—it is first and last, and all-important.—M. QUINBY, *Author of Mysteries of Beekeeping*, Palatine Church, N. Y.

Floriculture.

MAY 30.

PLANTS of hardy annuals which were sown in March and April, should be thinned out where they are growing too thick, to regular distances according to the size and habit of growth of the plant. Take advantage of

showery weather for the purpose, but if it should be necessary to do it in dry weather, let them be moderately watered after thinning to settle the mould to the roots again. Sweet peas should have sticks given them while still low, and bushy little branches had better be placed about them very thickly close to the ground, as the sparrows are fond of drawing up the young plants to eat the pea still adhering to the root.

Finish thinning out the bloom stems of pinks, and mulch the beds if not already done, first stirring and clearing the surface. At this time, pinks should be well supplied with water: it is no use to give little surface-waterings; this is good for refreshing the foliage after a hot day, but they require a good soaking now and then, which will reach the roots, or the stems will be spindly and the blossoms small. As the buds swell, a little weak liquid manure may be given twice a week.

Colchicum, autumnal crocus, yellow autumnal narcissus, and similar flowers, will now be ready to be removed and transplanted. As soon as the leaves decay, the roots must be taken up in dry weather, and the small offsets carefully separated. They may then be replaced in the ground, or spread upon a mat in the shade to dry; and afterwards be put away until the last week in July, or the first week in August, when they must be planted for flowering the following autumn.

Cyclamens, belladonna, Guernsey lilies, and autumnal bulbous and tuberous roots may be treated in the same manner. Cyclamen (especially the winter-blooming kind) may be sheltered, if planted again, as it is delicate, and Persian Iris should be placed in earth of a dry nature, as the roots are very apt to rot in wet weather. Seed of hardy annuals may still be sown, to succeed the plants which are now up.

In most seasons, many plants are planted out into the borders, which must this year remain longer under protection. The weather must be watched however; and when there seems little danger of more

frost, we may plant out African and French marigolds, chrysanthemums, marvel of Peru, China-aster, Indian pink, ten weeks stook, balsams, capsicoms, and mignonette; persicaria, the tree and purple amaranthus, scabious, egg plants, tomatas, daturas, and Chinese hollyhocks. Some plants of all these may be put out into the borders, and others planted in pots.

Always choose, if possible, moist showery weather for planting out, and arrange the flower roots with reference to height, colour, and time of flowering. Remove the young plants with care, not to shake the earth from the roots. Tender annuals, as cockscombs, tricolour amaranthus, globe amaranthus, double-striped balsams, should be frequently watered, and the glasses of the frames raised to give them air.

Plant out in the nursery, seedling wall-flowers, sweet-williams, pinks, stocks, carnations, foxgloves, &c. Propagate by cuttings double rockets, double scarlet lychnis, lychnideas, phlox, double sweet-william. Choose some of the best flower stalks before they get hard; cut them into lengths, leaving three or four joints to each cutting, and plant them about four inches apart in a shady situation, with the top bud or joint just above the ground. Water them well, and place a hand-glass tight down over them.

Many plants may, at this time of the year, be increased by layers, such as the passion flower, clematis, moss and other roses, and most woody plants. Young shoots are better than older branches for laying down. Bend them gently to the ground, and fasten them so that they cannot spring back. Spread out the young shoots, hollow the earth where they are wished to take, bend the shoots into the hollow in the earth, fasten down each little sprig with a hooked peg, and cover all but the tips with mould.

Dahlias which have been propagated this spring, may now be planted out where they are to flower. These flowers look very handsome when planted in large masses: in planting them so, great care must be

taken to blend and contrast the colours well; and also to place them so that the tallest in growth shall be at the back of the border, or in the centre of the bed. The plants, in this case, should be placed from three to five feet apart. A walk of dahlias also looks exceedingly handsome. A rich, deep, mellow soil, and an open unshaded situation suits them best. Plant tuberoso roots singly in pots to flower in autumn. Seedling primulas may be potted out, bigonias shifted into larger pots, and fuchsias thinned of superabundant shoots.

Personal Experiences.

It is now about four years since, when, in a most exquisite state of verdancy, and blissful ignorance of it, in all its practical details, we commenced farming. Some of our early experience was very amusing, and by your leave, Mr. Editor, I will detail some of it. It was with considerable pleasure I contemplated the idea of living in the country, and the new pursuits that would open before me. The poultry department I assumed as my charge. What a beautiful and lady-like employment the care of chickens seemed to me. What an abundant outlet it would afford for all my spare sympathies and superfluous affections. What a grateful relief to the tedium of my leisure hours. How I meant to make them love me, and how they should thrive under my care. But I had not reckoned on the numerous casualties and diseases which chicken-kind are heir to. I soon found that the pip and the gapes were among the sure and not very poetical necessities of their babyhood. The first year I met with but very indifferent success; the hens would not lay; the eggs would not hatch; the chickens would not thrive. I watched over them with all the solicitude of a maternal hen. I set the eggs by the moon, and dieted the chickens on assa-fetida and onions; but it was of no use. However, time and experience have brought me wisdom, and I now think that I am competent to take the degree of M. D.

in all matters pertaining to fowls, and equal to the most complicated case of hen-sickness.

Shortly after we moved to our present residence, I was very much pleased by the promise of a pair of Shanghai fowls. Now of the personal appearance of Shanghais I was in complete ignorance. I had read of the large prices which they commanded, and had heard the magnificent crow of a neighbouring cock, but further than this I knew nothing. The day that I expected them to arrive, I was in a high state of excitement. Before the waggon was in sight that carried them, clear and shrill as a burst of martial music, rose on the air a most sonorous crow. What a noble fellow he must be, I thought; what a grace and ornament to the poultry yard! The shock that my sensibilities received, when that unique production was placed before them, was tremendous. The hen was decent and matronly looking; but to the cock, I can't do justice. The family made a great deal of sport of them, but I said not a word. But when the peculiar idiosyncrasy of the matchless pair developed itself, how shall I paint the depths of my shame and mortification. Nests were an institution in the social economy of fowls, which the hen ignored and repudiated altogether; they were a sort of nonsense which she did not patronise at all, but she would persist in setting upon the roost and dropping down her eggs with a most frantic disregard of all precedents. This little eccentricity of hers, of course, was not indulged in without inflicting some injury to the eggs. As for the rooster, he was good for nothing, but to crow, and made himself a perfect nuisance. He would march into the kitchen with all the gravity of a judge, and without any apparent effort, reach a piece of bread off the table, and then with the same imperturbable serenity march out again with his prize.

The subject is a perfect inspiration to me. I could dilate endlessly on the theme; but out of regard for your patience I forbear.

L.

Entomology.

CHAP. II.

An animal may be described as a respiring creature, capable of voluntary motion; this definition will alike include Man, the highest animal in creation, and the zoophyte, which seems to partake as much of the vegetable nature as the animal. Animals may be primarily divided into two great divisions, Vertebrate and Invertebrate; the former possessing a back bone and spinal marrow, the latter having neither. Cuvier divides them into four great types:—1st. *Vertebrosa*; animals having their brain and the principal part of their nervous system enclosed within vertebræ, and their muscles attached to a bony skeleton; this type includes man, beasts, birds, fishes, and reptiles. 2nd. *Mollusca*; animals having no skeleton, whose muscles are attached to their skin, and whose nervous system is irregular in its form and distribution; this type includes snails and shell-fish. 3rd. *Annulata*; animals having no skeleton, whose muscles are attached to their skin, which is hard, or to processes proceeding from it, and whose nervous system consists of a series of knots or ganglia brought into communication by two longitudinal nervous cords; this type includes insects and spiders. 4th. *Radiata*, or *Zoophytes*; animals whose bodies are radiated, and in whom no nervous system has been discovered, and which have but one opening for the reception and rejection of their food; this type includes the sea anemone, and other animal plants, if I may be allowed the expression. I believe, however, that the division under the two heads of *Vertebrate* and *Invertebrate Animals* will sufficiently answer our present purpose, and as it will be more simple for beginners in the study of natural history, I shall adopt it. *Division I.*—The *Vertebrata* are again divided into the following classes: 1st. *Mammalia*, embracing all animals which suckle their young, as man, the horse, the sheep, and the whale. 2nd. *Aves*; embracing those animals covered with feathers and

being oviparous, that is, egg-producing, as birds of all kinds. 3rd. *Reptilia*; including the snakes, lizards, and alligators. 4th. *Amphibia*; in which class the frog, toad, and newt are placed. And, 5th. *Pisces*; including therein animals breathing through a peculiar apparatus, called gills, which enable them to extract sufficient oxygen from water, in which they live, to support life; they are called fishes. As the subjects of our proposed sketches are in the second great division, viz., the *Invertebrata*, we may at once dismiss the classes we have just glanced at, and proceed with those into which the *Invertebrate animals* are divided. We have, 1st. *Mollusca*; in which class the slug, snail, and various shell-fish are found. 2nd. *Crustacea*; in which is placed the crab and lobster, and their congeners. 3rd. *Arachnida*; the spider and scorpion are members of this class. And, 4th. *Insecta*, or *Insects*, with which we are now concerned. It may have surprised some of my readers to find that the whale is not a fish, nor a spider an insect; but if they will take the trouble to investigate the subject more minutely, they will be quite satisfied that my statement is correct. However, this is foreign to our subject; we have now to do with insects, which we have found to be in the fourth class in the second great division of the animal kingdom. They are so called from two Latin words, signifying cut into, insects appearing as if cut into many parts, which have been stuck together, and the word *Entomology* is derived from Greek words meaning the knowledge of "cut into" (animals), that is, insects. Insects may be concisely defined as six-legged, compound-eyed, invertebrate animals, undergoing transformations previous to their appearance in the perfect state, breathing through air-tubes placed in various parts of their bodies and limbs, and having white and cold blood.

They appear in three forms: first, as the larva, or caterpillar, which is hatched from the egg, insects being oviparous; in this stage of their existence they have, in

addition to the true legs, which we have seen do not exceed six, several additional pairs, varying in number in the different families, and all are in this stage furnished with jaws which, as we shall presently see, disappear, in three classes of the perfect insect. After the larva has become full grown, it turns into the pupa, or chrysalis, in which state it remains until, bursting its coffin, it becomes the imago, or perfect insect, ready in its turn to lay eggs, and become the ancestor of future generations. Singular as it may appear, I believe it is a well-ascertained fact, that the caterpillar contains within it both the pupa and the imago, each seeming in turn gradually to absorb the other as the insect advances in age, until the last skin of the caterpillar being shed, the chrysalis appears, which in a short time is shown to be only a covering for the perfect animal which emerges from it. After this amazing proof of the omnipotence of the Almighty, how can sceptics dare to throw a doubt on the great doctrine of the resurrection of the dead? Can anything be too hard for Him who can raise the splendid butterfly from the crawling caterpillar? What limits can we poor finite creatures assign to that Being who can do this amazing thing, whose power must be, like his wisdom, infinite?

We cannot understand it, I grant, but how small, how miserably small, would be our stock of knowledge, if it were limited to what we thoroughly understand! Can any one explain how the electric fluid, as we call it, is transmitted through wires fifty miles long in a second of time? We cannot explain how, but we know that it is transmitted; and so with many other things—we cannot explain them, but we do not the less believe and put faith in them. Why, then, should we doubt, or throw ridicule on matters of so much greater importance, and respecting which a mistake may be so fatal? May we not, leaving all profitless speculation, take a lesson from the poor insect, and make the best use of our time, while time is ours, by endeavouring to fulfil the ends for which we were placed here.

But I am digressing, and I fear I shall take up too much of your space this week, unless I curb my wandering pen and come back to our subject. Stephens, whose system I shall adopt, subdivides the class Insecta into, I., Mandibulata, that is, insects which masticate their food by means of jaws; and II., Haustellata, those which suck liquid food through a proboscis. The first sub-class is divided into six orders;—1st, Coleoptera; 2nd, Dermoptera; 3rd, Orthoptera; 4th, Neuroptera; 5th, Trichoptera; and 6th, Hymenoptera. Of these several orders the beetle, the earwig, the grasshopper, the dragon-fly, the caddis-fly, and the ant or bee may be taken as the respective types. The second sub-class, Haustellata, contains three orders;—1st, Lepidoptera; in which those brilliant insects, the butterflies and moths are found. 2nd, Diptera; including in it the gnat and common house-fly. And, 3rd, Aphiniptera; which may be represented by our little enemy, the flea. I am aware how dry these details must be, and I fear I have been rather diffuse; but it is evident that any person who wishes to become pretty well acquainted with our subject should make himself thoroughly informed of the divisions and sub-divisions above given. No science can be learnt without some little trouble. There is no royal road in any one of them; but the careful student will be amply repaid for the trouble he takes in the facility he will have in arranging his knowledge systematically, one of the first things tending towards proficiency in any branch of natural history, or any other science. I should recommend tyros in the study to make a chart of the animal kingdom, which will be found very useful in helping the memory; and I think any one having the disposition, will find no difficulty in drawing one from this paper. I must leave for my next the description of species commencing with the first sub-class Mandibulata, and the order Coleoptera.

[Mr. Editor, the printer's devil is evidently not a poetic genius, or he would have seen that "converse with nature's self"]

reads more smoothly than "conversation with nature's self," besides being the correct quotation from those two celebrated stanzas on Solitude, in Lord Byron's "Childe Harold." You will be, therefore, good enough to consider the quotation as standing in its proper form in Paper I. It was correct in my manuscript.] MAC.

My experience of Brahas (very limited I allow), places them at the top of the scale as egg-producers, and for rapidity of growth. On looking over my account of weights, I find the cockerel in one week gained 15 ozs.; in another, 14 ozs. None of the Shanghaes, though older birds, approached this. J. H.

Comparison of the Brahma and Cochin.

IN reply to your correspondent "K" in last week's "Chronicle," I give the produce of three Brahma pullets during the last four months. I cannot state the number laid by each hen, but here are the totals:—January 36, February 33, March 37, April 28; total 134.

No. 1, has been "broody" twice, having commenced laying in the fall of the year, as did No. 2 and No. 3, and apparently unchecked by the severe cold we have had here, several hundred feet above the level of the sea.

No. 1, the second time was allowed to sit, but not rear the chickens: she has just recommenced laying. No. 2, her sister, is just now sitting. No. 3, is a very indifferent layer; she sat in February, and has not laid since, though she appears very well. Undoubtedly had she been equal to the others, the account would have been much more in favour of the Brahas.

Now, let me speak of Cochins. Three hens and seven pullets; they laid during the fall pretty fairly, but not equal to my pets. Now their account stands thus: January 58, February 20!! March 85, April 93; total 256.

As to sitting propensities; one pullet has not yet been broody, the rest have been so between them—perhaps fifteen times—and ten of these have been allowed to sit, but none of them have reared the chicks wholly. This is certainly greatly in favour of the Brahma birds, especially in cold February. As to weight of eggs;—the Brahma averages 2½ oz. at the very least, and the Shanghaes 2 oz. at the highest calculation.

Curious Facts.

GENTLE reader, do not glance at my facts in a cursory manner, and then with uplifted hands and eyes pronounce them—no such thing! no facts at all, but only curious mistakes. Instead of acting in this off-hand kind of way, just try for yourselves. Mate a hen after sitting, of any colour you like, some decided colour is best, with a white cock of any kind likely to mark the chickens *decidedly* with his peculiarities. While the hen is in the midst of laying out her batch, change the white cock for a black one, as different from him as possible, and carefully number all the eggs which the hen lays. I have done so, and set them carefully, and the result was as follows. I had chickens which evidently owed parentage to the hen's first spouse, then a chicken as much resembling the second, and *after this*, some like the first again. Can such things be? I doubted my own senses, thought some wag had tampered with my writing on the eggs, and finally wished to know if other persons had noticed the same occurrence.

I have *several times* been able to trace *one* half-bred chicken to *one* act of vagrancy of the hen its mother, and have known that eggs which she has laid immediately before and immediately after that one, have produced true-bred chickens.

Now that the season for setting the eggs is nearly over, some curious experiments might be tried, and the following questions answered satisfactorily, or at any rate, finally.

Does a *mésalliance* run the risk of spoiling a whole batch of eggs? I think not.

Do eggs invariably receive impregnation at exactly the same stage? I think not.

By choosing two cocks extremely dissimilar, for instance, a black Spanish or a Brahma, to be changed about with one with a strongly developed tuft, one might come at some knowledge on these points.

QUERIST.

Bedfordshire Horticultural Society.

THE Spring Show was held at the Bedford Rooms on Tuesday. Considering the cold and dry season that we have had, the show was very good. At the same time we are sorry to find that the splendid collections of plants that we have been in the habit of seeing of Harry Thornton, Esq., and of Captain Newland, were absent from this and the former show, while we have reason to be pleased that the society has the advantage of a new and successful exhibitor in Mrs. Harvey, of Ickwell House, whose greenhouse and other plants were much admired. Talbot Barnard, Esq., was also a successful and considerable exhibitor, both in flowers and fruit; a plate of queen's strawberries from his hot-house were of a growth and quality we have seldom seen equalled at this season. The competition was good, especially in vegetables. The fine collection of elegant plants and specimens from the respective nurseries of Messrs. Sheppard and Mr. Trapp, were much and deservedly admired, and much interest was felt in the display of fruit trees grown in pots by Mr. Stafford (not exhibited for competition), consisting of apricots, pears, plums, cherries, and peaches, full of young fruit, and very promising. We were particularly struck, considering the severity of the season, with the capital display of the cottagers' vegetables, which would do honour to the gardens of the gentry of the county. The prizes were distributed at the King's Arms Inn, by the committee, after an excellent dinner served up by the hostess in her usual style. Great anticipations are formed as to the Grand Floral Fête which is about to be given in the

grounds of the excellent president, Talbot Barnard, Esq., at Kempston, in the month of August next, and the committee intend to exert themselves to obtain a first-rate exhibition, in which we trust the gentry and clergy of the county will lend their aid by permitting their various collections to be displayed, and by assisting the object by their liberality. The unmixed good effected by the society in encouraging the cottager's attention to his garden, and rewarding him for his industry, leaving out of the question the great advantage the public receive by the superior vegetables, fruits, &c., produced by competition, should make the society deserving higher and better support and encourage gentlemen to allow their gardeners to exhibit.

The proceedings of the day were much enlivened by the excellent Band of the Bedfordshire 18th Light Infantry, who performed many excellent pieces of music in good style, their services being allowed by the Commanding Officer.

Poultry at the Paris Exhibition.

THE French Consul-General presents his compliments to Mr. Bernard P. Brent, and has the honour to inform him that, after having taken into consideration his observations, the Minister of Agriculture has decided that one of the Commissioners of the Paris Agricultural Show will be appointed to receive the poultry and return it after the Exhibition. Fowls sent in that way should be directed thus—"*Commissariat du Concours Agricole, Champ de Mars, Paris*," and information should be given to the Commissariat as to whether the birds are to be sold or sent back to the owners.

Should, in consequence of this decision, Mr. B. P. Brent be disposed to exhibit, he is requested to inform the Consul-General of it *immediately*.

[The above letter, which was sent to our correspondent, and kindly placed at our disposal by him, will be useful to exhibitors at the Paris Show.—Ed.]

Useful Receipts.

LEMON PIE.—Remove the rind of one lemon, cut fine, add cup of sugar, one half-cup of cream, and one egg.

PUFF PUDDING.—1 quart of milk, 4 eggs, 9 table-spoonfuls of flour, 1 salt-spoonful of salt. Bake as long as any pudding.

TO PRESERVE EGGS.—Put them for one minute in water just about to boil, and they will afterwards keep well for a month; or if soaked a little while in sweet oil, they will keep for half a year.

INDIAN PUDDING.—Pare and slice 12 large, sweet apples; set 3 pints of milk to scald; put the apple into it, and as soon as it boils, add a little salt, and thicken with Indian meal—not quite so thick as flat-jacks. When cool, add 1 tea cupful of cider molasses, and bake three hours. Eat warm with butter.

SALSIFY OR VEGETABLE OYSTER.—We could never perceive much resemblance in the taste of this vegetable to the real oyster: but we know a person who cooks it in such a manner that every one who tastes it, pronounces it delicious. The mode is as follows:—Salsify is scraped and washed; then cut into thin pieces across the roots, boiled, in just sufficient water to cover them, till they are very tender. When done they should be dressed with vinegar, pepper, and salt, and a little butter; or instead, a dressing of eggs and flour beaten together, and poured over them.

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

CREDIT.

Says Mrs. Harris, "Sairey, how is it done?"—Says I, "Ma'am, he gives no credit, but puts a deal of trust elseveres."

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—In the pathetic and truly touching words of the celebrated Mrs. Harris, I beg to ask you "How is it done?" How are we to indulge in our feathered fancies, if our fellow-fanciers are to carry off our birds and leave us nought in compensation?

I feel no words can be more fitted in answer to such a query than those used in response by the not less celebrated Mrs. Gamp, namely, "We give no credit;" and I beg to have your opinion as to the course which ought to be pursued in reference to all poultry purchases.

Surely it would be desirable to keep it as an affair far above ordinary dealings; and in order to do so, I think there should be no debts incurred. It is a pity that so delightful a pursuit should be rendered obnoxious by any want of honour in the parties concerned. To obviate this, I think it would be well to make it an established rule, that there should be no debts in the case; and I am persuaded that this will tend to produce a lasting good feeling between all parties.

I am, sir, yours truly,

F. C.

WEIGHT OF AYLESBURY DUCKS.

SIR.—I think I can reconcile the statements of your correspondent, "W. R. R.," and the writer of the article entitled "Weights of Prize Poultry." With regard to the prize ducks shown at Southampton by Mr. Davies, the birds are, I think, the same as were shown by Mr. Ford, at Cambridge, having been purchased by this gentleman after the Aylesbury show, where they were also exhibited. When at Southampton the birds weighed 20½ lbs., as stated in your report of the show. When sold by Mr. Davies to Mr. Ford, and shown at Cambridge, they weighed 24½ lbs. What struck me, however, as being far more important than mere weights, was the extreme purity of the stock, and the evident care with which the birds had been bred.

I am, sir, yours truly,

F. C.

TRAVELLED EGGS.

SIR.—As all facts connected with poultry must be interesting to your readers, I beg you will communicate the following to show what a distance eggs will travel, and prove productive.

A friend of mine sent me, from Knowsley,

twelve eggs of Lord Derby's celebrated breed of Black Red Game Fowl. They were well packed in a box, and to this I attribute in a great degree my success. I need not describe the road from Liverpool to Jersey, but I must say that the box must have been often handled at the different railways, and for shipment on board the Jersey steamer; and after having been shaken by rail and sea, out of the twelve eggs I had ten chickens—one of them died in coming out of the shell; but the nine, which are now a week old, are as strong and healthy as any chickens ever were.

Jersey, May 17, 1855. J. H. R.

HAMBURG HEN SITTING.

SIR,—It may be worth mentioning, that I have a Silver-Spangled Hamburg Hen now sitting on thirteen eggs. Were it not that she is one of a pen which has taken five prizes, including one at Birmingham, and one at the great Metropolitan, I should be inclined to believe that she was not a pure bred bird, so uncommon is the circumstance of a Hamburg becoming broody.

Yours truly, ZENAS.

GENTLEMEN OF COMMITTEES GIVING THEIR NAMES.

SIR,—When I wrote the letter which appeared in your paper of the 16th inst., I did not know even the name of a single member of the committee of the Manchester poultry show, and had not the remotest intention of insinuating any doubt as to their character; and I regret that Mr. Wanklyn has so entirely misunderstood the tendency of my remarks.

I desired to express the opinion, that publication of the names of an influential committee contributes greatly to the success of shows, and I certainly can see no good reason for withholding them. I believe that the great success of the Birmingham Show is mainly owing to this cause.

—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

May 23, 1855.

M. S.

[We agree with our correspondent, that where the gentlemen forming the committee of a poultry show give their names, it gives confidence to exhibitors, nor can we see a sufficient reason for withholding them. We have no reason, however, to suppose this had anything to do with the non-success of the exhibition at Manchester, which, in a town of that importance, was a circumstance difficult to account for.—Ed.]

NEGLECT OF EGGS DURING INCUBATION.

SIR.—Will you please inform me, in the "Poultry Chronicle," the longest period which you think a hen may leave the nest without

injury to the eggs, after she has sat a week or so? and, in the receipt for preserving eggs it says they are to be turned in a fortnight. I want to know if it means only the first fortnight, or every fortnight.—Yours truly,

W. A. J.

[We fancy, from what we have noticed, the middle week of the hen's sitting the worst time for eggs to suffer neglect. The impunity with which some hens neglect their charge, and the bad success of others which seem afraid to leave the nest for five minutes, reminds us of the proverb, "One man may steal a horse," &c. On unquestionable authority, and in numerous instances, we have heard of eggs being left for four-and-twenty hours, during the last few days of incubation, and of hatching afterwards, but we have never met with an instance. We have also heard of eggs, left in this manner, hatching after the time—sometimes on the twenty-fifth day.—Ed.]

ERRATUM.—In second line of left-hand column of page 251, No. 64, read "rays of the meridian sun."

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

Of all the classes interested in poultry, not one is satisfied. Poulterers buy their goods so dear it is a loss instead of a profit to retail it. The country senders buy them at such prices, that the market advance will not pay for the inevitable loss by bruises, broken wings, and expenses. For the same reason, salesmen cannot sell them dear enough to satisfy senders. One thing has occurred during the past week which is unprecedented: foreigners have been in England buying live poultry for consumption abroad. The warm weather will do much to remedy such an unsatisfactory state of things; and we hope the temporary diminution of trade during Whitsuntide, will help to reduce prices till they come to a point at which all parties may look for a fair return.

Large Fowls	8s. Od.	to	9s. Od.	each.
Smaller do.	6s. 6d.	to	7s. 6d.	"
Inferior do.	4s. 6d.	to	5s. Od.	"
Chickens	5s. Od.	to	5s. 6d.	"
Inferior do.	4s. Od.	to	4s. 6d.	"
Goslings	7s. Od.	to	8s. Od.	"

Ducklings.....	6s. 0d. to	6s. 6d. each.
Leverets.....	3s. 0d. to	4s. 6d. "
Rabbits.....	1s. 6d. to	1s. 7d. "
Quails.....	2s. 3d. to	2s. 6d. "
Dottrells.....	3s. 0d. to	3s. 3d. "
Plovers' Eggs, in bulk,	5s. per dozen.	

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

On Monday, May 21st, the high terms first sought were eventually relinquished, and Friday's improvement was lost; still at a late hour very little English wheat was sold, and that at the previous Monday's rates; foreign in limited inquiry on the same terms.

BRITISH.	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white.....	77 to 86
" " " " red.....	70 .. 78
" " " " Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	70 .. 77
BARLEY, Malting, new.....	32 .. 33
" " Chevalier.....	34 .. 36
" " Distilling.....	31 .. 34
" " Grinding.....	30 .. 33
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new	65 .. 70
" " " " " " old.....	66 .. 70
" " Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new	70 .. 72
" " " " " " old.....	68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed.....	26 .. 27
" " potato.....	27 .. 30
" " Scotch feed, new.....	29 .. 30
" " " " old.....	83 .. 84
" " potato.....	33 .. 35
" " Irish feed, white.....	26 .. 29
" " " " black.....	25 .. 27
RYE.....	40 .. 44
BEANS, Mazagan.....	38 .. 42
" " Ticks.....	39 .. 44
" " Harrow.....	39 .. 44
" " Pigeon.....	42 .. 49
PEAS, White, boilers.....	42 .. 47
" " Maple.....	40 .. 42
" " Grey.....	37 .. 40
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.	65 .. 70
" " Households, town.....	65 .. 66
" " " " country.....	56 .. 60
" " Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship.....	52 .. 56

The arrivals of foreign grain of all descriptions had been considerable on Wednesday. The morning's market was fairly attended for a Derby day, and the English wheat left over from Monday was cleared at Friday's prices. In foreign business was limited, factors not being inclined to make any concession, and more disposition was evinced by millers to purchase. All kinds of spring corn unaltered in value from Monday.

To Correspondents.

Salvia.—We assure our correspondent he would give us credit for great firmness, for the determination with which he is so much pleased, if he could know how pressingly we are urged to the immediate insertion of the articles to which he refers.

Scolia states that last year having a Cochlin hen which had hatched many chickens, he gave some of them to a Bantam hen which had only two. The Cochins in charge of the Cochlin mother grew well, but those with the Bantam remained small and stunted: the treatment of all was exactly the same, but the chickens brought up by the Bantam were like half Bantams, although perfectly healthy. Could the small mother be the cause?

W. A. J.—The intention was, no doubt, that the barrel should be turned every fortnight.

Advertisements.

G HONDOCKS, OR CRESTED PERSIANS.

A Pair of these beautiful and curious Fowls, imported from Constantinople, for Sale. They are rumpless, crested, feather-legged, and vulture-hocked. Apply to ALPHA, 143, Strand, London.

PANTRY POULTRY.—PERIODICAL SALE.

Mr. J. C. STEVENS will sell by Auction at his Great Room, 38, King-street, Covent Garden, on Tuesday, 5th June, at 12 o'clock precisely, POULTRY of very choice quality; comprising Dorkings from first prize birds, Birmingham, 1854; Spanish from Captain Hornby, Mr. Fox, and Timothy Mason's stocks; Hamburgs from Manchester, prize birds; Cochins of large size and good colour; Brahmas; Poland's; Bantams; Ptarmigans; &c. Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope, to Mr. J. C. Stevens, 38, King-street, Covent Garden.

FOR SALE, THE BLACK SPANISH COCK

which took second prize at Birmingham, 1854, in the Single Cock Class. Also, some first-class Hens' Eggs from the same, 30s. per dozen. Apply to Mr. JOHN S. HEAVY, Woodlands, near Manchester.

FOWLS BY JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest,

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TRY EXHIBITION PEN.—The inventor of the above-named Poultry Pen invites the attention of Committees of Poultry Associations to his invention (see "Poultry Chronicle" of May 9), and will be happy to communicate with them on application as to terms of hire, &c. Address, Mr. JOSEPH COOKE, Head Street, Colchester.

N.B. One of the Pens is on view at Mr. J. Baily's, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

THE DORSETSHIRE ASSOCIATION for the IMPROVEMENT of DOMESTIC POULTRY will hold its Annual Exhibition at Dorchester, on the 24th and 25th of October next.

Forms of entry will shortly be issued, and further particulars announced.

SERAI TAOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan, A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 2s. the Dozen.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from Gray Pea-Combed mature birds, at 2s. the Dozen.

A few good **COCHIN HENS** at a moderate price. Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

EGGS FOR SETTING, (prices reduced from 1st of May,) all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:

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THE CRATE PEN.—A SMALL MODEL of this pen, for uniting a "coop in which to pack the birds, send them by rail or other conveyance, and afterwards exhibit them in the show-room," (see "Poultry Chronicle," No. 64, p. 248; also No. 65), will be sent to any part of the country, on application to Mr. FREEMAN, Queen's Road, Reading. Price five shillings.

MR. DANIEL HARRISON has a few settings of EGGS to part with from his Golden Pencilled Hamburgs, which have taken seventeen prizes, at 10s. 6d. per dozen. Address, Singleton Park, Kendal.

FOR SALE, A FINE SET OF COCK and Two Hens of Blue Andalusians, £2 2s.; Pair of Ptarmigans, £1 10s.; Pair of Indian Game, £1; and Cock and Two Hens of Cossacks, £1 10s. Apply to Mr. C. COLES, Fareham, Hants.

THE WINDSOR POULTRY EXHIBITION, 27th—29th JUNE. Exhibitors are respectfully reminded that the Entries for the Show in this Royal Borough close on the 1st of June. Every accommodation, at reduced fares, will be afforded by the Great Western and South Western Railways.

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The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.

"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,000, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d. have been received for new premiums.

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Poultry Shows.

Bath and West of England, at Tiverton, June 6th, 7th, and 8th. Secretary, J. Kingsbury, Esq., Hammet Street, Taunton. Entries are closed. (No. 62.)

Thorne Cattle, Implement, and Poultry Show, June 20th. Secretary, R. S. Jewison, Esq. Entries close June 13th.

Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire, at Hull, June 27th. Secretary, B. L. Wells, Esq., Bishop's Lane, Hull. Entries close, June 20th. (No. 65.)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries closed June the 1st. (No. 52.)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries closed June 1st. (No. 57.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at Boston, Thursday, July 26. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close Wednesday, July 11th. (No. 64.)

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Malton, August 1st and 2nd. Secretary, J. Hannam, Esq., Kirk-Deighton, Wetherby. Entries close July 18th.

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th. (No. 67.)

Tottingham Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Keighly Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighly. Entries close Saturday, August 25th.

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

Bedford : in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. B. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire,

at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

How great in number, how varied in kind, and how unalloyed in their enjoyment are most of the pursuits which we call the pleasures of the country. First on the list, and highest in our estimation, because the one to which we have given most attention, stands the poultry-yard, no less varied in the gratification which it yields than in the kinds of its inhabitants. Those who admire size may have the Turkey, than which no fowl better repays early care, and the goose giving so little trouble. The admirer of solid usefulness can have his Dorkings and his Cochins, while the favourites of the fancier are almost as numerous as the letters of the alphabet.

Since the air above our heads is neither leasehold nor copyhold, the pigeon-fancier can follow his liking, although he may not possess and does not wish to hire extensive premises, and if he own for his beautiful and varied favourites only their own loft,

their exercise can yet be unrestricted, and their range unbounded.

Although ours are essentially home pleasures, they are not *confined* to home; abroad we have our emulations and our conquests, our harmless battles and our bloodless victories.

The poultry-yard, however, furnishes but one of the many pleasant pursuits to be enjoyed in the country, for their name is legion. Every insect that flutters by on wings of gossamer, every flower that displays its peculiar beauty, and every bird that follows its inherited habits, offers a book for study to the lover of the country. The cultivation of flowers and the study of botany, the observation of insects in their habits and in their scientific arrangement, and of birds, their instincts, their skill, their melody, and their disposition to become tame; all are objects of interest to the lover of nature, and occupy his leisure hours, while as more important, although no less interesting occupations, he has the cultivation of land, the improvement of the stock which we already possess, and the introduction of novelties which appear to offer hopes for the future.

The bee-keeper has an increasing field of interest before him, and many are only kept back by a little timidity, which will soon disappear, from making a beginning with these interesting little creatures, who give so much and require so little.

In addition to all these things, which are already in our possession, or daily beneath our eyes, how many animals, birds, and plants there are worthy the attention of country gentlemen, ay, and country ladies too, which have not yet been domes-

ticated or cultivated among us. In most parts of the world we hear of *something* which it appears likely that we might introduce with advantage. If everyone living in the country with land and leisure at his or her disposal would give a mite towards the general good, by endeavouring to introduce some one new animal, bird, or plant, and if many would compare notes by relating their experiences, how valuable the results might be: and we may add we hope the experimentalists will not satisfy themselves with relating their successes only, but will also in all cases let us profit by their failures as well. Our pages are open to them, both for the relation of facts and the discussion of opinions.

The Airedale First Exhibition

OF fruits, flowers, plants, and vegetables, combined with domestic poultry, will take place in Shipley, on Tuesday, August 14th, 1855, and will be open to universal competition.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Each Pen to contain a Cock and two Hens.

Entrance, Two Shillings each Pen.

ADULT CLASSES.

	1st.	2nd.
Hamburg, Golden Spangled	10	5
Ditto Silver ditto	10	5
Ditto Golden Pencilled	10	5
Ditto Silver ditto	10	5
Game, Black Breasted, Reds, and Black and Brassey Wings ...	10	5
Ditto, White and Piles	10	5
Polands, Golden	10	5
Ditto Silver	10	5
Ditto Black, White, or any other Variety	10	5
Spanish Fowls	10	5
Dorking, any Variety	10	5
Cochin China, Black and White	10	5
Ditto Buffs, or any other Va- riety	10	5

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
Bantams, Black and White	7	6	5
Ditto Gold or Silver Laced	7	6	5
Ducks, White Aylesbury, Drake and two Ducks	10	5	
Ditto Rouen, Drake and two Ducks.	10	5	
Ditto Black, or any other Variety, Drake and two Ducks	10	5	
Turkeys, Cock and one Hen	10	5	

CHICKENS, HATCHED IN 1855.

Hamburg, Golden Spangled	5	2	6
Ditto Silver ditto	5	2	6
Ditto Golden Pencilled	5	2	6
Ditto Silver ditto	5	2	6
Game Black Breasted, Reds, and Black and Brassey Wings..	5	2	6
White and Piles	5	2	6
Polands, Golden	5	2	6
Ditto Silver	5	2	6
Ditto Black, White, or any other Variety	5	2	6
Spanish Fowls	5	2	6
Dorking, any Variety	5	2	6
Cochin China, Blacks and White	5	2	6
Ditto Buffs, or any other Variety	5	2	6
Bantams, Black and White	5	2	6
Ditto Gold or Silver Laced	5	2	6

Admission from 12 at noon to 4 P.M., 1s. each; from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M., 6d. each; from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M., 3d. each.

There will be no exhibition of poultry after 6 P.M.

The entries for poultry close on the 24th of July; flowers and vegetables, on the 11th of August.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. Exhibitors may enter an unlimited number of pens at 2s. per pen, on or before the 24th day of July, 1855. Exhibitors will be entitled to one ticket of admission for a single entry; four entries or upwards, two tickets, available at any time during the Show, but not transferable.

2. All birds must be the property of the exhibitor when the entry is made.

3. All specimens intended for competition must be on the ground before 9 A.M. on Tuesday, August 14th, as no birds will be admitted into the Show after 9 o'clock; nor will the Committee allow any to be removed before 6 P.M. under any circumstances whatsoever. Birds sent for exhibition must be addressed to the

Secretaries, "carriage paid," and the direction card must have the sender's name and address written on the reverse side, for the return of the birds. Hampers containing more than one pen of birds cannot be received, unless proper divisions are placed between each lot, and labelled accordingly.

4. Exhibitors may either enter their birds as *Not for Sale*, or *state a Selling Price*. All birds to which a price is affixed must be sold at the price named, if claimed; five per cent. being deducted from all sales towards defraying the expenses of the Exhibition. The hampers in which the birds are sent will, in cases of sale, become the property of purchasers. All sales must be made through the Secretaries.

5. All birds sent for competition, without an attendant, will be fed during the Show, and returned as soon as possible after 6 P.M.—Chickens of 1855 cannot be shown in the adult classes. All eggs laid during the Show will be destroyed.

6. The Judges will be empowered and requested to withhold a prize or prizes in any of the classes in which specimens are of inferior quality.

7. Certificates of entry will be ready on the 1st day of June, and may be had on application to the Secretaries. No entries will be received unless made on the forms of certificate issued for that purpose. All entrances must be made with the Secretaries on or before the 24th day of July. The entrance fee must be paid when the entry is made.

By order of the Committee,

JOHN WILKINSON, }
J. G. HYSLOP, } Hon. Secs.

Shipley, Mar. 22, 1855.

A Lady's Diary of the 15th Century.

THE following extract from the "Journal of Queen Elizabeth Woodville," before her marriage with Sir John Grey, is taken from an ancient MS. in Drummond Castle. It gives a curious picture of the great in former times. After Sir John Grey's death, she became, in 1465, the Queen of Edward IV. On the accession of Henry VII., who had married her daughter, she was confined in the nunnery of Bermundsey, and died there, but was interred at Windsor:—

Monday, 9th March.—Rose at 4 o'clock,

and helped Catherine to milk the cows; Rachael, the other dairymaid, having scalded her hand in so bad a manner the night before; made a poultice for Rachael, and gave Robin a penny to get something comfortable from the apothecary's.

Six o'clock.—The buttock of beef too much boiled, and the beer a little of the stales. Memorandum.—To talk to cook about the first fault, and to mend the second myself by tapping a fresh barrel directly.

Seven o'clock.—Went to walk with the lady, my mother, into the court-yard. Fed twenty-five men and women; chided Roger severely for expressing some ill-will at attending us with broken meat.

Eight o'clock.—Went into the paddock behind the house with my maid Dorothy; caught Thump, the little pony, myself, and rode a matter of six miles without saddle or bridle.

Ten o'clock.—Dined. John Grey a comely youth; but what is that to me? A virtuous maiden should be entirely under the direction of her parents. John ate but little, stole a great many tender looks at me, and said, "Women never could be handsome in his opinion who were not good tempered." I hope my temper is not intolerable; nobody finds fault with it but Roger, and he is the most disorderly serving man in our family. John Grey likes white teeth; my teeth are of a pretty good colour, I think; and my hair is as black as jet, though I say it; and John, if I mistake not, is of the same opinion.

Eleven o'clock.—Rose from table, the company all desirous of walking in the fields; John Grey would lift me over every stile, and twice he squeezed my hand with great vehemence. I cannot say that I should have any objection to John Grey; he plays at prison bars as well as any country gentleman, and he never misses church on Sunday.

Three o'clock.—Poor Farmer Robinson's house burnt down by accidental fire. John Grey proposed a subscription for the benefit of the farmer, and gave no less than 4l.

himself with this benevolent intent. Memorandum—*Never saw him look so handsome as at that moment.*

Four o'clock.—Went to prayers.

Six o'clock.—Fed the hogs and poultry.

Seven o'clock.—Supper on the table; delayed in consequence of Farmer Robinson's misfortune. Memorandum—the goose-pie too much baked, and the pork roasted to rags.

Nine o'clock.—The company fast asleep. These late hours very disagreeable. Said my prayers a second time; John Grey distracting my thoughts too much the first time. Fell asleep, and dreamed of John Grey.

Sam Slick on "Pints."

I HART a little notion pleased; you take a chalk out of our jarnals. We air a go-ahead people, and though you air a respectable nation, and I hart nothin to say agin you, yet a rale Yankee will make chalks round a Britisher in no time.

How I do larf at your 'tarnal discussion about Pints. When I was to hum I show'd fowls; I was beat, I know'd I was. I don't say I liked it; 'twouldn't be human natur if I did. Nor I wasn't riled, 'twouldn't be wise if I was.

The truth is *men don't like to be beat*. Ask the winner if he wants pints? not he, he haint nothin to find fault with. The judges was right, and his fowls was the best; there aint no contradictin it, that is human natur, t'other aint.

Stranger, sais I, to a grumbler at Birmingham, from your talk I guess you know all about it, you air everlastin well up in pints and you knows you air bet. Make chalks to hum, and do better next time. How I did larf; I heer'd him out, and then dropped on him like a painter from a tree. I believe he did screech when he got away.

HENS and chickens should never be allowed to amuse themselves, as it always results in *fowl play!*

Brahma Pootras.

TWELVE months since I predicted success to Brahmas, and gave my experiences as the grounds on which I founded my opinions. I have since then patiently waited the fulfilment of my prophecy, and rejoice to find I was right. They have not helped to swell the overgrown Cochins class; they have not been puffed, and propped into public notice, but holding on the even tenor of their way, they have made themselves a class. I am disposed to look into futurity again, and to say their classes will be worthy of them in number and beauty.

Nearly twelve months have passed since I wrote about them, and the experience of that time has only tended to confirm my former opinions. They are not great eaters, they lay an immense number of eggs, they are the hardiest chickens to rear I have yet met with, and though not equal to the Dorkings, they are as good as most fowls on the table. Let us then have peace about their merits, and their right to a distinct class. They are people of mean deserts, who cannot hear others praised without envy, and the amateur of Cochins can afford to give "the vexed Brahmas" rest. When the organist was applauded, the man who officiated at the bellows stood up and returned thanks for the honour done to *their* performance. So the thick and thin amateurs of "Cochins," "whole Cochins," and "nothing but Cochins" will by and bye endeavour to claim the honours bestowed on the Brahmas as belonging to Grey Shanghais. The advocates of the first ask no favour, but they wish to stand on their own rights, and vindicate their favourites. The trial is coming on, and the public will decide whether they shall hold or forfeit the position they have at last obtained; but let it be well explained, there is no desire to exalt them at the expense of others, or to prove good qualities are confined to them. It is not pretended Cochins are Buff Brahmas, and the fact that the one lays a great many eggs will not make the other lay one less. B. P.

A Good Place for Sportsmen.

FROM THE "NORTHERN FARMER."

IN the chapparals of Texas are found countless numbers of rabbits, of the ordinary gray species, as well as a large gray rabbit, much resembling the English hare in shape, but far larger, with enormous ears; the zoological name I do not know, but it is vulgarly called the "jackass rabbit."

They are fine eating, and I have shot them weighing fifty pounds. Vast flocks of wild turkeys, some of them very large, and all of them fat, inhabit these forbidden haunts—quails, pigeons, &c., and it must be added, no small quantity of rattlesnakes and tarantulas find here a safe and inviting abode. In all parts of this region, deer, in fine condition, abound; also the peccary, or Mexican hog. These will fight anything, man or beast; and some amusing stories are told of their driving hunters "up a tree," and there besieging them for hours.

We have also a peculiar bird, denominated the "chachlacha," about half the size of an ordinary game cock, which is well worth describing. It is shaped much like a wild pigeon, of ash colour, black legs, black shining beak, strong and sharp, and with eyes of great brilliancy. In its native state it is wild and shy, but when caught, is easily domesticated, and becomes especially fond of those who feed and tend it.

At daylight in the morning, whether wild or tame, they commence a furious reveillé, repeating in a loud, dismal tone, a chaunt, from the sound of which they derive their name. This is prolonged for about half an hour—the woods all around you appear to be alive with these invisible songsters, when suddenly they stop, and not another sound breaks from them during the whole day.

The Chachlacha will cross breed with the common game fowl, and produce not only a beautiful bird, but one of the greatest value for its game qualities. Their crosses are a

little under size, but in spirit, endurance, activity, and vigour, they are unmatched. They are the best fighting cocks on earth. This is no fancy sketch; they have been tried frequently, and never known to skulk or yield; they can, like the Old Guard, "die, but never surrender."

They are difficult to catch, and have generally to be reared from the egg. I have known twenty dollars to be paid for a pair, so highly are they esteemed. I have often been surprised that breeders of game fowls have not turned their attention to these birds, to renew and improve their stock. Perhaps they were not aware of their high and valuable qualities. Let them try this gallant little hero, and they will find a full confirmation of all I have urged in his behalf.

[If the bird is not a *fowl* the progeny would be hybrids, and consequently would not reproduce. We should be much obliged if the editor of the "Northern Farmer," or any American correspondent, would inform us, in that journal, or by letter, if this is the case.—Ed.]

A Chapter on Divers and Sundries.

BEING liberal to an extraordinary degree in the cause of science and enquiry, and particularly anxious to oblige "W. S." (wishing, by the way, that he would write more and oftener), I, the other day, killed one of my sitting hens, after her time was up. If I recollect right, the question was, "are there any eggs in the ovary of a broody hen after hatching?" Now I cannot exactly say that my hen had no eggs attached to the ovarium, as there was a great number in a very immature state; some were as large as shot No. 1, some resembled the eggs in the hard roe of a salmon: all were either colourless, or rather blackish, and from these sizes they varied down to the tiniest atoms. The egg-bag was small. I should like to know, if any of your readers can tell me, whether all this large number of eggs would have

been laid in one batch, or whether several successive batches are at one time secreted?

I much approve of the advice you gave us to thin off the old fowls; no real amateur ought to let an indifferent fowl now live, and these fowls may be made into very good dishes, if little more than a year old, and *eatable* if older. At any rate in the present state of the fancy, faulty fowls *ought not to live*.

I hope the poultry shows this year will follow out reforms commenced last season; and one which I consider most important is that the judges shall not only take pains to detect imposition, but shall make their discoveries known for the good of the fancy generally. Those who visited the shows last year, will recollect hearing tales how pens were bought at one show and immediately shown at another, in opposition to its rules; how cockerels received prizes as old birds, and old birds as chickens, and how all sorts of tricks were played by some to get the prizes unfairly. Now in these things it is all very easy to blame the judges; to say that they should disqualify the pens when they happen, and that they ought not to be deceived by an old bird for a young one, or a young one for an old. All this is quite true; but the visitors to the shows are much too tame. It is *our* duty, as lookers-on, to enquire into, to investigate, and to make known any circumstances which may come to our knowledge of persons endeavouring to deceive the judges, or of the judges having been deceived by such tricks. When an amateur walks through a show, if he see anything wrong,—for instance, if he see that a cockerel has passed muster as an old bird, it is not sufficient that he makes a little mischief by whispering his idea to his friends; in candour and fairness to the judges, and to the exhibitor (in case he may possibly be mistaken), in public spirit towards all fellow-amateurs, and in friendship to the shows, he ought to name his suspicions to the committee, when it becomes their positive duty to investigate the affair. If amateurs generally would

act in this manner, the judges would be more careful not to give careless awards, persons who get prizes in this way would give it up as a thing only likely to end in exposure, and we should all feel more confidence in shows and the prizes given by them.

There is one thing more I should like to set folks upon, who have to do with the shows. I think the classes might be better arranged. Cochin-Chinas have several classes; why cannot Spanish also have classes for white and blue? Instead of dividing the tufted fowls, as "B. P. B." proposes, I would *mass* them all, and *sub-divide* as much as you will. Dorkings I only reckon barn-door fowls—something to eat. Hamburgs and Polands should always have a mixed class *each* for new sorts. New kinds should have high prizes to encourage importations, and when *chickens* and *old fowls* of a new sort are shown, the chickens should invariably have a prize as well as the old fowls, if they follow the old birds exactly, that being a proof that they are of a sort and not made. QUERIST.

THE Bath and West of England Agricultural Society's Poultry Show, at Tiverton, Devon, on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of June, will be very attractive. There are more than 350 entries, and amongst the names of the exhibitors are to be found some of the most distinguished breeders and keepers of poultry in the country. Tiverton is pleasantly situated on the Exe, 14 miles above Exeter, and is accessible by railway by means of the Tiverton Junction with the Bristol and Exeter Railway. As the agricultural and other exhibitions conjointly held will attract a large number of strangers, the poultry will, no doubt, be seen by thousands.

TEA AT HALF-PRICE.—Saysel, a French chemist, asserts that if tea is ground like coffee, before hot water is poured upon it, it will yield nearly double the amount of its exhilarating qualities.

Columbary.

NO. XIII. THE STORK PIGEON.

THE Stork, or "Die Storch," or "Schwinger-Taube" of the Germans, is one of the pretty Toys occasionally to be met with on the continent, but I am not aware that any have as yet been brought to this country, though in some parts of Germany they are much cultivated. They derive their name from their plumage bearing considerable resemblance to that of a stork, being white, the pinions and a spot above the beak being the only coloured parts, which are either black, blue, red, or yellow. They are turned crowned, and the feet are feathered to the toes. They are the size of a common Dove-house Pigeon, as light and active in their movements, and field well.

B. P. B.

STANDARD WEIGHT OF GRAIN IN CANADA. The following shows the weight of a bushel of the different grains, &c., as fixed by a recent enactment of the Canadian Parliament:—Wheat, 60 lbs.; Indian corn, 56 lbs.; Rye, 56 lbs.; Peas, 60 lbs.; Barley, 48 lbs.; Oats, 34 lbs.; Beans, 60 lbs.; Clover-seed, 60 lbs.; Timothy-seed, 48 lbs.; Buckwheat, 48 lbs.

FECONDITY OF INSECTS.—Some silk worms lay from 1000 to 2000 eggs. The wasp deposits 3000. The ant from 4000 to 5000. The queen bee lays between 5000 and 6000 eggs, according to Burmeister; but Kirby and Spence state that in one season the number may amount to 40,000 or 50,000. But above all, the white ant (*termes fatalis*), produces 86,400 eggs each day, which continuing for a lunar month, gives the astonishing number of 2,419,000, a number far exceeding that produced by any known animal.

A SEAL, measuring five feet in length and four feet in girth, was shot by a fisherman named John Falle, on the coast of Herm, on Tuesday last. It may be seen in Mill-street.—*Guernsey Paper.*

Home and the Homestead.

JERSEY AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE Horticultural Committee of this Society have just made their first inspection this year of gardens entered for competition for prizes.

Mr. Finimore's Vinery was for the first time entered for inspection, and with it commenced the duties of the day. The committee were highly gratified by all they saw in the grounds. The grape-houses present in the aggregate half a mile of glass, and, we believe, are more extensive than any in England or elsewhere. The vines are brought from the outside on both sides of the buildings, and the arrangements for heating and ventilating are most complete and scientific. Nothing can exceed the healthy and luxuriant appearance of the vines. The proprietor has had the good fortune, or perhaps we may more justly say the skill, to keep the prevalent disease from his vines. Already, in this backward season, upwards of 2 cwt. of fine grapes have been cut and sent off, and the gathering is now steadily proceeding. Among those yet far from ripe we noticed the Muscatels; some of the bunches being 24 inches in length. We were glad to understand that the proprietor is well repaid for his outlay of capital as well as for his assiduity and judgment. Besides the grapes the fruit and vegetables, as well as the general appearance of the gardens, merited high commendation. In one of the houses is a shoot of a fine passion-flower trained to the length of about sixty feet, *grown within the year.*

The gardens of Mr. Marett, of Avranché, and of Mr. C. W. Robin, of Steep Hill, showed their usual high state of culture, cleanliness and good order. Mr. Savill, of Brooklands, has brought a much neglected piece of ground into a state of admirable productiveness. Mr. Falle's "Highlands," also entered this year for the first time, much gratified the committee, who were

particularly struck with the clever manner in which he has turned to account an old stone quarry, which twelve years back was waste land. It is laid out and arranged on a most tasteful and romantic plan, and will form one of the many attractions of the island. The committee afterwards visited the carefully-tended cottage-gardens of Mr. Stebbings, in the St. Saviour's Road, Mr. Sharpe, in Green Street, Mr. Webber, and the beautiful grounds of *Petit Ménage*, which were found in their usual perfect order. The committee ended the day's visiting by the inspection of Mr. Du Faye's cottage-garden at Grouville; whence they repaired to Pontac, where, at 6 o'clock, they sat down to an excellent dinner (of course at their own expense) at Tallis's Hotel, returning to town between 9 and 10 o'clock.

Mr. Finimore, the owner of the grape-house above mentioned, commenced his interesting speculation *about* twelve years ago, we think, but we only speak from memory. The ground which he has made use of for the purpose is the side of a hill, with a southern aspect, which is formed into terraces, on which the grape houses are built one above another. When the sun is shining on them they have the appearance of a hill side of glass. The outlay was at first of course very great, even in Jersey, where glass was duty free and labour cheap, and the intelligent owner had to wait some years for interest on his capital: we are pleased to hear that his labours are now rewarded. At the time that the *mildew* was so general, it was reported that this gentleman's vines were also attacked, but from the above account this was either a mistake, or the evil has been overcome by careful culture.

On Bees.

RETURNING the first swarm by the removal of the queen, is the method adopted in working with hives of ordinary construction. Those whose stock hive is a Grecian,

a leaf-hive, or of any description which is adapted for division, may pursue a superior method, by removing the royal cells, and then returning the swarm; that is to say, when the old queen is to be retained. The easiest method of accomplishing this object will be to place the swarm, as soon as it is hived, on the board of the hive from which it has just issued, and to carry the parent to a shady spot, where it may at once be taken to pieces. A puff of smoke will drive off the bees from the sides, whence the combs may be detached by passing down a long-bladed knife, and then each comb is raised separately on its bar, and every royal cell is cut off. The hive is shut up and carried immediately to its stand, and the hive containing the swarm is reversed in a tub, or by some means kept steady, while the old stock is placed upon it, and the bees, with the queen, will at once pass up into their former habitation. The intention of swarming is at once given up, and the bees will commence working in earnest in their super. From hives managed in this way we may reasonably expect a profitable return; in only moderately-productive localities, a super with from twenty to thirty-five pounds of honey may be looked for, with a tolerable store in the stock hive; sometimes hives are found to have collected as much as four or five stones, but this is far above the average in England, and we would not sully our pages by the unreality of exaggerated statements, which may at first mislead the unwary, but can only end in disappointment. "Tell a poor man that his bees, with the most ordinary care, will pay his rent, and he will find that your word is good, and that he has something to spare for his trouble; he may then be led to pay the same respect to his little lodgers as the Irish do to the less cleanly animal that acts the same kind part of rent-payer by them. But when the marvellous statistics of bee-books are laid before a labourer, their only effect can be to rouse an unwonted spirit of covetousness, which is more than punished by the still greater disappointment that ensues." It will be obvious that the great

advantage gained from using the bar-hive is, that the excitement and uncertainty of the bees during the time of hatching the young queens, is thus entirely avoided, and order seems to be at once restored. While recommending these hives, Mr. Golding impresses on his readers the absurdity of attributing success to the peculiar construction of the hive. "Let my readers," he writes, "repel the quackery which would have them believe that it was the *kind of hive* which commanded the 'honed store.' No! that will be ruled by the productiveness of the season and locality in which it is placed, and these vary greatly."

We must now return to our stock from which the first swarm has been allowed to colonise, and examine its condition. We shall find, as I have already observed, several cradles of royalty for the moment deserted by their nurses, the combs also contain an enormous quantity of brood of all ages, the drones have nearly all remained, but as to workers, the hives appear totally depopulated. Huber thus describes what ensues: "If in some cases the agitation of swarming is so great, that all the bees participate in it, and leave the hive, the desertion lasts but for a moment. The hive throws only during the finest part of the day, and it is then that the bees are ranging through the country. Those that are out, therefore, cannot participate in the agitation; having returned to the hive, they quietly resume their labours; and their number is not small, for when the weather is fine, at least a third are employed in the fields at once. . . . Those that have lately left their cells remain behind the swarm, still feeble, for they could not support themselves in flight. Here then are also many recruits to people what we should have thought a deserted habitation." The brood too is hourly transforming to the perfect insect, and at the end of a week, we again find a well-peopled hive; the young queens also have been most sedulously attended, the closed cells being constantly covered with bees which maintain an even heat, and the bee-keeper listens for that

peculiar sound which conveys the welcome intelligence that the first-born princess has attained maturity and liberty. "The period which *usually* intervenes between the first and second swarms, is from nine to thirteen days. Between the second and third, the period is much shorter, the young queens quickly succeeding each other. There is an occasional departure from these general periods; in some, as I have experienced, the first period may be extended to eighteen or twenty days. Such extraordinary intervals are most apt to occur in backward springs, in which breeding being retarded a first swarm issues on the first fine day after the deposit of the eggs in the royal cells, in order that as little time as possible may be lost during the important season for storing the new habitation with honey. A few days after the issue of the first swarm, generally from nine to eleven, though instances, which have been before alluded to, of its occurring earlier and of being retarded later, occasionally happen, a singular noise, called *pip*ing, may be heard in the stock. The first note heard is long and plaintive, and is uttered by the princess already at liberty, as I have frequently seen her emit it. She traverses the hive, and stops upon or near the royal cells which still contain brood, and emits her long, plaintive note. This, when the other queens are sufficiently forward, generally in about two days, is answered by them from *within* their cells in a quick, short hoarse note. After these last have been heard for about two days, the swarm may be expected to come off. In 1830, the rapidity with which second swarms succeeded the first, was as remarkable as their tardiness in 1829. I had two families in which piping commenced on the third day; and in one of them, the second swarm issued on the fourth day. The weather had proved so very unfavourable, that the 'old ladies' deferred coming abroad as long as they well could." This simple and clear description from Mr. Golding's pen, will be a sufficient guide as to the symptoms from which the date of a second swarm

is to be expected. "This singular duet, in most regular intonation, between the emerged queen and the princess still a prisoner in her cell, is heard; and extravagant as the account may seem, and confused and embellished as it has been from the times of Aristotle and Virgil till recent days, it is now the practical sign by which every attentive bee-keeper judges of the time of emigration of the after-swarms." * The piping of the queen at liberty is repeated in about six successive notes at intervals of a few minutes, while I have counted not less than forty successive notes from the prisoner. Of the latter, there are sometimes heard the voices of two or three at the same time, and with their number, the queens that accompany the swarm correspond. I have counted three voices, and found three queens with the swarm the following day. The sound is so loud that in a calm evening it may be distinctly heard at a distance of two or three yards from the hive.

The exit of the second swarm by no means resembles the order and regularity of that which is led by the old queen. Probably at ten o'clock in the morning which has been notified as the day of swarming, there is a rush from the hive; and after careering in the air five or ten minutes the swarm seems to be drawing to a settling point, when it suddenly changes its mind and makes its way home as quickly as possible. The truth is, the bees had hurried out, and the queen remained behind; or she left the hive with them, and after a short flight, instead of joining the swarm, she returned to her former abode. I have witnessed both these occurrences, and Mr. Golding has even observed the workers rush out before the queen had emerged from her cell. In fact, they seem like a set of giddy young people, who have grand designs in their heads, but want the prudence and steadiness requisite for their accomplishment. In a few hours they are off again, not paying much regard either to the time of the day, or the state of the

weather; and they may settle in two clusters, in which case each will contain a queen, and they may be separately hived and then united.

Except under very peculiar circumstances, such as being very early in the season, a very large swarm, or that an increase in the number of stocks is much wanted, the second swarms should always be returned. Those who keep them off, gain in number but too often ruin both hives. If, however, it is necessary to retain them, the swarm should be well supplied with food at the very first; and both should be fed liberally as soon as their young queens have commenced laying. As soon as the dead queens are observed on the ground before the hive, it may be understood that no more swarming will take place.

The issue of second swarms may be entirely prevented in the Grecian hive, by cutting out all the royal cells as soon as the long note of piping is heard. Then the queen at liberty becomes at once the sovereign of the hive. These appearances we have been describing are all external, and consequently open to the observation of all bee-keepers; the proceedings in the interior of the hive are exceedingly curious, but would occupy too much space to be dwelt on at present. It is hoped nothing has been omitted which is practically necessary in managing swarms. A.

Floriculture.

JUNE 6.

WHEN we wrote about our flowers for the last number of the "Poultry Chronicle," the weather was cold, the wind bleak and nipping, and we were glad to wheel the table nearer to the fire. While the column was in the printer's hands, the heat was so great that vegetation hung its head, flagged and almost dying. When our last week's number was published, a north wind and chilly rain made plants look pinched, and a fire indoors again acceptable. These are

* Quarterly Review.

the frequent and sudden changes against which we have to work, and with which our pet flowers have to contend. Woe to the tulips which cannot enjoy the shelter of a curtained tent or other defence; drooping heads and snapped stems tell the tale of their sufferings. In spite however of the backwardness of the season, the gardens look pretty well, the trees are in leaf, and the bloom appears healthy and promising. A benefit arising from the cold, which has kept everything back is, that we are not this year *at present* troubled with the green-fly. This pest of the garden and the greenhouse must be watched and destroyed in its earliest attacks.

As the leaves of seedling bulbs decay, cover the roots for about an inch with sifted earth, but first clear away the weeds, and take care that the roots are not disturbed. Place the pots or boxes where the morning sun only can shine on them, and leave them there for the rest of the summer. In dry, hot weather, water them often.

Carnations, in pots, would in most seasons now require constant care in tying up the bloom stems; this year we have but now to place the sticks, which should be nice neat little wooden rods, painted green. As the flower stems grow tall, tie them to the sticks. When the buds are ready to burst, they must be closely watched; the finest flowers have the greatest number of petals, and the pod, being very full, sometimes, bursts on one side only, which entirely spoils the flower. When this happens let each side of the bud be opened so far down that the petals may have just room to come out and expand. In a few days notice whether this opening is sufficient; if not, open it a little further, but with caution, for a portion of the bud should be left entire to keep the petals together, only allowing the spreading flower to expand equally. Some young shoots may be strong enough to make layers, which will prove a great advantage, as they will acquire good roots before winter, and may be sooner taken off from the parent plants. Have ready light, rich,

sifted mould, a sharp-edged penknife, and a sufficient number of hooked pegs. Clear away the weeds, stir the surface, and fill up the pots with the mould. Strip off all but a few of the top leaves from the shoot for layering, and cut them short. Find a joint about the middle of the shoot, and cut half through it, and make an incision towards the next joint about half an inch in length, which will allow the joint to be bent down about two inches under the mould. Secure it with a hooked peg, cover it well with the mould, and then proceed in the same manner with the rest. Leave the shoots which are too short now for another month's growth, when they also may be layered. Spread a little more mould on the surface, and water from time to time, to keep the surface continually only moist. In six or seven weeks, or a little more, the plants will be sufficiently rooted, and may be removed from the parent plants.

It is advisable to examine the plants in the borders, particularly as the wind this season is often very rough. When support is required, place sticks close to the plants, and fasten the stems neatly to them. As they grow higher continue to tie them. This will avoid the desperate disarrangement which a strong wind will often make in a flower garden. Climbing and twining plants must be attended to in the same manner, and also those of which the branches hang down to the ground, and all which are inclined to straggle out of their proper direction. These little arrangements will give not only each plant, but the whole garden, a pleasing appearance. Broken and decayed shoots should be cut off, and decayed leaves cleared away. If the blooming stems of wall-flowers, now getting shabby, are neatly cut away close to the plants, they will throw out an abundance of new shoots and flower a second time.

We mentioned last week that this is the time for taking up cyclamens, and for removing the offsets. This small, delicate, and beautiful flower is best planted in pots for removal to occasional shelter. The

hardest sorts may be planted in the ground in a warm, protected south border.

THE IRIS.

THERE are few flowers more beautiful, more varied, or better worthy of attentive cultivation than the iris. To begin with a common sort I will name the great bulbous rooted or English iris, which Masters particularly recommends to the attention of the horticulturist: he advises that in August the seed should be collected and sown as soon as ripe, in slight drills, about six inches apart. In the following March they will look very much like young onions, and with no further care than frequent weeding they may remain in the seed-bed for three years. In August or September of their third year plant them out in a bed in rows one foot apart, and the bulbs six inches from each other. In two years more many will flower, and almost all the year following, i.e., the sixth from the seed. Time may be saved by removing the surface earth carefully and replacing it with fresh light loam, which will greatly promote the growth of the bulbs. With these, as with many other seedling plants, it is not at a certain exact age that they will flower, but when the bulb has attained a size and vigour sufficient to produce and perfect a flower stem, the rudiment of which is formed the year before, it comes to perfection. When the roots flower, the good ones can be selected and increased by offsets.

The Chaldeonian iris, or Iris Susiana, was brought from the Levant, and was cultivated by Gerard in 1596. The leaves are finely striated, the flower about a span high, and the most magnificent of all the kinds. The petals are purple or black, striped with white, as broad as a hand, and delicate in texture. The Spanish iris or Xiphium was brought from the South of Europe, and was also cultivated by Gerard. The leaves are channelled, convoluted the whole length, and awl-shaped at the tip. The flowers of the wild plant are blue, with emarginate petals. It flowers in

June. Cultivation has produced many varieties with yellow, white, violet, and variegated flowers.

FLORAL FETE AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE Second Anniversary was celebrated at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, by a grand exhibition of flowering plants and fruit. Coming so quickly after the Chiswick meeting at Gore House, it is no small praise to say, that this was in all respects worthy to vie with those far-famed gatherings. The prizes amounted to a thousand pounds; and perhaps, on no previous occasion have so many flowers been collected of such choice and rare descriptions. The stalls, which extended nearly a mile and a half in length, were so arranged in different portions of the building as to divide the pressure of the crowd.

The collection included the usual array of Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Heaths, Orchids, Calceolarias, Roses, Ferns, and Fuchsias. The Pelargoniums formed a rich, varied, and numerous collection. The company made it a rule that all specimens must be *bonâ fide* the property of the exhibitor, or his master; and must have been so for two months, except in the case of newly-imported plants. Any prize surreptitiously obtained, was to be forfeited to the next prize holder in succession.

TIMELY HINTS TO FLORISTS.

At this season of the year, the horticultural department of your paper will not fail to attract its share of readers. For my own part, it is the first to which I turn, as my "broad acres" are limited to a few square feet, and the large field of agriculture is too broad for me. I presume there are many readers, who, like myself, have a small place devoted to floriculture and wish to improve it to the utmost advantage. Mutual hints may not then be amiss.

Belonging to that unfortunate class styled "single gentlemen," and having no "household treasures," I am e'en forced to make pets of those wayward and beau-

tiful children of nature that spring up on the hill-side, or by the meadow stream. What faces look up to yours fairer than theirs? what eyes more meek and trusting? who need chiding less than these fair offspring of the wood and vale? Annually I lease of a kind friend, a little plot of ground for the cultivation of annuals, and such few other plants as my contracted space will admit.

The stirring hours of day absorb my time with other cares; my garden hours, therefore, are those before breakfast, fresh with the night dew and early sun-shine. At nightfall I sometimes find another spare hour. My little garden answers the two-fold purpose, of recreation and exercise. You may have other readers situated like me, who would find a like employment, pleasantly to fill up an otherwise idle gap in their home fence, through which ravenous cares steal in. It is to such I submit my slight experience, that it may prove, perchance, a whisper of encouragement.

Those who have large grounds, abundant leisure, or hired assistance, can roam at will through the flowery kingdom, cultivating whatever fancy may suggest, trying every novelty and "holding fast to that which is good." There are others, a more numerous class, whose gardens are small and must be used to the best advantage; not a foot can be spared for idle experiment, or plants that fail to yield their rich fruitage of foliage and blossoms. Of the thousand and one varieties of seeds and plants that are offered for sale at this season, the variety is not over-large on which one can spend his labour and skill profitably. Annuals are the main reliance of those who have but little room, with the addition of a few of the choicer sorts of bedding-out plants. The caution cannot be too often repeated, not to crowd the ground with a mass of flowers, many of which possess but little beauty. Fewer kinds, well cultivated, repay better than an indiscriminate mass. A beginner could not do better than to adopt some well-recommended list, and if at the end of the

season he found any kind not to his liking, cut it off and substitute an untried variety. This will add pleasure to his attempts, and in the end, his selection for himself will be the best.

In the list I would have as indispensable, Mignonette, Pansies, Double Dwarf Rocket, Larkspur, Candytuft, Sweet Pea, and perhaps Gilia, and the finest German Scabious. Verbenas, indispensable to any collection, are better propagated from cuttings for a small garden, than treated as annuals. So of the Petunia; approved varieties of both are to be had in abundance of any florist.

Flowers are cultivated both for their beauty, as they stand on their own stalks in the flower border, and their fitness for the bouquet. There are many kinds, beautiful on the spot where they grow, which are of no use in a bouquet, from their size, deficiency of stem, or fading too rapidly when gathered. My own garden being beyond my sight the greater part of the daylight hours, I have especially sought such flowers as I could pluck for the vase, or collect in bouquets. So I add the Swan River Daisy to my list of desirable annuals for its peculiar foliage, adding beauty to the bouquet.

The Geranium, also, for the same use, and the Heliotrope too for its fragrance; a plant or two of each of which from the florist will be sufficient, and serve better than the seed. The fragrant Tuberoses should be added from the tuberoses family, two or three plants of which placed at intervals, will perfume a large space with their beautiful and odorous blossoms. Thus my little garden is filled, only that I always have a *little room left* to experiment on some new novelty from the seed, or some favorite from the green-house of a friend, or a choice bedding-out plant from the nurseries. H.

BOSTON CAKE.—1 lb. 2 oz. flour, 14 oz. sugar, 12 oz. butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. raisins, 4 or 6 eggs, $\frac{1}{2}$ gill brandy, 1 gill milk.

Cultivate a Love of Birds.

THE song of the robin under our window, that hails the approach of the sun at earliest dawn, and watches his reeding rays at faintest twilight, reminds us of a promise long since made, to speak a good word for birds. They are man's natural companions, the guardians of his fruits, the graceful denizens of his trees, the minstrel choir whose tuneful notes wake him from slumber and whose vesper songs soothe him to repose. What can be sweeter than the first trill of the red-breast at dawn? The first note is scarce audible, as if the poor bird were afraid of the lingering shadows, and were asking leave of his slumbering lord to sing. The dawn increases, and with it the boldness of his song. The sun himself at length comes forth like a bridegroom, and the robin pours forth his whole soul in tumultuous joy. We pity the poor souls that live in a wilderness of brick and mortar, and have no tree orchestra in the shadow of their dwellings on these bright May mornings.

But those who live in the country, often have no music in their souls, and have no eye to see what labour-saving machines the birds are—saying nothing of their capacities as artists. So the sportsman is suffered to prowl about the orchard and fruit-garden, and the red-breast, oriole, bluebird, sparrow and wren become food for powder. When the robin claims his tribute of currants and cherries for the insects he has devoured, he is mercilessly shot, as if he were a vagabond and a thief. Whether such a pitiless, unmusical soul be "fit for treason, stratagems, and spoils," or not, it is pretty certain that his trees will fall into that category, and will soon be despoiled of fruit and foliage.

A single bird's nest in your orchard is worth dollars. What a multitude of grubs and worms a single pair of robins and their young will destroy in a season! Watch their busy flight by day, and every visit to their birdlings bringing destruction to a number of grubs. It has been estimated

by a cautious observer of the habits of birds, that a single pair of jays with their young will devour two hundred insects in a day. This, in a season of three months, amounts to twenty thousand. It has been estimated that a single purple martin will destroy nearly five thousand moths and butterflies in a week. The moth, that does so much mischief in our wardrobes, is a small insect that might escape the sight of most other birds. A little hive of swallows close by one's dwelling-house, would probably be an effectual exterminator of these insects, which would be seized and devoured before they entered our windows. If we take into account the innumerable caterpillars, and grubs that would spring from the eggs of all these different insects, we can but regard the martin as one of the most serviceable of all creatures. The lively twittering of these birds is one of the most agreeable accompaniments of the rural melodies of morn, and is associated with many delightful incidents in English poetry. Whoever has visited Burlington, Vt., must have noticed in the fruit gardens a long, substantial pole, mounted with a martin-box. Their labours are highly appreciated by the fruit-growers there, and their example is worthy of imitation.

It is but little trouble to any one of common ingenuity to build a few bird-houses, and put them in various parts of the premises. Small boxes may be put in the cherry trees and upon the fence near the currants and raspberries, for the wrens. They will almost certainly be occupied, and this little bird lives upon the insects that crawl upon the fences, and lurk in the bark of trees, and in the crevices of buildings. On account of its fondness for spiders, the wren has in some places received the appellation of spider-bird. The immense number of insects which he removes from our gardens and dwellings ought to endear him to every cultivator, even if he had nothing else to recommend him. He is the appropriate guardian of our small fruits, and no robin or fruit-eating bird will venture near the home of

this pugnacious little bird. It is amusing to see the reckless desperation with which they will pitch into a bird many times their size, driving all before them.

Cultivate, then, the society of birds. The robin needs no box, but if you let him alone he will put up his dwelling in the apple-tree, or in a corner of the fence, and be much obliged to you for the privilege of killing caterpillars for you all summer long. The boy that comes nigh with gun, warn off from your premises; and if he does not heed the warning, put the law in force; and if there be no law, call in the aid of Judge Lynch. The birds must be saved if you would save your fruit. Your tenderness and care for the birds will not be without its moral impressions upon the hearts of your children. It will teach them many a humane lesson as they grow up, and save them from habits of cruelty, which often begin in destroying the eggs and young of birds. Smooth-barked trees, unscathed with the wounds of insects, and smooth-skinned fruits, will keep company with children of fair characters, unspotted with vice.—*American Agriculturist*.



FISH AS FOOD.—There is much nourishment in fish, little less than in butcher's meat, weight for weight; and in effect it may be more nourishing, considering how, from its softer fibre, fish is more easily digested. Moreover, there is, I find, in fish—in sea-fish—a substance which does not exist in the flesh of land-animals, viz., iodine—a substance which may have a beneficial effect on the health, and tend to prevent the production of scrofulous and tubercular diseases, the latter in the form of pulmonary consumption, one of the most cruel and fatal with which civilized society, and the highly educated and refined, are afflicted. Comparative trials prove that in the majority of fish the proportion of solid matter—that is, the matter which remains after perfect desiccation, or the expulsion of the aqueous part—is little inferior to that of the several kinds of butcher's meat,

game, or poultry. And, if we give our attention to classes of people—classed as to quality of food they principally subsist on—we find that the ichthyophagous class are especially strong, healthy, and prolific. In no class more than that of fishers do we see larger families, handsomer women, or more robust and active men, or a greater exemption from the maladies just alluded to.—*Dr. Davy's Angler and his Friend*.

A FEAT IN CHEMISTRY.—During the recent lecture delivered by Professor B. Stillman, Jr., in New York, he solidified gas. This was effected by bringing sulphuric acid in contact with carbonate of soda, in a strong iron vessel, capable of resisting an expansive pressure of *thirty-four atmospheres*, or 510 pounds to an inch! Professor Stillman stated that this experiment has been given up entirely in France, in consequence of the bursting of several iron vessels, by which several persons had been killed. But he stated that the iron vessels used on this occasion, had never been known to burst, and the experiment was considered not at all dangerous.

AN INGENIOUS INVENTION.—An inventive genius, desirous of promoting the domestic rearing of hens, has invented a contrivance to keep them from scratching up the garden. It is a small instrument, somewhat resembling a very long spur attached to the hind part of a hen's leg. The instrument is so arranged, that when the hen is about to scratch the earth, the spur catches in the ground before her foot has fairly descended, and obliges her to bring the foot down quietly and harmlessly a little in front of the place which she has aimed at. The hen thereupon tries the other foot, with a like result. She keeps on trying, and before she is aware of it, the machine has *walked her right out of the garden!* This will be just the thing when the "hen fever" returns.—*American Country Gentleman*.

WONDERS.—Two eggs, 3 table spoonful of sugar, 3 of cream, and as much flour as you please. To be fried.

Our Poultry Show.*(Continued from page 283.)*

His advice was attended to, and the business went on peaceably. Rules were adopted, and the prize list was the next. This passed pleasantly enough; every member sticking for liberal sums for the particular breed he preferred; but when the total was announced of one hundred and ten pounds, there was a silence.

"What," said Cautious to the visitor, "are the profits of a show?"

"Payment for pens, admission money, and the sale of catalogues."

"And what are the expenses beside the prize list?"

"The hire of a proper building, advertising, judges, police, food and feeders, and incidentals."

"Gentlemen," said Desponding, "I do not see how it can pay. I wish we could ascertain the probable loss. How is it to be met?"

"What a croaker you are!" said Rash; "I tell you there will be none."

"But what proof have you for your assertion?" continued Desponding.

"Just the same," retorted Rash, "that you have for yours."

But the prize list was agreed to; it was settled in what papers the show should be advertised, and the days were fixed for it.

The visitor was asked to give them any information he could on a proper division of the committee for their labours. He explained the duties of the secretary, at which that gentleman fidgetted a great deal; he then advised that they should divide in parties, one to receive and unpack the birds, others to pack up and send them away; some to attend the show daily, to superintend the feeding, to take charge of the sale office, and to be constantly on the spot if wanted.

Hot, Rash, and Sanguine, said it would be better to hire proper people.

Cool and Cautious said that would add to expense.

"And to our responsibility," said Desponding.

The committee, however, made the necessary divisions, and were about to separate, when Sanguine reminded them they had not settled what cups they would give. This raised a violent discussion; some would have them, some would not; some would give them to collections, some to classes. It was at last referred to Visitor, who advised that, under certain restrictions, they should be given to collections. The meeting thanked him, and they separated.

I will not follow them through the many meetings that took place between this and the period of the show. They worked tolerably well, the only exceptions being that Sanguine and two or three others were constantly fretted by Cautious, who asked at every meeting where the money was to come from, and Desponding, who always anticipated a wet week.

There was a long discussion as to whether a tent or building should be hired. Cautious said the first was cheapest, and Desponding was about to second him, when Hot reminded him of his forebodings of the weather. Quarrelsome had long ceased to attend the meetings, although he remained a member, and Conceited was still assuring them while he did nothing, that when the time came they would find men equal to anything in their own body. His share of the work and discussion was to raise his eyebrows, smile, shrug his shoulders, and pooh, pooh the weaker members.

The market house was fitted up for the exhibition, and then might the Secretary be seen, day after day, in an uncomfortable corner, dignified with the name of office. He was hardly to be recognised; he was pale, thin, and care-worn, but his courage and will were both good. Cautious and Cool objected to every nail and plank on the score of expense. Desponding assured the contractor he would never be paid, and Quarrelsome had threatened every one on the premises. Yet the work went on well.

When the time came for receiving the birds the committee, like most others, finding there was really work to be done, set

to it manfully, and the first day found them early at their posts. They breakfasted together, and all the old disagreements were forgotten in the excitement. Desponding even joked; Cautious and Cool were elated, and Conceited said he had always told them they had superior men among them.

So pleasant was the meal, that I am disposed to think it would have grown into a late hour of the day if the arrival of a huge waggon laden with baskets had not recalled them to their position.

"Now, Gentlemen," said Sanguine, "to work."

"Come along," said Rash and Hot, "half an hour will do it all."

"Time enough," said Cautious.

"We shall hardly be ready," said Desponding.

"It is nothing," said Conceited.

"Let us begin by unpacking the first class," said Cautious.

"Agreed!" said all.

This was the beginning of annoyances. The first twenty baskets belonged to as many different classes.

"What fools exhibitors are," said Hot.

"They are not men of system," said Conceited.

"I was afraid the beginning was too pleasant to last," said Desponding.

"Let us rather do our best than make matters worse," said Conciliating.

Many of the committee, although they were not appointed to this particular work, had joined their brethren, and were anxious to assist; but unpacking live poultry is not among the pleasantest tasks of life, and as they got warm and dirty at the work, they disappeared, one by one, and only the regular men were left. As waggon after waggon appeared at the doors, their courage fell. Jokes were dropped among them, short questions were asked, and were answered in monosyllables.

Quarrelsome had done his best to fall out, but as no one answered him, he left. Hot and Sanguine were tired, completely worn out. Conceited said it was not a fit

task to impose on a man of mind and system, and employed himself in directing Cool, Cautious, and Desponding, who went quietly on, and did most of the work.

By the evening all was done, and the committee met in full strength to survey their work. They had a glorious show, and everything was in its place. The timid members forgot their anxieties and forebodings; they were pleased with the encomiums passed on their exertions, and the evening was one of the pleasantest they had passed since the show was projected.

The judges they had invited walked round with them, and after they had pronounced the arrangements perfect, all separated satisfied with their labours. The first act was over. The judges were to get through their labours in the morning, and the public was to be admitted in the afternoon.

(To be Continued.)

THE WEATHER.—A letter from Birmingham says, "On Tuesday morning, the 29th of May, at nine o'clock, the temperature, as indicated by the thermometer, was two degrees colder than on the 1st of January at the same hour; the thermometer being in the same situation at both periods."

General Regulations of the Royal Agricultural Society.

MEETING AT CARLISLE DURING THE WEEK COMMENCING JULY 23RD.

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 of all certificates sent to him one week before the 1st of June, and the receipt of all others as soon afterwards as the pressure of business at that time will permit.

3. CAUTION.—In order to prevent disappointment, all persons intending to become exhibitors of live stock, cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, or farm poultry, at the Carlisle 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, free of charge, on or before the 1st of June, 1855. No answers to enquiries will be transmitted by electric telegraph.

4. Non-members will be required to pay ten shillings on each certificate for cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs, and five shillings on each certificate for poultry before obtaining orders for the admission of their animals into the show-yard. This payment must be made to the secretary on or before the 1st of June. No member of the society who is in arrear of subscription will be allowed to make an entry until his subscription shall have been paid.

5. The name and residence (when known) of the breeder of each animal entered for exhibition, should be stated.

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. In all cases the age of the animal is to be computed from the day of its birth, excepting in the case of horses, when the year only will be required.

7. The same animal cannot be entered in two classes for the general prizes of the society.

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.

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 23rd of July, and must all be in the yard by four p.m. on Tuesday the 24th of July: 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 27th 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.

15. Exhibitors of stallions (which have been allowed to leave the show-yard for the night) will be required to have them brought back to the yard every morning during the *whole period* that the exhibition lasts.

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. Stallions may be removed for the night, upon permission obtained from the director or the stewards of the cattle-yard.

GENERAL RULES.

18. *Caution.*—In order to prevent disap-

pointment, all persons intending to become exhibitors of live-stock, cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, or farm poultry, at the Carlisle 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, 1855.

19. No animal which has won a first prize in any class at a previous meeting of the society, will be allowed to compete for a similar prize at the meeting at Lincoln.

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.

23. 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.

24. Exhibitors of stallions (which have been allowed to leave the show-yard for the night) will be required to have them brought back to the yard every morning during the *whole period* that the exhibition lasts.

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 cer-

tificate 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:—1. The death of the animal or animals, or 2, contagious or infectious disease, or 3, unavoidable injury, sufficient to prevent such stock from being exhibited. All persons who shall neglect to pay in due course the stated fines incurred for such non-exhibition, shall be debarred from exhibiting at the future country meetings of the society.

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; such protests must 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 no protest will 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.

—◆—
We feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

THE HEN MOUSER.

SIR,—If you think the following worthy of notice, perhaps you will insert it in your useful periodical.

I have a large imported Spanish Hen in my yard; about five weeks ago she became crop-bound, refused her food, and seemed very ill. I have from time to time lost birds from being crop-bound. This time I was determined to open the crop and save the bird, if possible. I made an incision rather more than an inch long, and very carefully removed a large hard mass; it proved to be a mouse imbedded in other food. I sewed up the crop with fine silk, gave the hen a dose of castor oil, and kept her by herself for a fortnight, feeding her upon bread soaked in warm milk, gradually bringing her to her usual diet. She is now quite well, and running with her companions.—I am, sir, yours, &c.

June 1, 1855.

J. D. S.

BORROWING FOWLS FOR EXHIBITION.

SIR,—In your very excellent publication, of May 16, a letter appears, signed "Scrutator,"

purporting a disreputable system which your correspondent appears to *have very good reason* to suppose was practised to a great extent, and with success at the late Newcastle poultry show, amongst parties in that neighbourhood, viz. that of borrowing and lending fowls, &c., &c., more especially Spanish, to make up a good pen for exhibition, the party or parties entering them as *bonâ fide* property. I beg to say that I consider "Scrutator's" letter not only calculated to prove injurious to future poultry shows at Newcastle, but also throws considerable discredit upon the late *successful competitors*. Such a system is no doubt a great evil. I for one shall be exceedingly pleased to find "Scrutator" taking up the matter more definitely, and that the evil be treated as a physician would a dire disease, by applying a safe and speedy remedy. Not wishing to trespass upon your time or space, I trust I may take the liberty of reminding "Scrutator" that as there were more *successful exhibitors in the Spanish class* that one, that his insinuations are equally calculated to discredit *all* the prize-takers, and thereby, in all probability, causing the innocent to suffer for the guilty.—I remain, sir, your constant reader, &c.

June 1, 1855.

SECOND PRIZE.

AYLESBURY DUCKS.

SIR,—I have not been able to get my Aylesbury Ducks to sit, and they have laid very sparingly. Last year two of them reared two broods each; they are four years old this spring; they are shut up till the middle of each day, and the eggs remained untouched till they were spoilt,—the fresh ones are now regularly taken. Can any of your subscribers tell me how I must manage them? If so, they will greatly oblige
C. R.

[We would give the ducks more liberty, (letting them out early in the morning), and giving them a little warm food—barley meal mixed and given warm, fried oats warm, or grains from the brew-house warm repeated every day until they begin to lay. We would never shut in ducks in the morning, except just mornings enough to accustom them to use the nests, when there is danger of the eggs getting lost from the ducks laying astray.—ED.]

NEST EGGS.

SIR,—In regard to your nest eggs, I beg to give my testimony in their favour most decidedly. All poultry-keepers know the utility of a nest egg, and poor have hitherto been the attempts at supplying a good article. I have tried almost every material—glass, chalk, and white wood. The last were best; but the fault was they were

scraped out of the nest by the hen, and became contaminated with dirt in time; thus breeding disease. Your eggs, on the contrary, remain in the nest, and can be readily whitewashed or coloured, and made equal to new.

I consider your capital invention has supplied a great desideratum in the poultry world. Yours very truly,
F. A. P.
Colchester, May 21, 1855.

[We have been requested to insert the above letter relating to Mr. Churchill's nest eggs, of which we expressed our approbation in a former number.—ED.]

THE POULTRY PEN AND CRATE.

SIR,—I find, with others, who make similar attempts with a view to publication, that it is not quite easy to state what the exact price of my "crate-pen" would be.

There would be variations, not considerable, but enough to render any such statement unsatisfactory. According to such things as the strength of the pen itself, the roughness or finish of the crate, &c., I have, therefore, thought better not to make the attempt at present; but should I have the means of a more definite statement at any future time, I shall not fail to forward it for insertion in your pages.

I will only add that the plan involves nothing which is not of the simplest and cheapest kind, both as to materials and as to construction. The advertisement as to the models appeared in the last number. I am your faithful and obedient servant,
FRANCIS TRENCH.

Southern Hill, Reading.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THE scarcity of poultry has increased rather than otherwise. The supply is far below the demand, and the prices realised are such as have been unknown for years. It is an incomprehensible anomaly, that when every one keeps poultry it is much scarcer than when only the regular dealers and breeders kept it. Thousands of fowls kept now for prize takers, and which will not succeed in doing so, will be killed in the winter because they are in the way, whereas now they would make highly remunerative prices.

Large Fowls	8s.	0d.	to	12s.	0d.	each.
Smaller do.	7s.	0d.	to	8s.	6d.	"
Inferior do.	5s.	6d.	to	6s.	0d.	"
Chickens	5s.	6s.	to	6s.	0d.	"

Inferior do.	4s.	0d.	to	4s.	6d.	"
Goslings	7s.	0d.	to	7s.	6d.	"
Ducklings	5s.	0d.	to	5s.	6d.	"
Quails	2s.	3d.	to	2s.	6d.	"
Rabbits	1s.	6d.	to	1s.	8d.	"
Leverets	3s.	6d.	to	5s.	0d.	"
Plovers' Eggs, in bulk,	6s. per dozen.					"

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

THE supply of corn at Mark Lane during the week ending May 26th, was unusually abundant, especially in foreign wheat and oats. On the 28th, the English provision was rather less than of late; nevertheless, with fine weather and plenty of foreign, the trade was excessively dull, and fully 1s. lower, or more, for all descriptions; the same concession being made on newly-arrived foreign cargoes, which must principally go to store. Extra fine parcels remain held at high rates. Flour also was more plentiful. The trade was entirely without activity.

	BRITISH.	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white		77 to 85
" " red		70 .. 77
" Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red ..		70 .. 76
BARLEY, Maltng, new		32 .. 33
" Chevalier		34 .. 36
" Distilling		31 .. 34
" Grinding		31 .. 33
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new ..		65 .. 70
" " old		66 .. 70
" Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new ..		68 .. 73
" " old		68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed		26 .. 27
" " potato		27 .. 30
" Scotch feed, new		29 .. 30
" " old		33 .. 34
" " potato		33 .. 34
" Irish feed, white		25 .. 28
" " black		24 .. 26
RYE		40 .. 43
BEANS, Mazagan		38 .. 42
" Ticks		39 .. 44
" Harrow		39 .. 44
" Pigeon		42 .. 49
PEAS, White, boilers		42 .. 47
" Maple		40 .. 42
" Grey		37 .. 40
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs. ..		65 .. 70
" Households, town		65 .. 66
" " country		56 .. 60
" Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship		52 .. 56

On Wednesday, May 30th, English wheat sold quite as well as on Monday. Foreign importers are firm, and do not

press; buyers only take from hand to mouth. Floating cargoes: good sorts of Saide and Baheira are well bid for, but the inferior and doubtful must be consigned away for owners' account, unless sellers give way in price. Indian corn scarce and wanted, but difficult to procure near at hand. Barley in good request, with the turn in favour of sellers. Malt and peas without alteration. Egyptian beans off the coast inquired for, and continental buyers have outbid the English of late. Dealers in oats having supplied themselves freely out of late heavy arrivals of foreign, took but sparingly to-day, at rather less money. Irish are unmanageable and comparatively neglected.

PRICE OF BREAD IN LONDON.

THE prices of wheaten bread in the Metropolis are from 10d. to 10½d.; and household ditto, 8½d. to 9½d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

To Correspondents.

H. F. would be glad to know the result from Zena's Hamburg hen's sitting, and also, at some future time, to know if she rears her chicks. *H. F.* has known some Golden Hamburgs sit and do no good.

Clara.—We never tried rye for poultry; if any of our readers have, we shall be much obliged if they will inform us for Clara's information, if they thought it good food. Buck-wheat is much used in France, and is very good for a change.

Procidencia Uteri: J. R. B.—The complaint, or accident, from which the poor hen is suffering, was judiciously treated by Martha, who described the case of her fowl in the "Poultry Chronicle," No. 39. The fowl was separated and kept apart, and the part affected was bathed with alum and water (used cold) twice every day. We should give her food which is strengthening, but not stimulating, and that which is least likely to encourage laying.

C. S. F.—We were much obliged for the schedule, a copy of which we had not received before.

Second Prize.—We find we can best answer our correspondent's queries about the Royal Agricultural Show by giving the general regulations.

Zena's communication next week.

Advertisements.

THE DORSETSHIRE ASSOCIATION for the IMPROVEMENT of DOMESTIC POULTRY will hold its Annual Exhibition at Dorchester, on the 24th and 25th of October next.

Forms of entry will shortly be issued, and further particulars announced.

SERAI TÁOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan, A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 2s. the Dozen.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from Gray Pea-Combed mature birds, at 2s. the Dozen.

A few good **COCHIN HENS** at a moderate price. Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

EGGS FOR SETTING, (prices reduced from 1st of May,) all Warranted from really High Bred and First-rate Birds of all Breeds:

Dorkings, Brahma Pootra (Pencilled and Light), Spanish (Rake's), Cochins, Buff and White, Hambros, Gold and Silver Pencilled and Spangled; Polish and Bantams.

Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers.

Pheasants and Partridges' eggs in any numbers.

All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.

JOHN BAILY, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

FOWLS BY JOHN BAILY.—The Plainest, Most Useful, and Practical Treatise of the day, containing a chapter on the Bramah Pootra Fowl, the Third Edition of "The Dorking Fowl" and Rules for the Selection and Management of Exhibition Poultry. Price 2s., or post free, 2s. 6d.—113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, or Messrs. Simpkin & Co., Paternoster Row.

THE REGISTERED PORTABLE POULTRY EXHIBITION PEN.—The inventor of the above-named Poultry Pen invites the attention of Committees of Poultry Associations to his invention (see "Poultry Chronicle" of May 9), and will be happy to communicate with them on application as to terms of hire, &c. Address, Mr. JOSEPH COOKE, Head Street, Colchester.

N.B. One of the Pens is on view at Mr. J. Baily's, 113, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POULTRY ASSOCIATION will hold its Third Annual Exhibition at Southwell on the 19th and 20th of December next. Prize Lists and any further information can be obtained on application to **RICHARD HAWKLEY,** Jun., Hon. Secretary, Southwell, Notts.

FOR SALE, a very handsome White Cochins China Cockerel, 10s; one Golden Pencilled Hamburg Cockerel, two Pullets, hatched in 1854, and one Hen, 5s. each. The Cockerel cost very nearly the amount asked for the four. Eggs for sale during the season, from splendid Golden Spangled Bearded Polands, 6s. for thirteen, package included. The cock is not related to the hens. Sent out in rotation of orders. Post-Office Order payable at Barnstaple. Apply to **HUMPHREY SEWORTHY,** St. John's Cottage, Newport, Barnstaple, Devon.

MR. THOMAS J. R. SMITH having taken a first-class prize for the Gold Spangled Hamburg Fowls, can part with EGGS at 10s. the setting of thirteen: if not genuine may be returned, as also the money will be to the party buying. **MR. THOMAS J. R. SMITH,** Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

SOVEREIGN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. 49, St. James's Street, London.
Established 1845.

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This Office, the new income of which was doubled during the last year, presents the security of a large paid-up capital; moderate premiums for home and foreign risks; no stamp duty is charged; and all policies are declared indisputable.

The last Bonus added four-fifths of the premium paid to some of the participating policies.

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Prospectuses and other information will be furnished on application to

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FOR POULTRY HOUSES.—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.

TO EXHIBITORS.—An amateur has for disposal Two first-class Shanghai Cock Birds, as he has no hens of sufficient merit to match the same. One bird is a White Cochin of rare beauty, and is wonderfully hocked and booted; the other is a Partridge coloured bird, with pure black breast, and the other essential characteristics. Both specimens are bred from prize winners at the Birmingham, Surrey Gardens, and Colchester Exhibitions. For further particulars apply to Mr. THOMAS FAIRHEAD RAYNE, Braintree, Essex.

PIGEONS.—A Diagram or Plan of fitting up a Pigeonary in a room, Aviary, or place, &c.; price 2s., by the author of the "Almond Tumbler"; also the author of the "Treatise on the Art of Breeding and Managing all the known tame domesticated and Fancy Pigeons," with seven exquisitely engraved coloured portraits large as life, price 10s. post free.—Published by, and to be obtained of the Author, JOHN MATTHEWS EATON, 7, Islington Green, London. Money Orders payable at 86, Upper Street, Islington.

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The Right Hon. Lord de Mauley.
Sir Claude Scott, Bart. | Henry Pownall, Esq.
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M.D. | Charles Farebrother,
T. M. Batard, Esq. | Esq., Ald.
J. P. Bathurst, Esq. | Charles Osborn, Esq.

The following extract from the report just issued will illustrate the prosperous condition of this office.

"The year which closed on the 9th of October last has proved, notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages with which it has been attended, one of the most successful in the experience of the office.

"The Directors have, during that period, received 424 proposals for the assurance of £225,600, the new annual income on which would have exceeded £7,500. Of these proposals 295 have been completed, assuring £124,790, and £4,374 5s. 10d. have been received for new premiums.

"These items, when compared with the business of the preceding year, display an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

"While the income of the Company has thus received so large an accession, the office has only been called on, during the same period, to pay £1,663 19s. 10d. for claims, a sum which bears a remarkably small proportion to the mortality which might justly have been anticipated. This feature in the career of the company has thus been maintained to the ninth year, and the Directors trust that such a fact evidences the care with which the business of the office has been invariably conducted."

The office presents:—

The security of a large paid-up capital.

Very moderate rates for all ages, especially young lives.

No charges whatever, except the premium.

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Prospectuses, copies of reports, forms, and every information can be obtained at the office, 49, St. James's Street, London.

HENRY D. DAVENPORT, Sec.
Agents wanted.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 17s. 4d.; half-yearly, 8s. 8d.; quarterly, 4s. 4d.; payable in advance.

Printed by William Bradbury, of No. 13, Upper Woburn Place, in the Parish of St. Pancras, and Frederick Mullett Evans, of No. 27, Victoria Street, in the Parish of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, both in the county of Middlesex, Printers, at their Office in Lombard Street, in the Precinct of Whitefriars, in the City of London, and Published by them at No. 11, Boulevard Street, Fleet Street; to whom all Orders and Advertisements must be addressed, and Post-office Orders made Payable. Wednesday, June 6, 1855.

The Poultry Chronicle:

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HOMESTEAD.

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Poultry Shows.

Thorne Cattle, Implement, and Poultry Show, June 20th. Secretary, R. S. Jewison, Esq. Entries close June 13th.

Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire, at Hull, June 27th. Secretary, B. L. Wells, Esq., Bishop's Lane, Hull. Entries close, June 20th. (No. 65.)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries are closed. (No. 52.)

Devon and Exeter, on Northernhay, Exeter; June 28th and 29th. Secretary, T. W. Gray, Esq. Entries closed June 11th.

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries are closed (No. 57.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at Boston, Thursday, July 26. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close Wednesday, July 11th. (No. 64.)

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Malton, August 1st and 2nd. Secretary, J. Hannam, Esq., Kirk-Deighton, Wetherby. Entries close July 18th.

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th. (No. 67.)

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

Isle of Wight, at Ryde, August 21st and 22nd. Secretaries, J. Vaux, Esq., and G. Locke, Esq. Entries close August 7th.

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Heckmondwike (near Leeds) Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Show, including Poultry, and Cottagers' Pigs, Tuesday, August 28. Secretaries, J. Kelly, and F. Brearly, Esquires. Entries close August 13th.

Anerly, August 28th, 29th, and 30th.

Keighly Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighly. Entries close Saturday, August 25th.

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 25th.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

THERE are circumstances in life which by their naked, and we had almost said their cruel truth, compel us to abate something of our pretensions, and to sink our importance. A man reads an essay on some prevailing mistake, sapiently shakes his head, admits the force of the arguments used, shuts the book, and deliberately continues the error he has just condemned. Readers too often apply unpalatable truths to all *but* themselves.

This is our case. It is now nearly fifteen months since we undertook to overlook, enlighten, and direct the poultry world. We thought we had succeeded, and believe in many cases we have, but

we are bound to admit in one we have signally and utterly failed. Either everyone does not read the "Chronicle," or some are indifferent to our advice. We noticed at this time last year that poultry was then exorbitantly dear; that a more than remunerative price was to be had for young fowls, and while we pointed out the proper method of supplying the market, we imagined our efforts would be perceptible in an increased supply, and in numerous letters of thanks from those who turned our advice into gold. Nothing could be more vain. Our anticipated usefulness is imperceptible. The markets are worse supplied than ever. We have preached without effect.

Our correspondent who supplies the weekly report of Leadenhall Market has been thought to quote imaginary prices, but those who have endeavoured to buy a first-rate fowl in London have found to their cost he was correct. In the country such a thing was not to be had at any price. It may appear, then, we are asking for that which does not exist, but it is not so. In almost every yard there are birds not fit for exhibition, which must be killed for the table sooner or later; these should be sent to London. The poultry world may be divided into two classes:—those who breed for exhibition and amusement only, and those who love the pursuit, but are willing to take the trouble to make it pay, and will not like it less if it yield a profit. Fortune is proverbially blind, and the greatest gain will often, unsought and unwished, attend the first-class. Their birds are successful, and prohibitory prices will not save them. Their eggs are sought

at great prices, and they are compelled to sell them. While the second class envies this result, it neglects a slower but a steadier and more secure return. As both these classes wish for success, they will neglect no means to secure it. They must breed early birds, and however good the parent stock may be, all the produce will not be perfect. From these, then, the best should be selected, and all the rest fed and despatched to market. The only necessary qualifications are youth and moderate fatness. All the chickens hatched after Christmas, and even a little before, are young certainly up to June, and all the fat necessary will be attained by a little extra feeding for three weeks. For the last two months such would have made at least £3 the dozen, if of any white-legged breed. Black and yellow legs are drawbacks, but in seasons of scarcity like this, even they tell well. The most valuable property is youth. How many are there who have the opportunity and the inclination, but dare not incur the expense of indulging it. To such we address ourselves.

With the care that one member in every family is *happy* to bestow on the feathered pets, chickens can always be raised in January, indeed, of late years this month has been more propitious than the two following ones. These birds are sure to pay a good profit, and to realise a large price in May. The best may be selected for exhibition or stock, and the others will more than pay the expenses attending them. Let us not be misunderstood, it is only in the spring months that such a return can be depended upon. We do not hold out the hope of any but an ordinary

and perhaps not a satisfactory result in the autumn. Early fowls should be sent to London, late ones sold or eaten at home. We have often pointed out all that is necessary. They should be killed, picked clean, and consigned to a salesman at Leadenhall Market. We will close the subject with one word more. Those who will not take the trouble, or do not care for the profit, may help many a struggling man with a large family, or many a lone widow, by the gift of some eggs in the winter, and the advance of some meal for the chickens.

It is almost impossible the spring prices of late years can continue without calling attention to the subject, and when it is known a few good fowls are to be had, buyers will go after them. We earnestly desire it may be so, and that we may cease to hear that now every one keeps poultry, the markets are worse supplied than when apparently no one kept it.

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PRESS of matter this week prevents us from giving the details, or publishing the prize list of the Anerly show. But as it comes before the poultry world with unexampled liberality, and under the most distinguished auspices, we cannot refrain from noticing it. It will be held in gardens of great beauty, and the prize list, including eleven silver cups, of the value of fifteen, ten, and five guineas each, will exceed £300 in amount. The president, vice-president, and trustees, are all noblemen and gentlemen of high standing in society. Every arrangement is on a liberal scale. The gardens are within a stone's throw of the Crystal Palace. Excursion

trains will run during the days of exhibition, at very low prices, and put down visitors at the gardens.

We lack a building in London for an exhibition of poultry: this then must be ours. For a few shillings, a day may be spent in lovely gardens, supplied with seats, shady walks, and arbours of every sort. Add to this a poultry show worthy we hope of the metropolis, and we think there is no doubt exhibitors and visitors will vie with each other in supporting those gentlemen who have undertaken the task of conducting it, for the love of the pursuit.

The gardens are of great extent, and will present the novelty, that when tired of looking at the poultry, there is every accommodation for resting. Several hours may thus be passed without fatigue. The band of the Artillery will perform in the gardens during the day, and there will be first and second class refreshment rooms.

We think a delightful day is offered at little cost, even to those (if there be such), who take no delight in poultry. It will be held on the 28th, 29th, and 30th August.

The Poultry Yard.

JUNE 13.

THIS is the season when those who wish their poultry to be profitable, or even self-supporting, should endeavour to realise and lay aside a sum to help them through the increasingly expensive time which will intervene between the present chickenhood, and consequent moderate requirements of the stock, and the degree of maturity which must necessarily arrive before they can be shown and sold.

From all good stocks a certain sum may be made by selling the eggs (from the choicest fowls) which are not wanted at home, and in all stocks, however good, there will be a certain number of chickens which are neither likely to improve the collection at the poultry show, take prizes, or to be purchased to figure in other amateurs' stocks. These cannot do better than feed their more fortunate brothers and sisters by going to market at once. There are many persons who like to keep a few good fowls, to whom a certain sum towards defraying the expense of rearing the chickens is very acceptable, while those to whom the outlay of the most expensive period of the year, *i. e.* from the time the young ones of the stock are three or four months old until they get established in life, is no object, will find equal advantage from culling out all which are not chickens of first-rate promise. For home consumption home-fed, if well-fed, chickens make an agreeable change, and the stock from which they are removed will thrive all the better for being a little thinned. As there is naturally less demand for cocks than for hens, the cockerels especially should be weeded out liberally, fattened, and sent to market, or appointed to grace the table at home.

Three weeks back we enumerated a sufficiently direful catalogue of evils which might possibly interfere between our chickens and success, but we failed to caution fellow amateurs against the youngsters' own greediness and imprudence, an omission of which we were one day reminded by finding a young Brahma looking rather heavy, and refusing to eat; the cause of which proved to be that he had swallowed a whole parsnip. The crop was opened, the parsnip extracted, and the bird is doing very well. Some years back we heard from an amateur, whom we have the pleasure of numbering among our correspondents, that he had lost some chickens from some lucifer matches which had been accidentally dropped: it appears chickens, like rats, are fond of phosphorus, and it, of course, proves to them also poisonous.

As the thermometer stands at 84 in a cool hall, and the heat out of doors is intense, we really think it will not be premature to speak of hot weather, or to remind our readers that poultry of all kinds should be allowed the opportunity of retiring to the shade when they like. To place a poor hen out in the centre of a glowing meadow, with the shelving roof of her coop bringing down the heat upon her head, is something beyond cruel. As far as we can manage it, we give mothers of chickens a few weeks old their liberty during the heat of the day, that they may scratch about to their heart's content, or lie down in the shade, when they and their respective troops prefer rest. In this the dangers to be guarded and watched against are, first, the hens tiring out their own chickens; secondly, ill-using each other's young families.

We once heard a mother of a small family say, "When nurse comes in with the children from a walk, I always look a little after the *next to the baby*; as *baby* is always first looked after, *she may* feel the want of the care she *had*; so I set her on my knee before the fire, and rub her legs, and make her comfortable." Now the youngest broods *must* have the care they want, but those that are turned off by the mothers need care too. We cannot say we *quite* feel confidence in the fine weather yet. If it should become damp and chilly, let the *next to the babies* have their *warm before the fire* in the shape of an extra feed of wheat every now and then, and a good shake-down of sweet hay or straw under their coops, or in any sheltered spot to which they can run when they want rest, safe from the inroads of mother hens of younger chicks, who will not fail to pay them with interest for any offence they may have committed against their little ones.

SUMMARY.—Weed out liberally from the chickens, either to send to market or for home consumption. If practicable, prevent chickens eating injurious substances. Give the fowls the opportunity of seeking shelter. Take care of the chickens next above the youngest broods.

Schedule of the Thorne Cattle and Poultry Show.

THE third annual exhibition of the Thorne Association for the improvement of the breed of horses, beasts, pigs, poultry, pigeons, rabbits, &c., open to all England, will be held in a field, the property of Makin Durham, Esq., opposite the Hall, Ellison Street, on Wednesday, June 20. The entrance is 2s. 6d. in each class, except to cottagers, who enter free. Entries close this day, Wednesday, June 13th.

The prizes for assortments of Farming and other Implements manufactured and exhibited by any one person; Mare and Foal for Agricultural Purposes; Mare and Foal for Coaching; Two-year old Gelding or Filly for Agricultural purposes; ditto, ditto Coaching; Cow in Milk, are £1 for each.

The prizes for pigs are eighteen in number, and vary from £1 to 5s.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.		1st.	2nd.
		s.	s. d.
Cock and two Hens		10	5 0
COCHIN CHINA.			
Cock and two Hens		10	5 0
DORKINGS.			
Cock and two Hens		10	5 0
MALAY.			
Cock and two Hens		10	5 0
GAME.			
Cock and two Hens		10	5 0
POLANDS.			
Black with white crests, Cock and two Hens		10	5 0
Golden, Cock and two Hens		10	5 0
HAMBURGS.			
Silver Spangled, Cock and two Hens...		10	5 0
Golden Spangled, Cock and two Hens		10	5 0
Silver Pencilled, Cock and two Hens..		10	5 0
Golden Pencilled, Cock and two Hens		10	5 0
ANY BREED OR FARM-YARD CROSS.			
Cock and two Hens		10	5 0
EXTRA PRIZES.			
Cock of any breed or cross		10	
Hen, ditto		10	
BANTAMS.			
Golden-laced, Cock and two Hens...		5 0	2 6

BANTAMS, continued.

	1st.	2nd.
	s. d.	s. d.
Silver-laced, Cock and two Hens ..	5 0	2 6
Black, White, or any other colour, Cock and two Hens	5 0	2 6

GEESSE.

Gander and Goose	10 0	5 0
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DUCKS.

Drake and two Ducks	10 0	5 0
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TURKEYS.

Cock and Hen	10 0	5 0
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GUINEA FOWL.

Best pair	5 0	2 6
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RABBITS.

For the best Buck and Doe	5 0
Second best	2 6
For the best Buck	2 6
For the best Doe	2 6

PIGEONS.

For the best pair of Carriers, Crop- pers, Tumblers, Jacobins, Nuns, Trumpeters, Turbits, Fantails ...	5 0 each.
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REGULATIONS.

The Judges will be empowered to withhold any Prizes where there is not sufficient merit, or less than three in each class entered.

The Poultry, &c., must be in the Show Field on Wednesday Morning by 10 o'clock, and remain there until 4 o'clock.

Subscribers of 5s. will have two tickets for the Exhibition.

The Subscriptions are now due, and Subscribers are respectfully solicited to pay the same to the Secretary at their earliest convenience.

Entrance into the Show Field, Non-members 1s. each from 12 o'clock to 2; from 2 o'clock to 4, 6d. each.

From the encouragement received by this Association at their second Exhibition, the Committee have determined to give a larger amount of money for Prizes.

It is generally allowed that these Societies have a beneficial tendency towards promoting the improved breed of Poultry, &c.; it is therefore earnestly requested that all friendly to such Associations will lend their assistance to forward the views of the Committee.

Pens found by the Society, for which a uniform charge of 1s. will be made for entrance.

ROBERT S. JEWISON, Hon. Sec.

Balance of Prizes.

I HAVE long intended to send you a line respecting the proportion, or *disproportion*, of prizes awarded at the various poultry shows to the Spanish and Cochin China breeds, and have at length been stirred up to do so by reading the schedule of prizes for the Nottinghamshire Show. There I find prizes, first and second, to the total value of £3, awarded to Spanish fowls, and £8!! to Cochin Chinas. Surely, sir, it is not necessary to give to each *variety* of a breed the same encouragement that is given to a *distinct breed*, which is the case in three out of the four varieties of Cochin Chinas. (By the bye, why should not *black* Cochin Chinas have second prizes awarded as much as the others?) Spanish fowls exceed Cochin Chinas in beauty, and in *weight* of eggs, and are not addicted to sitting; moreover, the price of the Spanish is as high as ever, whereas the Cochin Chinas sell for a mere trifle, compared with former prices. I know that many breeders, as well as myself, feel the absurdity of this disparity, and it will be a kindness to many if you think proper to notice it.

If the Cochin Chinas have so many prizes, why not give *two more* for Spanish adult birds, and the same for chickens?

HISPANUS.

Crève-cœur Fowls.

RELATIVE to the article on Crève-cœur fowls in your number of 9th May, in which you invite the remarks of your readers, I beg to say that a breed resembling that described by Mr. Vivian was many years ago in the possession of Major Swan, of Grace Park, Dublin (who was remarkable at the time of the Irish rebellion for his capture of Lord Edward Fitzgerald); they were called Normandy fowl, and were reddish cream coloured birds, variously streaked with white and black, longitudinally, stood high on the legs, and had the comb described by Mr. Vivian, which conveyed no idea to me of a cleft heart, but of

the head of an old fallow deer; their eggs were very large and white.

I have seen this breed nearly twenty years ago, in Normandy, of precisely the same colour and appearance as those of Major Swan, also white, generally with a small pendant crest on the back of the head behind the comb. I suspect the name is not derived from Crève-cœur (broken heart) but like the Dorkings, from the town of Crevecoeur in Normandy, which for years prior to the revolution was a place of mercantile celebrity, and from which district the Paris markets were largely supplied. Mr. Samuel Ball, of Liverpool, some years ago had a breed identical in shape of the comb, but smaller in habit; they were brought to him frequently from Messina, in Sicily, by a merchant trading from that port, as the common fowl of the country. They were generally white, but some were streaked with black, as in the other variety mentioned by Mr. Vivian; the hens' combs were like the cocks', and when seen in a cluster had precisely the appearance of a group of stags.

I send you a copy of sketches of front and side view of the cock's head taken from those of Mr. Ball.

R. PALMER WILLIAMS.

[The sketch represents the head of a fowl quite without tuft, with long wattles, and the comb, both in form and comparative size, resembles the horns of the fallow deer.—Ed.]

The Name of Crève-cœur Fowls.

As any information respecting these birds may be at present interesting to the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," I beg to say, that being in conversation with a French gentleman the other day, I enquired respecting the derivation of the name. He smiled at the supposition that it had any reference to the form of the combs, but said he believed they derived their name from Crève-cœur, a village of Normandy. Crève-cœur is a barony, and has also given its name to a breed of horses, which were for-

merly bred there. I hope it will not be expecting too much to ask some fancier or amateur who has visited the Paris show, to give an account of these fowls, as there represented. B. P. B.

Gapes in Chickens.

FROM THE "AMERICAN COUNTRY GENTLEMAN."

It is now a good time to make arrangements for raising chickens. The first step to be taken is to exchange cocks with one of your neighbours. Then be careful that your hens do not commence sitting too early.

Chickens should not come out until the earth is sufficiently warmed to produce slugs, bugs, and worms, to furnish them a moderate supply. The first food given to them should be boiled egg chopped fine; then follow up with milk curd, it being similar to white of egg, boiled. After a few days, wheat-screenings, cracked corn, *dry*, or buckwheat, may be added to their diet, alternating with curd. Keep them in a warm, dry place, with a shallow dish of pure water near. Feed them often, and as they get strength, mix whole corn with their other food, increasing the proportion as they take to it; and when they can fill their crops with corn, you may let the hen have the liberty of the pastures, keeping up the supply of grain at regular intervals.

The above rules, closely adhered to, will prevent gapes, nine times out of ten, at all seasons; and the reverse will induce gapes, just as surely.

It has often been asked whether gapes could be cured, and I would answer, yes! There are different methods of curing chickens of the gapes. All agree that worms in the wind-pipe cause irritation, and the chicken gapes and flirts its head to get rid of them; the more it flirts and gapes the weaker it grows, and the more the worms increase and thrive, until at last, too weak to take its food, it dies.

Some remove the worms by inserting a feather, and twisting it around a few times, draw them forth. Others use tobacco smoke, almost suffocating the chicken, and,

they say, killing the worms. But the best and most efficient cure is one practised by an elderly lady of great experience in chicken-raising. She usually follows the rules first laid down in this article, but occasionally a few of the weaker ones are attacked with this difficulty. They are caught, and if too weak to feed from the dish, are crammed with whole corn, one grain at a time, and out of twelve or fourteen cases in a season, not one is lost. I was induced to try the plan, and occasions being rather more frequent than agreeable, I selected the most desperate, the subject having made numerous ineffectual attempts at picking up its food. There was no difficulty in getting the corn in his mouth, as it was constantly open. It was a slow business, but resulted so favourably that it was repeated three times in two days and saved his life.

My unexpected success induced a thorough examination of the subject, and among the "why's and wherefore's," came up the question of origin. What produced the worm? Was it that peculiar louse of which we hear and read, produced *with* the chicken, and having its home near the nose, propagating its kind by depositing its eggs within the nostril of the chick? Was it the young of the common hen-louse? Was it the egg of some insect picked up by the chick at some certain season of the year, and finding its way to the wind-pipe, hatched there?

Did not that mystery which surrounds the origin of the fluke in the liver of the sheep, and worms in the intestines of children, surround this also?

Now I do not believe that "something" is produced from "nothing," any more than that "cheese" is from "wheat," or apple-trees from quince-seed. But what has research proved as to the origin of intestinal worms, and those that find a home in the liver of the sheep, or wind-pipe of the chicken?

We find by experiment, that a good and sufficient supply of nourishing food enables the chicken to keep off, or where no consti-

tutional difficulty arises, to rally and overcome the disease. But when the system becomes enfeebled from any cause whatever, then this *one* difficulty, or disease of gapes, sets in. No pepper-corns need be thrust down the throat—no turpentine mixed with their food. No corrosive sublimate dropped on their heads, nor oil of tansy put in their food, nor feathers plunged down into their lungs, but one of nature's own remedies furnishes a cure. Food, food—good wholesome food, and a plenty of it.

Bath and West of England Poultry Show.

ALTHOUGH Poultry has shown it can go alone, still it must be admitted, it consorts gracefully with its sister, Agriculture. The farm-yard is well represented where cattle, poultry, roots, seeds, and implements meet together. With these large societies which hold their meetings at different towns within the circle of their operations, there is a joyousness in the fortunate locality, which legitimately pervades the whole class of the inhabitants of the favoured town. The rich receive their friends, and the less fortunate classes reap a harvest in increased trade, and the demand on their accommodations for lodgings, beds, &c.

We were told that, under ordinary circumstances, Tiverton is a nice quiet little town; but it was quite the reverse last week. The streets were planted with trees on either side, and decorated with flags of every colour and nation, bearing also devices expressive of good will and gladness. Bands of music perambulated the town, and every thing spoke of a fête. Beds were at a premium, but the prices asked were not so exorbitant as at some places. On Tuesday evening, the judges and officials were seen, each preceded by a man bearing luggage, wending towards the places where they had been fortunate enough to get beds, and on Wednesday morning, either to inaugurate the day, or to remind these gentlemen that their duties

commenced early, cannon commenced firing about five o'clock. The locality for the poultry exhibition was well chosen, about a mile from the town, in a large meadow, gently sloping to a beautiful valley, and bounded by reeoding hills, rich with all the beauty of summer. The spot was pleasant and luxuriant, as, indeed, is the whole surrounding country.

The good people of Tiverton deserve to be visited; for spite of the influx into the town, there was no incivility or attempt at extortion. They hailed it as a holiday, and it seemed to be one for every body.

Now for the poultry. The object of the committee was rather to get a limited number of good pens than a large show. In imitation, therefore, of Birmingham, they raised the price of their pens. The attempt was successful, and a beautiful exhibition of nearly four hundred pens was the result. As we shall go through the classes in detail, we will now only remark that it seldom occurs there is so much competition, and that the chief prizes are so much scattered over the country at large. The unfavourable nature of the season was exemplified in the paucity of chickens; only sixteen pens were shown, and with the exception of the two first in Dorkings, they were very backward.

Spanish were the first on the list, and here we may make a remark which will hold good with nearly all the classes. With one exception, every pen was a good one, and the difference between first and second was very small. No fowls have improved more than Spanish in the last two years, and the prize-takers of former times would with difficulty now get a high commendation. Mr. Parsley, of Bristol, and Mr. Davies, of Hounslow, took the first and second prizes. The judges felt bound to record this was a good class. There was only *one pen* of Spanish chickens, but they were promising birds, and were considered worthy of a first prize; they belonged to Mr. Buckley, of Llanely. Adult Dorkings now presented a goodly array of very capital birds, and here, too, the well-known

name, which we are glad to see among us again, was successful, with three splendid birds; we mean Mr. Davies, of Hounslow. The second prize went to a very successful exhibitor, Mrs. H. Fookes. Five pens only of Dorking chickens were entered. Two of these were unusually meritorious, and with some difficulty the judges decided between them, awarding the first prize to Mr. Loder, the second to Mr. Davies.

The White Dorkings improve both in numbers and quality. Mr. Symonds, of Gorwell, and Mr. Coleridge, of Ottery, took first and second prizes. Mr. Manfield, of Dorchester, was here highly commended, and took the prize in the next class for chickens.

The Cochins maintain the improvement they showed in 1854, and good birds were plentiful. It is, however, hard to wrest the laurels for this breed from Dorsetshire. Mrs. H. Fookes, of Whitechurch, and Mr. Crane, of Tolpudde, took first and second. Even these hardy birds have failed during the past hard weather. Only *five pens* of chickens were entered; Mr. Rodbard and Capt. Snell took first and second prizes. The difficulty of finding a pen of chickens was proved by the fact that in two of the pens cocks were in the majority. The next class was pronounced an unusually good one, and we hardly recollect seeing so fine a collection of Grouse and Partridge birds. The Rev. G. F. Hodson and Mr. Adkins took first and second prizes, very hard run by a highly commended pen belonging to Lord de Blaquiére. The Rev. G. F. Hodson took the first prize for chickens; Mr. B. Kingdon the second. All the Cochins are improving, except the black. The white made an unusually good appearance. Mr. Cyrus Clarke, and the Rev. Mr. Gandy carried off the prizes for adults, and Mr. Rodbard both for chickens.

The Brahma Pootras were excellent; Mr. Davies took first, Mr. Bush second, and Lord de Blaquiére was again commended for good birds.

The Game Fowls were a show of themselves, and the entries were numerous.

First prizes were taken by Rev. T. L. Fellowes, Mr. Adkins, Mrs. R. Fookes, and Mr. Drake. Second by Messrs J. Symonds, Rodbard, Drake and Farmer. Commendations were very numerous. Among so many good birds, it is hard to single out one pen, or we would say that belonging to Mr. Adkins was of unusual merit.

The exhibitors of Duck Wings will perhaps excuse one word of advice. Many pens seem chosen more for brilliancy of colour than the other points that are desirable in Game fowls. This is a fatal error, as although such birds take the eye, they will not bear handling.

There was a great class of Malays, if quality constitutes greatness. Mr. Leighton and Miss King were successful. There were sixty pens of Hambro's, comprising nearly all the celebrities of this breed. The names will speak for themselves and the birds. Mr. McCann, and Mr. Josiah Chime, took the prizes in Gold Pencilled. Rev. T. L. Fellowes, and Mr. E. Archer, in Silver. Mr. Hugo, and Rev. T. L. Fellowes in Gold Spangled. Mr. J. B. Chime, and Mr. J. Symonds, in Silver. These names form a host. The Black Polands were good, and the prizes went to Messrs. Adkins and Edwards. The Golden-Spangled Polands were more numerous than meritorious. Both prizes went to Mr. Bush, of Clifton. The Silvers had some very good specimens; Mr. Adkins, and the Rev. Mr. Gandy took the prizes. Mr. Davies' Rangoons, and Mr. Fellowes' Black Hambro's, were successful in the various class.

Mr. G. C. Adkins, and Mr. T. H. D. Bayly took the prizes for Gold-Laced Bantams. Mr. Loder second for Silver, the first being withheld. The Black and White were beautiful; Messrs. Adkins and Ballance took first, and Messrs. Maplebeck and Rodbard second.

We now come to one of the best classes we ever saw,—Aylesbury Ducks. Mrs. Ford, of Ide, near Exeter, took both prizes with pens weighing respectively 24½ and 22½ lbs. the three birds. The Rev. J. H.

Gandy was highly commended for a pen weighing 22 lbs.; the average of the six best pens was over 7 lbs. per head. We were told the first prize pen was originally the property of Mr. Davies, of Hounslow, and we believe it has had an unprecedented career of success. Such birds deserve it. Mr. Ballance and Mrs. H. Fookes took the prizes for Rouen Ducks. Mr. Ballance and Mr. Edwards for Buenos Ayres. The former pen was one of the best we ever saw. Mr. Rodbard and Mr. Edwards took the prizes for Turkeys. We have seldom seen two such pens exhibited, and if their present condition can be maintained, a long career of success is before them. It was almost a dead heat between them.

The silver cup for the taker of the largest number of first prizes, was awarded to Mr. Adkins, of Birmingham. Every one will rejoice that such a spirited and respected amateur should have it. No one deserves it better; but as a rule, we think such should be awarded to the largest prize takers in proportion to the number of pens exhibited, not being less than six or eight, as may be decided by the committees.

Nothing could exceed the courtesy and kindness shown by all the gentlemen who took the different arduous offices of stewards, &c., on themselves.

The judges were—Mr. E. Hewitt, Birmingham; Mr. Baily, London.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.—Class 1. 1st prize, D. Parsley, Rock Cottage, Bristol. 2nd prize, H. Davies, Spring Grove House, Hounslow. Highly Commended, J. Babbage, Hooper's Cottage, Paris Street, Exeter; J. R. Rodbard, Aldwick Court, Langford, Bristol. (Very good Class.) CHICKENS.—Class 2. 1st prize, J. Buckley, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire.

DORKINGS, COLOURED.—Class 3. 1st prize, H. Davies. 2nd prize, Mrs. H. Fookes, Whitechurch, Blandford. Highly Commended, J. Pearce, Lower Slewton, Whimple, Exeter; E. Pope, Great Toller, Dorchester. CHICKENS.—Class 4. 1st prize, E. Loder, High Beeches, Crawley. 2nd prize, H. Davies. WHITE.—

Class 5. 1st prize, W. Symonds, jun., Milbourne; H. Andrew, Blandford. 2nd prize, F. J. Coleridge, Ottery St. Mary. Highly Commended.—W. Manfield, jun., Dorchester. (Very good Class.) **CHICKENS.**—Class 6. 2nd prize, W. Manfield.

COCHIN, CINNAMON, BUFF, OR LEMON.—Class 7. 1st prize, Mrs. H. Fookes. 2nd prize, J. Crane, jun., Tolpuddle, Dorset. **CHICKENS.**—Class 8. 1st prize, J. R. Rodbard. 2nd prize, Captain Snell, St. Swithin's Lane, London. **DARK.**—Class 9. 1st prize, Rev. G. F. Hodson, North Petherton, Bridgwater. 2nd prize, G. C. Adkins, West House, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Highly Commended, Lord de Blaquiere, Heath House, Petersfield, Hants. **CHICKENS.**—Class 10. 1st prize, Rev. G. F. Hodson. 2nd prize, B. Kingdon, Upper Paul Street, Exeter. **WHITE.**—Class 11. 1st prize, C. Clark, Street, Glastonbury. 2nd prize, Rev. J. H. Gandy, Old Cleve, Taunton. **CHICKENS.**—Class 12. 1st and 2nd prizes, J. R. Rodbard. **BLACK.**—Class 13. 2nd prize, C. Clark.

BRAHMAS.—Class 14. 1st prize, H. Davies. 2nd prize, R. H. Bush, Littfield House, Clifton. Commended, Lord de Blaquiere.

GAME.—**WHITE AND PILES.** Class 15. 1st prize, Rev. T. L. Fellowes, Brighton Rectory, Acle, Norfolk. 2nd prize, J. Symonds, Gorwell, Dorchester. **BLACK-BREASTED AND OTHER REDS.**—Class 16. 1st prize, G. C. Adkins. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard. Highly Commended. W. Buncombe, Taunton; Nathan N. Dyer, Manor House, Bredon; G. C. Adkins, E. Farmer, Greet, Spark Brook, Birmingham. (Very good class.) **DUCKWINGS AND OTHER GREYS AND BLUES.**—Class 17. 1st prize, R. Fookes, Milton Abbas. 2nd prize, W. V. Drake, Lockwood, Huddersfield. Highly Commended.—W. Buncombe. Commended.—J. R. Rodbard, in two pens.—**BLACKS AND BRASSY-WINGED.** 1st prize, W. V. Drake. 2nd prize, E. Farmer.

MALAYS.—Class 19. 1st prize, J. Leighton, 183, High Street, Cheltenham. 2nd prize, Miss King, Pyland Hall, Taunton. Highly Commended, J. Leighton.

HAMBURGS, GOLDEN PENCILLED.—Class 20. 1st prize, T. M'Cann, Graham House, Malvern. 2nd prize, J. B. Chune, Coalbrookdale. Highly Commended.—J. Marshall, Belmont, Taunton. Commended.—Rev. L. Gidley, Honiton; Rev. T. L. Fellowes. **SILVER PENCILLED.**—Class 21. 1st prize, Rev. T. L. Fellowes. 2nd prize, E. Archer, Malvern. Highly Commended.—Miss

S. H. Northcote, Upton Pyne, Exeter. Commended.—J. E. Marshall, Belmont, Taunton, Messrs. Wood and Hollings, Horton, Bradford. **GOLDEN SPANGLED.**—Class 22. 1st prize, W. Hugo, Albert Villa, Albert Terrace, Mount Radford, Exeter. 2nd prize, Rev. T. L. Fellowes. —**SILVER SPANGLED.** Class 23. 1st prize, J. B. Chune. 2nd prize, J. Symonds.

POLANDS, BLACK WITH WHITE CRESTS.—Class 24. 1st prize, G. C. Adkins. 2nd prize, T. P. Edwards, Lyndhurst. **GOLDEN.**—Class 25. 1st and 2nd prizes, R. H. Bush. **SILVER SPANGLED.**—Class 26. 1st prize, G. C. Adkins. 2nd prize, Rev. J. H. Gandy.

ANY DISTINCT BREED NOT NAMED BEFORE.—Class 27. 1st prize, H. Davies (Bangoon). 2nd prize, Rev. T. L. Fellowes (Black Hamburgs). Commended, C. Beach, Shirley, Birmingham (rumpless, single comb with ruffs).

BANTAMS, GOLD LACED.—Class 29. 1st prize, T. H. D. Bayly, Ickwell House, Biggleswade, and G. C. Adkins. **SILVER LACED.**—Class 30. No first prize. 2nd prize, R. Loder. **WHITE.**—Class 31. 1st prize, G. C. Adkins. 2nd prize, J. E. Mapplebeck, Moseley Road, Birmingham. **ANY OTHER VARIETY.**—Class 32. 1st prize, C. Ballance, Mount Terrace, Taunton. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard.

DUCKS, AYLESBURY.—Class 33. 1st and 2nd prizes, Mrs. B. J. Ford, Ide, Exeter. Highly Commended, Rev. J. H. Gandy. (A very good Class.) **ROUEN.**—Class 34. 1st prize, C. Ballance. 2nd prize, Mrs. Henry Fookes. **ANY OTHER VARIETY.**—Class 35.—1st prize, C. Ballance (Buenos Ayres). 2nd prize, C. Edwards, Brockley Court, Somerset (Buenos Ayres).

TURKEYS.—Class 37. 1st prize, E. Edwards, 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard.

Colombary.

NO. XIII. THE TERN OR SEA-SWALLOW PIGEON.

THIS beautiful variety of Toy Pigeon is called by the French "Hirondelle de mer," and by the Germans "Die See Schwalben Taube," or for shortness simply "Schwalben Tauben," which literally means Swallow Pigeon, but as they derive their name from their marking, which resembles that of a small kind of sea gull called a Tern, though known to the French and Germans as a sea

swallow, it follows that the name Swallow Pigeons, as commonly applied to them in this country, is inappropriate, and that the proper English name would be Tern or Gull Pigeon; the Germans also designate them "Feen Tauben" (fairy pigeons) and "Nürnbergger" or "Farben Flügeliche."

Of all the Toy Pigeons (I mean those I have classed as such, in distinction from the Fancy Pigeons, which have many properties), these are, with the exception of the Suabian Spangled Pigeons, the most worthy of the fancier's notice, their decided and beautiful marking and the contrast of their colour placing them in character above the general run of Toys. They are good breeders, about the size of the Dove-house Pigeon, and are equally light and active in their movements, though the feather-footed varieties, which are most esteemed on the continent, are not well adapted to provide their own living, owing to their short and heavily-feathered feet; there are of this sort of pigeon both turned-crowned, and smooth-headed, as well as clean-footed and shod, their necks are short, their heads, breasts, and backs, broad, their ground plumage is white, their marking consists of the scalp, wings, and the slippers in those that are shod being coloured, which in the blue variety resembles the partition of colour in the Tern, the bird before mentioned, from which they derive their name.

Their points of marking are as follows, first the head, the upper mandible should be dark, the lower, light: the scalp or top of the head in a line from the corners of the mouth across the eyes evenly marked, passing round to the back of the head dark, but in those that are turned-crowned the hood must be perfectly white. Secondly, the wings of these should be wholly coloured without any white feathers, but the epaulets or scapular feathers, which lie on the back at the junction of the wings to the body, should be quite white, and as they overlay a part of the wing when closed, it necessarily appears narrow, which is considered a particular point. Thirdly, the feet, if shod, should be thickly covered

with coloured feathers from the heel or hock joint to the toes, but the boots, or as Shanghai fanciers would style it, the vulture hock, must be white.

Herr Gottlob Neumeister, of Weimar, enumerates five sub-varieties, as follows:

1. The black Tern Pigeon, in which the markings are of a beautiful velvety black.
2. The blue Tern Pigeon, the markings of which are clear blue, with regular narrow black bars on the wings, the flight feathers being dark slate coloured.
3. The red Tern Pigeon, the colourings of a fine dark brown-red.
4. The yellow Tern Pigeon, the markings are either bright yellow or buff.
5. The light or wild blue Tern Pigeon, they are light blue on the coloured parts and have no wing bars, their pinions are slate coloured.

All the above varieties are frequently to be met with, with white wing bars, but they are not generally so accurately marked, still more rarely have such fine shell-turned hoods.

In addition to the above I have seen some with dove-coloured markings, also of a kind of lavender colour, and mealies.

This sort of pigeon is becoming somewhat plentiful in this country, though they are of but recent introduction, and they are now frequently exhibited at our shows.

According to M. M. Boitard and Corbie the hooded varieties are considered distinct from the smooth-headed in France, and known by a different name, or at least they are the high fancy of the breed, and are bred with much care and of a small size.

B. P. BRENT.

Home and the Homestead.

SULPHUR AS A MEDICINE.

FARMERS do not properly estimate the value of so simple a medicine as sulphur for their stock. Fed at the rate of one teaspoonful per week to sheep affected with the foot-rot, it will soon cure them, if removed to dry pasture. The way to give it is, to

spread tar about half-an-inch thick over the bottom of a wide trough, mix one part of powdered alum with one part of fine salt, and two parts of sulphur, and scatter this over the tar, to which it adheres, and the sheep will then come and lick it as they desire.

We have known sulphur recommended as good to put into the food of any animal suckling young, to prevent their scouring; and also that young pigs are easily prevented scouring by feeding their dam with a tea-spoonful or so of sulphur every other day for a short time.

It is also said that sulphur will kill lice on cattle, by giving one to three tea-spoonfuls per week in their food for a few weeks. It is supposed the sulphur impregnates the blood, and makes it distasteful or poisonous to the lice, and thus they either drop off and die, or are killed by it. Others contend that sulphur is of little or no value in killing lice. We have never tried sulphur for these purposes, and cannot recommend it, but give these suggestions for what they are worth.

CROPS.

THE granaries of the world are literally exhausted; and it will take at least two seasons of extensive planting and sowing, followed by large yields, to replenish the world, and reduce prices within moderate limits; so the farmers must go forth with confiding hearts and resolute industry, and accomplish all that it is possible for them to do. It will require full four years to replenish the beef market, so scarce and high are cattle. They cannot be brought to maturity in less than that time. Sheep, swine, and poultry mature quicker; yet of these we do not fear any superabundance short of three years' bountiful production; and to neutralise this, there are many causes constantly at work to prevent over-production.

CHLOROFORMING WEEVILS.—One of the editors of the "Washington Union" was present at the Patent Office a few days

since, while experiments were made to destroy weevil in wheat by the use of chloroform. In two or three minutes after a few drops of chloroform had been administered, the insects naturally enough began to exhibit unmistakable symptoms of uneasiness, which proved to be the certain precursors of a quiet, respectable death. It was the opinion of the experimenter, that these destructive insects might be effectually exterminated through the agency of chloroform, and large quantities of fine wheat saved every year. [Would not chloroform be too expensive to be so used?]*—Scientific American.*

NEW VINE DISEASE.—The *Guienne*, a Bordeaux journal, states that another malady has broken out in the vines. It consists of a sort of scab, and has received the name of itch (*gale*). According to some persons, it is an old complaint which has afflicted the vines, though at very rare intervals; and, according to others, it is a modification of the existing malady; but whatever the malady may be, it appears that it has already done great injury. In the commune of Condate, near Libourne, not fewer than 10,000 plants have been killed on one single estate, and have had to be pulled up. A great number of others, less severely attacked, have been cut down, in order to shoot up again. At Pessac, the malady has also appeared, but has not done such great injury. The *Guienne* adds that in the districts of Entredeux-Mers and the Bas Medoc, a small number of vines has also been killed by a malady the precise nature of which has not yet been ascertained. It further states that at St. Macaire the vines have been similarly attacked.

On Bees.

As there is no certain rule by which swarming can be prevented, so there is no infallible indication that it will take place. In consequence of the condition of the hive, the disposition of the bees, or more fre-

quently the state of the weather, and the small collection of honey, the inhabitants are induced to remain in possession of their abode. But this arrangement may not coincide with the views of the bee-master, who is desirous of increasing the number of his stocks. This difficulty is to be overcome by having recourse to the practice of forming artificial swarms, founded on the power possessed by the bees of raising queens from the eggs of workers.

Of all the surprising facts which we meet with in the community of the bees, there is none which equals this power of transforming the egg larva which would have produced a worker into a perfect queen. Until the middle of the last century it was the universal opinion of naturalists that workers were not only sterile but absolutely neuter. The first evidence disproving this supposition was published by Schirach, secretary of the Apiarian Society of Upper Lusatia. His contemporaries, Reaumur, Swammerdam, Riem, Maraldi, seem to have had glimmerings of the truth, such as the discovery even of fertile workers among the common bees, while M. Cuvier thought he had observed minute chaplets in common bees resembling those in the oviducts of queens, confirming the opinion of their being females, whose organisation is not developed. In the earlier part of last century, Warder, a practical observer writes thus, in the "True Amazons, or Monarchy of Bees," "after great pains taken and curious observations made, with the use of the best glasses, I must come to this certain conclusion, that all the working bees are females."

As so often happens, the full confirmation of that fact which was gradually advancing in men's minds, was the result of an accident. Schirach had been using a quantity of smoke for driving bees to the top of their hive, in order that he might cut out the brood, and they were so much annoyed as to depart in numbers unobserved and accompanied by their queen. He sought the neighbourhood in vain for the fugitives; and abandoning the hive as lost for want of

a queen, he resolved to rear a new one by introducing a comb consisting of three kinds of brood, such as that of which he had just deprived them. Next morning, preparing to clean the hives which he had divided on the preceding evening, he observed a cluster of bees the size of an apple, on the prop of the one whose queen had fled. Here he discovered a queen, and having carried her to the entrance of the hive which had lost its own, she was immediately surrounded by the bees, and treated in such a manner as plainly announced that she was their queen. "What was my astonishment," he proceeds, "when, wishing to introduce her among the combs, I saw that the bees remaining, had already planned, and almost finished, three royal cells. Struck with the activity and sagacity of these creatures to save themselves from impending destruction, I was filled with admiration, and adored the infinite goodness of God, in the care taken to perpetuate his works. Having carried away two of the cells to ascertain whether the bees would continue their operations, I beheld next morning, with the utmost surprise, that they had removed all the food from around the third worm left behind, on purpose to prevent its conversion to a queen."

Thus the truth was grasped by the mind of Schirach, who anxiously desired the sanction of the great naturalist Bonnet; this satisfaction, however, he was denied, for Bonnet apparently confounded by a discovery to which there was no analogy in natural history, entreated Schirach not to lower the credit of the society of which he was secretary, by the promulgation of so monstrous an error.

The honour of the establishment of the fact, was reserved for Huber, who conducted his observations according to the suggestions of Bonnet, inviting other naturalists to repeat the experiments of Schirach. Huber entirely confirmed the statements of the latter naturalist, and with the generosity of a noble mind, defends him against the accusation of Monticelli, a metropolitan professor, "of

having borrowed the knowledge from the customs of a small colony inhabiting a rock in the Mediterranean, near the coast of Sicily. Schirach, however, was far from giving himself out as the author of a method practised long anterior to his own time in the country where he lived. Practice has always preceded theory, its success leads to the discovery of the truths whereon it is founded, and acquaintance with these truths in its turn, establishes the wavering advances of cultivators."—*Huber*.

Monticelli says, "that the Greeks and Turks in the Ionian Islands are well acquainted with this practice, and that in the little Sicilian Island of Favignana the art of producing queens has been known from very remote antiquity; he even thinks that it was no secret to the Greeks and Romans, though, as Messrs. Kirby and Spence observe, had the practice been common, it would surely have been noticed by Aristotle and Pliny."—*Bevan*.

Huber again writes, "Schirach began to undermine the opinion of Swammerdam; by repeated experiments he proved that bees at all times can procure a queen to themselves, provided they have comb containing larva three days old in the common cells; whence he concludes that workers are originally of the female sex, and that nothing but certain important conditions, such as a particular kind of food, and more spacious lodgment, are requisite for their conversion to queens. Views so adverse to those generally entertained were received with enthusiasm on the one hand, with distrust on the other. I added new illustrations, along with very convincing proofs of the disputed conversion; but I felt with him, that the establishment of such important facts rested on ascertaining the sex of the workers. I reasoned thus:—Riem's discovery of fertile common bees, which has been confirmed by my own observations, leads me to anticipate that the whole class of workers belong to the female sex. Nature does nothing by leaps. Fertile workers lay none but male eggs—in this resembling queens whose fecundation has been re-

tarded; advancing another step, they may remain absolutely sterile, while they are not the less females originally. Too many valuable properties, too much industry and activity belong to common bees, to permit my concluding them of monstrous conformation. Too many wonders result from their instinct and their structure, to permit my considering them the outcasts of the species, or imperfect beings when compared with queens. Nothing is more repugnant to reason than an actual metamorphosis. We are bound to conclude that this being, which as yet is neither worker nor queen—that the worm, before three days elapse, contains alike the germs of the insect which shall prove industrious, and of the insect susceptible of prodigious fecundity—the germs of the organs of the two animals, the instinct of the common bee, and that of the queen not developed, but capable of being so, according to the mode in which they shall be reared, may operate. In the one case the productive faculties will be repressed, or will remain without being unfolded; in the other the industrial properties will continue in a similar condition."

The admirable deductions of Huber have been attested by most modern bee-keepers; there are few practical apiarists who have not profited by this valuable knowledge, and we shall hope to offer a few hints as to the best method of availing ourselves of it, concluding this paper with an extract from the "Quarterly Review,"—"The workers when they have lost their natural monarch, have the power of converting the grub of one of the common bees into a royal, and consequently prolific, personage. Such an extraordinary assertion, first published by Schirach, though probably known in earlier times, may be supposed to have met with no ordinary opposition, but it has been confirmed by repeated observation and experiment, and is as well attested—thanks to Huber especially—as any such facts can ever be. Being so established, we may assert it to be (without any reservation whatever) by far the most

extraordinary fact ever brought to light in natural history. Fully to comprehend it we must refer our readers to the great differences we stated in the former part of this paper to exist between the workers and the queen, or rather to the more minute anatomical distinctions given by entomological writers, and then they are called upon to believe that, by enlarging the common cells into one, and feeding the worm, not more than three days old, with a peculiar food, richer than the common bee-bread, called from its queen-making qualities "royal jelly," not only is its body lengthened, its wings shortened, its wax pockets and its bread basket, and the down on its legs obliterated, its sting and proboscis altered in shape, its fertility developed, but all its instincts and habits so completely changed, that no difference whatever is observable when it emerges from the cell, from the rightful queens, either in the character and duties it assumes, or in the reverence paid it by the masses. What would not Napoleon, when he assumed the purple, have given for some jars of this "royal jelly!"

BEE-PASTURE.

It is to be feared that far less attention is paid to providing food for our useful industrious pets than should be. We little realise the extent to which bees are gradually being deprived of their usual supplies of food by the progress of improvement in agriculture; now-a-days a farmer's ploughed field, and ere long possibly his pasture land, must be almost as free from weeds as a lady's garden. His tall hedge-rows, too, must all be levelled, and cut and trimmed to pattern, and every tree must be laid low that threatens to shade his growing grain; no wonder, then, when all these natural supplies of the bees' food are being removed, and few or no artificial or rather cultivated ones supplied in their stead, that we often hear our old cottage bee-keepers exclaim, "Ah, sir! bees don't do so well now as they did in years gone by." But let us take a philosophical view of the

subject. I wonder who, in the days of our forefathers ever heard of swedes or mangold wurzel, or rape-cake for their oxen, or barley-meal, &c., for their pigs. The former I expect got little more than the grass of the field, and the latter, perhaps, in addition the acorns, which fell from the oaks. Yet what should we think of the farmer who fed his oxen and swine in this old-fashioned way now, and then complained that they did not do as well as they had used to do. And the two cases are in their bearings precisely similar. The demand upon the farmer for a supply of animal food has increased enormously during the last fifty years, and in order to meet this demand he must in the same ratio increase the produce of his land. The number of bees kept in different parts of our country has, I think we may confidently say not increased but decreased, but I conceive that the supply of food for bees has very much decreased of late years, and it therefore behoves all interested in the subject of bee-keeping to promote in every way the cultivation of such plants and flowers as will produce most bee-food. I hope that some of the readers of the "Chronicle" will be able to give more valuable hints on this subject than I can, but as far as my own experience has gone, I have found nothing so beneficial to cultivate as borage. Two great recommendations in its favour are the easiness of its culture and the length of time it remains in flower. The first sowing should be made in August or September, which will survive the winter, and begin to flower in May or June: a second sowing may be made in March, and a third in the end of April or beginning of May; these latter will continue in flower until cut down by the frosts of winter. The seed may be sown in patches about the size of the top of a hat between the gooseberry and currant bushes in cottage gardens, or if a whole bed can be spared it may be sown in rows about a foot apart. In either case the plants should be thinned in coming up, as two or three in full flower will cover a

square yard. If it is desired to save seed it must be gathered before quite ripe, and put aside for a day or two *not in the sun*. The seed will be nearly black when ripe. If left to get ripe on the plant, it falls to the ground. The seed-pods may with advantage be cut away every day as they are getting ripe, for as long as this is done, the plant will continue to produce fresh flowers until injured by frost. When the old plants are removed, young ones will be found springing up from the seed which has been shed. If these be removed and transplanted in warm sheltered parts of the garden, they will flower early in the summer, and do away with the necessity of an autumn sowing of seed. Sufficient may be gathered from a few plants to supply several gardens, and almost any neighbour, even if not a bee-keeper, would accept of some, and cultivate it, as it is by no means an unsightly addition to the cottage flower garden, and in this way much might be done to effect the object proposed of increasing the supply of cultivated plants furnishing honey. W. N.

Floriculture.

JUNE 13.

It is now in truth fine growing weather. From cold enough to make a fire indoors acceptable, it has become almost suddenly quite hot. At this season grass requires almost constant attention. Lawns must be rolled and cut very often, and at this time it forms no small portion of the gardener's labour to keep the weeds in due subordination both in the paths and in the beds.

Auriculas require shading and frequent watering; they should be gone over once a day, to supply those which are wanting, as some varieties absorb more than others, and require a greater supply; keep them as clear of the green fly, the common aphid, as you can, by blowing and brushing them off. If they get into the centre, sprinkle a little silver sand among them,

which will set them in motion, and they may then be blown out with a blow-pipe, or any little tube.

Pinks must have abundant watering to make them produce good bloom; the watering should be sufficient to penetrate to the lowest fibres. Manure water may be given two or three times a week; it should be weak and clear. Look over the flower stems, and tie them very often, especially in wet showery weather, for then they progress very rapidly. Pay attention to shading while the weather is hot and dry. The size of the bloom very much depends on the moisture of the surrounding atmosphere, so if the soil and footways round the borders are kept moist during the middle of the day, the bloom will be much larger. The best shades are those made of calico, without oil or paint, and they are also warm at night.

Carnations and picotees may have a top-dressing of manure and loam mixed, if they have not had it already; watch to keep them free of the green fly, and water them when necessary. Take cuttings of all the choice pansies, for fear the old plants should die off suddenly, as they will sometimes do, and watch the seed pods, to gather the seed the moment it is ready, as the pods burst suddenly as soon as ripe, and the seed is scattered. If any dahlias have yet to be purchased or planted out, see that they get a good watering at the time.

Pots and tubs of plants in the greenhouse may be removed to where they are intended to remain during the summer, but previously examine them all, clear them of decayed and shabby leaves, wash off the insects, and renew the earth on the surface. Shift primulas into larger pots if requisite, and keep them from the bright sunshine, give them plenty of air, and water them night and morning.

Climbing plants, such as honeysuckles, Ayreshire roses, trumpet flowers, clematis, passion flower, pyracanthus, jessamin, variegated and five-leaved ivy, and others, should be trained and supported as they

advance in growth. Pansies which are still in their beauty may be freely watered; those which are passed may be cut down close, and have a top-dressing of new earth; they will flower again in the autumn.

Cuttings of geraniums may be taken and planted in a bed, or border, or in pots, shaded from the full sun and watered; or they may be planted in mould or in pots of light good earth under a frame. Another good way is to set a hand-glass down tight over them; water them occasionally, shade them on hot sunny days, and many will strike; in three months they can be planted out in separate pots. A slight hot-bed or plunging the pots in the bark bed of a hot-house will greatly hasten the rooting.

Plant out from the hot-beds seedling biennials and perennials into the nursery borders, about six inches apart, or rather more, according to the size they will attain. Give them a good watering, to settle the earth to the roots, and they will do to remain there until the autumn or spring. Transplant hollyhocks, tree primroses, fox-gloves, pyramidal campanula, Canterbury-bells, Greek valerian, rose campion, rockets, lychnis, and all similar plants which were sown two or three months ago. Calceolarias may be planted out with safety now, we may hope. The shrubby sorts look well either in masses or in single plants; the seedlings and the old plants of the herbaceous kind are best in beds. If they are at all infested with insects, it is well to fumigate them before they are planted out.

The Game Fowl.

It is no small advantage to poultry fanciers to possess an organ like the "Chronicle," in which they can compare experiences, and test the merits of the different varieties of fowls.

Many of these varieties have had ample justice done to them by your contributors;

but there is one, in my opinion, inferior to none in beauty and utility, which as yet has received but scanty notice in your pages. I allude to the Game Fowls, and as no one else seems disposed to come forward on their behalf, I take the liberty of offering a few remarks upon them.

During the last six years I have been a breeder of fowls, and the Cochin, Spanish, and Game are the varieties which I have chiefly kept, and with all of them I have attained more than average success at the exhibitions. It can be no advantage to an anonymous contributor to make this assertion, and I only do so to show that I ought to possess some little knowledge of the subject upon which I address you. What I have got to say will relate chiefly to Game fowls, as the merits of the other two varieties have been abundantly and ably discussed in the "Poultry Chronicle." Perhaps I ought to state that my experience relates chiefly to the yellow-legged Black-breasted red, the Duckwing, and to a considerably less extent to the Piles.

It is a very common opinion that the Game fowl is a bad layer, and that the cockerels are so pugnacious, that they cannot be bred in large numbers without a serious mortality from this cause. My experience contradicts both these notions. It is stated I think in the "Poultry Book" that the Game hen usually lays only every other day. I have frequently known them lay twelve and sometimes fourteen eggs successively without missing a day. The average number laid by a Game hen before she becomes broody, is between twenty-five and thirty. I should say partridge-coloured hens of the yellow-legged Black-Red variety, are the most abundant layers. I have one of this kind which has layed since February without wanting to sit. The pullets hatched in March 1854 began to lay in October, which was quite as early as the Cochins, and two months earlier than the Spanish, and in the year I do not doubt they yield nearly, if not altogether as great a number of eggs as the Cochins and Spanish, but

not perhaps so great a weight of eggs as the latter.

As to their pugnacity, I have never yet lost a cockerel from this cause. My plan is to keep them together until it is necessary to make the separations required for breeding purposes. It is true when they are about ten weeks old a general *mêlée* among the cockerels usually takes place, but when the order of precedence is once settled, they will live together for many months as amicably as most other fowls. As sitters and mothers, I believe their merits are not disputed. Indeed, in these capacities they are in several points superior to the Cochins; they are better foragers, and remain with their chickens longer. If not wanted to sit, they are far more easily broken off the desire, and will recommence laying in a less time than a Cochin would do. As table fowls they have no superiors; the Dorking has no advantage over them, except that it is larger. The flesh is not equal in quality, and the Dorking requires far more fattening than the Game fowl, which if in health, and not absolutely pinched in food, will always be in good condition.

Game chickens are hardy and easily reared, out of more than eighty hatched this season, as yet I have only lost one, and that was a case of accidental death. Five Dorking chickens with precisely the same treatment have all died. My Cochin and Spanish chickens have stood the severe weather equally as well as the Game, but comparing the number of chickens hatched in proportion to the eggs set, the result is immensely in favour of the Game.

In point of constitution and endurance, Game fowls are greatly superior to all others. I saw a few weeks ago a Game hen nine years old, which has laid very well this season, and exhibits no sign of decay. Last summer I saw a Black Red Game cock eight years old, which the owner was then breeding from. We all know how difficult it is to get up a respectable exhibition of adult Cochins; in their second year they often lose much

of their beauty, and if kept beyond the third, it is, I imagine, on other grounds than utility. The Spanish too, after the second year, are not very prolific layers, and the cocks after that age are liable to become disfigured, and even blind from the puckering of the white about the eye. But the Game fowl for many years undergoes no deterioration in appearance, and very little in fertility. With regard to the cost of keep, they are the most economical of all fowls; their consumption of food is certainly not more than half that of the Cochins, and two-thirds that of the Spanish.

In no class of fowls are the criteria for judging more vague and undecided than in Game fowls, not only is the colour of the legs, "an open question," but the requirements as to feather are far from settled with sufficient precision and certainty. I had intended to have offered some remarks on this subject, but I will content myself with requesting that some of your readers, who are successful breeders of these fowls, will give their views as to what constitutes the distinctive marks and tests of excellence of the varieties with which they are conversant.

The Piles are perhaps more perplexing than any other kind; the account of them in the "Poultry Book" is meagre and unsatisfactory. In the neighbourhood in which I live, there are three varieties of Game fowls, which I do not think are generally diffused through the country. In two of them (one cinnamon, the other partridge-colour), the cocks are hen-feathered. The third kind is what the old breeders of Game fowls call "Span-gles." The cock is red and white in the hackle and saddle, and black and white in the tail and breast. The hens are partridge-colour, spotted with white. Are these Piles, and admissible as such at the exhibitions? A clear and exact description of the different varieties, not only of Piles, but other Game fowls, is, I think, much required; for in no classes are the decisions of judges more discordant. There

is perhaps no better way of attaining accurate rules and tests for judging poultry, than that successful breeders should state and compare their views in the "Poultry Chronicle," and I trust you will be able to afford a little space for those who are disposed to do so.

A SUBSCRIBER TO THE CHRONICLE.

Jottings as I read.

SOME breeders of game fowls in this locality keep their hens from the male birds, but when they want fresh blood they take a hen to a distant male bird, and put her down for an hour or so. She is then taken home, and she lays perhaps from fifteen to twenty odd eggs, on these she sits, and they are all prolific.

THE receipt for preserving eggs at page 236, of May, 1855, did not answer my purpose. The tartar crystallised upon the shell, and caused the eggs to taste of that article. I have a receipt with which process I have kept eggs fresh four years.

AMATEUR "E. H. S." can mark either chicks or grown-up fowls with nitrate of silver (lunar caustic), in fact it is the very best method, either upon the legs or under the wings. I once knew a person open the skin under the wing and stitch a fourpenny piece in the hole. This was taken out when the bird was killed.

CAN any amateur throw any light upon the incubation of the pea-hen? or refer to any authentic work on the subject.

RUFUS.

Entomology.

CHAP. III.

ON glancing over my last paper, I find that I have omitted to describe the different parts of an insect. I was suffering from a distracting attack of neuralgia whilst writing it, and that must be my excuse for the oversight. Perhaps some of your readers may be inclined to suspect that they have, in this confession, discovered the reason of their being favoured with the hard and crabbed words I was there obliged

to make use of. However this may be, I now hasten to supply the omission. An insect is composed of three principal parts, consisting of the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. The first contains the eyes, the antennæ (or horns, as they are sometimes called), the palpi or feelers, and the mouth, or feeding apparatus. The thorax is that part lying immediately behind the head, and to it are attached the legs and the wings, and the elytra, or wing-cases of those insects which possess them. In all insects the rudiments of wings may be discovered. The abdomen lies behind the thorax, and contains the intestines, the organs of generation, and some parts of the organs of respiration; in many cases it is terminated by a tail, as in *Stellatarum*, or the humming-bird hawk-moth; in others, as in the *Ichneumon*, with an apparatus called an ovipositor, that is, an instrument with which it deposits its eggs, and in some cases with a weapon of defence, which can be darted into an enemy, and through it a virulent poison be instilled into the wound; the wasp and bee will immediately occur to my readers as instances of this species of insect. The true eyes of insects are usually what is termed compound, that is, composed of a number of lenses, each of which is capable of perfectly reflecting the object looked at; in some cases these lenses amount to thousands in number. Just imagine this for one moment, and see the wonderful mechanism here displayed. The eye itself, not the eighth of an inch in diameter, and yet that eye to contain ten or fifteen thousand lenses, each capable of perfectly reflecting an image thrown on it!! in fact, the insect may be said to possess as many distinct eyes as lenses. Even Argus himself, "who boasted of a hundred eyes," must have hidden his diminished head. But this is not all; several insects possess supplemental eyes, if I may so call them. They are situate on the forehead, immediately between the true eyes; they are three in number, and are arranged triangularly; they are called ocelli, or stemmata. Insects

are enabled to look before, behind, on all sides, and upwards, at the same time, and from their being thus capable of casting retrospective glances, we may reasonably indulge the hope that the malignant animal we bipeds so dread is to them unknown—I mean the backbiter.

The antennæ vary in form and size in all the different orders and species. In some the variation is very strongly marked; in others it is scarcely perceptible, except on very close examination; some are long, and of the same thickness from their base to their extreme point; such are called filiform: others are short, and terminated by a knob or club, and therefore called capitate: others, again, are fringed with teeth like one side of a small toothed comb, and these are called pectinate. The use of these members has been much disputed, and I believe the question is still an unsettled one. I am, however, inclined to believe that they contain the organs of smell, or some distinct sense, which may be intermediate between smelling and sight. It is quite certain that insects possess in a very high degree the sense of smell, they apparently possess no other organ, which can be the separate seat of that sense, and I have not met with any valid objection (I speak deferentially) to the theory of the antennæ being, in fact, the nose of the insect. In the antennæ of some insects distinct ocelli, or eye-like appearances may be traced with the aid of the microscope. What the use of these ocelli may be, I cannot now stop to examine, but it opens up a very interesting point for the investigation of naturalists. Are they eyes, in the proper acceptation of the word? or what purpose do they serve?

MAC.

(To be Continued.)

TO RESTORE TAINTED GAME.—If at any time feathered game has become tainted, pick and draw the birds as soon as possible, and immerse them in new milk. Let them remain in this until next day, when they will be quite sweet, and fit for cooking. The milk must be thrown away.

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

BRAHMA-POOTRAS.

SIR,—Some time back, I mooted the question as to whether or not the Brahmās should be "dubbed." Now appears to me to be the time to settle the vexed question respecting their combs; for if, as last year, the pea-combed birds are always to take precedence, the breeders of the single-combed birds will then in all probability keep their birds at home, and not let them run the risk of being beaten, merely because the pea-comb is preferred by some of the judges. The controversy that was raised after the last Birmingham Show was, I think, sufficient to cause the question to be settled one way or the other; and the only solution I can arrive at is, to have the Brahmās "dubbed like the Game Fowls." This might spoil the appearance of the birds in the opinion of many people; but I am not of that opinion, and many exhibitors also agree with me. At any rate, no partiality could then be shown as regards the combs, and I doubt not that this most useful breed of fowls will then muster in greater force at our exhibitions. Will any of your readers inform me from what part of America the first Brahmās were imported, the colour of the birds, and the sort of comb they had?—Your obedient servant,
B. T. S.

[We think it would answer as well as dubbing, to persuade the rulers at exhibitions to give prizes to pea-combs and single-combs both.—ED.]

THE BRAHMA QUESTION.

SIR,—With respect to the Bramah question, I would just remark, that those who have spoken most in their favour are those who have kept the *single-combed light-coloured ones*. I have had three Brahma hens this season, two single and one pea-combed: the single-combed have laid

tolerably, but certainly not more than Cochins of the same age, nor have their eggs been larger; the pea-combed pullet has not laid more than eight or nine eggs the whole spring, being in fact as shy a layer as any Malay.

With regard to the hardhood and feathering of the chickens I had three hatched early with some Cochins; the Cochins (buff) outstripped the Bramahs in feathering and size from the very first, and when I saw them at Easter, the Cochins were full feathered; whilst the Bramahs, almost naked, were not more than two-thirds the size of their companions,—they were all kept together and fed alike. I should add that the parents of the Bramahs weighed 11 lbs. the cock, and 7½ lbs. and 7¼ lbs. the hens. I have been unable to distinguish any difference in the size between the Bramah and the Cochin eggs. I would defy any one to distinguish mine either in size or colour.

I have a friend who keeps the single-combed Bramahs, and his experience is the same as mine with regard to the bad feathering of his chickens. I saw his stock a short time ago, and his chickens—then three or four weeks old—were as naked as any Cochin I ever saw of that age; and he complains sadly of the small number of eggs he obtains from them, though; as he makes the same complaint of his Cochins and Dorkings, the cause is probably a local one.

I have no antipathy to the Bramahs as Grey Cochins, but until their claim to be a distinct breed is better proved than it has yet been, I must protest against the undue praises lavished on them. I am aware that I may be met by the argument—"I grant your premises, but do not the same observations apply to Dorkings." I answer, they do as far as colour and combs are concerned, but Dorkings are judged principally by form and size; and any fowls shown in the Dorking class must show *the true Dorking form as well* as certain other characteristics.

Now with Bramahs, whilst the pea-combed birds approach very nearly to the type of the Malay, and the single-combed even more nearly than that of the Cochin, yet purity of race is claimed for both strains, and both strains take prizes as the whims of judges may guide them. Surely both varieties cannot be true bred Bramahs, for they differ in comb, colour, and form.

I will just add that I cannot perceive any difference between the habits of the Cochin and single-combed Bramah chickens, and that the single-combed birds are as easily kept in bounds as their buff congeners.

ZENAS.

THE HOMESTEAD.

SIR,—I am much interested with "the Points of a Jersey Cow" in your number of the 23rd of

May; and, as I keep Channel Island cattle, I shall be glad of any information about them, either from you or your readers, or from any publication on the subject that can be recommended.

—I am, sir, yours very respectfully,

A SUBSCRIBER FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF YOUR WORK.

Subjects of this kind will in my opinion add much to the interest of your little periodical.

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

In the week ending June 2nd, the arrivals were liberal in foreign wheat, oats, and beans, as well as English flour. Millers, however, evinced little disposition to increase their stocks, and white wheat was neglected; while red, in consequence of the French and Belgian demand, brought 1s. over the rates of last Monday; this improvement extending to foreign cargoes, though the bulk of English was undisposed of at a late hour. In barley, the country markets being dearer, and the stocks light, good foreign grinding qualities were 1s. dearer. The trade in malt remained quiet and unaltered.

	BRITISH.	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	77 to 85
" " red	71 .. 78
" Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	71 .. 77
BARLEY, Malting, new	32 .. 33
" Chevalier	84 .. 86
" Distilling	31 .. 34
" Grinding	31 .. 33
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new	65 .. 70
" " old	66 .. 70
" Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new	70 .. 72
" " old	68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed	29 .. 27
" potato	27 .. 30
" Scotch feed, new	29 .. 30
" " old	33 .. 34
" potato	33 .. 34
" Irish feed, white	25 .. 28
" " black	24 .. 26
RYE	40 .. 43
BEANS, Mazagan	58 .. 42
" Ticks	39 .. 44
" Harrow	39 .. 44
" Pigeon	42 .. 49
PEAS, White, boilers	42 .. 47
" Maple	40 .. 42
" Grey	37 .. 40
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.	65 .. 70
" Households, town	65 .. 66
" " country	56 .. 60
" Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship	62 .. 66

On Wednesday, the 6th inst., English

wheat well supported the advance of Monday, and foreign was generally held for more money. The advance in continental markets gave holders confidence. Floating cargoes off the coast in good request. Arrived and near cargoes of Indian corn wanted, but distant ones did not find favour. Barley creeps up, and in demand for Ireland. Malt and peas steady at our previous currency. The dealers having bought freely of foreign out of late heavy arrivals of oats took but sparingly to-day. Irish keeps dull, mainly from the unwillingness of factors to take relative value compared with foreign.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

Hot weather, a decreasing demand, owing to the enormous price, and the advancing season, have all tended to lower a little the quotations for the past week. There is not at present a great difference, but there is every indication of a change being imminent.

Large Fowls	8s.	0d. to 10s.	0d.	each.
Smaller do.	6s.	0d. to 7s.	0d.	"
Inferior do.	4s.	0d. to 5s.	0d.	"
Chickens	4s.	6d. to 5s.	6d.	"
Inferior do.	3s.	0d. to 4s.	0d.	"
Green Geese	6s.	0d. to 7s.	0d.	"
Ducklings	4s.	0d. to 4s.	6d.	"
Pigeons	0s.	9d. to 0s.	10d.	"
Quails	2s.	6d. to 2s.	9d.	"
Rabbits	1s.	6d. to 1s.	8d.	"
Leverets	4s.	0d. to 4s.	6d.	"

To Correspondents.

Heckmondwike Agricultural Show.—The notice of this Show for our list only reached us after No. 67 was printed.

Game Fowl.—We shall be much obliged if all our readers, who have an intimate knowledge of these fowls, will respond to the request of "A Subscriber to the 'Chronicle';" and we shall take it as a great favour if they will describe the colours in a manner to be clear to the uninitiated, as well as interesting to those who already possess a knowledge of these beautiful birds.

***: *Llanelly.*—We have inserted the letter, and shall send the number to some owner who, we have reason to hope, will oblige us and our correspondent with information on the subject.

Alpha.—We will reply next week.

B. T. S.—Rouen young drakes assume the drake's plumage by the autumn of the year in which they are hatched.

L. C. D. F.—The easiest manner of weighing poultry is to use a basket of ascertained weight, which can be hung to a steel-yard, or placed on a large scale. Some persons have a knack of placing a bird up-side-down, and immovable upon the scales. When hens, or even cocks are tame, they will stand quietly as long as necessary.

A Correspondent mentions having lost several Spanish chickens six weeks old, which first refusing to eat, mope and died, and when dead they were found to be infested with lice. There was no apparent cause for their dying, except the vermin. We, also, have seen chickens, especially those of delicate kinds, die from this cause. Plenty of wood ashes to roll in seems the best cure and preventive. We have tried sweet oil, mercurial ointment, dusting sulphur into the down, and other things; but nothing succeeds so well as the wood ashes, which in bad cases we have dusted into the down, giving the hen also a plentiful supply for herself and her brood.

A Durham Correspondent.—The only prize for Ducks (White Aylesbury) in the Cottagers' class at the last Birmingham Exhibition, was awarded to Mr. J. Palmer, John Street, Balsal Heath, Birmingham.

U. S. states that he would like to see his Silver and Gold Schrights compete at Windsor (where they are entered) with those belonging to Mr. D. Hume, which he states have taken so many prizes.

Ventilating Hives.—Minna will be much obliged if a "Country Rector" will kindly inform her, by what method he ventilated his hives during the winter, as she has had some deaths amongst her stock, apparently caused by damp. She would also like to know what is meant by bee-pots, with which they had been previously covered.

W. N.—We are very much obliged for the interesting contributions, but we did not get impatient for them. The second one next week.

To A.—Our correspondent who took so much interest in the safety of *W. N.*'s weakly swarm of bees, will be sorry to hear that it has perished, notwithstanding great care. In ordinary years it appears likely that it would have survived, but the present has been, and still is, an extraordinarily unfavourable year for bees.

J. S.—Our columns were full for the present week, but the communication shall appear next time.

Crive-cour Fovels.—We fully intended the paper to have been inserted last number, but unavoidable necessity occasioned it to be set aside to stand over until the present.

J. L.—We hope our correspondent will favour us with the "hoard of scraps." We much deplore the circumstance of his not getting the "Chronicle" every week: in so large a place as M—, might not a more punctual bookseller be found?

Rufus.—The Pea-fowl next week.

Advertisements.

FOR SALE, THE BLACK SPANISH COCK which took second prize at Birmingham, 1854, in the Single Cock Class. Also, some first-class Hens. Eggs from the same, 30s. per dozen. Apply to Mr. JOHN S. HENRY, Woodlands, near Manchester.

A GREAT BARGAIN.—The owner wishes to part with the following Stock, intending to breed more to one variety. White Poland Cock and 2 Hens, (1st, Gloucester; 3rd, Birmingham); Buff Polands, 1 & 2, (Commended, Gloucester); Gold Polands, 1 & 1, (1st, Norwich; Highly commended, Bedford); Silver Polands, 1 & 2, (2nd, Birmingham); Dorking, 1 & 2, (3rd, Gloucester); Scotch Bantams, 1 & 2; Silver Spangled Hamburgs, 1 & 3, (1st, Birmingham); and 1st at several others); 3 pair of White Bantams, feather-legged and Vulture-hocked; Pile Game Cock, (1st, Bedford); and several Chickens from the above. Apply enclosing stamped directed envelope, to HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate Street, Gloucester.

BEDFORDSHIRE POULTRY ASSOCIATION.—The Third Annual Exhibition of Poultry will take place in BEDFORD, on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, the 7th and 8th of November, 1855.

The Committee beg to announce, that Subscribers whose names shall be received on or before the 24th of June, will be entitled to the advantages enumerated in Regulation 11 in the Schedule.

JOHN T. ROLT ALLEN, } Honorary
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THE DORSETSHIRE ASSOCIATION for the IMPROVEMENT OF DOMESTIC POULTRY will hold its Annual Exhibition at Dorchester, on the 24th and 25th of October next.

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Tame and Wild Pheasants for aviaries and covers. Pheasants and Partridges' eggs in any numbers. All descriptions of Ornamental and Domestic Poultry.

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Agents wanted.

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SERAI TAOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan, A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 2s. the Dozen.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from First-rate Pea-Combed mature birds, from the 1st of July at 10s. 6d. the Dozen.

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HOMESTEAD.

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Poultry Shows.

Thorne Cattle, Implement, and Poultry Show, June 20th. Secretary, R. S. Jewison, Esq.

Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire, at Hull, June 27th. Secretary, B. L. Wells, Esq., Bishop's Lane, Hull. Entries close, June 20th. (No. 65.)

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor. Entries are closed. (No. 52.)

Devon and Exeter, on Northernhay, Exeter; June 23th and 29th. Secretary, T. W. Gray, Esq. Entries closed June 11th.

Prescot, July 4th. Secretary, J. F. Ollard, Esq. Entries close June 23rd.

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries are closed. (No. 57.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at Boston, Thursday, July 26. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close Wednesday, July 11th. (No. 64.)

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Malton, August 1st and 2nd. Secretary, J. Hannam, Esq., Kirk-Deighton, Wetherby. Entries close July 18th.

Isle of Wight, at Ryde, August 7th and 8th. Secretaries, J. Vaux, Esq., and G. Locke, Esq. Entries close July 24th.

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th. (No. 67.)

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary, Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Heckmondwike (near Leeds) Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Show, including Poultry, and Cottagers' Pigs, Tuesday, August 28. Secretaries, J. Kelly, and F. Brearly, Esquires. Entries close August 13th.

Anerly, August 23th, 29th, and 30th. Secretaries, Edgar Smallfield, Esq., and Henry F. Wells, Esq. Entries close August 6th.

Keighly Agricultural Show, September 5th.

Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighly. Entries close Saturday, August 25th.

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

East Lancashire Poultry Show (late Nelson) at Colne, October 31st and November 1st. Secretaries, Messrs. J. and E. Booth, Marsden, near Burnley, Lancashire. Entries close October 17th.

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

In the diplomacy of nations, the balance of power must be maintained, and to preserve it, devastating wars have laid waste smiling countries throughout the range of history; but what can we say about the balance of power among all our various favourites? The Spanish fancier considers his favourites superior to all besides—noble in bearing, handsome, productive. The lover of the Dorking can find none to match it on the table (and every En-

glishman likes his dinner). The lover of Cochins can have new-laid eggs at all seasons, and nice peaceable fowls, which love home, and seldom get into mischief. Breeders of Hamburgs have the pleasure of success arising from careful breeding, animated discussion, and plenty of eggs. The lovers of Polands have beauty and productiveness both. The breeders of Bantams have the pleasure of restoring a sort which has been somewhat neglected of late, while those among them who prefer emolument to the simple HONOUR of taking a prize, may be led on by the promise of a ten-guinea cup at Birmingham, and a five guinea piece of plate at Anerly. Those who show in the various classes may give us importations excelling in beauty and merit all which we possess at present. Geese, Ducks, and Turkeys repay the care which they require, and deserve the place they hold at our exhibitions; while game fowls are beautiful, spirited, and celebrated, *par excellence*, as the English fowls.

Among so much beauty and merit who shall decide? *We do not wish*, for we admire and like them all; but discussion elicits truth: we are very much pleased when our correspondents favour us with minute accounts of their experience with their own flocks. Peculiar circumstances are related, opinions compared, and statistics entered into, which will help each amateur to decide, and each beginner to determine the kind of stock which suits his own particular locality and opportunities; while at the shows now advancing upon us in crowds, we shall have the opportunity of testing the stability of home-formed opinions.

ARE Sebright Bantams on the decline? If they are not, why is it we cannot see at the different shows such birds as we read and hear of. Clear tails, perfect combs, accurate lacings just in the happy medium, neither too light nor too dark, small in size, strutting carriage, protuberant breast, drooping wings.

We are told there are still many such birds; that Messrs. Leigh and Ramsden, Dr. Homer, and others, have them; but that the prizes are not good enough to induce them to exhibit their favourites. If there is no wish to bring them before the public it is well; but if the only reason for abstaining to do so, is that there is not sufficient inducement, we hope the Anerly show will begin to remove it. The prizes are liberal, and a silver cup is offered for the best pen. It must be borne in mind that managers and committees are not justified in offering large sums for classes that do not fill; and even at Birmingham the Bantam class is not a good one. But if the owners of good birds will come forward, we doubt not every where proper rewards will await them. It must be an unthankful task for judges to award prizes to inferior birds, but when no others are exhibited, they have no option.

Schedule of the Anerly Poultry Show.

THE first exhibition will be held in the Anerly Gardens, adjoining the Anerly Station on the London and Croydon Railway, and near the Anerly entrance to the Crystal Palace Gardens, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 28, 29, and 30. It is open to all countries. The president is Earl Verulam, and the vice-president Sir John Peter Boileau, Bart., F.R.S.,

F.G.S., and vice-president of the Royal Zoological Society.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Each Pen to contain a Cock and two Hens.

Class.	SPANISH.		
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
1. Fowls	60	40	20
2. Chickens	60	40	20
DORKINGS.			
3. Fowls, Coloured	60	40	20
4. Chickens, Coloured	60	40	20
5. Fowls, White	40	20	
6. Chickens, White	40	20	
COCHIN CHINAS.			
7. Fowls, Cinnamon and Buff	60	40	20
8. Chickens, Cinnamon & Buff	60	40	20
9. Fowls, Grouse and Part-ridge	60	40	20
10. Chickens, Grouse and Part-ridge	60	40	20
11. Fowls, White	60	40	20
12. Chickens, White	60	40	20
BRAMAH POOTRA.			
13. Fowls, Pencilled	60	30	
14. Chickens, Pencilled	60	30	
15. Fowls, Light	60	30	
16. Chickens, Light	60	30	
GAME FOWL.			
17. Fowls, White and Piles	50	30	15
18. Chickens, White and Piles	50	30	
19. Fowls, Blacks, BlackBreasted and other Reds, and Brassey Wings	50	30	15
20. Chickens, Blacks, Black Breasted and other Reds, and Brassey Wings	50	30	
21. Fowls, Duckwings, Greys, and Blues	50	30	15
22. Chickens, Duckwings, Greys, and Blues	50	30	
HAMBURGS.			
23. Fowls, Gold Pencilled	50	30	15
24. Chickens, Gold Pencilled	50	30	15
25. Fowls, Gold Spangled	50	30	15
26. Chickens, Gold Spangled	50	30	15
27. Fowls, Silver Pencilled	50	30	15
28. Chickens, Silver Pencilled	50	30	15
29. Fowls, Silver Spangled	50	30	15
30. Chickens, Silver Spangled	50	30	15
POLAND FOWL.			
31. Fowls, Black, with White Crests	50	30	15

POLAND FOWL, continued.

Class.	1st. s.	2nd. s.	3rd. s.
32. Chickens, Black, with White Crests	50	30	15
33. Fowls, Golden	50	30	15
34. Chickens, Golden	50	30	15
35. Fowls, Silver	50	30	15
36. Chickens, Silver	50	30	15

SEBRIGHT BANTAMS.

37. Cock and two Hens, Gold Laced	50	30	20
Fourth Prize ...	15s.		
38. Cock and two Hens, Silver Laced	50	30	20
Fourth Prize ...	15s.		

BANTAMS.

39. Black	40	20	
40. White	40	20	
41. Any other Variety	50	25	20

42. For any variety of Fowl not comprised in the fore-mentioned classes :—
 Three First Prizes 40
 Three Second Prizes 20

Which may, at the option of the Judges, be converted into a larger number of equal prizes, should the merits of the class require it.

GEESE.*

43. Gander and two Geese	60	40	20
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DUCKS.

44. Drake and two Ducks, Aylesbury	60	40	20
45. Drake and two Ducks, Rouen	60	40	20
46. Any other Variety	40	20	15

TURKEYS.

47. Number of birds not stated	60	40	20
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Silver Cups of the value of five guineas each will be given in lieu of the first prizes to the best pens of Spanish, Dorking, Cochinchina, Pencilled and Spangled Hamburgs, Poland, Game, Brahma Pootra, and Bantams.

Two Silver Cups of the value respectively of fifteen and ten guineas will be given to the owners of the best collection of not less than 8 pens of poultry.

* The Judges will be requested to give the preference to birds of a pure breed.

PIGEONS.

Class.	1st. s.	2nd. s.
1. Carriers, best Cock	20	
" best Hen	20	
2. Pair of Almond Tumblers	20	10
3. Pair of Mottled Tumblers	20	10
4. Pair of Balds, or Beards	20	10
5. Pair of Owls	20	10
6. Pair of Nuns	20	10
7. Pair of Turbits	20	10
8. Pair of Archangels	20	10
9. Pair of Jacobins	20	10
10. Pair of Fantails	20	10
11. Pair of Trumpeters	20	10
12. Pair of Pouters	20	10
13. Pair of Barbes	20	10
14. Pair of Runts	20	10
15. Pair of Dragons	20	10
16. Any other new or distinct Variety, best pair	20	10

A Silver Cup, value five guineas, will be awarded for the best four pens of Pigeons of different varieties, to be exhibited specially for this prize.

REGULATIONS.

The Judges will be empowered to withhold a prize or prizes in any of the classes in which the specimens are of inferior quality.

In all classes where there are less than three entries, only one prize will be given. And where there is no competition no prize will be awarded.

All specimens must have been bonâ fide the property of the exhibitor for at least one month previously to the show.

The ages of the chickens must be accurately stated—but in the adult classes it is not necessary to state the ages.

All specimens must be accurately named with their correct titles. Fowls entered in a wrong class, or with clipped or trimmed plumage, will be excluded from taking prizes.

Exhibitors may either enter their specimens as "not for sale," or state a selling price. All birds to which a price is affixed must be sold at the price named if claimed. Ten per cent. will be deducted from all sales towards defraying the expenses of the exhibition. All sales must be made through the secretaries.

Certificates of entry may be had on application to the secretaries; no entries can be received unless made on the forms of certificate issued for the purpose. The entries will close on the 6th August.

Birds will be received on Saturday, 25th August, and Monday, 27th; none can be received after 11 o'clock, P.M., on that day. Competent persons will be appointed to take charge of them on the Sunday. Each pen of birds must be packed in a separate hamper, carriage-paid, with its direction label fixed prominently on the top; the labels will be furnished by the secretaries, and must have the sender's name and address written on the reverse side, to secure the return of the birds.

The public will be admitted on Tuesday, at 2 o'clock, P.M., at a charge of 2s. 6d. each; and on Wednesday and Thursday, at 1s. each, from 9 o'clock, A.M., till dusk.

Exhibitors may enter an unlimited number of pens of poultry at 4s. per pen, and pigeons at 2s. The entrance fees to be remitted by post-office order, payable at the Principal Office, London, to Edgar Smallfield.

Competent feeders will be appointed; a fresh turf will be placed daily in every pen, and green food liberally provided. All eggs laid during the time the birds are being exhibited will be destroyed. Diseased birds will be immediately removed.

All birds will be returned immediately after the show; and the managers will pay every attention to the stock whilst under their charge, but cannot be answerable to the exhibitors for any loss that may arise from accident or mistake.

EDGAR SMALLFIELD, } Hon. Secs.
HENRY F. WELLS, }

Schedule of the Prescott Floral, Horticultural, and Poultry Exhibition.

THE meeting for the year 1855 will take place in a field at Parkside, Prescott, on Wednesday, July 4.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Each Pen to contain a Cock and two Hens.

Class.		1st.	2nd.
		s.	s.
	SPANISH.		
1.	Fowls	30	15
2.	Chickens	20	10
	DORKING.		
3.	Fowls	30	15
4.	Chickens	20	10
	COCHIN CHINA.		
5.	Buff or Cinnamon	30	15

COCHIN CHINA, continued.

Class.		1st.	2nd.
		s.	s.
6.	White	30	15
7.	Chickens	20	10
	GAMR FOWL.		
8.	White Piles, Duckwing, and Blues.	30	15
9.	Black-breasted and other Reds ...	30	15
	HAMBURGS.		
10.	Golden Pencilled	30	15
11.	Golden Spangled	30	15
12.	Silver Pencilled	30	15
13.	Silver Spangled	30	15
	POLANDS.		
14.	Black with White Crests	30	15
15.	Golden	30	15
16.	Silver	30	15
	BANTAMS.		
17.	Gold Laced	20	10
18.	Silver Laced	20	10
19.	Black	20	10
20.	White	20	10
	DUCKS.		
21.	Aylesbury, Drake and two Ducks.	20	10
22.	Bouen, Drake and two Ducks.....	20	10
	GEESE.		
23.	Gander and two Geese.....	20	10
	TURKEYS.		
24.	Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
25.	Any other distinct Breed of Fowl, not named, if meritorious	20	10
	PIGEONS.		
26.	Best pair of Carriers, Almond Tumblers, Balds, Beards, Mottled Tumblers, Owls, Nuns, Turbits, Archangels, Jacobins, Fantails, Trumpeters, Pouters or Croppers, Barbes, Runts, Dragons, and any other variety	each	10

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. The censors, umpires, or judges shall be chosen by the committee, and shall declare that they have not, either by growth, private mark, or otherwise, any knowledge to whom the flowers, fruits, poultry, &c. belong.

2. Should any competitor object to the decision of the judges, or bring a charge against another and not prove the same, he shall forfeit five shillings to the funds of the society.

3. No specimen shall be entitled to a prize unless marked seedling or unknown, or having a proper name; the owner must use no other mark but his own name.

4. Judges will withhold in classes in which specimens are of inferior quality.

5. Specimens of flowers and poultry for exhibition must be staged by nine o'clock in the forenoon, and remain staged as long as the managers think proper, but not later than seven o'clock.

6. Premiums will be awarded to flowers, fruits, and poultry not in the schedule, if considered worthy.

7. Every exhibitor must give a written list of what he is going to show, previous to any article being admitted; and no alteration can be made afterwards.

8. Specimens of poultry may be sent from any part of the United Kingdom, but the competition is confined to amateurs.

9. Persons entering poultry and failing to send the same, will be required to pay two shillings and sixpence for each pen left vacant. All entries must be made on or before Saturday, the 23rd June, on the printed form supplied by the Secretary; if by post, a stamped envelope with the address must be enclosed. The entrance fees to be paid when the entry is made.

10. The ages of the birds and the classes must be stated. Any person whose specimens have not been in his possession two months shall forfeit five shillings to the society, in addition to the prize money.

11. Fowls entered in a wrong class, or with clipped, drawn, or trimmed plumage (except the comb of the game), will be excluded from taking prizes.

12. The prices must be stated, or otherwise insert **NOT FOR SALE**, in the entry. No alteration can be made in the prices stated. No pens to be divided.

13. The committee will attend to the care of the poultry, and to the collecting and breaking of the eggs during the Show. Any person detected taking eggs out of the Show will be rigorously prosecuted; but the committee will not be answerable for any losses that may occur from disease, accident, or mistake.

14. Birds not in the prize list can be exhibited as extra stock.

15. It is particularly desired that no birds whatever be sent unless in a perfectly healthy condition. All diseased birds will be at once expelled.

There will be a sale by auction at 5 p.m. of all the poultry not disposed of by private treaty, or reserved by their owners. All private sales

must be made through the secretary. Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales made. Subscribers of five shillings and upwards may compete for all the prizes, and will be entitled to three cards of admission. One shilling additional will be charged for each pen required.

Persons competing for the cottager's prize will not be required to pay entrance money.

The tickets issued to subscribers will admit the holders to the exhibition from 1 to 3 o'clock p.m. The public will be admitted at the same time upon payment of 2s. 6d. at the door, and from 3 to 5 p.m. at 1s. each. After which time the exhibition will be opened to the labouring classes at 6d. each.

In the horticultural and floral departments prizes varying from £2 to 1s. are offered for collections of plants, cut flowers, wax flowers, fruit, and vegetables.

Tickets may be had on application to the Secretary, and at the Printer's (J. Culshaw, Printer, Post-office, Market-place, Prescot), also at the Hotels in Prescot, St. Helen's, and Woolton.

Devon and Exeter Poultry Show.

THIS exhibition will be held on Northernhay, Exeter, on the 28th and 29th days of the present month. As the schedule did not reach us until *after the entries were closed*, we could not present it to our readers in time to be of use to them. The show is to be held in conjunction with that of the Devon and Exeter Botanical and Horticultural Show. To several classes of mature birds, three prizes are offered of 30s., 15s., and 7s. 6d. respectively; and to chickens, two prizes of 10s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. Some of the prizes are less in amount than these. The 11th of June was the time for giving in the entries, but they will be received until the 24th, on payment of double fees. At the time of the show no purchase of birds can be made until one hour after its commencement; and where there are two applicants for one pen, the highest offer will be accepted. The prizes and amount of sales will be paid at any hour during the second day, on application.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE AGRICULTURAL MEETING.—In our list of poultry shows we

wish to draw the attention of our readers to the alteration of the time when the above exhibition will take place. Instead of being on the 26th of July, as first intimated, it is now fixed for the 23rd of August; and the day for closing the entries is August the 8th. The secretary will attend at the Peacock Inn, Boston, on Wednesday, August 8, to receive entries.

Hints for Poultry Shows.

As many poultry societies have not yet sent forth their prize-lists, I may perhaps be allowed to throw out a hint, which, if acted upon, would be a great benefit to their show, and a boon to exhibitors. I mean, to allow each pen to contain "a cock and hen only." By this means, many who possess one good hen would be induced to exhibit her with her mate; and other exhibitors would also be enabled to enter more pens, when a less number of birds is required for the pens. We all know *how* Game fowls *can, do, and will* fight; and those who have had the management of exhibitions, may frequently have seen with horror how one hen has literally scalped the other. This may take place during the transit of the birds to the place of exhibition; and will they not also fight in the exhibition pens? But if my hint were adopted, this would be prevented, as one cock and hen would in all probability agree well enough. But by allowing only "one cock and hen" to be exhibited, I am induced to think that there would be a far greater number of pens entered, the competition increased, and the funds of the society materially benefitted. There are very many would-be exhibitors who have one good pen, and a few tolerable birds—birds which, if put in a pen together, would from some one fault of some one hen, assuredly be beaten; but if a smaller number of birds were exhibited in the pens, they could make up two very fair pens. The hint is perhaps worthy of consideration.

B. T. S.

Silver Cups.

THE practice of giving silver cups at poultry shows is now become so general, that we feel it a duty to treat of the question which has arisen as to the manner in which they should be awarded. At some exhibitions it is stated they shall be given to the taker of the greatest number of first prizes. This is complained of by many good exhibitors, and with reason. They state they can only send seven or eight pens, and that if each took a first prize, they would still be swamped by others who compete with from twenty to thirty; others again say they show most valuable birds, and the successful in the less important classes should not be allowed to count on even terms against them.

The remedy is in the hands of committees. If they wish numerous entries, then they must offer the cup to the taker of the largest number of prizes. If they wish their exhibition to be distinguished for the high class birds shown, they must offer the cup for the best collection of not less than six or eight pens. The award must be made by the judges, as they are most competent to decide. As they have already labour enough, a proper abstract of the number of pens shown by each exhibitor should be prepared, and the number and classes of the prizes taken be also registered. It would then be easy for them to award it without the extra labour of judging the show twice.

The Comic Poultry Guide.

(Continued from page 295.)

IN former times there were certain incurable disorders of the human frame, and in rural districts it was thought not only justifiable, but praiseworthy to assist the exit of the patient. Let us for instance take Hydrophobia, the proper treatment for which was, to smother the sufferer between feather beds.

I have heard in a village of a pauper attended by two pauper nurses, not a cen-

tury ago. He was beyond a doubt "in articulo mortis," and suffering much.

"Lor a marcy, Dame Mary," said one to the other, "how hard he do die; I can't abide the sight on't."

"He do suffer cruel any how," said her companion.

The two old ladies exchanged a look which practice had rendered familiar; one held the nostrils, the other the mouth, and with a faint struggle the patient expired.

The nurses heaved a short sigh, and agreed that it was a comfort to all parties, the patient had his sufferings shortened, and they had done their duty. They went among their fellows and spoke openly of it. I do not justify it in this case, but in some diseases of poultry, it may be good and merciful treatment. Where chickens are deformed we advise it; also for those, which on account of their lack of growth, or their weakness, are termed the darlings.

Many tales are told of facetious or loud mouthed physicians, who seemed to take a pride in concealing a kind heart under rough manners.

"What is the matter?" asked one of these, of a patient.

"Only a cold, Doctor."

"Only a cold; what on earth would you have?"

Another answered he had a *bad* cold.

"Did you ever have a *good* one?" was the reply.

From this we may gather that a neglected cold is a serious thing for a human being. It is not less so for the feathered biped. If neglected, it leads to roup, which is to fowls what consumption is to man.

Strong-minded men, who reason from facts, tell us, birds in a state of nature never catch cold, and suffer in this way, to which we answer, savages never have the gout. Just as we give them civilisation and the small-pox, we give the other increased comfort and the roup. When we have succeeded in doing this, we advise the sharp practice of the old ladies of

whom we have spoken. But the roup is a neglected cold, and although the early symptoms are like those of a later stage, yet if taken in time, there is little to apprehend. A warm, dry, and temperate atmosphere, with stimulating food, will remove all danger. A glass of stiff rum-and-water, mixed with honey, and taken at bed-time, is considered a good thing for a human being suffering from chill; so a little toast steeped in strong ale is for a fowl. These are not all their ailments; they do not become bald, but they become bare. Their feathers drop. We all know if a horse itches at any part of his body that he cannot reach, he bites a companion on the exact spot, and he immediately returns the compliment. Now we know not by what means fowls communicate their ideas, but we know feathers fall from irritation of the skin, and as this doubtless itches, the other birds pick it; and this kindness is not confined to one, but all do it, and so desirous are they to do it effectually, that unless prevented, they will apply a radical cure by removing the flesh entirely, and putting the sufferer beyond the reach of all pain.

The bare spot should be rubbed with compound sulphur ointment, this not only allays the irritation, softens the skin, and causes the feathers to grow, but it has the same effect on the hens that putting a nauseous drug on the thumb of a child given to suck that valuable appendage has, they leave off the habit, because they do not like "nasty doctor's stuff." The treatment of all diseases should begin with opening medicine, and nothing is better than Castor oil. A table spoonful is a dose for a full-grown fowl.

(To be continued.)

The Pea Fowl.

IN Mr. Nolan's account of this beautiful bird, he says, "Like other birds of the poultry kind, it feeds upon corn, but its chief predilection is for barley. There is, however, scarcely any food that it will

not covet and pursue. In the indulgence of these capricious pursuits, walls cannot easily confine it. It strips the tops of houses of tiles and thatch; it lays waste the labours of the gardener, roots up the choicest seeds, and nips his favourite flowers in the bud. Thus its beauty ill recompenses for the mischief it occasions, and many of the most homely-looking fowls are very deservedly preferred before it." In the case of specimens with which we have had *personal acquaintance*, we have not known them to be found so very mischievous when supplied with lime and similar poultry requisites. "The pea-hen," Mr. Nolan further states, "makes her nest on the ground, and seldom lays above five or six eggs before sitting. * * * Her term of incubation is thirty days. The chicks are very tender, the least cold or wet being almost certain to kill them, and therefore they will require to be tended with great care, similar to pheasants or Turkeys. The best food for them is new cheese or curd, ants' eggs, meal worms, and hard-boiled eggs. When older, they will, like the old birds, feed on boiled barley, or other grain of any sort. They are voraciously fond of reptiles, and will keep a place clear of frogs, lizards, and the like. When in moult, give them honey, wheat, coarse-ground beans, and oats, with fresh water."

The following particulars are from an amateur, residing in Somersetshire, who has reared the Japan pea-fowl successfully for many years, and who has kindly obliged us with an account of his management.

"As it is contrary to my orders for any of my people to approach a pea-fowl's nest, I cannot say the exact number of days required for sitting, but believe it to be twenty-seven or twenty-eight days. The hen likes to steal her nest, and to sit unobserved, and if not meddled with, will bring six chicks, all pure white, which colour they retain for a few weeks.

"The peahen will return to the same

nest year after year, if she is not disturbed. I have one ten or twelve years old, who has often done so, and the old lady is every year the happy mother of healthy chicks. Some are accustomed to lay under a laurel or other evergreen, and others prefer an open meadow, spite of rain or scorching sun. In the latter case, I always direct the mowers to leave a square patch of long grass, for I have known instances of the hen forsaking her eggs.

"They are fond mothers, and never cast off their young till the following spring. It is worse than waste of time to put peafowl eggs under a common hen for sitting. Peachicks cling to the mother until February. Nature would not prolong this parental fondness, unless it were essential for the well-doing of the chicks; like other poultry, they would begin to take care for themselves, if they were not later in coming to maturity; they are years longer than many birds in attaining their adult plumage and growth. The young Japan peacock is, at three years old, only as a cockerel of one year with other poultry.

"Thus, as other kinds of hens turn off their broods after a few months, they cannot rear peachicks, which would pine and die for want of the parental care throughout the winter months, and until the following spring.

"At pairing time a change comes over the whole peafowl race. The hen beats away her brood, and peacocks, after living good friends for nine months, are obliged to own the governor-in-chief, who, taking advantage of his high position, chases each unlucky bird that approaches him. I never, however, saw two peacocks fighting.

"The hen, when leaving her nest during incubation, utters a loud, shrill, peculiar scream, which cannot be mistaken. It is well to have in readiness a pan of water and a ball of barley-meal. After she has eaten a little grass, she will suddenly run back to her eggs. I have bred a great many, and have now nearly

a score adult birds. They are hardy, being quite acclimatised, give no trouble, and are not addicted to rambling. Although mine have liberty to range over many acres, they never avail themselves of it, but delight to be near home, and come to the accustomed window early every morning to be fed. At evening they again assemble, and after their evening meal, each goes to his tree, and stays, in all weathers, until it is time to take wing and descend in the morning.

"If you see a peahen moping, refusing to eat, or only pecking a morsel, and crouching in corners with her back raised to an unnatural arch, you may soon see her relieved, and assume her own form again; *but she will have laid a soft egg*; and this comes from fretting at her privacy having been invaded. Perhaps her eggs have been stolen by magpies, or some such cause. This painful state she will endure again about the third day; and she will drop many more such eggs than her usual batch, which sometimes weakens her until she dies. I invariably shoot the old magpies, and destroy nests of young ones when practicable."

The pea-hen must have her nest in a place which is secret and safe from the molestation of the cock.

Tiverton Show.

WHEREVER I attend a show, I find I learn something, and though I think I become a better judge every time, I should be sorry to exercise my knowledge in public.

Perhaps that which struck me as a discovery may be familiar to every one else. On going over the show at Tiverton, I could not help observing how much more important condition and weight were in some classes than others. For instance, Dorkings, Cochins, and Spanish, all require to be in tip-top condition. They must weigh and handle to be successful. It appears to me the white face of the Spanish, the squareness of the Dorkings,

and the easy looseness of the Cochin are all dependent on condition. But in Hambro's and Polands there are certain outward marks or points with which condition has little or nothing to do. Poland cocks must not have the suspicion of a comb. Hambro' cocks must have white deaf ears. A Sebright bantam must not have the semblance of a cock's tail, and a spangled Hambro' must have all the flowing honours of his sex in that particular. I do not say high condition is not desirable in these, but that no amount of health or beauty will permit deviation from these particulars.

I endeavoured during an idle morning at Tiverton to arrive at the bottom of decisions which I thought correct, and have sent them, thinking they might interest my fellow amateurs. DEVON.

An Anecdote.

It has been said, and truly said, that "trifles make the sum of human things." I believe the chief pleasure of poultry amateurs, as such, is derived from trifling circumstances in themselves. For instance, the observation of the various shades of character shown by the inmates of his poultry yard. I make no apology for adding "a trifle" to the happiness of my fellow amateurs. During the severe weather of last spring, I had two large broods of Cochins hatched, which were deserted by their mothers at an early age, and have since run together; they suffered very much from cold, notwithstanding the care that was taken to keep them warm at night, and their number, formerly twenty, has been reduced to about a dozen, presenting that distressful, care-worn expression which any one who reads this may consider himself fortunate if he has never observed. They have the run of a large farmyard, where I have a set of Dorkings, and a patriarchal or rather patriarchal Malay hen, which having had for six or seven years, I now look upon as a pensioner (I should add that she was an

old hen when I bought her), and allow her liberties denied to other fowls. The chickens, Dorkings, and the Malay hen, all roosted at night in a large barn, the chickens in one corner huddled up together, the Malay on a perch with the Dorkings. Within the last week the Malay hen, which I have never known to show any symptom of broodiness, and which is in fact a perfect virago, has taken compassion on the poor forlorn, deserted chickens, and not only broods them on the ground at night, but actually takes the entire direction and management of them during the day, scratching the manure over for them, clucking them together for the dainty morsels, and brooding them occasionally, as if they were her own chickens. The old hen seems to have reasoned thus with herself:—"Here are some poor deserted children, thrown helpless and wretched on the world by their unnatural mother. The loss which they have already sustained of their little brothers and sisters too sadly shows the want of a mother's care, even if their own careworn, hopeless looks, and evidently ruined constitutions did not tell the sad, sad tale of cold and misery; here am I, a large, fat, useless hen, well fed and cared for by my master, and only kept as an old friend. I will become a mother to his motherless chickens, and thus by my gratitude teach proud man that he may in some cases take a lesson from the brute creation." Whatever the old lady's reasonings may have been, this thing is certain—she has acted the part of a true friend to her adopted family, not by her merely sympathising with, but by actually helping them; a very useful lesson to us all.

ZENAS.

Woolton Floral and Horticultural Society.

THE first exhibition for the season of the Woolton Floral and Horticultural Society took place yesterday in a large marquee which had been erected for the occasion,

on a piece of land situated near the church. The show was under the immediate patronage of the Earl of Sefton, his Worship the Mayor of Liverpool, J. A. Tobin, Esq., and the whole of the influential gentlemen of the district. In plants and flowers the show was very good, and on the whole there was a marked improvement on former exhibitions. Though it is yet early in the season for fruit and vegetables, there were very fine specimens in both departments, though the competition was but small. The strawberries exhibited by Mr. J. B. Leatherbarrow, and the magnificent black grapes and pine-apples of Mr. Dutton, attracted marked attention. In the earlier part of the afternoon the weather was all that could be desired, and soon after it was thrown open to the public, the building was crowded with a very fashionable company. The stalls were laid out with great taste and judgment, affording the best accommodation to both exhibitors and visitors, and reflecting great credit upon the gentlemen who had had the management.

The show of poultry was not large, but it included several fine birds.

SPANISH.—1st and 2nd prizes, Mrs. Cooke.

COCHINS, BUFF OR CINNAMON.—1st and 2nd prizes, W. Copple, Esq.

DORKINGS.—1st prize, John Copple, Esq.

GAME FOWLS.—1st prize, H. Worrall, Esq. 2nd prize, W. Seddon, Esq.

HAMBURG, GOLDEN PENCILLED.—1st prize, W. C. Worrall, Esq. (These birds won the first prize at the Birmingham exhibition.) GOLDEN SPANGLED.—W. C. Worrall, Esq. SILVER PENCILLED.—1st prize, F. Worrall, Esq. SILVER SPANGLED.—J. Woods, Esq.

POLAND FOWL, BLACK, WITH WHITE CRESTS.—1st prize, Wm. Seddon, Esq. SILVER.—1st prize, Wm. Poland, Esq.

BANTAMS, GOLD LACED.—1st prize, G. W. Moss, Esq. WHITE.—1st prize, G. W. Moss, Esq. BLACK.—1st prize, G. W. Moss, Esq.

THREE GOBLINGS.—1st prize, J. B. Nielson, Esq.

DUCKS.—1st prize, H. Worrall, Esq. ROUEN.—1st prize, H. Worrall, Esq.

A band of music stationed on the grounds

contributed much to the enlivenment of the proceedings, by playing a variety of popular airs, polkas, &c.; and at intervals a number of balloons were sent up.

Home and the Homestead.

ON DRAINING.

FIFTEEN months back we commenced our little Periodical upon one subject only; but as "a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind," we soon felt that *many other things* are interesting to those who have the "art of seeing;" we tried to cater for all who, like ourselves, delight in country pursuits, and made our weekly print a medium for the discussion of several pleasant occupations and amusements. Many of our readers will, within a month or so, change the dust and bustle of town for country homes, country employments, and country neighbours—poor and rich. To these a little work entitled, "The Farmer's and Cottager's Guide," published by Groombridge & Sons, Paternoster Row, will prove both useful and interesting. Although written expressly for Ireland, it may be valuable in other places also, uniting, as it does, condensed and useful information with size and price, which will render its distribution and circulation easy.

The preface states that the "little work was written with a special reference to the wants of the present time. The question of instructing the children of the poor in the principles of Agriculture and Cottage Gardening, has, from recent events, occupied an unusual share of public attention. It seems now to be generally admitted, that the education of the people should have a practical character, and be, in some measure, adapted to those pursuits in life by which the labouring classes are likely to obtain their means of support. . . . In the hope that this tract, which is perfectly simple and practical in its character, may assist in the good work, the writer has laid it before the Commissioners of National

Education; and they have kindly promised to circulate it, with some other essays on rural economy, among the national schoolmasters. Whatever defects may be observable in its literary execution, the author trusts his indulgent readers will overlook, in consideration of the important and useful objects which it is designed to promote." Thus modestly does the author, Mr. Alexander Campbell, introduce his work from which we will give rather a long extract, at the same time, strongly recommending the little book to the perusal of our readers. The author thus recommends the advantages and describes the process of draining:

"Having thus advanced a few important hints on the removal of old gripes and hedges, the next operation which should come under our notice is drainage; and before entering thereon it may be well to enumerate a few of its most important and beneficial effects upon the soil. First, the ground becomes of a higher temperature, and the crops ripen and come to maturity sooner; secondly, it enables the farmer to work the ground in nearly all kinds of weather, and at every season of the year; thirdly, it favours the accession of the air, which acts upon the different ingredients of the soil—viz., the sulphates, carbonates, silicates, and phosphates of lime, soda, potash, magnesia, &c., &c., and thereby renders them fit to become the food of plants; fourthly, the crop can be put down much earlier, and the seed economised, a great deal less answering the purpose in drained land; fifthly, it occasions an increase in the quantity, and a decided improvement in the quality of all kinds of crops; sixthly, clay soils, previously difficult to be worked, are rendered more easily laboured, and consequently a greater quantity of work can be done in less time. The advantages resulting from drainage might be multiplied to an indefinite extent, would space permit; but I consider the above amply sufficient to induce every person engaged in the cultivation of the soil to pay the strictest attention to its proper drainage.

“Present restrictions will not allow me to enter on drainage in general, nevertheless I will point out a few plain, practical, and important matters which, if attended to, cannot but be of the greatest service, utility, and instruction to everyone engaged in this highly important operation. The first thing to be determined upon is the direction of the main, or leading drain, which should run along the hollow, and be carried towards the lowest level, or best outlet; and if any of the old gripes should have answered this purpose, so much the better. Having thus determined on the site or direction of the main drain, the next thing to consider is the direction of the sub or parallel drains, which should in every case be up and down the declivity, the distance between which entirely depends upon the nature of the soil and depth of the drains. But should the outlet permit us to sink the main drain four feet, and the sub or parallel drains three and a half (for these drains should in all cases be from five to six inches shallower than the main, in order to allow a drip for the water, and thereby prevent the deposition of sediment in the main drain), I would consider from twenty-four to thirty feet as a medium distance for all soils. The plan of drainage having thus been laid down, the next operation is the opening of the drains, which should be somewhat in the shape of the letter V, with a gentle inclination on both sides, so that the width at the bottom of each may not exceed three or four inches. The main drain is that which should be first sunk, in order to carry off the water issuing from the sub or parallel drains during the operation of sinking. Care should be taken that the bottom of all drains be perfectly level, with a gentle declivity towards the point at which they discharge their contents; and consequently all sub or parallel drains should have a gentle declivity or fall towards the main drain, into which they empty themselves. The filling of these drains is the next point to which we should turn our attention; and the mate-

rials which I should recommend, in preference to all others, for this purpose, are broken stones, if they can be conveniently procured. Having dwelt at full length in the first chapter on the chief points to be observed in the filling of drains with broken stones, I shall here content myself by referring the reader thereto for the necessary information on this subject. Should there be a difficulty of procuring stones, then pipes are the materials to which I should give the next preference. When pipes are used for drainage, they should be laid quite level, with what are called collars; and should a flat stone or old slate be placed immediately under the joints, so much the better, in order to prevent them from sinking—a matter productive of the most serious consequences.

“I should here enter on the superior advantages which broken stones have over all other materials used in the filling of drains, were I not in the present instance very much restricted, and thereby prevented from entering on any matters except those of indispensable utility. However, I am quite confident that a person of ordinary abilities will be able to superintend this important operation with credit to himself, and become an example to his neighbourhood, if he only give the above suggestions due consideration.”—From the “*Farmer's and Cottager's Guide*.”

Columbary.

NO. XIV. THE MAGPIE PIGEON.

THIS variety of toy pigeon is evidently derived from the German “Elster” (magpie), or “Weiszflügliche” (white-winged), “Burzel-Taube” (tumbler-pigeon), and many magpie tumblers are bred in this country, both flying, and short-faced fancy birds, which I spoke of in my former paper on the tumblers, the present having reference only to the toy magpie, which has been bred large and coarse, without

regard to any other property than feather ; a preceding I regret, as it certainly loses much by contrast with a magpie tumbler.

They are of various colours, as black, blue, red, or yellow, and are therefore designated black magpies, &c., as the colour indicates ; their peculiarity consists in the wings being wholly white, as also the lower part of the breast, thighs, and vent, the remainder of the plumage being coloured, which marking bearing some resemblance to the pied plumage of a magpie, is the reason for their name ; and in the accuracy with which the colouring is divided, their value consists. Although the wings are wholly white, yet the epaulets or scapular feathers, that overlay the back, are dark, being exactly the reverse, in this respect, of the Tern or Sea-swallow pigeon.

A closer resemblance to the plumage of a magpie would be produced if they could be bred with the whole of the quill feathers of the wings, both primary (flight), and secondary (supporters), grizzled, or tipped with the dark colour. B. P. B.

On Bees.

ADVICE TO BEGINNERS.

IN his noonday examination of the hive, let the novice pay close attention to the alighting board. He may perhaps observe it sprinkled over with black spots, but he must not mistake the marks of last year for this ; these black spots appear sometimes when any of the bees are dying of hunger. They are produced, I imagine, when the bees are compelled to feed on the decayed and unwholesome farina or bee-bread contained in the old combs. These marks are however not always seen when the bees are dying of hunger, for this old bee-bread is not always found in hives, of which I have an instance this spring, in an hive of which the combs are three years old ; the last of the bees died a fortnight since ; the combs are entirely empty, and there have been no marks on

the alighting board. He should also observe if *many* fine bees enter the hive, without balls on their legs, but with their tails expanded both in length and width ; these bees are water-carriers, and when failing in food, and the season is mild, but too early for the growth of flowers, or when the bees are too weak to seek them at a distance (which often occurs in early spring, when furze and willow are the only flowers in bloom), they fetch water from the nearest spring. This also occurs sometimes in the middle of summer, but still it arises from the same cause, from hunger, from a deficiency of honey in the hive. In bad, cloudy, and rainy seasons, there is no time when bees are in a more starving state than in the middle of summer ; at this time, feeding with honey, at a few yards distant from the hive, for fear of setting them robbing each other, is most desirable. I have known them visit the water in such numbers, that boys have come to tell me there was a swarm of bees. I have seen large mossy stones in a brook, just raised above the surface of the water, covered with them ; and what is singular, they prefer sucking the moisture from any damp substance, rather than going to the water itself for it. The surface of stones in a wall or cliff, a few inches from where water is trickling down, or the earth darkened by containing a considerable quantity of water, are the places in which they seek for it. Still more they prefer the sparkling dew. Early on a warm sunny morning, he may be surprised to see them drink two large drops of dew from a blade of grass, or a strawberry leaf, which together appear much larger than themselves. These are indications of a deficiency of honey in the hive, and are useful guides to form a correct judgment of the state of the hive when the weight of bee-bread in the old combs might otherwise mislead. J. S.

CARRIAGE OF BEES.

As the season is approaching when some apiarians may desire to remove their bees

for the benefit of fresh feeding ground, the accompanying result of my experience in moving bees may be acceptable to some of your readers. The hives, or rather boxes, two in number, were conveyed altogether a distance of rather more than a hundred miles, in the course of which they passed through the following changes:—They were first conveyed three miles by a fly; then twelve by rail, in which short distance they were moved twice from one train to another; then about forty-five miles more of rail; another change of trains; about thirty miles more of railway travelling, followed by half a mile more jolting by a fly. After resting at this point about a week, they were conveyed to their final resting-place, about ten miles more by rail and three by a fly. The greater part of the journey was performed in the middle of a hot day in the latter part of April, *i.e.*, between eleven and six o'clock, and on opening the boxes at their destination, not a comb was found displaced or injured, nor any of the bees dead. I speak of these things before describing the plan that was adopted in moving them, because, after the test here given to the plan, I think no one who has bees to remove to a distance, need hesitate to adopt it. It is necessary that the hive or box be first **SECURELY** fastened to the bottom board, and ventilation insured by pieces of perforated zinc, *well fastened* over the entrance-hole, and, if possible, over another hole in the top of the hive; or, if this be impracticable, another hole should be made in the bottom board, and properly secured, as above. Too much stress cannot be laid on seeing to the bees being securely confined in the hive. For although in this case no objection was made to the conveyance of my unusual fellow-travellers over several lines of railway, yet, if any instance should occur of their escaping, and causing annoyance and perhaps injury to passengers, I fear we may for ever say adieu to this means of conveyance.

Having thus effectually secured the bees, a box must be procured, about three inches larger every way than the box containing

the bees. To the sides of this are to be nailed two pieces of broad strong tape, or, better still, of elastic band, which are to hang down inside the box, forming two slings on which the box or hive is to rest as a hammock on board a ship, or as a child's cot or cradle sometimes does between the posts from which it is suspended. A little loose hay or straw must then be put in the bottom of the box, and *after the bee-box is put in* more must be put round the sides. Holes must be bored through different parts of the outer box, or a space left between the lid and the box for air. Judging from the practical proof above, I think we may safely say that bees properly packed in this way will travel from Land's End to Gretna Green without loss or injury.

W. N.

To "Minna."

A "COUNTRY RECTOR" has kindly favoured us with the following reply to "Minna's" question in No. 68:—I took the cork out of the top of the hives, and placed bell-glasses upon some and wooden bee-feeders on others, and left them on till the beginning of March, covering them and the hives with straw; but I believe the best method is to get a circular rim of zinc, half an inch wide, turned up round both the edges, on which place a glass, over the hole on the top of the hive (a common tumbler would do); the moisture oozing through the hole condenses in the glass and runs into the trough. Bee-pots are nearly similar to a large milk-bowl, only the rim is wider and has a spout to it, to prevent the water falling on to the board. There is one objection to them, that is, that they become very hot with the sun, so I generally put something on the top of the hive under the bee-pot, when a free circulation is obtained. The price of them at the pottery is 1s. each. At any time I shall be happy to render any information I can.

A COUNTRY RECTOR.

Floriculture.

JUNE 20.

WE have had occasion to remark many times that this season is a very late one, but where the carnation plants are sufficiently grown, or *when they are so*, some pipings may be taken from the best varieties. The small side cuttings, with two or three joints, are best; they will make stronger plants than layers. Any time will do for this work, during this month or next, when there happen to be good pipings which can be spared; it will make shoots available for increasing choice kinds which are too short for layering, and will turn to account any bits which may be accidentally broken off. We are sometimes glad to turn the sins of our chickens to useful account, and to find that, although the present mischief may be irreparable, the *pieces may be made to grow*. Trim the pipings by cutting off the tops and the lower leaves, and slit them at the bottom. Wrap the cuttings up in thick brown paper, well wetted, and expose the slit ends to the sun for a few hours in the middle of the day, to prevent the wound immediately rotting. Have some light rich earth in readiness, either in a border or in pots; let it be broken and made fine, with an even surface. Mark the place where the cuttings are to be planted with the glass intended for covering them, then plant the cuttings near each other, give them a gentle watering, and cover them air-tight with the glasses. Shade them from hot sun, and if further moisture seems required, a watering over the glasses will be sufficient. The choicest kinds of pinks may be propagated in the same manner.

Auriculas should be kept watered. Stir the surface of the ground, and remove all the dead leaves, as soon as they will part readily from the plant.

The most promising blooms of pinks should be shaded and sheltered. Give manure water, and water liberally. Placing a card to support the calyx of flowers while

on the plant often proves injurious, but if the flowers are for exhibition, when they are full grown and cut, allowing them to become relaxed, and then putting on the card, and arranging the petals, and placing the flowers in water, will set them to the required position. Pinks are said by those who have noticed them closely, to unfold their petals, when clear of the pod, at two different times of the day, viz., from nine to ten o'clock A.M., and again between five and six, P.M., seldom showing any progress between these times. Prepare beds for planting out seedling pinks, picotees, and carnations. As the seedlings should now be getting strength for transplanting, take advantage of moist weather, and get them out this month, if possible.

Anemones and ranunculuses may be taken up when the flower and leaf stalks are decayed. Take them up in dry weather, and spread them in a dry, airy, shaded place for about a week or ten days, after which the earth may be cleared from them, and they may be put by until the time for planting. The roots of the seedlings may be treated in the same manner. The old flowers which are left for seed should be watched, and tied up from time to time, that they may not be injured by the wind.

The hyacinth roots which were buried sideways in ridges last month, must be taken up in dry weather, and treated as then recommended; taking care that they do not contract any mouldiness.

The garden now requires much and constant general attention; cutting off dead flowers, removing decayed leaves, continually tying up and supporting with sticks all the tall, growing, flowering plants, weeding, and raking. Nothing conduces more towards the neat and pretty appearance of a garden, than the flowering plants standing firmly in their places, and neatly trained.

Irregular Sitters.

W. A. J. asks you for information regarding the neglect of eggs of fowls

during incubation. I have had several instances of irregular proceedings in the sitting hens this spring.

April 9. A young Cochin hen was sitting on ten eggs, which on March 25 were stolen by another hen, and rolled away to a distance of two feet; she hatched seven, and three eggs were addled.

May 2. A large Cochin hen was set on sixteen eggs; on April 23, she was off her nest an hour and a half exactly, having been shut out by mistake; she hatched on May 1 one egg; on May 2, ten eggs; on May 3, one egg; four eggs were addled.

April 26. A large Cochin hen was set on seventeen eggs; on May 4 she was found on a wrong nest; her eggs and nest had no warmth perceptible, and were much colder than the above. She hatched twelve chickens, one dead in the shell: four eggs addled.

May 4. A small Cochin hen was set on eleven eggs; she hatched one on the 19th day, and all the rest on the 20th day.

May 17. An old Cochin hen set on fourteen eggs. She got out on to a wrong nest on June 3; no perceptible warmth in the nest, except on the under side of one egg in the middle of the nest. She hatched twelve chickens on the 21st day.

Creveccœur Fowls at Paris.

HAVING read in your columns the several remarks on Creveccœur fowls, I naturally took particular interest in those birds when at the Exhibition at Paris last week; there were but two pens, both shown by M. Jevron, with 1st and 2nd prizes attached to them. I should call them Black Bearded Polands; I had the same breed precisely in my yard some five years since, they were imported from Normandy; and I quite agree with "B. P. B." in supposing they derive their name from the village of Creveccœur. I could see nothing in the shape of their combs resembling heart or horns, beyond the pointed comb usually seen in most crested birds. They were birds of large

size, but the matching would not have done for Birmingham, one of the 1st prize hens being delicately pencilled with white, the others jet black. I believe the so-called Creveccœur fowls will, when *pure bred*, which it will take some time to effect, from the known carelessness of foreigners generally in keeping their strains select, be of considerable advantage, as from the little experience I have had with them, they proved themselves excellent layers,—good table fowls attaining a great size, and very early maturity.

The price of chickens in Leadenhall Market, in your late numbers, rather astonished me, but I find the same advance on the Continent, as I noticed several crates of fine early chickens landed at Havre from Normandy last Saturday, consisting of cross-bred Creveccœurs, Game, Dorking, *cum multis aliis*, and on asking the price, they demanded 10 francs per couple. Supposing they were imposing on me, I inquired of my friend who resides there; he said "No, they can have almost any price they choose to ask for good poultry;" and stated he gave 3½ francs for one duck the day previous.

Trusting the Paris Exhibition will induce the Continental breeders to be more careful in improving their various strains, so that, at some future time, we shall see them competing with us at Birmingham.

H. B. H.

Entomology.

CHAP. IV.

HAVING thus briefly described the insect in its principal parts, I will commence the description of the leading species. As we have already seen, the first order is Coleoptera, or the beetle; it is so called from two Greek words, meaning a sheath and a wing, in allusion to the elytra, or hard membranaceous sheaths, which cover the wings whilst the insect is in a state of rest. This order is divided and sub-divided into many sections and families; but I must content myself with giving a short

description of some only of the most common and striking of the species. The first insect which occurs to me is *Cicindela campestris*, or the tiger-beetle, and it is not unaptly so called, as well from the great beauty of its markings, as from its ferocious disposition; in fact it holds the same relative position in the insect economy as its namesake among quadrupeds. It is extremely active, so that few insects can escape its clutches, and once in them, "Good night to Marmion." It is rather more than half an inch long, the upper surface of the body of a deep dead green, changing under the microscope to glossy gold, shot with red and green, each elytra being marked with five small round cream-coloured spots; the under surface of the body is a brilliant emerald-green, and when flying the insect sparkles in the sun like a gem. When handled, it gives forth a scent resembling the verberna. It is found plentifully in dry sandy banks, but owing to its extreme vigilance, and its being able to use its wings with as much facility as any bird, it can only be captured with great difficulty. The antennæ are filiform.

Carabus cancellatus, or the ground-beetle, is another common species; it is a beautiful insect, its colour is a coppery-green, its wing-cases being ornamented with rows of oblong raised spots. It preys on insects for which it searches, under stones, or beneath the bark of trees, or in moss growing at their roots. Some of the insects in this family exhale a very fetid odour, and have the power of discharging from their abdomen at the same time a caustic and acrid fluid. *Brachinus crepitans*, or the bombardier beetle, is a familiar instance of this. It is called the bombardier beetle, because the expulsion of the fluid before mentioned is accompanied with a loud report considering the size of the insect. It is about half an inch long, the head, thorax, and legs being of a yellowish-red colour, and the elytra greenish or blue-black. It is a common insect, and may be found under stones in some

localities, Gravesend, for example, in profusion.

The *Dytiscidæ*, or water-beetles, may be represented by *marginalis*, one of the largest and commonest of the species. It is found in stagnant water, and is of a dark olive colour, with the thorax and wing-sheaths bordered with yellow; its length is about an inch. The larva, much resembling the shrimp, is, when full grown, two inches and a half long; and being extremely voracious, attacking not only insects, but small fish, is justly considered one of the most mischievous animals that can infest a fish-pond. Only the larva and full-grown insect inhabit the water; the larva, when full-grown, leaving the water, and changing into the pupa in the adjoining bank.

The *Gyrinidæ*, or whirligig beetles, are well known, particularly *natator*, the commonest of the species. These little beetles seem to live for the most part on the surface of the water, on which they may, from the early spring till late in autumn, be seen performing in company their gymnastic gyrations, now slowly gliding round in measured pace; then suddenly, as if an electric shock had suddenly roused them to more active steps, they dart off like brilliant points, and seem to vie with each other in the rapidity with which they perform their intricate evolutions, which are so rapid that the eye cannot follow them; and yet, though they move with this celerity, they never come into collision with each other. If frightened, they seek to escape by darting immediately under the water, and carrying down with them a bubble of water attached to the hind part of the body, they look like balls of silver. They are of a brilliant metallic blue colour, and when captured they discharge a milky fluid, of a very disagreeable odour.

MAC.

Our Poultry Show.

(Continued from page 330.)

THE Secretary and Judges were at their posts early in the morning—the former

very tired. Conceited was the member of committee appointed to attend for reference and instructions in case of mistakes. He was late, and in apologising for it, he attributed it to fatigue. "It is not, gentlemen," said he, "the man who talks most who does most, but it is the member who suggests the important things, and who exercises a salutary influence on others. The presence of such an one is enough. I will not mention names, but I have had enough of it."

Things went on smoothly; but in some instances, where chickens were put in the place of old birds, and *vice versa*, and he was called upon to rectify, or take note of it, he explained how irksome it was to a man of mind to attend to such trifling details, and when some mixture of Pencilled and Spangled Hamburgs was detected, he at once declared he could not be responsible for the unimportant mistakes, for he had interested himself only in the larger matters.

When the judges had done, the different members took their posts, and the public was admitted. The attendance was numerous for the private and expensive day.

"Capital!" said Hot.

"I wish we had given cups in every class," said Rash.

"It surpasses my expectations," said Sanguine.

"It is not yet over," said Cool.

"Our expenses are not paid," said Cautious.

"I wish we were sure of the weather," said Despondency.

"Let us hope for the best," said Conciliating.

"I cannot give an opinion," said Retiring.

When the time arrived for closing for the day, Conceited was told it would be his duty to see the birds fed.

"Impossible," said he, "I cannot undertake such a task as that."

"But you must," said Quarrelsome: "you agreed for that part."

"I did not understand so," said he.

"What!" shouted Quarrelsome, "did

you not say you would attend to all, except when the public was in the building?"

"Yes," replied Conceited; "but I did not fancy you would put such a task as this on me."

"Why not on you?"

"Because from my position in the committee, some other office might be assigned."

Hot and Rash both cried out at this. Conciliating and Retiring did all they could to make peace; but it was of no avail, and Conceited retired in dudgeon, declaring his co-operation at an end. His place was soon filled, the birds were fed, and the first day closed. The receipts were satisfactory, and the remaining members separated, after having each been consulted as to the weather by Despondency. Sanguine had, indeed, suggested the addition of a band of music for the morrow, but Cool and Cautious opposed it so strenuously, that he gave it up.

The next day opened fine, and visitors flocked in. Despondency, satisfied as to the weather, was now obliged to hope the attendance would be numerous—it was not so great as he expected. Cool and Cautious ran from the door to the sale-office, thence to the catalogue-seller, and kept up a mental calculation of the Dr. and Cr. account. All went on well, till a messenger was sent to summon every member to the secretary's office.

"What is the matter?" said Despondency.

"A mistake of an unpleasant nature," said the secretary, "owing to a misprint in the catalogue, or an incorrect entry, a pen of birds marked at £5, have been claimed and paid for. The owner has just been here, and stated that he named the price £50 in his letter, and he has given us notice that they are not to be sold at less."

"Then," said Hot, "the buyer must give them up."

"He will not," said the secretary; "he produces the catalogue, whereon it says 'birds may be claimed at the price named therein.'"

"Look at the exhibitor's letter," said Cool.

They did so, and the price was £50.

"What is to be done?" asked Cautious.

"Pay the difference," said Sanguine.

"I thought something of the sort would happen," said Despondency; "this is worse than a wet day."

"I don't care," said Rash, "provided Conceited has to pay his share."

"It must stand over," said Cool, "for the present."

"I will try," said Conciliating, "to bring the parties together and arrange matters."

(To be continued).

Wild Birds of America.

It has been advocated to import useful birds, such as the red-breast, black-cap, song-thrush, blackbird, skylark, quail, &c. There is no doubt that if an addition were made to our already beautiful varieties, posterity would reap some benefit; but to insure that benefit, a suitable protection should be given to them, as well as to those we now have. We have many birds that are beautiful, and of almost incalculable value to the farmer, to say nothing of their cheering songs and complete innocence in every respect.

There are two varieties of sparrows that winter with us, and one other that spends his summer only with us. Then there is the bluebird, the first to greet us in the early spring, but soon followed by the robin. Next there is the red-winged blackbird, the wren, and several varieties of swallows, with some half dozen other kinds whose names I have not yet learned. These invariably live on insects, or the seeds of plants, except the robin, who, by way of recompense for the thousands of insects he has destroyed, makes an occasional dessert on ripe cherries.

There is also another sweet, monotonous little creature with black wings, called the yellow bird, otherwise the flax bird, because he likes flax seed, and because it is not an unusual occurrence to see them by hundreds in a field of flax when the seed

begins to get ripe. When frightened off, they go twittering along at every bound on their wings, as they see-saw through the air. But they like the seeds of many plants quite as well, if not better, than flax seed, among which are the seeds of the whole thistle family. And here he redeems himself, for he will not allow a single seed to escape, if he can get it.

Then there are a great many that are not so particular whether they get the insect or larvæ; and if neither is at hand, they can make a meal on many kinds of fruit. The much-admired oriole, sometimes called the fiery hangbird, and goldfinch, is not at all fastidious in this respect, nor is he careful about the number destroyed for a single meal; for he will thrust his bill first into one nice plum, and then another, until he has spoiled scores at a time. But he seems to claim this as a right, for the caterpillars that he has destroyed might have levied a greater contribution.

There are three varieties of blackbirds common among us, which feed entirely on insects, though one of them will sometimes pull corn for the sake of the insects.

There is the little merry wren, too, that is much persecuted in some sections from a mistaken notion that they destroy the eggs of other birds. He is one of the most useful birds to the horticulturist, as well as one of the most pleasant songsters that we have. His food consists mostly of that pest, the aphid; but when these are not to be found, he hunts every leaf and catches any stray fly that crosses his path. To have them come around your premises, you have only to put up convenient places for them to build in. A box four inches square, with a round hole of about one and a half inches in diameter will do, though the little fellows do not object to a neat cottage. Bluebirds may be invited around by houses, too, as well as the pewee and martin. But none must be killed, stoned or frightened, if one wishes to hear them sing their most lovely songs.

I have a number of miniature churches, cottages, &c., for the bluebirds and wrens,

and they are occupied every year, but less last season than formerly, owing to the fact that they returned too early last spring to find a supply of food. Very many died, but the survivors were industrious, and I hope to have their places well filled the coming year.

We have a statute to prevent the killing of many birds, but it is a dead letter, as it is seldom if ever enforced. Yet I could wish every offender summarily punished for each and every transgression of the law. We shall never have our forests, groves, fields and villages what they would be, unless parents and teachers instruct the children and youth against frightening or killing birds. Then, and not till then, will farmers and all others appreciate the true value and real pleasure that our beautiful birds afford.

There is another valuable bird, not yet mentioned, which has fallen into great disrepute with many of our farmers. We speak of the common crow. Perhaps we are too partial to them. We once reared one of these birds, and a more curious or cunning creature we ever saw. He became a most incorrigible thief, and was never so gay as when he could get hold of a silver spoon or some valuable article. We used to call him Jack, a name which he understood and responded to as quickly as any child. He had a high contempt of hawks, and when he saw one sailing along he would pursue him, and rising high in air, come down upon him with terrible vengeance. Sometimes in these excursions we would sing out, "Jack!" and though high up, he would wheel around and come sailing down through the air in the most graceful manner, and alight upon our shoulder. In haying time he always accompanied us into the field, and amused himself in hunting grasshoppers; and the number he ate was surprising. Afterwards, he would go and sit on a haycock and allow them to "settle," when he again renewed the war upon this insect tribe. In a year or two Jack disappeared, having been killed, we suppose, through the enmity of some of our neighbours to the crow kind.

The great objection to crows is, that they sometimes injure young corn; but this may be easily prevented at a trifling expense, and the good they do, is, in our opinion, infinitely greater than the injury.

—•—

CHURNING.—Butter should always be churned in a room or apartment, the temperature of which is between thirty and sixty degrees. At sixty degrees butter is obtained in the greatest quantity, and at about fifty-two degrees, of the best quality. To those interested in dairy management, these facts are of the highest practical importance. A thermometer should always be suspended in the dairy or milk room, and all the operations regulated by it.

NEW CURE FOR ROUP.—Edmund Cone says, in the "Ohio Farmer," that in attempting to keep from 600 to 1500 fowls together, he has, till recently, lost hundreds each year by the roup. The past year he has lost *none*. As soon as the disease made its appearance, he collected all his fowls into the hen-house, and built a fire with corn-cobs, producing a smoke so dense that objects could not be seen unless in a direct line with the windows. He says the poultry seem to enjoy this dense, pungent smoke exceedingly; the cocks crow and hens sing more than at other times, especially if the weather is cold. The smoke produces constant snuffling, or sneezing, with a very active action of the nictitating (winking) muscles, and considerable lachrymation or discharge of water from the eyes. He does not tell us *how often* he smokes them. In addition to the effect of the smoke upon his fowls, he says he has himself been troubled for fifteen years with a throat affection (chronic laryngitis), which he has feared would terminate in consumption; but he is now almost if not quite well! and he attributes his recovery to being in the smoke to witness its effects upon the poultry. He will experiment further, both upon poultry and human subject.

THE OLDEST TREE IN THE WORLD.—Perhaps the oldest tree on record is the cypress of Somma, in Lombardy. It is supposed to have been planted in the year of the birth of Christ, and on that account is looked on with reverence by the inhabitants. It is 123 feet high, and 20 feet in circumference at one foot from the ground. Napoleon when laying down the plan for his great road over the Simplon, diverged from a straight line to avoid injuring this tree.

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

PORTABLE OVEN.

SIR,—When I read your number for the 23rd of May, I was much in hopes that some one clever enough would aid us housewives by inventing a convenient portable oven. All who pay a high bill weekly for bread, which is far from being of the most wholesome kind, would appreciate, and, what is more to the purpose, would buy a family appliance of so great utility and convenience. A common cooking utensil in France consists of a table, into sockets of which two or three chaffing-dishes for charcoal are sunk, and with these they boil, bake, roast, stew, &c. &c. Now could not an oven of pottery, or some other material, drop into a groove in such a table, and be heated with a fireplace beneath, a flue or a fire inside? I wish some of your inventive manufacturing friends could invent such a thing, or at any rate give us their opinion.—Yours, &c.

A HOUSEKEEPER.

THE BUSTARD.

SIR,—In the last number of the "Chronicle" I see an invitation to all to contribute knowledge. Let me call attention to the following extract

from Oliphant's "Russian Shores of the Black Sea." In his journey between Kertch and Karassu Bazaar, he says, "We drove through great flocks of bustards, who manifested no concern at our approach. I afterwards found that roast bustard was a common dish at the hotels in the Crimes, and it proved excellent fare." If these birds are so tame, stand weather well (as we may presume any Crimean bird would), and are good to eat, might they not be useful, domesticated in England? and at the present time it is likely we can get as many as we want. I do not know the bird, unless it is such as are in the royal poultry yard at Windsor, and in the Zoological Gardens. If they are the same, the experience gained at those places would I am sure, through some of your contributors and correspondents, find its way into your pages.—I am, &c. S.

[We shall be very much obliged if any of our contributors or correspondents can oblige us with information respecting the bustard.—Ed.]

PEA-FOWLS.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent, I can inform him that I have kept and bred Pea-fowls for many years. They sit 28 days. If he desires any further information, I shall be happy to give it him if I can. B. T. S.

[We are indebted to our valued correspondent "B. T. S." for the information respecting the Pea-fowl, given in another column, and for any further information we shall be much obliged.—Ed.]

FALLOW DEER.

SIR,—Can any of your readers give me any information on the subject of keeping Fallow Deer, in a small park of some 20 acres. If so, I shall be much obliged. G. W. B.

I do not see the Bath and West of England prizes for Pigeons in your report.

[The prize list of the Bath and West of England Show was not published in time for our reporter to procure one before he left Tiverton, and we did not receive a copy either. Under these circumstances we could only depend on an uncorrected proof which a correspondent was kind enough to send us. It did not contain the pigeon awards.—Ed.]

SPANGLED HAMBURGS SITTING.

SIR,—Your correspondent, "Zenas," whose letter appeared at page 310, must be in error, when he states the Spangled Hamburgs do not sit. I have not had any in my possession for many years, but my impression is, that they sit well; and, on referring to Mr. Baily's work on

"Fowls"—the edition published in 1852—I find it stated, at page 30, that they are "good layers, GOOD MOTHERS, and very hardy." After this statement, by so eminent a judge, and a breeder of such great practical experience, there can be no doubt your correspondent is in error.—I am, yours truly,

A FIRM SUPPORTER FROM No. 1.
Reigate, Surrey.

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

MONDAY, JUNE 11.—Liberal supplies of wheat, oats, beans, and flour had been furnished the week before, the grain being principally foreign, and the morning's show of samples from Essex and Kent was moderate; but a week of fine growing weather, with the absence of a French demand, brought a very dull aspect on the market. The few sales were made at fully 2s. less money, but millers generally requiring still more favourable terms, holders were indisposed to concede to them, and the bulk of English supply remained undisposed of. The same abatement of 2s. would generally have been made in foreign parcels; but business appeared suspended with the absence of a continental inquiry.

BRITISH.		Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	.....	75 to 83
" "	red	69 .. 76
" "	Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	70 .. 75
BARLEY, Maltng, new	.....	32 .. 33
" "	Chevalier	34 .. 36
" "	Distilling	31 .. 34
" "	Grinding	31 .. 33
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new	.....	65 .. 70
" "	old	66 .. 70
" "	Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new	70 .. 72
" "	old	68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed	.....	26 .. 27
" "	potato	27 .. 30
" "	Scotch feed, new	29 .. 30
" "	old	33 .. 34
" "	potato	33 .. 34
" "	Irish feed, white	25 .. 26
" "	black	24 .. 28
RYE	.....	40 .. 43
BEANS, Mazagan	.....	38 .. 41
" "	Ticks	80 .. 43
" "	Harrow	39 .. 44
" "	Pigeon	42 .. 48
PEAS, White, boilers	.....	42 .. 47
" "	Maple	40 .. 42
" "	Grey	37 .. 40
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.	.....	65 .. 70
" "	Households, town	64 .. 65
" "	country	56 .. 58
" "	Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship	51 .. 53

On Wednesday, English Wheat sold quite as well as on Monday. Factors did not press for foreign, but buyers act with caution, taking only for their present wants. Floating cargoes off the coast are held so firmly, that business is checked, 47s. bid and refused for two cargoes Saide—43s. and 44s. for Baheira. No Indian corn arrived, and but little to be had near, and no buyers for distant. Barley stiffens in value, Malt and peas steady. For the two cargoes of beans on coast, 33s. 6d. and 34s. c. f. and i. refused—held at 35s. 6d. Foreign oats taken to a fair extent at Monday's prices. Extra fine Irish wanted for export, but none here. Irish feed are difficult of sale.

PRICE OF BREAD IN LONDON.

The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 10d. to 10½d.; and household ditto, 8½d. to 9½d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THERE is a downward tendency in some things, partly from unfavourable weather, and partly from a better supply; but this only affects those things have been reared since the long and severe winter which has caused the dearth.

Large Fowls	.....	9s. 0d. to 12s. 0d. each.
Smaller do.	.....	6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. "
Inferior do.	.....	4s. 0d. to 4s. 6d. "
Chickens	.....	3s. 9d. to 5s. 0d. "
Inferior do.	.....	2s. 0d. to 3s. 0d. "
Green Geese	.....	6s. 6d. to 7s. 0d. "
Drucklings	.....	3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. "
Pigeons	.....	0s. 9d. to 0s. 10d. "
Quails	.....	2s. 0d. to 2s. 9d. "
Rabbits	.....	1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d. "
Leverets	.....	3s. 6d. to 5s. 0d. "

To Correspondents.

A Country Rector.—We have given the reply, as our correspondent will see, first, because we have not the quorist's address; and secondly, because the information would be interesting to other readers also.

Melilotus Leucantha. W. N.—This plant, so attractive to bees, may be sown in spring, or in August for the following year. It grows very tall, and bears a great many small white flowers, with which bees are so attracted that they hum about it in great numbers.

The foliage, when dried, has the scent of the Tonquin bean. Will any of our readers oblige us with information respecting it.

Advertisements.

FOR POULTRY HOUSES.—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, Dogvate 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.

SERAI TÁOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan, A few Settings of Eggs from those beautiful birds to be disposed of at 2s. the Dozen.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from First-rate Pea-Combed mature birds, from the 1st of July at 10s. 6d. the Dozen.

Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

FOR SALE.—A Handsome Silver Spangled Bearded Poland Cock. Highly commended at Manchester. Also Two Golden Spangled Bearded Cocks, and One or Two Hens; prize birds. Apply to Mr. S. T. SMITH, Park Lane, Madeley, Salop.

FOR SALE, a Rouen Drake, second prize bird at Norwich, 1854; ditto Duck, first prize at Plympton, at which show she weighed over 8 lbs.; also a very large Aylesbury Drake, recently purchased at a high price of Mr. Ford. W. R. ROSE, Lydiard Millicent, Swindon, Wilts.

N.B.—Some excellent White Fantail Pigeons for disposal.

WANTED TO EXCHANGE, a Black Cochin China Cock and two Hens, first prize birds at Manchester, pen 299, for a Rouen Drake and two Ducks, or an Aylesbury Drake and two Ducks. Address HENRY BUTLER, Manufacturing Chemist, Shelf, near Halifax.

ANERLY POULTRY SHOW.—President, The Right Hon. the Earl of Verulam; Vice-President, Sir John Peter Boileau, F.R.S., Vice-President of the Zoological Society. The first Exhibition will be held in the Anerly Gardens, adjoining the Anerly Station of the London and Croydon Railway, and near the Anerly Entrance to the Crystal Palace Grounds, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 28, 29, and 30, 1855. The value of the Prizes will exceed 300 guineas. A detailed list of the Prizes and Certificates of Entry may be had on application to the Secretaries, at the office, Anerly, Surrey.

EDGAR SMALLFIELD, } Hon. Secs.
HENRY F. WELLS, }

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This Office, the new income of which was doubled during the last year, presents the security of a large paid-up capital; moderate premiums for home and foreign risks; no stamp duty is charged; and all policies are declared indisputable.

The last Bonus added four-fifths of the premium paid to some of the participating policies.

Provision can be made for the payment of a certain sum on attaining any given age (as 50, 55, or 60), or at death if it occur previously.

By a small annual payment, £100 may be secured to a child on attaining the age of 14, 18, or 21.

Prospectuses and other information will be furnished on application to

H. D. DAVENPORT, Secretary.
Agents wanted.

WINDSOR POULTRY EXHIBITION, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 27th, 28th, and 29th June, 1855. Patron, His Royal Highness Prince Albert. This Exhibition of upwards of 600 Pens of Fowls, from the first breeders and amateur fanciers in the kingdom, will be opened as above. Entrance, first day, 2s. 6d.; second and third days, 1s. Catalogues, 6d. each. Excursion Trains will run on both the Great Western and South Western Railways.

THOS. CHAMBERLAIN, } Hon. Secs.
H. THOMPSON, }

Thames Street, Windsor.

FOR SALE, Three First-rate Ptarmigan Fowls, a Cock and two Hens, which have taken two first prizes; price, 30s. Also, four very good Golden-Pencilled Hamburgs; price, £1. Address, A. B., 31, Norfolk Square, Brighton.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines 8s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 17s. 4d.; half-yearly, 8s. 8d.; quarterly, 4s. 4d.; payable in advance.

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HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 70.]

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1855.

[PRICE 3D.

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Poultry Shows.

Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire, at Hull, June 27th. Secretary, B. L. Wells, Esq., Bishop's Lane, Hull.

Windsor first Exhibition, Wednesday, Thursday, and the forenoon of Friday, the 27th, 28th, and 29th of June. Honorary Secretaries, T. Chamberlain, Esq., and H. Thompson, Esq., Thames Street, Windsor.

Devon and Exeter, on Northernhay, Exeter; June 28th and 29th. Secretary, T. W. Gray, Esq. Entries closed June 11th. (No. 69.)

Prescot, July 4th. Secretary, J. F. Ollard, Esq. Entries closed June 23rd. (No. 69.)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries are closed. (No. 57.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at Boston, Thursday, July 26. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close Wednesday, July 11th. (No. 64.)

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Malton, August 1st and 2nd. Secretary, J. Hannam, Esq., Kirk-Deighton, Wetherby. Entries close July 18th.

Isle of Wight, at Ryde, August 7th and 8th. Secretaries, J. Vaux, Esq., and G. Locke, Esq. Entries close July 24th. (No. 70.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th. (No. 67.)

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary, Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Heckmondwike (near Leeds) Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Show, including Poultry, and Cottagers' Pigs, Tuesday, August 28. Secretaries, J. Kelly, and F. Brearly, Esquires. Entries close August 13th.

Anerley, August 28th, 29th, and 30th. Secretaries, Edgar Smallfield, Esq., and Henry F. Wells, Esq. Entries close August 6th. (No. 69.)

Keighly Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighly. Entries close Saturday, August 25th.

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

East Lancashire Poultry Show (late Nelson) at Colne, October 31st and November 1st. Secretaries, Messrs. J. and E. Booth, Marsden, near Burnley, Lancashire. Entries close October 17th.

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. B. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

EXCELLENCE and perfection are the results of practice and study. There is nothing so faultless at the outset, that numerous improvements do not almost immediately follow its appearance. Things which in theory seem all that can be desired will not always stand the test of practice; we need not, therefore, be surprised that we receive letters complaining of the amounts offered to the different classes at the shows. It is natural that every man should think highly of his own, and if he cannot hide, he will at least endeavour to gloss over or diminish their defects. Just in this spirit a clever French

caricature laughed at the expense of the partisans of the Duc de Bourdeaux. It will be recollected there were two pilgrimages, one to Belgrave Square, the other to Ems, to see that illustrious personage. In the drawing he is represented walking in a garden followed by two very old French noblemen of the "ancient régime." Owing to the accident he is lame. "Ah!" exclaims one of the old gentlemen, "our dear prince has one leg shorter than the other." "Treason, Sir!" exclaims the other, "neither is too short, but one is too long."

Just so, one exhibitor will admit that his favourites are perhaps rather delicate, but they are wonderful layers; another, that his eat a great deal, but are never ill; a third, that his are difficult to rear, but very valuable when they are reared; a fourth, that his do not lay very many eggs, but they eat little or nothing. On one point every one is agreed, that no birds deserve prizes more numerous or valuable than his.

We believe every breed has its peculiar merit, but in making a prize list, committees have to be guided, first, by the money of which they can dispose; next, by the probable number of pens in each class.

Breeds must vindicate their right to distinction and outlay by the number of pens they are able to collect for competition. The divisions of different breeds have already greatly swelled the prize lists, and increased the money amount offered. Let us take Cochin Chinas as an example: formerly at a first-rate show six prizes were offered, three for adults, three for

chickens; now there are four distinct classes, and twenty-four prizes. The same may be said of the Polands and Game. We often receive complaints that the prizes given to the Dorkings and Spanish are larger in amount than those given to Polands, Game, and Hamburgs. Now we think if any classes should complain, they should be the Dorkings and Spanish. They are second to none in importance, value, or numbers. Having no divisions of colour, although their prizes may be a few shillings above the others in value, yet the amount offered to them is generally less than to any other breeds. Let us see how a good prize list will support our position. Spanish, in all, six prizes; Dorkings ten; Cochins eighteen, often twenty; Game from fifteen to twenty-four; Hamburgs twenty-four; Polands eighteen; Bantams fifteen. If then the first prizes differ a little in amount, the sum offered to each breed is largely in favour of the less expensive birds.

We believe shows are improving every year, and each new discovery tends to simplify the machinery connected with them, and to lessen the responsibility of those who undertake their management. Among them is the discovery of a portable, secure, and economical pen, which can be hired at a fixed sum, including every expense, easily fixed, and removed within a few hours after the show is closed. The health and diet of the birds are now better understood, and at two shows shortly coming off it is advertised that each pen will be daily supplied with a sod of growing grass. No men have ever worked more zealously and with more intelligence for

the amusement and advantage of others, than the projectors and managers of poultry shows, and we see with delight, every novelty tending to lighten their task. It may as truly be said, that few things have attained so great excellence in a short time as these exhibitions, but they are still in their infancy, and we hope to see the day when they will be as regular and as well supported as many others of our national hobbies. The subject of classes and their prizes has been thrust upon us, and our opinion asked. We have given it, as we always endeavour to do, impartially. In conclusion, we will say, let any class show a right to a larger division of distinction, and we doubt not it will have it; but we do not wish to see the day, when every pen will be decorated, and when prizes shall be so plentiful, that no one will care for them. To be one of the three fortunate among a hundred is a proud thing, but if fifty out of sixty were to be distinguished, the honour would lose its value and cease to be a *distinction*.

The Poultry Yard.

JUNE 27.

WE may really hope, at length, that the weather has decided to become fine: our poultry-yards are abundantly tenanted. We shall be wise if we have settled to rear no more chickens; and those of our readers who have taken our advice, have sealed the fate of all the faulty chickens of their stocks, and are now giving undivided space and attention to those which are most likely to do them credit. To give free range, to feed frequently and judiciously, and to look on with patient hope, is pretty well all we can now do; so we may look round at

our hen-yard furniture, as we have it at present in full use, but are in some instances just beginning to think about laying up some things until next season. Houses, hen-runs, and fences we have already spoken of; and every amateur with regard to them makes the best arrangements which his means and premises permit.

After houses come coops, for they often, for a good portion of the year, supply their place. Place a hen, with her brood, under a good weather-tight coop, with the bars in front just so far apart that she cannot get out, and we may reckon that they are established in life. These coops must have an entrance in front, either in bars to lift up or let down.

In addition to these, a few common wicker coops are convenient. They do to place out a hen with a young brood in fine weather, to move her about for her comfort and convenience from shade to sunshine, and from sunshine to shade; and when the larger coops with their occupants have to be shifted, it is a safe precaution to place the hen under a basket coop the while, which saves the possibility of crushed toes and little broken limbs. They are also convenient when two or three broods roost in one house, for hen mothers do not generally possess that kindly maternal instinct which extends the feeling to all the little ones in creation: on the contrary, they are rather disposed either to *thrash* all rival broods, or to invite their own to some unaccountable, inaccessible, uncongenial elevation. A basket coop placed over a spitefully disposed hen, *keeps her comfortable* till morning.

In speaking of open coops we must not forget the Greening coop, which is very light, pretty-looking, and convenient. We know a family of little Bantams which passed the winter under one; sometimes in a house, sometimes (when the weather permitted, for they were of a delicate sort) on the grass. All coops which are intended to confine the chickens as well as the hen, are useful only for a few days, for chickens will not do without a range.

All feeding contrivances, to which fowls can resort and eat a greedy fill without moving, we reckon bad. Such feeding is only good when fowls are fattening for the table. A pan or measure liberally supplied, a liberal hand to administer, and a clean grass plot, or clean-swept piece of ground on which to throw out the food, so that the fowls may run for it as long as they are hungry enough to do so, are all the feeding apparatus we recommend.

Not so with contrivances for the supply of water. All fountains which insure a constant supply of cool, fresh water, are very good; care being taken that the water inside is not allowed to get stale. Among inventions of this kind, Mr. Baily's fountain has long been known and appreciated.

We have lately seen another fountain, a new invention, consisting of a cylinder suspended with a funnel-shaped mouth dipping into a trough, which it thus kept supplied with water from the cylinder. For filling, the suspended cylinder is turned until the funnel is upwards; it is filled by this funnel, and allowed to turn into its former position.

Hen ladders are of no use for the purpose for which they are often named, *i. e.*, to prevent heavy fowls coming heavily to the ground; for the said fowls will use them to ascend, but will almost invariably come down their own way, that is, with the assistance of their often very inefficient wings. The only furniture we would give a hen-house would be perches of *stout* straight branches of trees, placed (moveably) within two feet of the ground; and far from these perches, a few nests parted off on the ground.

Schedule of the Isle of Wight Poultry Show.

THE Isle of Wight Society for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry, will hold the Annual Meeting this year at Ryde, on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 7th and 8th. It is not our practice to draw particular attention to the different items in

the schedules of shows, as we do so most completely by publishing them; but in the present instance we are led to make some remarks from the fact that more than one of the new rules have been previously advocated in our columns. We have before noticed this as a rising exhibition, and the schedule now put forth has justified our predictions. In addition to the usual prize list, we observe that three pieces of plate will be given, and eight extra prizes for the best cock birds. These various prizes are made up by individual members of the society, in no way interfering with the general funds,—an example we would suggest to other committees, and gentlemen interested in the shows of their localities. It will be seen that the cock birds are not to be exhibited singly, but to stand their chance in the usual pens: for a limited show this appears a judicious arrangement—for it cannot but have been noticed how much the exhibition of single birds interferes with the excellence of the other pens generally.

The rule as to allowing the cock to be sold separately from the hens as here adopted, is one of the most important and useful alterations that can be made. Many persons frequently require, or wish to sell, only a male bird, and are yet forced to purchase or part with a whole pen to accomplish their views. In many instances, also, the pen consists of brothers and sisters, which it is desirable to separate.

An auction of the surplus stock of an amateur was held last year at the Isle of Wight, with considerable success, and probably that circumstance, and the ready sale met with for all birds sent in to the last exhibition merely for sale, has induced the committee to add an auction to the attractions of the exhibition, and we have no doubt that, in their hands, it will be both successful and useful.

THE FOLLOWING EXTRA PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN :

A Piece of Plate, by W. G. Ward, Esq., to the most successful competitor, being a resident in the county of Southampton.—N.B. One award

must be received for Spanish or Coloured Dorkings.

A Piece of Plate, by the Committee, particulars of which will be given hereafter.

A Piece of Plate will also be given as the first prize for the best pen of Turkeys. The pen taking this prize must be for sale, and will not be subjected to Rule 9; but notwithstanding any greater price placed on it by the exhibitor, may be claimed at £3 13s. 6d., or any less price fixed by the exhibitor. If not claimed by 11 o'clock on Wednesday, August 8th, it will become subjected to Rule 9, and be put up to auction.

Eight Extra Prizes, of half a sovereign, will be awarded to the best cock bird in each of the following varieties, irrespective of colour, viz:—Spanish, Dorking, Cochin China, Game, Hamburg, Polish, Bantam, and Distinct Breed.—N.B. The cock birds to be exhibited in the usual pens with hens, not singly.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.

Class.	1st.		2nd.	
	£.	s.	£.	s.
1. Cock and two Hens	20	0	10	0
2. Cockerel and two Pullets of 1855	20	0	10	0

DORKINGS.

3. Coloured, Cock and two Hens ...	20	0	10	0
4. Cockerel and two Pullets of 1855	20	0	10	0
5. White, Cock and two Hens	20	0	10	0
6. Cockerel and two Pullets of 1855	20	0	10	0

COCHIN CHINA.

7. Coloured, Cock and two Hens ...	20	0	10	0
8. Cockerel and two Pullets of 1855	20	0	10	0
9. White or Black, Cock and two Hens	20	0	10	0
10. Cockerel and two Pullets of 1855	20	0	10	0

GAME.

11. Black-breasted and other Reds, Cock and two Hens	15	0	10	0
12. Cockerel and two Pullets of 1855	15	0	10	0
13. Duckwings, Greys, and other colours, Cock and two Hens	15	0	10	0
14. Cockerel and two Pullets of 1855	15	0	10	0
15. White and Piles, Cock and two Hens	15	0	10	0
16. Cockerel and two Pullets of 1855	15	0	10	0

HAMBURGS.

17. Golden Pencilled, Cock and two Hens of any age	15	0	10	0
18. Golden Spangled, Cock and two Hens of any age	15	0	10	0

HAMBURGS, continued.

<i>Classes.</i>	1st.	2nd.
	<i>s.</i>	<i>s.</i>
19. Silver Pencilled, Cock and two Hens of any age	15	10
20. Silver Spangled, Cock and two Hens of any age	15	10

POLISH FOWL.

21. Black with white crests, Cock and two Hens of any age	15	10
22. Golden, Cock and two Hens of any age	15	10
23. Silver and other Varieties, Cock and two Hens of any age	15	10

BANTAMS.

24. Gold and Silver Laced, Cock and two Hens of any age	15	10
25. White, Cock and two Hens of any age	15	10
26. Black, or any other Variety, Cock and two Hens of any age	15	10

FOR ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.

27. Cock and two Hens	20	10
28. Cock and two Pullets of 1855 ...	20	10

GEESE.

29. Any Breed, Gander and two Geese	15	10
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DUCKS.

30. Drake and two Ducks of the Aylesbury	15	10
31. Drake and two Ducks, of Rouen, and other Varieties	15	10

TURKEYS.

32. Cock and two Hens ... A Piece of Plate, 15		
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The Judges are also empowered to commend Birds.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. 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. : on the second day, 1s.; children, 6d. each.

2. All entries for the exhibition or the auction, to be made on the printed forms, which may be obtained on application to the secretaries. The last day of entry is fixed for the 24th of July. All letters requiring an answer must contain a stamped and directed envelope.

3. Exhibitors to pay 2s. 6d. for each pen sent for exhibition, and 1s. for each basket sent only for auction.

4. The judges will withhold prizes where specimens are of inferior quality.

5. 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, where this can be done. Birds of 1855 cannot be shown in the adult classes.

6. The specimens must be named with what the exhibitor believes to be their correct title. Specimens entered in a wrong class will necessarily be excluded from competition for prizes.

7. All the specimens must be bona fide the property of the exhibitor, for at least one month prior to the exhibition.

8. The discovery of any false statement will exclude the party from all future exhibitions.

9. Exhibitors must state a reserved price for all specimens that are for sale, and these will be put up to auction. The specimens, unless marked otherwise, will be sold in pens, but cock birds may be sold separately from the hens, the reserved price on each being previously fixed. The hens cannot be divided. Birds not for sale must be so stated in the entry paper.

10. To afford breeders an opportunity of disposing of their surplus stock, an auction will be held, and space will be afforded where lots may be sent, in white wicker baskets, containing not more than two birds in each basket, which must be sold as one lot, the basket to be provided by the seller.

11. The number of lots will be limited to 200. The auction will be held at the place of exhibition, on the 8th of August, at 11 o'clock A.M.

12. The charges to the seller will be 5 per cent. on all lots sold under rules 9 and 10, and 4d. per lot on all lots bought in, to defray the expenses of the exhibition and auction. The purchaser, in addition to the price of the pen or lot, will pay 1s. for each basket. Any sale made after the auction is over must be through the secretary: five per cent. will be deducted from such sales for the expenses of the exhibition.

13. The exhibition will not be limited to any particular district, and specimens may be sent from all parts of the world; the competition for prizes will be limited to amateurs.

14. Experienced feeders and managers will be employed; all eggs will be destroyed; all birds apparently diseased will be excluded; and all visibly marked birds will be disqualified.

15. All specimens must be addressed to the secretary, with the exhibitor's name attached, and be delivered, carriage paid, on Monday,

August 6th, between the hours of 10 and 3 o'clock. Each pen must be in a separate basket. Where a pen is divided, the purchaser of the first part sold must provide a basket.

JOHN VAUX, } Hon. Secs.
GEORGE LOCKE, }

ANERLEY POULTRY SHOW: CLASS FORTY-SEVEN.—When we gave the Schedule of the Anerley Show last week, we had read it with the impression that in class 47, for Turkeys, the number of birds in each pen was not imperative, but this was a mistake: each pen must contain three birds—a cock and two hens.

The Paris Show.

I WAITED the publication of your last number, in the hope that some of your numerous correspondents would give an account of the late Cattle and Poultry Exhibition at Paris; but finding none, and supposing that your readers may like to know something respecting it, I venture to address you, rather reluctantly I must confess, as I write entirely from memory; should I, therefore, be guilty of any discrepancies, I trust I shall be excused.

The Show was held in the Champ de Mars, a noble place for such a purpose; the arrangements were most complete and comfortable for the occupants; each description and sex was separately ranged and classified, and conspicuously described. The awnings of all the compartments composed of white canvas with blue stripes, numberless flags and streamers flying and fountains playing amidst groups of flowers, gave the whole a beautiful effect.

The display of cattle was excellent, from the most gigantic beast down to the diminutive Brittany cow, not higher than a common-sized donkey; some amongst them, I fancy, would have had blue ribbons attached to their horns, had they been exhibited at Smithfield, showing that our neighbours are certainly going a-head; and it is not to be wondered at, when the

Emperor sets them so good an example. At the far end of the Show was a quadrangle set apart entirely to exhibit some of the choicest specimens of the different breeds from his own herd; these were not competitors. Amongst them were to be seen short horns, Durhams, Devons, and others in great perfection.

There was one feature perfectly new to me. Many large bells, some of them big enough for a small church, hanging over their respective owners' pens (bulls or cows, as the case might be), suspended by broad leather straps ornamented in coloured wool with the Cross and other devices, which, grand as they may appear decorated with them, were not allowed to be worn during exhibition.

The poultry compartment was composed of two tiers of good roomy pens, with a rail in front to keep the too ardent admirers at a respectful distance, a plan worth adopting in this country. The Buff Cochins were well represented, and seemed to excite more interest with the Parisians than any other variety; the Brahmas, only two pens, I did not think first-class birds; Spanish were very good, also Spangled Polands.

Of the Crève-cœurs, which I expected to have seen in great force, only two pens were present; they were fine large birds: the under tier was mostly filled with pigeons, which far surpassed in size any I ever saw exhibited in England; they seem to cultivate these birds more as an article of food than of fancy as we do, and I assure you the dish must be large that would hold three of them in a pie. At the end of the poultry tier was a coop of four boards about a foot high, without any covering, in which were shown about a dozen Silk Fantail Pigeons, the peculiar property of which was, they would not fly away; and although handed to many spectators, and tossed about, apparently having the free use of their wings, seemed in no way inclined to leave the place assigned to them.

On Thursday the 7th, the entrance was free, and it was very pleasing to see the

order and good feeling that everywhere prevailed;—the very idea of a free entrance day at our Birmingham Show so completely confounds me that I must conclude.

H. B. H.

Paris Poultry Show.

A CORRESPONDENT writes,—The poultry is numerous and beautiful. In France the farm-yard is given up to chance; favoured by a more genial climate, our farmers should be able to give lessons to others, but they are now receiving very useful ones from the English.

Cochin China fowls seem much esteemed by our allies now. They lay well, and attain a large size at an early age; nevertheless, a man well versed in poultry matters, gave his advice "that we should not fall into the English heresy about fowls, as the Cochin Chinas were very inferior to our own on the table."

The most remarkable fowls were Polands, with white top-knots, sent by H.R.H. Prince Albert, and Mr. Gevers Deymoot. Mr. Allier's turkeys and Mr. Lemaire's ducks were also very good. There were rabbits, 10 lbs. weight, with ears measuring 17 inches.

The Comic Poultry-Guide.

(Continued from page 368.)

In many situations of life we require guides, and no class is exempt from this want. The imperial purple cannot dispense with them,—nay, it wants more than ordinary people. Witness the band of Napoleon's regiment of them, that created such a sensation at the Crystal Palace. They are also necessary when aspiring individuals determine to ascend Mont Blanc, and many a little screamer is familiar with the name in connection with a bathing machine at Margate or Brighton. A person about to commence poultry keeping may be compared to one just landed in a foreign city. Ignorant of every thing, he asks for a trust-worthy

guide. We will recommend a cheap and infallible one. It is nature. Choose then your stock well formed, healthy, and young; but as in most well-assorted unions, the male should be older than his partners. Seeing there are no laws against polygamy, we will mention the number of wives, which should be six. Following our guide, we say, let them take their own course. Let your hens enjoy all the honours of maternity, let them be blessed with those "sweet cares, all other joys so far above," that attend a mother's life. As you cannot eat your pudding and have it too, so you cannot compel a hen to do more than she is naturally fitted to accomplish; and she must rest. Strange to say, the period of sitting, and the infancy of her progeny, are the rest of the hen, and cause her no sleepless nights. But if in defiance of this sound provision, you prevent her from sitting, while it is true you will cause her to lay again, you will only be a temporary gainer, as the strain on the system will wear it out prematurely. She would have fulfilled her duties punctually, and to the last have been useful in her vocation; but being forced to unhealthy exertion when young, her old age will be sterile and premature. Thus thoughtless orphans, heedless of their trustees, devour before they are of age, the property that should keep them through life.

The cure for gout is said to be to live on half-a-crown per day, and to earn it. Exercise produces or sharpens appetite, and imparts a relish to the plainest food. We never know whether to laugh or to be angry, when we see an obese dog, slowly moving at the most snail-like pace, following, or rather hindering, the progress of a good old gentleman or lady. They like to see the dear thing fat, and even cookery is taxed to please the poor thing's palate. How often have we seen the walking-stick of the one, or the parasol of the other, brought into requisition to defend the poor useless being from the approach of some other dog, whose only advantage

was, that it was sparingly and properly fed; consequently it was cheerful, and full of health and spirits. We have seen an old lady almost as fat as her pet, perform marvels of agility in preventing another from playing with it, and at last fairly take up the poor wheezing creature.

Now fowls improperly fed, are in the same predicament. They become over fat, indifferent to exercise, and useless. Their food should be simple and regular, and keeping our guide in view, it should be so given as to approach as near as possible to a state of nature. Let it be scattered about, so that they shall have to seek it, and shall be unable to fill their crops in a few minutes. A meal to be healthy should be moderate in quantity, and eaten slowly. Follow this out with your fowls, and do not by unnatural temptations and indulgences make them "dear fat lazy things." Let them leave off with an appetite.

Farm-yard Poultry.

FROM time to time the columns of the "Poultry Chronicle" have urged the necessity of increased care and attention to farm-yard stock. It must be apparent to any person conversant with the amount of poultry and eggs annually required in the United Kingdom, and the large quantity of breeding poultry kept on farms, that the produce is not equal to the demand, nor does it reach the amount which it ought to do; this arises chiefly from farmers keeping bad small stock, breeding in, and retaining old and useless birds. It is difficult, indeed impossible, to obtain any correct account of the enormous importation of poultry and eggs from abroad. A recent article in the "Quarterly Review" gives some useful information on this point, but the writer confines his observation to London alone.

There can be no doubt that the trade is a most valuable one, and it is much to be regretted that our own farmers (who by keeping poultry admit the necessity of such

stock on a farm) should throw away so great a source of profit. The following figures will show that the trade is very considerable, they refer only to the quantities brought into two of the principal London markets, and are as follows:—Eggs, 75,000,000; Fowls, 2,000,000; Pigeons, 400,000; Turkeys, 100,000; Geese, 100,000; Ducks, 300,000.

In addition to these quantities, the vast amount sent to poulterers and private houses must be considered. It is difficult to say what proportion of this comes from abroad, but the fact that sixty million eggs are imported annually from France, and that the Brighton Railway alone carries yearly about 2600 tons of eggs brought from Belgium and France, are fair indications as to the rest.

If this very large trade is so valuable to foreigners, it must be apparent to any poultry keeper that the British producers should take steps to secure it for themselves.

It is notorious that this year there has been a great want of poultry, not only in London, but in every poulterer's shop throughout the kingdom, and it is equally well known that, except in London or some of the largest towns, a good plump well-fed fowl is never found. This is the result of the present farm-yard system, if such carelessness can be called a system. The little fowls produce little chickens, and AFTER HAVING GIVEN AS MUCH TROUBLE AND EATEN AS MUCH FOOD AS A GOOD BIRD WOULD HAVE DONE, they are sent to the local market, and bring such small prices as to be quite unremunerative. Had these birds been the produce of really good stock, and received a little extra care to make them plump, they would, without increase of trouble or expense, have realised such a sum as would have perceptibly increased the year's receipts. These observations are not made to those who are prejudiced against, and do not keep fowls, but to those who at present keep bad ones with a view to encouraging them to get good ones. Nothing is more easy, thanks to the

numerous exhibitions; there is scarcely a neighbourhood that has not one or more breeders of good stock, generally willing to part with some of their surplus birds at moderate prices.

It can scarcely be doubted that the best stock for table purposes is the Dorking; the varieties have been mentioned before in these pages. Those who wish to breed a very large bird should procure the light grey or speckled kinds; those who wish to have a moderate plump bird may get the *Silver Grey* variety, sometimes known as "Lord Hill's breed." These birds are to their larger brethren what the South-down sheep is to the Leicester, and other larger varieties, and they have one advantage to the fancier, viz., that they breed true to colour, which the larger birds do not, and there are few things more agreeable in poultry keeping than a yard filled with evenly-marked birds, all alike; but whatever breeding stock may be decided upon, no poultry keeper who wants eggs should be without Cochins or Brahma pullets: as winter layers they are invaluable, and produce a constant supply when fresh eggs command a high price. If Ducks are kept, the Rouen or Aylesbury will answer best; and if Turkeys are required, the Norfolk or Cambridge birds will make as fine meat as need be wished.

A Plan for keeping many Kinds of Fowls.

I HAVE three good enclosures for poultry, and wish to keep different varieties of Hamburgs, Cochins, and Dorkings. I shall be glad if any of your readers can tell me if the following plan has been tried, and with what result:—I propose to keep all the cocks in No. 1, all the hens in No. 2, and in No. 3 the cock and five hens whose eggs I reserve for sitting, changing the occupants once a month or so. The questions I shall be glad to have answered are—1st, would the cocks agree sufficiently to live together? I have heard that when sepa-

rate from hens, there is much less disposition to fight, and that a piece of leather, four inches by two, fastened round one leg, is a sure preventive. 2nd, would the hens ever become broody under this arrangement; and, 3rd, how long a time would the cocks and hens have to remain together in No. 3, before the eggs could be used for sitting? I have counted, from one gentleman's yard, eighteen different varieties, appearing in one prize list, and though it is, of course, possible he may have eighteen different enclosures, I am disposed to think some such plan as the above is followed, and I shall be glad to receive, through the medium of the "Chronicle," any suggestions that will enable me to keep more than three varieties in my three poultry-yards. H. E.

[Query 1: We fear the cocks would not agree.

Query 2: We do not think the plan would prevent the hens becoming broody; as the stock of Cochins on which we *depend* for broody hens, and eggs for eating, live altogether without the solace of a male companion.

Query 3: We reckon about a week, but speak with uncertainty, and shall be much obliged to any of our readers who will give H. E. advice and information.—Ed.]

My Poultry Yard.

I FIRST undertook the management of the poultry-yard because there seemed to be no one else to take charge of it, and besides I thought it would be an amusement.

I knew the lice would be very formidable enemies with which I would have to contend, but then I thought they might be *kept under*, if the proper means were used. I had my house plastered and whitewashed; had movable nests that could be cleaned after the hens had hatched; let my hens sit in the winter; used sulphur, turpentine, grease, and everything I ever heard tell of, but the lice hatched better than the chickens, and came out in countless myriads. If any one could discover a remedy, or I should say a preventive, against the

disgusting vermin, he would be a public benefactor, not only to the chickens, but to the community at large.

When the "Hen Fever" was at its height, I too had a *slight attack*, but it was not at all serious in its consequences. I weighed my chickens every week, bragged about them, took my friends out to the hen-house when they came to see me, to admire the naked, long-legged, gawky, greedy things, that would swallow a tenpenny nail if it only had a piece of dough stuck on it, and in fact, went through all the different stages of the disease. The crisis is now over, and I think it will be like the measles or whooping-cough—there will be no danger of taking it a second time. My experience has been, that the best cure for a violent attack, is repeated doses, at short intervals, of *disappointment* with an occasional one of *ridicule* to break the fever; then leave it to the crows and hawks, and my word for it the patient will soon be convalescent.

I now have a nice flock, which I am not ashamed for any one to see, of Black Chinese; they seem to possess all the good qualities that are most desirable.

The question is often asked, "Are chickens profitable?" I kept an exact account for several years, and the sales of chickens and eggs were over 60 dollars each year. Those used in the family and given away were much more than sufficient to pay for the grain they consumed. My own trouble I take no account of, as, generally speaking, woman's time and labour is set down at a very low valuation. Considering the small amount invested, I think they might be considered *quite profitable*; and it is just as certain a fact that they are a great *nuisance*;—but then we cannot do without them. I once heard an old gentleman say that "women were a very necessary evil." I beg the ladies' pardon for the comparison, but I think it applies to the chickens. They are almost indispensable in the country.

Every farm-yard, with but few exceptions,—every small tenement, has its flock of poultry. When seed-time and harvest come, the farmer and his boys raise a hue

and cry against the chickens, "that eat more than their heads are worth." The good wife frets and scolds, that her peas are all scratched up, and she cannot plant a rose or a tree, but she must pile round it stones, brush, boards, or something to protect it. The cook goes out for a stick of wood, comes in and finds the kitchen taken possession of by "them miserable chickens." Spang—goes the broom—and one poor little chick has ceased to be a pest.

One of the boys comes in from the patch—"Mother, I do wish that old black hen could be killed, for she scratches up every thing I plant. I have dogged her until I am tired, and as soon as my back is turned there she is." The men open the barn-doors to clean up grain; again the whole tribe and generation of ducks and chickens rush in together. Shew! Shew! Here, Towser! Sick him, Towser! Shew! Finally they grow desperate, shut the doors for a while, until the dust drives them out to renew the attack on the poor unlucky fowls.

Now let us take another view of the case. The father and sons come in tired from their work, find a fine dish of fried chicken, peas, beets, &c. on the table.

See how pleased they look, and exclaim—"Mother, I am so glad to see such a good dinner. I was thinking while I was out in the field, that I wished we could raise chickens enough to have them every day."

"But, my son, they are so troublesome, I have been thinking whether we had better kill them all off, and not raise any more. Father thinks they are so much in the way, and so little profit."

"What! and have no more fried chicken!"

"No eggs for breakfast, no more omelets?"

"No chicken soup, no cakes, no puddings, no nothing?"

"Father, do say Mother may keep them. I had rather have my patch scratched than do without fried chicken."

"And I can make a frame to go in the barn-door when they thresh."

"And I can make a frame to go round mother's rose."

The father having quietly finished his dinner says, "Well, children, I suppose I shall have to submit, and be *hen-pecked* all my life. If mother and you can put up with them, I can. I think you might say (with some alteration to suit the case,) about the chickens, as the Yankee schoolmaster did about rabbits:

Of chickens young, of chickens old,
Of chickens hot, of chickens cold,
Of chickens lean, of chickens tough,
We never yet have had enough.

American "Country Gentleman."

Brahma Pootras.

WHEN the doubts thrown out as to the purity of these birds had been removed by the unanswerable fact, that all the produce of true bred parent Brahmas, produced equally true bred Brahma chickens, another point was mooted, namely, the comb; and your correspondent, "W. W.," wittily suggested that, to suit all fancies, the birds should be dubbed. This little *jeu d'esprit* would have been sufficient answer to those who objected to the birds on account of the difference in comb, had not other of your contributors taken the observation in a serious light, and a note in the last number of the "Chronicle" suggests two sets of prizes as an answer to "B. T. S." on the subject of dubbing. It is not often that poultry societies have funds to meet such extra prizes; and as there is no greater difference between a pen of pea-combed Brahmas competing against single-combed birds, than between rose-combed Dorkings being in the same class with the single comb of that variety, it does not appear necessary to make more distinction in the prize list for Brahmas than Dorkings.

The fact that Dorkings are admitted to be pure bred, irrespective of comb, would be a perfectly fair sufficient reply to any doubt as to the purity of Brahmas from the difference in their combs; indeed, the comb ought to be immaterial in exhibitions so

long as the pen is well matched, either all pea combs or all single.

But with regard to dubbing: there cannot be much question that such an operation applied to these birds would be out of character and inappropriate, being merely to fit them for exhibition. Dubbing was a part of the process of trimming game fowls for fighting: a removal of the comb and wattles offering fewer tangible points for the combatants to seize on, and was looked upon as a necessity; that it is continued in game *cocks*, who may never be intended to fight, is a remnant of a long-standing habit, but in dubbing Brahmas, cock and hen, the process would be carried to a much greater length. It is a mere truism to say that, *everything ought to be done with an object*, there was an object in dubbing game cocks, but there can be none in dubbing Brahma hens.

Thorne Agricultural Show.

FROM THE "DONCASTER GAZETTE."

THE third annual exhibition of the Thorne Association for the improvement of the breed of horses, beasts, pigs, poultry, &c., was held on Wednesday last. The site selected was admirably adapted for the purpose—a grass field, opposite The Hall, Ellison Street, which was kindly lent for the occasion by Makin Durham, Esq. The trees afforded an agreeable shelter for the stock, and the whole arrangements of the show were admirably carried out. The poultry pens were placed in single tier, giving an easy inspection of the several competitors, it proving equally advantageous to all. The grounds were tastefully decorated by numerous colours, and amongst them our noble French ally was not forgotten. The weather was everything that could be desired, while the attendance of company not only considerably exceeded previous exhibitions, but was, we believe, larger than was ever known to have been brought together at Thorne. The whole scene was one which seldom presents itself, and the honorary

secretary and committee of management might well be proud at the result of their exertions. Upwards of £30 admission money was taken at the door, in addition to which subscribers and their friends were admitted free. The success which had attended the two previous shows induced the promoters to extend their sphere of usefulness, by also offering prizes for implements, horses, and cattle, as well as for pigs and poultry—the only two classes formerly embraced in the schedule. This addition proved advantageous, and was the source of great attraction to some who previously had little interest in the show. The exhibition of implements contained many of great value.

The exhibition of pigs, taken as a whole, was exceedingly good, but it was a matter of surprise that there was not a stronger competition amongst those who are above all others concerned in the improvement of the breed—the farmers of Thorne and neighbourhood. There can be no question that a well-bred animal is more readily fed than an indifferent one, and that the true economy would be to use the most improved breed.

The show of poultry was a decided improvement upon former years. In the classes for Cochins and Dorkings, the Rev. J. Hustler, of Appleton, near Tadcaster, sent some good birds. There was a smart competition for the prizes for game birds. The first prize was awarded to Mr. George Firth, of Throne Moors, for a pen of beautiful grey Duckwings. Theophilus Smith, Esq., of Doncaster, obtained the second prize with a good pen of blues. The judges also commended two other pens. Mr. Joseph Richardson, of Thorne, took both prizes in Silver Spangled Hamburgs, and the first prize for Golden Spangled with good birds. Amongst the single cock birds, Mr. W. B. Tate had a splendid Dorking, which obtained the first prize. The Golden Laced Bantams were far from good. Mr. H. Beldon, of Bradford, sent a much admired pen of White Bantams, while the prize Black ones were equally good of their kind. The

young Geese were particularly fine, especially a pen of Mr. John Emerson, of Moor Ends. The rabbits were very superior, and Master Moore, of Doncaster, almost monopolised the prizes. Pigeons were equally good, and excited considerable interest.

The success which attended the third exhibition of the Thorne Show is mainly, if not entirely, due to the unwearied exertions of the honorary secretary, Mr. R. S. Jewison. The inhabitants of Thorne, as well as the several exhibitors, are much indebted to his zealous efforts, and it is not too much to repeat, that we never attended a similar gathering where the whole arrangements gave greater satisfaction or reflected more credit upon the staff of officials. The judges were, for cattle, horses, pigs, &c.—Mr. Denby, of Rawcliffe; and Mr. Branch, of Sandall. For poultry, &c.—Mr. Dixon, of Bradford, and Mr. Smith, of Halifax.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH—(3 competitors). 1st prize, J. Tindall, Esq., Ewerby; 2nd prize, Mr. Henry Beldon, Bradford.

COCHIN CHINA—(9 competitors). 1st and 2nd prizes, Rev. George Hustler, Appleton, Tadcaster.

DORKING—(2 competitors). 1st prize, Rev. G. Hustler; 2nd prize, Mr. W. B. Tate, Doncaster.

MALAY—(No competition.)

GAME FOWL—(12 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Robert Bentley, Hatfield Moors; 2nd prize, Mr. T. Smith, Doncaster. Mr. Thos. Leavens, highly commended; Mr. W. B. Tate commended.

POLAND, BLACK, WITH WHITE CRESTS—(No competition). **GOLDEN**—(4 competitors). No 1st prize awarded; 2nd prize, Mr. Henry Beldon.

HAMBURGS, SILVER SPANGLED—(6 competitors).—1st and 2nd prizes, Mr. Joseph Richardson, Thorne. **GOLDEN SPANGLED**—(7 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Joseph Richardson; 2nd prize, Mr. E. Auckland, Doncaster. **SILVER PENCILLED**—(3 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Joseph Richardson; 2nd prize, Mr. Edwd. Appleyard. **GOLDEN PENCILLED**—(2 competitors). No 1st prize awarded; 2nd prize, Mr. Henry Casson, Hull. **ANY BREED OR FARM-YARD CROSS**—(8 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Geo. Brock, Epworth; 2nd prize, Mr. Henry Moore, Doncaster. **EXTRA PRIZES**—Cock

of any breed or cross—(11 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. W. B. Tate, Doncaster; 2nd prize, Rev. George Hustler. Hen of any breed or cross—(9 competitors). 1st prize, Rev. George Hustler; 2nd prize, Mr. Henry Beldon.

BANTAMS—GOLDEN LACED—(9 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Henry Casson; 2nd prize, Mr. J. Oliver, Bramwith Woodhouse. **SILVER LACED**—(1 competitor). Mr. Henry Beldon. **BLACK, WHITE, OR ANY OTHER COLOURED.**—(4 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Henry Beldon; 2nd prize, Mr. W. B. Tate.

GEESE—(10 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Edward Appleyard, Thorne; 2nd prize, Mr. Edward Whaley. **BEST YOUNG GEESSE.**—1st prize, Mr. John Emerson, Moor Ends; 2nd prize, Mr. T. Moore, Hall Bridge, Thorne.

DUCKS—(8 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. W. B. Tate; 2nd prize, Mrs. Husband, Levels. **BEST MUSCOVY DUCKS.**—1st prize, Mr. E. Whaley; 2nd prize, Miss Moody, Thorne.

TURKEYS—(2 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Edward Appleyard; 2nd prize, Mrs. Brockton, Tudworth.

GUINNA FOWL—(2 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Edward Priestley, Bankside, Thorne; 2nd prize, Mr. William Whaley, Thorne.

RABBITS, BUCK AND DOE—(2 competitors). 1st prize, Master Henry Moore, Doncaster; 2nd prize, Mr. Henry Beldon, Bradford. **BUCK**—(2 competitors). 1st prize, Master Henry Moore; 2nd prize, Mr. Henry Beldon. **DOE**—(5 competitors). 1st prize, Master Henry Moore; 2nd prize, Master Thomas Moore, Doncaster.

PIGEONS, CARRIERS—(7 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Henry Beldon; 2nd prize, Mr. Alexander Spink, Goole. **CROPPERS**—(3 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Alexander Spink; 2nd prize, Mr. H. Beldon. **TUMBLERS**—(4 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. H. Beldon; 2nd prize, Mr. J. Musgrave, Doncaster. **JACOBIANS**—(7 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. H. Beldon; 2nd prize, Mr. George Markham, Hatfield. **NUN**—(1 competitor). Master Thomas Moore. **TRUMPETERS**—(2 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. H. Beldon; 2nd prize, Master Henry Moore. **TURBITS**—(2 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. H. Beldon; 2nd prize, Master Thomas Moore. **FANTAILS**—(5 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. W. Dale, Doncaster; 2nd prize, Master Henry Moore.

EXTRA STOCK.—Highly Commended, five Silver Spangled Chickens, Mr. J. Richardson; pair of Black Barb Pigeons, Mr. W. Harrison, Belton.

Columbary.

NO. XV. THE HELMET PIGEON.

THIS toy, like the preceding is evidently descended from a German race, namely, the "Kappen," or "Platten-Tümmel," or "Burzel taube;" but, like the foregoing, their tumbler properties have been disregarded, and the birds are rarely much thought of, though their pretty appearance ought to bring them some admirers; the upper mandible is dark, the lower light, the top of the head is coloured, either red or yellow, in a line from the beak through the eye, which gives the appearance of the bird's wearing a cap or helmet, whence the name; the tail also is coloured the same as the head, and in those that have feathers on the feet, they are likewise coloured; the whole of the remainder of the plumage is spotless white.

The old-fashioned Helmet pigeon, with dark flights, as described by Mr. Moore, 1735, I have never seen. B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

REARING CALVES.

WE copy the following practical remarks from a communication of F. Holbrook, of Brattleboro', Vt., to the "New England Farmer."

I have sometimes raised calves by allowing them to suckle cows for the first three or four months after birth, sometimes by giving them milk to drink for about the same period, and, in one or two instances, for want of milk, have brought them up on gruel. Latterly I have practised the following mode, and think it, on the whole, the best of any I have tried:

Take the calf from its dam when a few days or a week old, according to the condition of the cow's bag, and learn it to drink new milk, warm from the cow, feeding it thus twice a day till four or six weeks old. Then begin quite gradually to

lessen the quantity of new milk, adding, in place of that taken away, an equal measure of skimmed milk—the milk, previous to skimming, having stood about twelve hours, and, before it is given to the calf, having been warmed to the temperature of the new milk. So graduate the reduction of the new and the addition of the skimmed milk, that the latter shall constitute the entire mess for the calf when it arrives at the age of eight or nine weeks. When the calf is five or six weeks old, give it a few dry oats, say a moderate handful daily, and increase a little at a time, till at and after ten weeks of age the calf shall receive about a pint per day; also, at the age of five weeks, begin to feed a little nice fine hay. When the calf is ten weeks old, the milk it receives may be that which has stood longer than twelve hours before being skimmed; also at and after this age, the quantity of milk may be gradually lessened, and water substituted for the milk taken away, so that when the calf is twelve or fourteen weeks old, the milk shall be wholly withdrawn, and the calf shall receive oats, hay, and water, or shall be turned off to good pasturage.

Thus managed, the calf will never know when it was weaned from milk—will have no season of repining and falling away in flesh, or remaining stationary in growth—will have no troublesome habit, after the time for weaning, of sucking cows that may chance to be in the pasture or yard with it, and will be quite as large, plump, and symmetrical when a yearling, as though it had been reared by the more expensive mode of sucking a cow. During the winter preceding the period when the calf becomes a yearling, it should be fed on the best of fine hay, with one quart of dry oats, or six to eight quarts of mashed roots, daily. It is not a good practice to feed meal to young calves, either before or after weaning, the meal being too heating, injuring digestion, and bringing on purging, and worse still, if fed freely, causing the calf to grow out of shape, piked, and scrawny. It is also difficult to rear a nice well-shaped calf on

gruel, because of the meal of which the gruel is in part made, and because the quality for forming well-developed bone and a well-shaped body, which milk eminently possesses, is too much lacking in the gruel.

On Bees.

“Experiment and theory concur in demonstrating that the larva of a bee may become a queen or a worker, according to circumstances.” Thus the bee-keeper is enabled, without difficulty, to produce swarms, when, from some cause, he does not obtain them naturally, and yet to insure the safety of the parent stock, which, deprived of its queen, would otherwise perish. At the same time it must not be forgotten, that in forcing a swarm from a hive, we are acting in opposition to the designs and proceedings of the family; therefore, while explaining the means of forming artificial swarms, I wish to impress on my readers that the practice should be undertaken only by bee-keepers who understand the nature and habits of the insect, or the most fatal consequences may ensue.

We will assume that the object of the apiarian in forming the swarm, is either to save the watching necessary in the case of natural swarms, or to obtain a swarm when, from the lateness of the season, it appears there is no intention on the part of the bees to colonize of their own free will. In the first case, it is necessary to ascertain that the hive is filled with bees to overflowing, and that the combs are well filled with brood, of which a portion should be that of drones. In rearing young queens, it is essential that the hive either contain drones, or that they are to be found in the neighbourhood. If we may be allowed to penetrate into the causes which deter populous families, to which no additional store-room has been afforded, from following their usual course of swarming, it appears most probable that the season is unfavourable for the collecting of honey; there is little prospect,

in consequence, of a colony being able to enrich its new habitation, and with prudent foresight the queen remains in her abode, and the overflowing population, finding no occupation in the fields, hangs in a great cluster from the hive for ten days or a fortnight, till a cooler temperature enables a to occupy the combs. Here it is evident that the bee-keeper, who wishes to increase his stocks, has heads and hands at his disposal; for the building up of the house, and filling of the garner, he must become answerable himself, and, unaided from without, it has been shown in a former paper, with what a liberal hand the provisions must be bestowed.

I may, perhaps, not be correct in assigning the cause of non-swarving to a failure of the honey gathering; there may be other causes more obscure, the discovery of which is well worthy the attention of apiarians: while we are working in the dark, we must not be surprised if failure ensue.

The method of forming an artificial swarm is very simple; where it is merely a natural precocious swarm, that is to say, accompanied by the old queen, it is obtained by driving. About the middle of the day the hive containing the bees is to be inverted in a pail or tub, or propped so as to keep it steady; an empty hive is immediately placed over it, and a cloth bound firmly round the junction, to prevent the escape of the bees. It is best to remove the hive a little distance from its stand, on which an empty hive should be placed, to act as a decoy to stragglers. Proceed to drum on the sides of the hive with a couple of sticks, and the alarmed bees will soon ascend into the empty hive. A loud humming will announce that the movement is taking place. The upper hive may be raised, to ascertain that a sufficient number of bees have ascended, and also that they are accompanied by the queen. It is then best to place the hive containing the driven bees on the stand previously occupied by the parent stock, which should be removed to a little distance, as it is

found that bees forced from their home are apt to return to it in great numbers. On the other hand, the new swarm, occupying the site of the parent, will receive all the labourers that may have been engaged in the fields while the operation was taking place; hence its numbers become much augmented, to the disadvantage of the old hive; where this takes place to excess, the parent suffers, and even perishes. We have heard of instances where great numbers of young drones have been ejected during two or three days succeeding the formation of an artificial swarm. This effect of over-depopulation we regard as a great evil. Some apiarians have suggested that the drones had been designedly destroyed by the workers. Such an hypothesis I cannot entertain for a moment. It would be the violation of one of the highest laws of their instinct. Drones are never destroyed in a hive which does not possess a fertile queen. In those cases where they have been brought out in great numbers, there can be no doubt that they perished in the act of hatching, in consequence of the temperature of the hive being too much reduced. I suspect the drones possess no power of raising the temperature, and the notion of their use in assisting in hatching appears universally abandoned. If the drones fare so badly in a depopulated hive, what becomes of the brood of workers, and the cradles of the royal infants? The latter are always the objects of especial care, and, if possible, they will not be neglected; and yet we find that hives which have been thus unnaturally treated, have been ascertained, after a lapse of a few weeks, to be queenless—a significant fact from which their owners might make useful deductions. Hives, too, are sometimes affected with “faux couvain,” and I would suggest whether the origin of the disease may not be attributed to the same cause.

We must bear in mind, that a first swarm never departs except in fine weather, a less number of bees is consequently requisite to maintain the necessary heat, than when the outer air is chill; still, as all the combs are

probably nearly full of brood, there should be a considerable covering of bees throughout the hive, and the colder the weather, the closer must be the bees. The hive, then, should be examined the evening after the division has been made, and if there appears any doubt of the state of the stock, a more equal division of labourers should be made, a pint or two of bees may be easily taken from the swarm, and added to the parent.

The system may be varied, where the bees are clustering out, and the swarm is then compelled to raise a queen. The method is thus described by Mr. Golding:—“Towards noon of a fine day, if the bees cluster out much, let the stock hive be removed to a distance, and a spare hive or box be put in its place, to one bar of which is attached a comb, containing worker eggs, or very young larvæ, of the same sex, (better still if the hive or box contain also one or two other worker combs), the outliers, or the bees that are abroad, or both, as the case may be, will then enter the new habitation, cluster round the brood, construct one or more royal cells, to inclose one or more eggs, in the manner already described, and raise a young sovereign; and thus, if the season be favourable, form a flourishing stock.”

This plan resembles that followed by the Favignaneses. Their hives are long oblong wooden boxes, both ends of which are moveable. A portion of the combs are placed in a new box, which occupies the place of the old one, and to which the absent bees return, lodge, and rear the brood, and raise young queens. In fact, the same course may be pursued with Huber's leaf-hive, or any other, which is capable of being divided. The operations with all are based upon the same principles, and with all the same precautions are necessary. Perhaps in our variable climate, it may not be throwing a hint away to say, that should the weather change just after a swarm is hived, it is a very great assistance, and in some cases quite essential, that it should be fed. “If bees cannot take care of themselves,” exclaims the countryman, “they are not

worth their food.” If torrents of rain prevent the countryman earning his daily bread, would he apply his argument, and be content to starve? A.

Floriculture.

JUNE 27.

WEEDS and insects now require unremitting attention from the lover of his garden. Weeds, encouraged by the rain and the warm sun, may truly be said to grow apace, and now that so many kinds are coming into flower, constant weeding must be followed up to prevent their maturing seed. To save much future labour, all odd corners and waste bits of land, as well as the borders, should be cleared and forked over, every time they become verdant with their luxuriant but unwelcome crops. Spots of ground under gooseberry and currant trees, and under shrubs, must not be neglected in this important particular. The aphides, so long kept back by the cold, are now attacking our roses and other flowers with their usual disregard to mercy and forbearance. They must be waged war against by fumigating and removing with the fingers. Another enemy to our roses, the leaf-rolling caterpillar, is very abundant.

The leaves and stalks of tulips are now beginning to decay, a change which they usually undergo somewhat earlier. When the leaves are withered is the time to take the roots out of the ground, which must be done every year; for if suffered to remain year after year they will degenerate. Take them up in dry weather and spread them on mats in the shade to harden. When the roots are dry, remove the offsets, then clean all the bulbs, attach the names to valued sorts, and put them by for the summer.

Roses may be budded. Choose for the purpose damp, cloudy, warm weather. Select, to be budded, a free-grown, healthy shoot, and then find a bud to suit the purpose on the tree you wish to perpetuate: where the compound leaf of the rose joins

the parent stem, a little bud will generally be found. One which is plump and healthy must be chosen, and with a sharp knife pare it off with a small portion of the wood in the form of a shield: from behind the bark of this shield remove the woody fibre, leaving the root of the bud, if we may so call it, full and plump in the inside. Unless a plumpness of the bud may be seen inside the bark, it will be labour lost to use it. In the bark of the shoot to be budded make (through the bark only) a cross horizontal cut, and from the centre of that downwards a perpendicular cut. If the stock is in a proper state for budding, the edges of this T-shaped wound may be readily raised. Insert the shield of bark to the bud, by pushing it under the bark of the shoot to be budded, at the cross cut, and when it has been pushed in nearly its length, cut off the upper end of the shield at the cross cut. Then secure the bud in its place by tying it closely with bass or worsted: a coating of clay and cow-dung to exclude the air may assist. Observe, in the stem to be budded, the bark must rise readily under the knife, and in the bud the root behind the bark must be full and plump—not show a little hollow. Roses which are difficult to raise from cuttings should now be layered.

Review.

THE TOWN GARDEN. A Manual for the Management of City and Suburban Gardens. By SHIRLEY HIBBERD. Groom-bridge and Sons, Paternoster-row.

This is a little work which should be in the hands of all who undertake the cultivation of a small bit of ground in the immediate neighbourhood of town. We are not among those who despise the pleasure of cultivating even a very circumscribed patch for flowers, and for those who delight in the innocent but sometimes hopeless task of producing verdure and brightness amidst bricks and mortar, this little book will prove a useful manual.

Amidst much useful information the sorts of plants especially suited to town growth are fully treated of, nor are the gardening of the green-house and the parlour overlooked; while the concluding chapter is one which may prove useful beyond the prescribed limits of the small gardens for which it is ostensibly written; it contains classified lists of selected plants, suitable for town gardens, showing in one table the botanical and English names, the soils which suit them, the colours of the flowers, the time of flowering, the height to which they grow, with a broad column for useful remarks relating to their character and cultivation.

Our space will not allow us to give extracts this week, but we shall certainly do so the first opportunity.

MR. STEVENS' SALE.—At Mr. Steven's Sale, on Tuesday, June the 19th, two birds only reached high prices. A White Cochinchina hen, £1 9s., and a ditto cock, £2 10s. Some pigeons of different kinds which were sold varied in price from 9s. 6d. to 3s. per pair. Some Dorkings sold for, from 6s. 6d. to 3s. each. Cochinchina fowls about the same, and a few White Cochins sold rather better—varying from 6s. 6d. to the £2 10s. above named.

CHAPPED HANDS.—Mix a quarter of a pound of unsalted hog's lard, which should be washed first in plain water, and then in rose water, with the yolk of a new-laid egg, and a large spoonful of honey. Add to this as much fine oatmeal or almond paste as will make the whole into a paste, and apply this after washing the hands.

Entomology.

CHAP. V.

AMONGST the Staphylinidæ, another family of beetles, is found that common and at the same time formidable-looking insect, called the devil's coach-horse (*Georus olivus*). It is black, rather more than an inch long, and may be frequently seen running about gardens and roads, and also

in cellars. On the least appearance of danger it immediately throws up its tail and head, and opening its long and powerful jaws, seems to threaten its enemy with little short of extermination should he venture to attack it. It emits a most unpleasant odour when handled, resulting probably from its living on decayed and putrescent matter. The elytra do not extend more than one-third of the way down the abdomen, but the wings are neatly folded under them. The insect is very active, running and flying with equal facility, and its bite is tolerably severe, dangerous results having, it is stated, followed in some cases where the insect had been feeding on putrid substances. The little insects which cause so much annoyance to us in hot weather, and which we call nidgets, belong to this family. The wire-worm, the great enemy of the farmer, belongs to a family called the Elateridæ, or spring beetles, which, by means of a spine situated beneath the thorax, which fits at pleasure into a small cavity on the upper part of the abdomen, can, when laid on their backs, spring up with great force, in order to gain their natural position. The larvæ of this family, which much resemble the meal-worms, live upon wood and roots; those of the wire-worm are said to live five years in the larva state, during the greater part of which time they support themselves by devouring the roots of wheat, rye, oats, and peas, in some cases causing very serious injury to the crop. In the perfect state they are slow in their movements, and on being touched, fall on the ground and feign death; they, too, feed principally on flowers. The glow-worm (*lampyris noctiluca*) is a familiar example of the family Lampyridæ, which, very voracious in their habits, prey in their larva state upon the bodies of snails. I imagine, therefore, we are not the only people who have discovered snails to be good for consumption. On being alarmed, they, like the last family we noticed, fold their antennæ and legs, and remain motionless, as if dead. The glow-worm is a very curious and interesting

insect. The female alone produces that vivid phosphorescent light whence its name is derived, and is very dissimilar to the male, although he is slightly luminous, the one being a perfect beetle, the other looking like a grub or larva. The light emitted by the female proceeds from the abdomen, near the tail, and is generally believed to serve as a guide to her lord to his nuptial chamber; hence poets sing of "the glow-worm's amorous fire." It is pretty common on dry banks near woods during the summer months. The male is about half an inch in length, the head of a dun colour, the thorax margined with a dusky red.

There is a well-known family of beetles, which are represented by those insects called by boys soldiers and sailors. It is named Telephoridæ. The most common kind have red elytra, and may be found in great plenty in various flowers, particularly those of the family Umbelliferæ. They feed on other insects, and do not object to a little bit of their own friends occasionally, purely for love, no doubt; in fact they carry out in practice, what we express when we say, we "feel as if we could eat him."

I dare say many people have observed in some old books small circular holes running quite through them from cover to cover; and almost every one must have seen furniture full of these same little holes; they are in both cases the work of small species of beetles in their larva state. The one which causes such destruction to our furniture is called *anobium tessellatum*, well known as that dreaded animal, the death-watch; the "ticking," considered by the superstitious so ominous, and which has carried terror to so many faint-hearted bipeds, being caused by the striking of the head of this insect against the wood in which it lives; if there is a death-watch in a room, it may be made to tick, by striking on the panelling with a pin. There are other beetles in this family besides *tessellatum* which produce this ticking sound; for instance, *pertinax*, so called from the pertinacity with which it simulates death when frightened, suffering, as it will, the

severest treatment rather than show any signs of life.

We now come to a most interesting family, the Silphidæ, or burying beetles, of which *necrophorus vespillo*, a handsome striped species, may be taken as the type. Their name is derived from their habit of burying any small dead animal they may find on the ground, and the rapidity with which they accomplish their task, when we consider the comparatively small size of the beetle, is quite astonishing; two of them have been known to bury a small bird completely in three or four hours; when I say they, I should mention that these insects hunt in couples, and that the burying is done almost entirely by the males, the females sitting quietly on the body of the animal almost buried in, and allowing themselves to be interred with it; if, therefore, six or eight are found in an animal, they are almost sure to be males and females in equal proportions. They hunt by scent only, and mostly at night. When a dead animal is discovered, the male wheeling round and round it, seems to gloat in ecstasy over the, to him, savoury though putrifying morsel, doubtless feasting in imagination on the sumptuous banquet thus provided for him. The female, who seems more in a hurry to appease her appetite, which apparently requires no whetting, at once settles on the body; and at last, both having taken an ample meal, the male commences his self-imposed sexton's duty. Having explored the vicinity, and selected a favourable spot for the interment (if the body be not already in a favourable position), they drag the animal to it; the male first digs a furrow all round the body, using his head as a shovel during the operation, and holding it sloping outwards; another furrow is then made within the first, the earth being thrown from the second into the first; a third is then made completely under the body, but the beetle being now out of sight the operation can only be traced by the heaving of the earth, which soon forms a little rampart round the body as the earth is moved from

beneath, and as the rampart rises the body sinks. After great labour for about three hours the beetle emerges, crawls upon the body, and taking a survey of his work, remains still—apparently resting—for an hour; at last, after two or three hours' more labour, and by dint of pulling, tugging, and digging, he contrives to get the body down still lower, when he again comes up, surveys his work, and rests. After he is sufficiently recovered from his fatigue, he begins to tread the body firmly into its grave, and after pulling the feathers this way and that way, and settled it to his mind, he begins to shovel in the earth, which is very speedily done with his broad and strong head; having thus buried the body and his bride he buries himself, and the female having laid eggs in the body in number proportioned to its size, and the pair having eaten as much more of the savoury viands as they choose, they make their way out and fly away in search of another candidate for the sexton.

The object of the beetles in thus burying dead animals, is to provide food for their grubs; but Providence has, by giving these insects this remarkable instinct, provided a means of at once removing innumerable carcasses which would pollute the air, and at the same time enriching the soil. *Vespillo* is a very handsome insect, the elytra being red banded with black; it is a common insect, and may be easily taken during May and June, by placing a dead rat or other small animal on the ground, in a situation where it cannot be taken away by a cat; in a day or two it is almost certain that a pair or two of burying beetles will be found beneath it.

Dermestes lardarius, or the bacon beetle, belongs to a family nearly allied to the last; the grub or larva devouring dead bodies, skins, leather, or any other animal substance, with equal avidity; it is a common insect in houses in April, May, and June; it is about a third of an inch in length, of a dusky brown colour, with the upper half of the wing-shells whitish or ash-coloured marked with black spots.

Another closely allied family is that of the Sphæridiadae, which frequents the excrements of horses and other animals, burrowing in and feeding on them.

Sphæridium scutellatum, a shining black species, not above a quarter of an inch in length, is very common, and may be found in the situations I have mentioned, at almost any time. MAC.

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

THE ENSUING GROUSE SEASON.

SIR,—Having some interest in favour of Grouse, and having previously complained of the illegal transactions of London game dealers, I do hope a word from you will assist in carrying out the intentions of dealers mentioned in a former number of your Chronicle, not to purchase them out of season. The time is fast approaching, when boxes of young Grouse will be duly despatched to your London poultry dealers, and forthwith will arrive post-office orders in payment, without taking the slightest notice. Please, Mr. Editor, give the London police a few hints how to detect such illegal work; for unless that is done, we sportsmen must bid farewell to our enjoyment. I mean good sport in August. The season is likely to prove very unfavourable on account of the severe frost whilst birds were laying, and already the mischief is evident, many old birds having failed, whilst with those which have succeeded, a single bird or two constitutes the brood. No doubt the first failure will cause second broods, but they will scarcely be ready for the gun on the 12th. Under such circumstances, is it not possible to prevent the demand for the London dealers? What are the laws made for, if so openly evaded with impunity in a city which possesses such a clever staff of detectives. It is absolutely illegal for any dealer to have game

in his possession before the 12th August. If any man attempted to smuggle whiskey from Scotland, or any other place in the *North Country*, would he not stand a chance of detection? At many railway stations near the Border, I have heard of officers inspecting packages, but game can be procured out of season on this side the Border, and if there was sufficient remuneration for smuggling whiskey, perhaps that might receive a trial.

LAGOPUS.

GAME FOWLS AT SHOWS.

SIR,—I am an exhibitor of Game Fowls, which I consider the most beautiful variety of any, and in which class there are generally more exhibited, and greater competition than in any other. Now, I have had the misfortune of having my hens returned from shows with their heads and backs pecked quite raw, and at Tiverton, two of my hens were obliged to be taken from the pens, in consequence of the pugnacious disposition of the other hens. They agree well enough in the yard, but will not bear being shut up in a small space. I wish to suggest that only one hen and cock be shown in this class, which will obviate the danger and annoyance I have mentioned. Your valuable aid in assisting me to accomplish this, will oblige all who are admirers and exhibitors of the GAME COCK.

HAMBURGS SITTING.

SIR,—In answer to "A Firm Supporter from No. 1," I can say my experience is most decidedly against Spangled Hamburgs sitting. I have kept them well on to ten years, and never found a pure Hambro' sit; in fact, every lover of the variety prides himself on their never sitting, and consequently getting a greater number of eggs. The same applies to the pencilled varieties, golden and silver. Respecting Mr. Baily's work on Fowls, I may say that till lately these two varieties were very little known in the south, and that most of those whose "names speak for themselves" have procured their birds from James Dixon, Esq., of Bradford, or other noted Lancashire or Yorkshire breeders. I quite agree with B. T. S.'s remark respecting having each pen consist of a cock and hen only; many dozen instances occur where it is impossible to match; besides, if any person wants to possess a pen of birds, it is much easier to buy a cock and hen, than four or three birds, as they will be less money, reasoning upon ordinary calculations, not on fancy prizes. I can certainly indorse the mode of smoking for *roup*, having found it most beneficial, as it creates a new circulation of air, penetrates every nook

and corner with its smell, and enables you to detect any ailing fowls. I remain in the place during the fumigation (burning bad straw or hay), and when I cannot bear it longer desist. Some of my fowls have died lately; a cock showed very curious ailments; he ran at the nose, and emitted blood from the bowels; of course he died from exhaustion of the system: can any one tell a cure?—I am Sir, yours truly,
A. G.

LICE ON FOWLS.

SIR,—As you are inviting through your columns, anything which will benefit your subscribers, I would submit the following:—Last year I lost half-a-dozen chickens, about half grown, by lice, small white lice. I searched my agricultural papers for a remedy to destroy them, but found none. I took a watering-pot, and thoroughly wetted the roost and its immediate vicinity with water, and immediately scattered wood-ashes all over the premises, which resulted in ridding my fowl-house of the lice.

NORTHERN FARMER.

BIRMINGHAM RABBIT SHOW.

The Birmingham Society for Improving the various kinds of Fancy Rabbits. The members of the above Society held their Eleventh Half-yearly Show at the Museum Tavern, Summer Lane, on the 31st May, and 1st and 2nd of June.

Although the Rabbits entered for this Show were not equal in length of ear to some of the former Shows, still many of them were beautiful specimens when judged for all properties. The following is a list of prizes awarded by the judges, Mr. Henry Child, Jun., Sherbourne Road; Mr. Guest, Bristol Road; and Mr. Pinchbeck, King Street, Birmingham:

For length of ears.—Mr. Fielding's Sooty Buck; length $18\frac{3}{4}$, width $4\frac{1}{2}$, age 5 months, 3 days. Mr. Tarver's Fawn Doe; length $18\frac{3}{4}$, width $4\frac{1}{2}$, age 5 months, 20 days. Mr. Jones's Black and White Doe; length $18\frac{3}{4}$, width $4\frac{1}{2}$, age 5 months.

For all properties.—Mr. Pinchbeck's Tortoiseshell Buck; length $17\frac{1}{2}$, width $4\frac{1}{2}$, age 2 months. Mr. Jones's Grey and White Doe; length $17\frac{1}{2}$, width $4\frac{1}{2}$, age 2 months, 21 days. Mr. Jones's Grey Buck; length $18\frac{1}{2}$, width $4\frac{1}{2}$, age 2 months, 22 days.

For weight.—Mr. Fielding's Tortoiseshell Buck; length 18, width $4\frac{1}{2}$, age 5 months, 3 days.

Several mature Rabbits were exhibited of great beauty, but were not allowed to compete, on account of their age and having obtained prizes at previous Shows; among them, a Tortoiseshell Buck, length of ear $21\frac{1}{2}$; Black and White Buck, $20\frac{1}{2}$; Grey and White Doe, $19\frac{1}{2}$.

So far as I could learn, the members have been endeavouring to obtain admission for their Rabbits into the Birmingham Poultry Show, and are not a little discouraged at their failure in doing so.

If you think the above likely to be interesting to your readers, perhaps you will find a corner in your truly valuable "Chronicle" for its insertion.—I am, sir, yours truly,

A NON-MEMBER.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

THERE is at last a change in the supply of poultry at Leadenhall. The continued report of unusual prices has stimulated the breeders, and favoured by genial weather, they have reared numbers of chickens, which now arrive daily. The same may be said of ducks. Large fowls will, however, continue dear for some time.

Large Fowls	8s. 0d. to 10s. 0d.	each.
Smaller do.	5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.	"
Inferior do.	4s. 0d. to 4s. 6d.	"
Chickens	2s. 6d. to 4s. 0d.	"
Inferior do.	2s. 0d. to 2s. 3d.	"
Geese	6s. 0d. to 7s. 0d.	"
Ducklings	3s. 3d. to 3s. 9d.	"
Pigeons	0s. 10d. to 1s. 0d.	"
Quails	3s. 0d.	"
Rabbits	1s. 5d. to 1s. 8d.	"
Leverets	3s. 6d. to 5s. 0d.	"

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

THE arrivals of wheat and flour during the week preceding Monday, June 18th, were good; those of oats only moderate, and of barley and other spring crops scanty. Monday, the 18th, the market commenced with a firm tone, and higher prices were demanded, which, however, could not be obtained; and there was only a limited sale, at former rates. The foreign trade was firm, most of the late arrivals having gone to granary; but there was very little business. In barley, prices were firmly maintained, but the demand was unusually limited, and no advance could be noted. Malt continued steady without alteration in value. In oats, an advance of fully 6d. per quarter was readily made. Business in beans and peas very limited.

BRITISH.		Shillings
		per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	.....	75 to 83
"	red	69 .. 76
"	Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	70 .. 75
BARLEY, Malting, new	.....	32 .. 33
"	Chevalier	34 .. 36
"	Distilling	31 .. 34
"	Grinding	31 .. 33
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new	.....	65 .. 70
"	old	66 .. 70
"	Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new	70 .. 72
"	old	68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed	.....	26 .. 27
"	potato	27 .. 30
"	Scotch feed, new	29 .. 30
"	old	33 .. 34
"	potato	33 .. 34
"	Irish feed, white	25 .. 28
"	black	24 .. 27
RYE	.....	40 .. 43
BEANS, Mazagan	.....	33 .. 41
"	Ticks	39 .. 43
"	Harrow	39 .. 44
"	Pigeon	42 .. 48
PEAS, White, boilers	.....	42 .. 47
"	Maple	40 .. 42
"	Grey	27 .. 40
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.	.....	65 .. 70
"	Households, town	64 .. 65
"	country	56 .. 58
"	Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship	51 .. 53

lay and hatch when only one year old, we believe not until her fourth year. We shall be much obliged if our correspondents who keep them, will kindly tell us whether they are ever mothers sooner than this.

M. B. H. would be much obliged if any of our American friends could give information about the tree which produces the butter nut. Would it do in this country?

Zenas to H. F.—In accordance with "H. F.'s" request to know the result of the Spangled Hamburg's sitting, "Zenas" has favoured us with the account. From the thirteen eggs she hatched ten chickens, to which she proves an excellent mother. Three of the little ones unfortunately lost their lives in the storm three weeks ago. We once knew a Spanish hen which chose to sit, but she did not perform her duties so creditably as "Zenas'" Hamburg; she hatched one chicken from thirteen eggs, and neglected that until it died.

To Pigeon Fanciers.—Until the hour of going to press we hoped to receive the pigeon awards at Tiverton, having applied for a copy, but we have not received it yet.

Advertisements.

FEATHERED-LEG WHITE BANTAMS.—

An Amateur, possessing some excellent birds of this variety, has for Disposal a few CHICKENS, (aged three months), very heavily feathered to the toe. He is also willing to supply a few settings of EGGS, from the parent birds. For particulars, price, &c., apply to RICHARD POOLE, Jun., Maldon, Essex, where the birds may be seen.

SERAI TÁOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan,

A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 2s. the Dozen.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from First-rate Pea-Combed mature birds, from the 1st of July at 10s. 6d. the Dozen.

Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

CHINESE PIGS.—Wanted to purchase, a

few pure bred Pigs of the above variety. Apply to Mr. HENRY CHLD, Jun., Poplar Cottage, Sherbourne Road, Birmingham.

ANERLEY POULTRY SHOW.—President,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Verulam; Vice-President, Sir John Peter Boileau, Bart., F.R.S.; Vice-President of the Zoological Society. The first Exhibition of Poultry and Pigeons will be held in the Anerley Gardens, adjoining the Anerley Station of the London and Croydon Railway, and near the Anerley Entrance to the Crystal Palace Grounds, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 28, 29, and 30, 1855.

The value of the Prizes will exceed 300 guineas. A detailed list of the Prizes and Certificates of Entry may be had on application to the Secretaries, at the office, Anerley, Surrey.

By special permission, the Band of the Royal Artillery will attend each day during the Exhibition.

EDGAR SMALLFIELD, } Hon. Secs.
HENRY F. WELLS, }

On Wednesday, June 20th, English wheat sold as well, or better than on Monday. Foreign had more inquiry, and although no quotable advance, there was more done. Floating cargoes off the coast are fast disappearing. Good fair prices have been bid and refused for most of them. It is the firmness of importers that checks business. Indian corn does not appear off the coast, and buyers are very shy about cargoes on passage. Barley stiffens in value, and consumption for grinding seems to increase. Malt and peas unchanged in value. Beans are quiet, but held for late rates. Foreign and black Irish oats rather dearer. Prime white Irish wanted, but none here; feeds have but little demand.

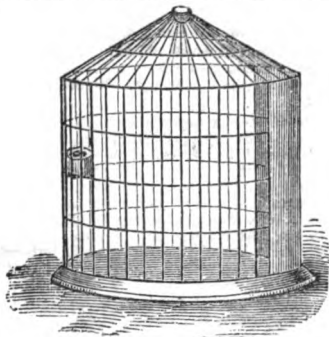
PRICE OF BREAD IN LONDON.

The prices of wheaten bread in the Metropolis are from 10d. to 10½d.; and household ditto, 8½d. to 9½d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

To Correspondents.

C. R. wishes to know "if the young Pea-hen will lay and sit the first year?" We know she does not

BY HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.



B. GREENING & CO'S PORTABLE POULTRY SHOW PENS are engaged for the following Exhibitions, where they will be sold at 5s. 6d. each, complete:

Prescot Poultry Show, at Prescot, July 4th, 1855.
Yorkshire, at Malton, August 1st and 2nd.
Manchester and Liverpool, at St. Helen's, 6th of September.

Bury and Radcliffe, at Bury, about the 10th Sept.
At the North Lincolnshire Society's Show at Boston, Exhibitors are required to furnish their own Pens. **B. GREENING & Co.** will be happy to lend their Pens to parties not desirous of purchasing; apply to **COBOURN POCKLINGTON, Esq.**, Silver Street, Boston.

B. G. & Co. will exhibit for Sale, the Patent Wire Poultry Fencing Coops, &c., at all the Shows they visit. In the meantime, Catalogues, &c., may be had per post (enclosing two stamps, cost of postage,) from **B. GREENING & Co.**, Agricultural Engineers, Church Gates, Manchester.

FIRST CLASS GOLDEN PENCILLED HAMBURGS.—For SALE, a Cock and one Hen of the above breed, first prize birds at Malvern, 1854; also a single Hen, first prize bird last year at Wellington, Shrewsbury, and Bridgnorth. Apply to **W. R. ROSE, Lydiard Millicent, Swindon, Wilts.**

The Owner, intending to breed only one sort of Poultry, has the following for disposal: White Poland, 1 & 2, (1st, Gloucester; 3rd, Birmingham); Silver Poland, 1 & 2, (2nd, Birmingham); Gold Poland, 1 & 1, (1st, Norwich; Highly commended, Bedford); Buff Polands, 1 & 2, (Commended, Gloucester); Scotch Dumpies, 1 & 2; and several Cochins. For price, &c., enclose a stamped directed envelope, to **HENRY CHURCHILL, 117, Westgate Street, Gloucester.**

GEORGE BOOTHBY, Louth, Lincolnshire, having been very successful in hatching, and having set all the eggs he intends this season, offers the following at very reduced prices, viz: Ptarmigan, Gold, Silver, White, Black and Blue Polish, 6s. per dozen. Grey and White Dorking; Black Cochin; Brahma and Silver Hamburg, 3s. 6d. per dozen.

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This Office, the new income of which was doubled during the last year, presents the security of a large paid-up capital; moderate premiums for home and foreign risks; no stamp duty is charged; and all policies are declared indisputable.

The last Bonus added four-fifths of the premium paid to some of the participating policies.

Provision can be made for the payment of a certain sum on attaining any given age (as 50, 55, or 60), or at death if it occur previously.

By a small annual payment, £100 may be secured to a child on attaining the age of 14, 18, or 21.

Prospectuses and other information will be furnished on application to

H. D. DAVENPORT, Secretary.
Agents wanted.

WINDSOR POULTRY EXHIBITION,
Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 27th, 28th, and 29th June, 1855. Patron, His Royal Highness Prince Albert. This Exhibition of upwards of 600 Pens of Fowls, from the first breeders and amateur fanciers in the Kingdom, will be opened as above. Entrance, first day, 2s. 6d.; second and third days, 1s. Catalogues, 6d. each. Excursion Trains will run on both the Great Western and South Western Railways.

THOS. CHAMBERLAIN, } Hon. Secs.
H. THOMPSON, }
Thames Street, Windsor.

PARTRIDGE and BUFF COCHIN CHICKENS, from the birds which have lately taken first prizes at so many Exhibitions, ten shillings each. Adult birds, twenty shillings.

CAPTAIN SNELL, St. Swithin's Lane, London.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 17s. 4d.; half-yearly, 8s. 8d.; quarterly, 4s. 4d.; payable in advance.

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HOMESTEAD.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 1855.

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Poultry Shows.

Prescot, July 4th. Secretary, J. F. Ollard, Esq. (No. 69.)

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries are closed. (No. 57.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at Boston, Thursday, July 26. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close Wednesday, July 11th. (No. 64.)

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Malton, August 1st and 2nd. Secretary, J. Hannam, Esq., Kirk-Deighton, Wetherby. Entries close July 18th.

Isle of Wight, at Ryde, August 7th and 8th. Secretaries, J. Vaux, Esq., and G. Locke, Esq. Entries close July 24th. (No. 70.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th. (No. 67.)

Tottingham Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary, Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry,

Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq.

Heckmondwike (near Leeds) Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Show, including Poultry, and Cottagers' Pigs, Tuesday, August 28. Secretaries, J. Kelly, and F. Brearly, Esquires. Entries close August 13th.

Anerley, August 28th, 29th, and 30th. Secretaries, Edgar Smallfield, Esq., and Henry F. Wells, Esq. Entries close August 6th. (No. 69.)

Keighley Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighley. Entries close Saturday, August 25th. (No. 71.)

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

East Lancashire Poultry Show (late Nelson) at Colne, October 31st and November 1st. Secretaries, Messrs. J. and E. Booth, Marsden, near Burnley, Lancashire. Entries close October 17th.

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire,

at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

THE fair balance of power among our numerous and varied feathered favourites, and a wish to see each class hold the place which is its due, and deserve the place which it holds, has governed our pen while making our introductory remarks in the two last numbers of the "Poultry Chronicle;" but there is one extensive class which we think scarcely receives the honour and attention which are due to its extent, popularity, and beauty. We do not refer to those large, self-possessed, little trouble-giving birds whose cause "Zenas" pleads in another column of our present number; for them, we heartily agree with him, that their different varieties are worthy to be preserved, and hope that the reform which the Anerley committee has commenced, in expressing a preference for distinct breeds, will be carried out to the full extent which it deserves. The Geese are in good hands; may they, through their advocates' exer-

tions prosper; but our present plea is for the pigeons. We are not among those who ask for higher prizes than the funds at the disposal of the committees authorise them to offer; for we believe most exhibitors think much more of the honour of taking a prize, than of its money value; but we hope to see the pigeons excite more interest at our poultry shows. We should like to see two or three real amateurs of pigeons forming a portion of every poultry show committee; watching over the interests of their especial favourites, using their influence to procure first-rate judges, who would devote attention to this department especially, and having the awards to them published with precision and promptitude.

There are many circumstances in favour of rearing pigeons. It is not alone that they are tame and beautiful, that the pigeon fancier has a pet and a companion in each member of his cherished flock; that skill in breeding them well is repaid; that they are no less varied than attractive; no less admired than easy to tame: besides all this, they can be kept where few living things besides themselves can, and with success too; they may be the solace of those who, living in towns, yet delight to be reminded of the country, and to enjoy still, one rural pleasure.

The popularity of the pigeons is attested at every show at which they are admitted, no less by the number of entries, than by the crowds of spectators which surround their cages. We think they should never be excluded, for what class is more beautiful, and what description of stock more certain to please all the spectators; whether it be the decided fancier glorying in

carriers, pouters, and almond tumblers, or the simple admirer who can see little difference among them, but thinks them all tame and pretty alike.

Schedule of the Keighley Agricultural Show.

THIS Society, which was established in 1843, will hold the meeting on Wednesday, September 5th, when prizes will be given for cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, poultry, and crops.

The committee have adopted the plan, equally beneficial to their show and convenient to exhibitors, of appending an entry paper to their schedule.

RULES.

Premiums offered by this society are open to all England (except those for crops.)

The society consists of a president, vice-president, committee, secretary, and members.

The annual subscriptions are paid on or before the 1st of September in each year. Each subscriber of ten shillings and upwards shall have a copy of these rules presented to him.

All stock, except the extra stock, shall be bona fide the property of the exhibitor three months previous to the show; and poultry, six weeks previous to the show.

The secretary may call a committee meeting by circular at any time, with the consent of three members of the said committee, and five shall form a quorum.

The secretary shall enter the minutes of each meeting in a book, to be signed by the chairman.

Any person making a false entry shall for ever be excluded from showing, and shall forfeit all claim upon the society.

Seven of the committee shall be annually chosen to settle any dispute which may arise, and the decision of the majority shall be binding.

The stewards of the yard shall be authorised to prevent any interference with the judges by the exhibitors or the public, and in case of difficulty to summon the committee.

In any case if the ribbon be not worn, when awarded and given for that purpose, the prize shall be withheld.

The stock exhibited shall not be distinguished in the show-ground by the name of the breeder,

feeder, or owner, (until after the premiums are decided) but by tickets or numbers affixed to each lot, corresponding with a list to be made out by the secretary.

Should the judges think fit, premiums shall be withheld.

Exhibitors of poultry will in all cases be required to state a price for which they will sell their specimens; a prohibitory price, or what appears to be so, can of course, be named, but a sale must take place if an offer be made to purchase at the price specified. Five per cent. will be deducted from all sales towards defraying the expenses of the exhibition.

Prize lists, forms of entry, or the rules of the society, may be had on application to

WADE SMITH, Secretary.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

BUFF COCHIN.

	1st.	2nd.
	s. d.	s. d.
Cock and two Hens	20 0	10 0
Cockerel and two Pullets	15 0	7 6

DARK COCHINS.

Cock and two Hens	20 0	10 0
Cockerel and two Pullets	15 0	7 6

WHITE COCHINS.

Cock and two Hens	20 0	10 0
Cockerel and two Pullets	15 0	7 6

SPANISH.

Cock and two Hens	20 0	10 0
Cockerel and two Pullets	15 0	7 6

CHITTEPRATS.

Cock and two Hens	15 0	7 6
Cockerel and two Pullets	10 6	5 0

GOLDEN PHEASANT.

Cock and two Hens	15 0	7 6
Cockerel and two Pullets	10 6	5 0

SILVER PHEASANT.

Cock and two Hens	15 0	7 6
Cockerel and two Pullets	10 6	5 0

BLACK POLAND (WHITE CRESTS).

Cock and two Hens	15 0	7 6
Cockerel and two Pullets	10 6	5 0

GOLDEN PHEASANT (POLANDS).

Cock and two Hens	10 6	5 0
Cockerel and two Pullets	10 6	5 0

SILVER PHEASANT (POLANDS).

Cock and two Hens	10 6	5 0
Cockerel and two Pullets	10 6	5 0

BLACK PHEASANT.

Cock and two Hens	10 6	5 0
Cockerel and two Pullets	10 6	5 0

DORKINGS.		
	1st.	2nd.
	s. d.	s. d.
Cock and two Hens	10 6 ...	5 0
Cockerel and two Pullets	10 6 ...	5 0
GAME.		
Cock and two Hens	10 6 ...	5 0
Cockerel and two Pullets	10 6 ...	5 0
GOLD OR SILVER PHEASANT BANTAMS.		
Cock and two Hens	10 6 ...	5 0
Cockerel and two Pullets	10 6 ...	5 0
BLACK, WHITE, OR GAME BANTAMS.		
Cock and two Hens	10 6 ...	5 0
Cockerel and two Pullets	10 6 ...	5 0
DUCKS.		
Drake and two Ducks	10 6 ...	5 0
Four Ducklings	10 6 ...	5 0
GEESE.		
Gander and two Geese	10 6 ...	5 0
TURKEYS.		
Cock and two Hens	10 6 ...	5 0

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 the premiums for bulls, cows, pigs, sheep, and ploughmen, will be 1s. each; for poultry, where the premiums amount to £1, entrance, 2s. 6d.;—15s., 1s. 6d.; and in other cases, 1s.; for horses and turnips, 2s. 6d. each. All entries must be made on or before Saturday, the 25th of August next.

If an objection be made to any entry as being a false one, and such objection be sustained within ten days, the party or parties making the same shall forfeit the entrance-money and all claims upon the Society. No premiums will be paid before the 19th September.

A dinner will be provided at the Devonshire Arms on the same day, to be on the table at four o'clock. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each.

By order, WADE SMITH, Sec.
Keighley, 1st May, 1855.

The Anerley Show.

If this show should prove as good as the prize list is liberal, we shall have such a show as we cockneys have never seen, and even Birmingham will have to look out for her laurels for the future. At the same time I think the list might have been made more perfect by having *distinct classes* for geese. The schedule has it "for the best gander

and two geese," and on referring to the explanation appended below, I find a statement is made, that the judges will be requested to give the prizes to pure-bred birds, or something of that kind,—I have not the list at hand to refer to. This is acting on the hint I threw out a few weeks ago, when I, as an advocate of geese, brought forward their claims to greater encouragement by poultry show committees, and for a small show with a short prize list, such a thing might pass, but for Anerley it will never do.

The schedule, on the face of it, admits that there *are* pure bred geese if there are mongrels; also there must, *of necessity*, be at least *two distinct breeds*, and in fact we know that there are two—the one white, and called Embden, the other grey, and called Toulouse; and I have little doubt that all the mottled birds we see are the descendants of a cross from these two breeds, or some other pure breeds, for I do not want to have it supposed I claim that the Embden and Toulouse are the only pure bred birds we have. Now, if what I have stated be true, I ask the Anerley Committee, and I wish particularly that I may have answers to my questions—I say, I ask the Anerley Committee, in the name of common sense and common justice, to breeders of pure bred birds of this kind, why Embden and Toulouse geese should be compelled, any more than buff and white Cochins, white and black Bantams, or, stronger still, *white and grey ducks*, to be entered in the same class, and compete together for prizes; when, so far as I am aware, there are no objections which could be taken to the competition together of the Rouen and Aylesbury ducks, which would not apply with equal force to the competition of Toulouse and Embden geese in the same class. I am glad to observe, that the pretty light Brahmas are allowed a separate class; this is as it should be. If the dark pencilled birds are to take all the prizes where there is but one class, I have no question that the light birds will eventually, if encouraged as much as the dark

ones, become *the* favourites of the fancier, notwithstanding the terrible setting down they received from the judges at the later shows last season. ZENAS.

The Windsor Poultry Show.

ALTHOUGH the ancient borough of Windsor could boast of all the distinctions that are connected with the visits of crowned heads, and potentates of every clime and rank, it was only last week that it followed in the wake of larger towns and cities, and inaugurated its first poultry show. In this particular, it has been behind the age; but the goodness of the stock exhibited, may fairly encourage its projectors to persevere until they attain a position worthy of the Royal Borough, which should be in the foremost rank.

Let us not be misunderstood. Few places have ever started with a Show equal to that of last week; but with the encouragement they have now received, and with an executive as *willing, intelligent, and hard-working* as they have proved themselves to be, they may well fix a very high standard, with the certainty of attaining it. The taste for these exhibitions is now becoming so general, and they can depend on such good attendance, that the possibility of failure need not be entertained if due diligence and careful expenditure be observed.

This Show again proved what we have often had to observe of late; that the improvement is no longer confined to this or that class, but extends to every breed. When, therefore, in early days, the poultry societies announced their object to be the improvement of domestic poultry, they did wisely, for they have accomplished their purpose. They are, however, but on the threshold of their mission. They have succeeded in showing amateurs how great an improvement was possible even in their best specimens. They must, by liberal prize lists and well-conducted shows, give them the opportunities of comparison, purchase, exchange, and sale.

Poultry will soon have passed through its probationary state, and will then become a profitable pursuit to all engaged in it. It remains to be seen that remuneration is not confined to the sale of pens at extraordinary prices, but may be secured by birds of average merit. The number of exhibitors is daily increasing, while the requirements of prize birds are multiplied and understood.

It will be necessary to breed many to select the few: the surplus stock must bring small pieces of silver in the shape of coins, instead of cups and tankards: and while the winners of the latter may be envied, those who are perforce contented with the former, will find there is a certain profit attached to their pursuit, less distinguished but equally sure. And as there is no rule without an exception, so it will be found frequently that those who are only labouring for a third or fourth prize, or a high commendation, will find themselves distinguished above all others in their classes.

Having thus inflicted on our readers the thoughts which passed through our minds, while gathering the knowledge which is necessary for our report, we will proceed to the details of the most prominent features of this excellent Show.

There were nineteen entries of adult Spanish, many of them of superlative merit. The judges felt bound to declare it was an excellent class. The two first prizes were taken by Mr. Davies, of Hounslow; the third by Mr. Plummer, of Bristol. The commended birds, belonging to Messrs. Simons and Botham, were beautiful specimens of the breed.

There was but a small class of chickens. The first prize was taken with very good birds, by Mr. Plummer; the second by Mr. Parkin Jones.

The next class was of itself an exhibition worth travelling miles to see. We allude to the Dorkings, forty-seven in number. Seventeen of them appear in the prize and commended list, and the judges could only express their admiration by

appending a note stating it was "one of the best classes ever seen." Mr. Davis was here again successful, taking both first prizes. Mr. Botham took the third. The fourteen commendations include the names of most of our best breeders, and every pen deserved a prize. Mr. Terry, of Aylesbury, showed three pens, the cocks in which were admired by every one; but the pullets were not in condition. In such classes as this, even good exhibitors must esteem commendations highly; and those who, like Lady Chesterfield, Mrs. Fookes, Mr. Breavington, and Mr. Terry, have every bird commended, may well believe they are not very far from perfection.

The Dorking chickens were declared to be meritorious; Mr. Davis took first, Mr. Whittington second prizes. The unfavourable season was here apparent; many pens containing two excellent, and one smaller bird.

The White Dorkings were better than usual. Messrs. Antill, W. Fookes, and F. J. Coleridge, took the prizes in order, closely run by Lady East, and Mr. Jennens. Mr. Antill took the only prize for chickens.

There was great competition in the class for adult Cochins; but many of the birds showed signs of moulting. Lord de Blaquiére took first, Mr. J. Taylor, Jun., second, and Mr. Chater third. Mr. Fairlie took both prizes for chickens.

For once, the star of the Rev. G. F. Hodson was not in the ascendant in Grouse Cochins; Mr. Adkins, of Birmingham, took first, Mr. Hodson second, and Mr. Bridges third. In chickens Mr. Hodson took the first prize. Our old friend, Mrs. Herbert, took her accustomed place at the head of the White Cochins, followed in succession by Messrs. Chase and Peters. In chickens the first prize went to the Rev. Mr. Gandy, the second to Mrs. Herbert. The judges pronounced this a very good class. We thought it *beautiful*.

The next is a class gradually making its way before the public. We allude to

Brahma Pootras. Mr. Davis was here again successful in taking both first prizes, while Mr. Bush took the third. Mr. Sanders, of the Isle of Wight, took both prizes for chickens.

The Game Fowls were numerous and good; first prizes were taken by Messrs. Avery, Monsey, and Matthew; second by Messrs. Monsey, Adkins, and Matthew; third by Messrs. Jennens, Avery, and Wildman. One class of these beautiful birds was declared to be good, and another was highly commended. Next came one marked as meritorious. Golden-Pencilled Hamburgs. There is great improvement in these fowls; but while the pencilling has been better developed on the body, and especially on the tail, it has invaded the hackle. The first prizes went to Mr. Marshall and Devas; the second to Mr. T. P. Mew; and the third to Mr. Dixon.

A pen of remarkably good Gold-Spangled Hamburgs, belonging to Master Thompson, deservedly took first prize, beating two good names who had second and third, viz., Messrs. Adkins and Dixon. The Rev. T. L. Fellowes took the first prize for chickens.

An old name, now almost identified with the first prize for Silver-Pencilled, stood first, Mr. Edward Archer, followed by the Rev. T. L. Fellowes, and Mr. T. S. Mew. Mr. Taylor, and Mr. G. Botham were successful in Silver-Pencilled chickens.

The Silver-Spangled Hamburgs were in force, and the successful names will be a guarantee for the quality of the birds. Messrs. Chune and Clayton took first, Messrs. Edwards and Symonds second, and Mr. J. Symonds third, prizes.

The usual exhibitors appeared in Black Polands with white crests; Messrs. Adkins and Edwards were first, Messrs. Edwards and Hazlewood second, and Mr. Williams, of Reading, third. We did not think the Golden Polands as good as usual; Mr. Bush, of Bath, took the first and second; Mr. Parkin Jones the third. The Silver made amends; Messrs. Adkins, Parkin Jones, and C. E. Coleridge, took the prizes

in order for adults; and Messrs. C. Edwards and T. P. Edwards for chickens. Mr. Vivian, as usual, showed beautiful birds in the various class of Polands, and took all the prizes.

The Various Class presented the usual number of curiosities, some of them remarkably good. Miss E. Watts, Lord de Blaquiére, and Messrs. Higgs, Davies, and Dawes took prizes. Messrs. Spary and Wildman were first and second for Sebright Bantams; and the Rev. Mr. Methuen and Mr. Rodbard for Black and White. The Turkeys were unusually good; Mr. Edwards, of Bristol, and Mr. Fairlie, had first and second. The Geese were good, but not so heavy as we have seen; nor were the Aylesbury Ducks, but they were birds of great frame and capabilities. Mr. Davies took first, Mr. Fowler second. The latter gentleman took both prizes for Rouen Ducks.

The Silver Cup for the best collection, was awarded to Mr. Davies, of Hounslow. The Chicken Cup was withheld, as there was no collection good enough to deserve it.

This brings to a close the first Windsor Show. The quality of the entries,—the number of them, above six hundred,—the interest taken in it by the nobility and gentry, both of London and the neighbourhood, were all guarantees for success. The committee were courteous and indefatigable, especially Messrs. Chamberlain, Thompson, and Botham. To them our thanks are due.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Class 1. SPANISH.—1st and 2nd prizes, H. D. Davies, Hounslow; 3rd prize, W. Plummer, Brislington. Highly commended: Edward Simons, Birmingham; W. Plummer, Brislington. Commended: G. Botham, Esq., Wexham Court. (An excellent class).—Class 2. CHICKENS. 1st prize, W. Plummer; 2nd prize, Parkins Jones, Fulham.

Class 3. DORKINGS, COLOURED.—1st and 2nd prizes, H. D. Davies; 3rd prize, G. Botham, Esq. Highly commended: G. C. Adkins, Edgbaston; A. H. Leyborne Popham, Reading; Mrs. H. Fookes, Whitechurch, (2 pens); H. G.

K. Breavington, Hounslow (2 pens); Countess of Chesterfield, Bretby Hall (2 pens). Commended: A. Terry, Aylesbury (3 pens); John Fairlie, Newmarket; G. C. Peters, Moseley; W. Saunders, Cowes. (One of the best classes ever seen).—Class 4. CHICKENS. 1st prize, H. D. Davies; 2nd prize, J. Whittington, jun., Wootton Waven. Highly commended, H. D. Davies. Commended, W. Bromley, Birmingham. (A meritorious class).—Class 5. WHITE. 1st prize, Nathaniel Antill, Portsea; 2nd prize, W. Fookes, Tarrant Monckton; 3rd prize, F. J. Coleridge, Ottery St. Mary. Commended: Lady Gilbert East, Maidenhead; J. Jennens, Moseley.—Class 6. WHITE CHICKENS. 1st prize, N. Antill; 2nd prize, withheld.

Class 7. COCHIN CHINA, CINNAMON AND BUFF.—1st prize, Lord de Blaquiére, Petersfield; 2nd prize, J. Taylor, jun., Hounslow; 3rd prize, J. F. Chater, Haverhill. Highly commended: Lord de Blaquiére; G. C. Adkins; Mrs. H. Fookes. Commended: Thomas Bridges, Croydon.—Class 8. CHICKENS. 1st and 2nd prizes, J. Fairlie. Highly commended: Ditto; G. Dorrell, Slough.—Class 9. BROWN GROUSE AND PARTRIDGE. 1st prize, G. C. Adkins; 2nd prize, Rev. G. F. Hodson, North Petherton; 3rd prize, Thomas Bridges.—Class 10. CHICKENS. 1st prize, Rev. G. F. Hodson; 2nd prize, withheld.—Class 11. WHITE. 1st prize, Mrs. S. R. Herbert, Powick; 2nd prize, R. Chase, Birmingham; 3rd prize, G. C. Peters, Moseley. Commended: G. Lamb, Tettenhall; G. C. Peters.—Class 12. WHITE CHICKENS. 1st prize, Rev. J. H. Gandy, near Taunton; 2nd prize, Mrs. S. R. Herbert. Highly commended: R. Chase; J. R. Rodbard, Langford; G. C. Peters. (A very good class).

Class 13. BRAHMA POOTRA.—1st and 2nd prizes, H. D. Davies; 3rd prize, R. H. Bush, near Bath. Commended: G. Cannon, Great Marlow; E. Simons; W. Saunders, Cowes.—Class 14. CHICKENS. 1st and 2nd prizes, W. Saunders. Highly commended: Mrs. E. Payne, Aylesbury. Commended: Miss E. Watts, Hampstead.

Class 15. GAME FOWL, WHITE AND PILES.—1st prize, J. Avery, King's Norton; 2nd prize, James Monsey, Norwich; 3rd prize, Joseph Jennens, Birmingham.—Class 16. BLACK-BREADED AND OTHER REDS. 1st prize, S. Matthew, Stowmarket; 2nd prize, G. C. Adkins; 3rd prize, J. Avery. Highly commended: F. H. Powell, Hillingdon; E. Farmer, Birmingham.

Commended : T. W. Pearse, Bedford. (A good class).—Class 17. DUCKWINGS, BLACK, BRASSY, GREYS, &c. 1st prize, James Monsey ; 2nd prize, S. Matthew ; 3rd prize, H. Wildman, Birmingham. (The whole class highly commended).

Class 18. HAMBURG, GOLDEN PENCILLED.—1st prize, J. Marshall, Taunton ; 2nd prize, Thomas P. Mew, West Cowes ; 3rd prize, James Dixon, Bradford. Highly commended : Thomas M'Cann, Malvern. Commended : W. Taylor, Amphill ; Rev. F. W. Freeman, near Stowmarket ; W. H. Hill, Birmingham ; Daniel Harrison, Kendal. (A meritorious class).—Class 19. CHICKENS. 1st prize, W. Devas, Old Windsor ; 2nd prize withheld.—Class 20. GOLDEN SPANGLED. 1st prize, Master Thompson, Windsor ; 2nd prize, G. C. Adkins ; 3rd prize, James Dixon.—Class 21. CHICKENS. 1st prize, Rev. T. L. Fellowes Acle ; 2nd prize withheld.—Class 22. SILVER PENCILLED. 1st prize, Edward Archer, Malvern ; 2nd prize, Rev. T. L. Fellowes ; 3rd prize, T. P. Mew. (The class commended).—Class 23. CHICKENS. 1st prize, W. Taylor ; 2nd prize, G. Botham. (The class highly commended).—Class 24. SILVER SPANGLED. 1st prize, J. B. Chune, Coalbrookdale ; 2nd prize, F. Edwards, Bulstrode ; 3rd prize, Jos. Symonds, Gorwell. Highly commended : T. B. Wright, near Birmingham.—Class 25. CHICKENS. 1st prize, R. R. Clayton, Hedgerley Park ; 2nd prize, M. Symonds, jun., Esq., Milborne St. Andrew. Highly commended : Rev. H. K. Venn, Honiton ; R. R. Clayton.

Class 26. POLISH FOWLS, BLACK, WITH WHITE CRESTS.—1st prize, G. C. Adkins ; 2nd prize, T. P. Edwards, Lyndhurst ; 3rd prize, Thomas Williams, Reading. Commended : F. Edwards.—Class 27. CHICKENS. 1st prize, T. P. Edwards ; 2nd prize, E. W. Haslewood, Bridgnorth.—Class 28. GOLDEN. 1st and 2nd prizes, R. H. Bush ; 3rd prize, Parkins Jones.—Class 30. SILVER. 1st prize, G. C. Adkins ; 2nd prize, Parkins Jones ; 3rd prize, C. E. Coleridge, Eton College. Highly commended : Rev. J. H. Gandy. (A good class).—Class 31. CHICKENS. 1st prize, C. Edwards, near Bristol ; 2nd prize, T. P. Edwards.—Class 32. ANY OTHER VARIETY. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes, W. G. Vivian, Swansea. Highly commended : H. Churchill, Gloucester. Commended : W. G. Vivian.—Class 33. CHICKENS. 1st prize, C. E. Coleridge ; 2nd prize, Parkins Jones.

Class 34. ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.—

Prizes : Lord De Blaquiere ; H. B. Higgs, Southampton ; H. D. Davies ; George Dawes, Henley-in-Arden ; Miss E. Watts. Commended : C. E. Coleridge ; Mrs. Thompson, Windsor ; Rev. T. L. Fellowes.

Class 35. BANTAMS, GOLD OR SILVER-LACED.—1st prize, U. Spary, Markyate Street ; 2nd prize, H. Wildman, Birmingham. Commended : D. Hume, West Hartlepool.—Class 36. OTHER VARIETIES. 1st prize, Rev. F. P. Methuen, near Devizes ; 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard. Highly commended : W. Saunders ; H. R. H. Prince Albert.

Class 37. TURKEYS. 1st prize, C. Edwards ; 2nd prize, J. Fairlie. Highly commended : J. R. Rodbard. (A good class).—Class 38. GESE.—1st prize, T. P. Edwards ; 2nd prize, J. Fairlie.

Class 39. DUCKS, AYLESBURY.—1st prize, H. D. Davies ; 2nd prize, J. K. Fowler, Aylesbury.—Class 40. ROUEN. 1st and 2nd prizes, J. K. Fowler.—Class 41. OTHER VARIETIES. 1st prize, C. Edwards ; 2nd prize, T. C. Moore, Up-ton Court.

EXTRA STOCK.—Highly commended : Miss M. G. Bent, Wexham Lodge ; W. A. Warwick, Colchester. Commended : R. Cross, Cippenham Farm (2 pens).

A Silver Cup, of the value of ten guineas, was awarded to H. D. Davies, Esq., of Spring Grove House, Hounslow, the exhibitor of the best collection of adult birds, being also the most successful competitor in the adult classes.

The Silver Cup, value five guineas, was not awarded by the judges.

Judges { JOHN BAILY, Esq. London.
EDWARD HEWITT, Esq., Birmingham.

Hull Poultry Show.

THE first annual exhibition of the Hull and East-Riding Poultry Society, took place on Wednesday, June 27th, at the Zoological Gardens, Hull.

Hull has not hitherto taken a very prominent part in poultry exhibitions, but there is good reason to anticipate that it will be hereafter second to none in this part of the country. The show was a very encouraging one—superior, in fact, to any we have had of late years. Besides a host of exhibitors residing in the town and its immediate neighbourhood, there were

several from a considerable distance both in this county and Lincolnshire, and even from Birmingham and the metropolis itself. The most successful competitor was Mr. J. Conyers, jun., of Leeds. We have given below a list of the prizes, and we may state, also, that the judges commended Cochin China fowls (buff and cinnamon) exhibited by Mr. Nicholson, Wootton, and the Rev. J. Hustler, of Appleton; Cochin China fowls (black and white) belonging to Mr. Wittey, Cottingham; and the Cochin China chickens of Mr. Hollingworth, Cottingham. The judges also paid a similar compliment to Mr. Barnard, of Bigby Rectory, Brigg, and Mr. Brett, of Rasen, for Dorkings. They also commended Mr. Mell, Hessele; Mr. Charter, Malton; Mr. Bielby, Beverley; Mr. Conyers, Mr. Barnard, and Mr. Wells, Newland; who were amongst the exhibitors of extra stock. Most of those for which prizes were not awarded were also very fine specimens, and attracted a due share of attention and admiration. In regard to the show a new plan was adopted, nearly the whole of the fowls being exhibited under a marquee, in baskets borrowed from the Malton and Driffield agricultural societies. There was a large and fashionable company, and general interest was taken in the exhibition. We may notice that Schmidt's German band was in attendance, that in the evening Terpsichorean pleasures were participated in and fully enjoyed, and that there was also a mimic re-enactment of the bombardment of Sebastopol. The judges were T. B. Stead, Esq., Leeds; and Mr. Jowcey, Hull.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH—(3 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Irwin, of Howden; 2nd prize, Mr. Galloway, of Barton. **CHICKENS**.—Mr. Taylor, Newland.

COCHIN CHINA, BUFF AND CINNAMON—(15 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Smith, Ticktonhall; 2nd prize, Mr. Nicholson, Wootton. **BLACK OR WHITE**—(6 competitors). 1st prize, Captain Snell, London; 2nd prize, Mr. Wells, Newland. **PARTRIDGE OR GROUSE**—(5 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Turner, Hull; 2nd prize, Mr. Dresser, Hedon. **CHICKENS, ANY VARIETY**—(14 com-

petitors). 1st prize, Mr. Turner; 2nd prize, Mr. Taylor.

DORKING—(14 competitors). 1st prize, Rev. G. Hustler, Appleton; 2nd prize, Mr. Brett, Rasen. **CHICKENS**—(4 competitors). Mr. Brett.

PHEASANTS, GOLDEN—(10 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Conyers, Leeds; 2nd prize, Mr. Duffill, Beverley. **SILVER**—(10 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Simpson, Tickton; 2nd prize, Mr. Britain, Walkington.

HAMBURGS, GOLDEN.—Two 2nd prizes were awarded to Mr. Jowcey, Hull, and Mr. Conyers, Leeds. **SILVER, OR CHITTAPRATS**—(7 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Conyers; 2nd prize, Mr. Smith, Caistor.

POLANDS, GOLDEN OR SILVER—(7 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Conyers; 2nd prize, Mr. Turner, Ulceby. **POLANDS**—(7 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Conyers; 2nd prize, Mr. Boothby.

GAME—(9 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Pickering, Hull; 2nd prize, Mr. Bielby, Beverley.

BANTAMS, GOLDEN OR SILVER—(8 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Nicholson, Brigg; 2nd prize, Mr. Boothby. **ANY OTHER VARIETY**.—(8 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Charter, Malton; 2nd prize, Mr. Simpson, Tickton. **ANY OTHER VARIETY, OR FARM-YARD HENS**—(8 competitors). Mr. Conyers. **EXTRA STOCK**.—Mr. Marris, of Chase-house, Ulceby; and Rev. G. Hustler, of Appleton.

DUCKS—(5 competitors). 1st prize, Mr. Ridsdale, Walkington; 2nd prize, Mr. Barnard, Bigby Rectory.

PIRGONS—(3 competitors). Mr. Tongue, jun., Hull. **CROPPERS**—(4 competitors). Mr. Boddy, Hull. **TRUMPETERS**—(2 competitors). Mr. Bielby, Beverley. **TUMBLERS**—(2 competitors). Mr. G. Horner, Hull. **TUMBLERS OF ANY OTHER VARIETY**—(5 competitors). Mr. Dean, Hull. **JACOBINS**—(4 competitors). Mr. Hebblewhite, Hull. **FANTAILS**—(3 competitors). Mr. Padgett, jun., Howden. **ANTWERP**—(2 competitors). Mr. Wells, Newland. **NUNS**.—Mr. Padgett, Howden. **OWLS**—(3 competitors). Mr. Tongue, Hull. **PIRGONS**—(Only 1 entry). Mr. Padgett. **ANY OTHER VARIETY**—(2 competitors). Mr. E. C. Bell, Hull.

Eastern Counties Herald.

French Turkeys, Ducks, and Geese.

THE best species of poultry in France, with reference both to the eye and the palate are, first, the Turkeys, which are

excellent, being pure types of the genuine old black Norfolk breed. Mainly in consequence, it may be presumed, of the dry, warm, and long summer, they attain very considerable average weights, and appear very early on the table in the shape of poult. They might easily be kept and fattened up to great weights; but it is not the fashion of the French, and especially of Parisian diners, to take pride or pleasure in mountains of meat. A moderate-sized hen-turkey, stuffed with truffles, if possible, is there the acme of excellence. Prime Ministers are reputed to have been bribed by the timely present of a dinde truffée. Turkeys, too, are almost the only birds which can be advantageously imported into England as stock; and they run so equal and so high in merit, that the merest tyro can hardly go wrong in making his selection. We, therefore, strongly advise all persons whose turkeys have not done well for the last few years, most likely on account of some hereditary weakness, entirely to get rid of their ailing patients, to make a careful inspection, reparation and cleansing of their poultry-houses, and then to re-people them with healthy birds obtained direct from the north of France. The next best volatile thing which our Gallic neighbours have to boast of, but which they do not sufficiently appreciate themselves, are the wild-coloured call-ducks, or canards de rappel, which are to be found in several of the northern departments. They are not seen further in the interior, simply because, as a general rule, central France is comparatively deficient in water. These French call-ducks, (the introduction of which would prove a valuable acquisition at home) are both admirable mothers and excellent eating; their plumage, in its kind, is perfect; their flirtations and gambols on, under, and over the water, are most amusing; and their value as decoy-birds, on account of their sonorous and unwearied quack, is second to no other flatfoot in the world. Colonel Hawker truly says, that three French ducks, like three Frenchmen, will make about as much noise as a dozen

English. French geese are in little esteem; they are not a fashionable dish. They are looked upon as food for the common people, rather than for the rich bourgeois, or for the gentleman with a "de" before his name. The Parisian workman, when he has a mind for a treat, buys at a rotisseur's, or roaster's, a ready-roasted joint of goose. From the baker's shop next door he fetches sundry sous'-worth of bread. He then enters a Commerce de Vins, or wine-shop, protected, like the baker's, by an outside front of strong iron bars, which convert them into so many little fortresses, and render each man's shop his citadel, in case any popular outbreak should make the multitude too desirous of a gratuitous supply of the two principal articles of a Frenchman's diet, bread and wine. The only stylish morsel contained in a goose is the liver, which may make its appearance in a pâté, especially when enlarged by disease to unnatural dimensions, on any table, and which the proudest nobleman of the Legitimate party may condescend to taste without losing caste. To add to the French goose's humiliations, its feathers are in but minor request. Everybody sleeps either on wool mattresses, straw beds, or, in the south on sacks stuffed with the husks of Indian corn. Feather beds to lay over you in winter are very general articles of chamber furniture, and very comfortable when you are not restless, and do not kick them off in the dead of the night. But these are filled, not with goose feathers, but with eider down.—*Household Words.*

Columbary.

NO. XVI. THE SHIELD PIGEON.

THE Shield Pigeon, so called from its bearing on its wings a coloured shield on a white ground, is very numerous in some parts of Germany, where they are known as "Die Schild Taube," and are divided into two classes, the clean-footed, and the slipped.

The clean-footed are small active pigeons, about the size and make of Dove-house pigeons, and they field well; their plumage is white, excepting the wing-shoulders, which are coloured like the Turbit pigeon.

Those with slippers, or feathers on their feet, are rather larger, their necks shorter, and their breasts and back broader; but, owing to their heavily-feathered feet, are not well adapted for finding their own food in the fields: they are marked like the smooth-footed ones, with either black, blue, red, or yellow shoulders, and have generally white wing-bars. B. P. B.

On Bees.

THE condition of the hive, after the departure of its first swarm, led by the queen mother, is worthy of our especial consideration. The tumult has subsided, and the workers are pursuing their wonted labours, carrying in stores of pollen and honey, and paying especial attention to the feeding and tending of the royal brood. The royal jelly (for we have had the honour of partaking of it) is of a pungent quality, very different to the insipid flavour which might be expected from a mixture of honey and pollen. "It is difficult," says M. Feburier, "to form an idea of the anxious care and attention bestowed by the bees on the royal larvæ. The comparison of the affection of a mother for an only child can alone furnish anything like a conception of it. They seem to feel that their own fate is involved in that of their young sovereign; they feed her with a jelly different from that which is destined for the workers and males; it is more pungent, and moderately acid; and they supply it in such profusion that she is unable to consume it all, for, after her transformation, some remains of it are found at the bottom of the cell."

The transformations it passes are thus described by Huber. "The royal worm passes three days in the egg, and is five a worm, when the bees close its cell; and it

immediately begins spinning the cocoon, which occupies twenty-four hours. The tenth and eleventh day it remains in complete repose, and even sixteen hours of the twelfth. Then the transformation of a nymph takes place, in which state four days and the third part of a fifth are passed. Thus it is not before the sixteenth day that the perfect state of queen is attained."

In spinning the cocoon, a remarkable difference is observed between the manner in which it is spun by the royal larvæ, and the workers and drones. The cocoons of the latter are complete and closed at both ends; the royal larvæ spin imperfect cocoons, open behind, and enveloping only the head, thorax, and first ring of the body. What a wise provision is this for the due ordering of the community. Absolutely necessary as is the presence of one queen for the existence of the community, she must reign supreme—a rival could not be tolerated for a day. Thence Huber infers that the cocoon is left incomplete in order that the first hatched princess may at once be able to sting the remaining nymphs to death. The silk is of so close a texture, the sting could not penetrate, or, if it did, the barbs would be retained by the meshes of the cocoon; and the queen, being unable to retract it, would become the victim of her own fury. The last rings are those which are exposed, for the sting could penetrate no other part. Huber adds, "Hitherto, philosophers have claimed our admiration of nature for her care in preserving and multiplying the species; but, from the facts I relate, we must now admire her precautions in exposing certain individuals to a mortal hazard."

The ingenuity and perseverance with which Huber conducted his researches are surprising. He procured glass tubes blown in exact imitation of the different kinds of cells, and into these he introduced the larvæ, and watched their proceedings attentively: aided by the skill of his servant, he was thus enabled to dive into hidden mysteries, and to reveal to the world the

wonders of Omniscience, displayed even in the most minute details.

The eldest princess is allowed to emerge from her cell immediately on attaining maturity. The drama which succeeds must be understood to take place in a hive which has thrown its first swarm under ordinary circumstances. The heiress presumptive at once feels that she is not born on a bed of roses; there are bitters as well as sweets even in the midst of honey. Of all the inhabitants of the hive, none appears so unhappy as the new-hatched princess. We must suppose she experiences an innate consciousness that there are rivals at hand, who will contest her right to the throne, and the bearing of those on whom she might expect to look as dutiful subjects confirms her impressions. Born to a high estate, she receives neither respect nor attention, but appears uncared-for and unfriended. She soon ascertains that the advantage of seniority, at least, is on her side, and she devises her plans to take advantage of the position. Then she utters that plaintive call, which is so interesting to bee-keepers, as the voice which is never heard but from the sovereign in the first days of her existence. Her voice is unanswered for some hours, till the next princess has attained maturity; then on ceasing the notes, in quick response are heard others, not resembling her own, but in a hoarse, low tone. It is the voice of a rival yet unhatched, and she hastens to her cell. Here we will pause, for her conduct now, and also that of the bees, is variously represented by a host of trustworthy writers on bees. If it be asked if some of them have been mistaken in their observations, or been misled by false appearances, I would answer in the negative: there appears no doubt whatever that in these circumstances the queen and the workers are guided by no blind instinct, and that there is no prescribed course which is invariably followed. Huber describes the young queen as actuated by increasing animosity, while the workers vigilantly guard her rivals, and prevent her injuring them. While she mounts a

royal cell with the evident intention of destroying its occupant, the bees are ever on the watch to prevent the execution of her purpose. The effect of her piping he describes as remarkable. As soon as the royal voice was audible, the bees, which were actively engaged around, became motionless. Then, he says, "we conceived that, profiting by the dread exhibited by the workers on guard, she would open it and destroy the young female; also she prepared to mount the cell, but in doing so she ceased the sound, and quitted the attitude paralysing the bees. The guardians of the cell instantly took courage, and by means of tormenting and biting the queen drove her away." The writer on bees in the Naturalist's Library, in treating of the senses of bees, considers it doubtful that they possess the sense of hearing; and, alluding to Huber's opinions, he adds—"With much confidence in the accuracy of this distinguished naturalist's observations, we entertain some hesitation on the subject of this magical sound." We have seen her frequently in the particular situation described by Huber, when he first heard the commanding voice, endeavouring to tear open the cell of a rival, and angrily repulsed by the workers—then standing at a little distance on the surface of the comb, with her wings crossed over her back, and in motion, though not fully unfolded, and emitting the clear distinct sound which is heard in a hive for a day or two before the departure of a second swarm; and certainly we never witnessed any such effect produced on the bees as Huber speaks of, and which, had it taken place, could not possibly have escaped our observation. On the contrary, the bees seemed not in the slightest degree affected by her wrath—for she was evidently in a state of great irritation—but continued to surround the cell of the captive queen with a dogged-looking obstinacy, apparently expecting and prepared for another attempt on it by the enraged sovereign. Huber may be in the right, and his general accuracy affords a presumption in his favour;

nevertheless, it would be very satisfactory to have his accuracy in this particular point confirmed by some other observer." A similar view seems to be taken by Dr. Bevan: "As to the voice of sovereignty, I am not aware that any apiarian of the present day has ever witnessed an instance of its overaweing effect."

Dr. Bevan, however, admits thus much—"When piping prior to the issue of an after-swarm, the bees that are near her remain still, with a slight inclination of their heads; but whether impressed by fear or not seems doubtful." Here I fancy we have the key to the apparent discrepancies in the descriptions of these writers. Huber was a man of an imaginative mind—his descriptions of facts are given in a somewhat flowery style, and his mode of expression is pointed and strong. He describes the effect of the royal voice as *paralysing* the bees. Dr. Bevan says *they remain still*. Observation leads to the conclusion that the two writers mean precisely the same thing. I have often witnessed the instantaneous effect of the royal voice on the bees which are on the combs near the queen. Engaged in their employments, and running actively over the combs, the moment the voice of the queen is heard every limb becomes motionless; as soon as the piping ceases, all scamper off to their various occupations. This I have observed in hives which were determined on swarming with the young queens, and where, probably from this desire and intention, I could not observe any attempt on the part of the queen at liberty to destroy the unhatched royal nymphs. This seems to confirm Mr. Golding's view, that the only probable conjecture that can be given for the object of this piping, is that the eldest princess is made aware of the state of progression in her rivals by the sounds emitted by them.

Our readers may remember that no bee leaves the hive as soon as it reaches maturity. The first princess, on emerging from the cells, is still damp, and unable to fly. The next are thirty-six or forty-eight hours younger, but they are not immediately re-

leased. The workers confine them to their cells till they have become hardened and strong enough to fly. The thickness of the cell is reduced so much, that the proceedings of the nymph within become perceptible—at least, they were so to the *blind man*, who supposed the operation facilitates her exit, and that the object also is to promote evaporation of the superabundant fluids of the nymph. While retained a prisoner, he found the gaolers took care to supply her with food. He discovered she had cut a hole in the end of the cocoon in order to escape, and the guards had covered it again with wax; but through the cleft she thrust her proboscis, and a worker applied its own to that of the captive queen. When satisfied, she retracted her trunk, and the bees once more closed up the opening with wax.

While the juniors are thus attaining vigour, the senior often (I think, as I have said, not always) is bent on their destruction. If permitted, she would eat open the cells, and drag forth the feeble bodies of her rivals, actuated by the "horror and aversion" with which their presence inspires her. But the workers interfere: they seize the aggressor, and drag her away; her movements are vigilantly watched till the determination to swarm is suddenly resolved on, then all rush from the hive, the imprisoned queens being liberated, join the throng; a swarm is formed, in which, probably, several queens will be found (I once had no fewer than seven accompany a second swarm); and outwardly all will seem peace. The account of the royal duels must be reserved for a future number.

A.

WILD BEES IN AMERICA.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—I wish to say a word through your paper for the benefit of others. In the fall of the year 1853 I found two swarms of wild bees in two trees about one mile apart from each other. I let them remain until about five days before the snows and cold weather set in.

I then cut down both trees, and robbed them of their stores, and the bees appeared to be unharmed. I then got a common hive from my bee-house, which contained some old combs, but no honey, and placed it near where the bees had collected, and commenced placing them on the hive; they then took possession of it, and all that were not disabled by the fall of the tree entered the hive. The same night I took them home, and the next morning I visited the other tree, and took from it about two quarts of bees, and added them to the other colony. For about five days the weather was warm, and I fed them a gill of honey each day, by placing it before the hive, and the sixth day I put them into my cellar, and once a week I brought them and set them down by the stove, and I continued to do so until the latter part of March. I fed them by putting honey on dry comb, and put it under the hive, and closed the entrance. Now, sir, I have got as good a hive of bees as there is in this part of the country. Their hive is full of honey, and I took from them last fall about 25lbs. of pure, white honey. Beat this if you can.

GIDEON ELLIS.

Braasher Falls, New York,
April, 1855.

From "*The Northern Farmer*."

TO BEGINNERS.

THERE is yet another illness, affected with which, the bees have a considerable resemblance to those I have already described, when suffering from the illness produced by sour food; and as this appears most frequently in the spring time, I might mislead the novice were I to omit to draw his attention to the difference. He may observe, when the warmth of the day, or the sun shining on the hive, attracts the bees to the door, and when they seek its reviving influence to restore the vigour, and even the life they are losing, from the deadly effects of a damp hive, into the walls of which rain and snow have been allowed to penetrate, or

when circulation of air round the hive has been too much prevented, in a long-continued damp season, so as to affect the health of the bees in a similar way; he may observe a bee crawl slowly and weakly out of the hive, its four wings extended horizontally, and entirely separated from each other; whilst at the same time, they droop a little downwards and backwards, its legs also half closed, bent at one joint only, bent at the knees and elbows as it appears. These unhappy bees are dying from the effects of a damp cold hive, or from the consequence of mismanagement, and want of care in damp cold weather in winter.

That most important and most interesting branch of a bee-keeper's study, the botanical department, as connected with the working of the bees, and its effects upon them and the hive, affords a world of useful information always at hand to inform you how they are proceeding, and what you may expect. Their little loads of farina will correctly tell you what flowers they are working upon; and their loads of honey are evident as they enter the hive on their return from their journeys. The general produce of a particular flower, compared with the present observation, will give you an idea of their day's success. The number of bees leaving and returning to the hive, when acquainted with their general way of working, is a proof of the length of time they are employed out of doors to obtain their load of honey; and the size of the little balls on their legs, as they return, is a token of the quantity of honey secreted by the flowers.

The bees, after a certain time, become tired, and always return to the hive, whether their loads are large or small; when the balls are very large, they have been out at work their full length of time, and honey is scarce; a medium-sized ball is always therefore a good sign; but there are productive seasons, and rich harvests of honey, when it requires two or three journeys to make a ball large enough

to draw the attention of the bees to the load they carry; on these days they will be seen to *leave* the hive with balls on their legs. At such times a most splendid harvest of honey is obtained, and strong hives will increase two or three pounds in weight in one day.

J. S.

[We shall be very much obliged if our correspondent will favour us with a more minute account of his observations respecting the bees again leaving the hive without storing their loads of honey.]

Floriculture.

JULY 4.

ALL the evenings which we can spend in the flower-garden, weeding, watering, clipping off withered roses and other flowers, and in attending to general neatness, will be well bestowed.

Gather auricula and polyanthus seed as it ripens, keep the plants watered, occasionally stirring the surface of the earth, and clear them of the green-fly, which is very destructive. Put the seed by in a paper bag, in a dry airy place, but not in the sun.

For carnations and picotees keep the surface of the ground open, moist and free from weeds. When pinks are ready to flower, the blooms occasionally require assistance; when the petals come locked together, a little aid should be given, but the less they are touched the better, for the slightest injury will show when the flower is out. The dressing pinks for exhibition, is arranging the petals in regular order. After the bloom is cut, turn the flower downwards, hold it by the stem, and arrange the back tier of petals (called the guard-leaves), in regular order, so as to form a circle, and then slip a loose card over the stalk for the bloom to rest upon. Turn the flower the right way upwards, and arrange all the petals in the same manner, tier after tier, removing with the tweezers all the injured and faulty petals: those with ragged edges,

without lacing, self-coloured, or otherwise defective. A little saltpetre dissolved in the water will make the blooms last longer. A piece the size of a very small nut, in a pint of water, will be sufficient.

Myrtles, jasmins, and plants of a similar kind may be increased by layers. Choose young shoots of this year which are long enough, or clear-growing shoots of last summer; bow them down carefully, and layer them either in their own pots, or in others placed near; let them have occasional watering, and they will be rooted and ready for transplanting by the end of the summer. Myrtles, geraniums, heliotropes, cistuses, &c., may be propagated by cuttings. Many of them will take root in a border of light, rich earth, under a bell-glass; or they may be planted in pots, and sunk in a slight hot-bed, under a frame. Let the cuttings be of the present year's growth, taken from healthy plants, and about six or seven inches in length. Strip off the lower leaves, and plant them two, three, or four inches apart, according to their size. Give them a gentle watering, and shade them from the sun.

Tender annuals, such as cockscombs, balsams, egg-plants, &c., may be removed into the open air, when the weather is warm and dry.

HOW TO ENRICH A GARDEN.

INTO the reservoir for the waste water for the use of the garden, put at first a large pailful of hen-roost droppings, and every second or third day thereafter, add a small panful of the same. The soluble parts of this domestic guano are to be obtained by thorough stirring of the liquid before each evening application, and also a portion of any *settlings* as the liquid is dipped out with a dipper with a long handle.

As the care of chickens and hunting for eggs requires children to be in the neighbourhood of the roosts every day, the charge of scraping up and bringing the droppings to the garden reservoir may be

easily undertaken by the children or help of a family. The gardener need have nothing to do about this enriching of the garden, save to stir and apply the liquids collected. The droppings of many a hen-roost might in this way get used to great advantage, which otherwise might be neglected and unused altogether, if they had to wait for a convenient opportunity on the part of a farmer unwonted to take any care of this small, but highly fertilising portion of those enriching materials which usually go to waste about all rural premises.—*American Country Gentleman.*

HINTS TO FLORISTS.

Two common failings of the young horticulturist are in seed-sowing and thinning out of the young plants. The larger and coarser seeds will germinate under even very careless management; not so the finer and more delicate ones, which make up a great proportion of our flower seeds. Prepare then the earth as fine as possible, smoothing the surface, that you may see where the seed falls; a board gently pressed on the earth may accomplish this a readily as any method. On this even surface, scatter the chosen seed or sow in rows, as fancy or convenience may dictate. Over them sprinkle just enough fine earth for a covering from the external air; nothing effects this more speedily, evenly, and effectually than the use of an old sieve, with which every house is supplied. This covering being light, is soon reduced to a fine dust by hot suns or drying winds, liable to be either blown off or deprived of the moisture necessary to germination. This again is easily remedied by one of several ways. A protection of boards raised from the ground by the height of a brick may be used. Unless the days are too windy for its use, coarse brown paper laid upon the ground will retain the moisture near the surface equally well, and at the same time transmit more heat to the soil. Either of these coverings must be removed to get the benefit of the showers, whereas a sprinkling of straw, coarse hay, or what

is much cleaner, a light covering of green hemlock or pine twigs, will admit both warmth and rain, keeping the surface earth in the most favourable condition for the sure and speedy germination of the scarcely buried seeds. Most seeds of annuals, hardy in our gardens, require but a moderate temperature for their germination; after the young plants have made their appearance above ground, then all coverings are to be removed, that they may have every benefit of light, air, and sunshine.

The seed having come up well, the plants usually stand so thickly that roots entwine with roots and tops with tops. Instead of growing strong and with lateral branches, they spindle out in height, with sickly foliage and a feeble head of bloom at last, and much wonder is expressed that no better flowers were produced where soil was so good and seeds came up so well. Every young gardener hesitates to pull up as many plants as good culture requires. An unsparing "thinning-out" is of the first importance to any success in flower-growing. Even the plants recommended for "masses" should have room to throw out their lateral shoots. Phloxes, China Pinks, Candytufts, Pansies, and many others, which are usually left standing in thick ranks, for the most part as the seed came up, are wonderfully improved by thorough thinning out. A single root of China Pink, standing by itself the past season, grew shrub-like with a multitude of lateral shoots covered with double blossoms of vivid tints, furnishing an abundant supply of its beautiful though inodorous flowers. All blossoms were cut off as soon as they began to wither, to prevent the exhaustion consequent upon the ripening of seed, and to promote the growth of new shoots. I do not know that I would have exchanged that simple root of Pink for the finest Carnation I ever saw, so abundant and steady was its bloom.

IN many of the orchards in Mid Kent the caterpillar has been very destructive.

Hasty Notes on the Windsor Show.

A CORRESPONDENT has obliged us with the following notes on the Windsor Poultry Show:

SPANISH, I feel no interest in; therefore did not look at the class.

COLOURED DORKINGS.—Highly meritorious as a whole. I think I recognised Mr. Davis' birds; but I had no catalogue, so could not see. They took 1st prize and were very good. The chickens in this class were of goodly size, weighing some of them, I should say, over 5 lbs. each.

WHITE DORKINGS.—Fair, but nothing remarkably good. Chickens; very few.

BUFF COCHINS.—I thought the class indifferent. Even the 1st prize birds were not at all up to my standard. Chickens were so-so only. The 2nd prize pen, belonging to Mr. Fairlie, were large, but they seemed to be now at their best. *They will not improve as they grow older.*

PARTRIDGE COCHINS.—Very few entries, but the birds sent were good. The 1st prize *hens* were very large and well shaped, but the cock was indifferent. The 3rd prize cock again was much better than the miserably small hens with him; so that, as is often the case, one felt a desire to put the good birds together. Mr. Bridges had three pens there, but two were quite unsuccessful. The third pen took 3rd prize. Chickens; only two entries.

WHITE COCHINS.—Particularly good. I thought the white *chickens* that took 1st prize, the best I ever saw. If they progress well they will be valuable.

BRAHMAS.—I never notice the mongrels.

GAME.—Nothing particular; if I except a very good pen of Whites that took 1st prize, and a pen that was passed by unnoticed, from having been entered in the wrong class. *These were very good.*

BANTAMS.—The 1st prize pen (white clean-legged birds) were gems of beauty. A Gold-Laced cock had had his tail *trimmed.*

HAMBURGS.—In the Extra class I saw three very good pens of Black Hamburgs,

the property of Mr. Thompson, one of the secretaries. Each pen was commended. The same person's son also took 1st prize in the Gold Spangled class.

SILVER PENCILLED.—Middling.

The show, *as a whole*, good! especially for a first attempt. GREAT HASTE.

Chit Chat.

POULTRY IMPORTATION INTO THE UNITED STATES.—Richard McCormick, jun., of Woodhaven, L. I., who returned from Europe in the Baltic, received by the ship Southampton, twenty-four days from Liverpool, which arrived at the same time with the Baltic, a lot of some of the choicest fowls he could procure in England, which he intends to add to his already well-stocked poultry-yards, not for sale, but to breed for the pleasure of seeing what perfection can be obtained by attention to the rules of good breeding and proper care. Mr. McCormick's fowls have heretofore taken some of the first premiums, which is sufficient satisfaction for him, without looking for profit in selling eggs and chickens at high prices. He probably has some of the finest Aylesbury ducks in this country—such as sell for a very high price in England.—*New York Tribune.*

PIGEON'S DUNG.—Professor Apjohn, of Ireland, estimates fresh pigeon dung to be worth about one-fourth as much as Peruvian guano, and six times as much as moist farm-yard manure. He recommends making it into a compost of clay and peat charcoal while fresh, and to use this compost on green and other crops, precisely in the manner in which guano is applied.

AN OLD BIBLE.—The oldest book in the United States, it is said, is a manuscript Bible, in the possession of Dr. Witherspoon, of Alabama, written upwards of a *thousand years ago!* He describes it as follows:—“The book is strongly bound in boards of the old English oak, and with thongs by which the leaves are also well bound together. The leaves are entirely made of

parcament, of a most superior quality, of fineness and smoothness little inferior to the best satin. The pages are all ruled with great accuracy, and written with great uniformity and beauty, in the old German text hand, and divided off into chapters and verses. The first chapter of every book in the Bible is written with a large capital, of inimitable beauty, and splendidly illuminated with red, blue, and black ink, still in vivid colour; and no two of the capital letters in the book are precisely alike."—*American Paper*.

THE Committee of Management of the Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Society has just had the honour of presenting to his Imperial Majesty a fine Cheshire cheese, 90 lbs. in weight. The offering was made as a specimen of one of the agricultural products of this country, and especially of that portion of it comprised in the society's district—viz., Cheshire, and a great portion of the county of Lancashire; and it was offered too, as a humble expression of the committee's participation in the good feelings entertained towards His Majesty and the French nation by their countrymen generally. His Majesty was graciously pleased to accept it as such. The cheese was enclosed in a good English oak box made for the purpose, and bearing a suitable inscription.—*Colchester Gazette*.

It is stated that the wheat crop in Upper Canada never looked so well before at this season, none having been killed by the winter, and the breadth of land under cultivation being greater than in any previous year.—*Colchester Gazette*.

Hamburgs as Sitters.

BRAHMAS v. COCHINS. GAPES.

I do not think that the breed of Hamburgs may be said to sit, although there may be cases here and there, where one may feel inclined to follow that propensity. I have, during the last five or six years that I kept the Silver-Pencilled variety,

had only two hens that would sit; one sat on and hatched a sitting of partridge eggs, and the other hatched some of her own, to which she proved a fair mother. But of my other birds, none ever showed any inclination to sit.

I may perhaps be allowed to add my testimony also to that of P. J., respecting the excellence of Brahmas as winter layers. My four hens began to lay about the middle of December, and continued to lay all through the winter, and severe weather, until the beginning of April, when they got broody. Their average number of eggs was five a week. From my six Cochins, I hardly had more than a dozen eggs during the same period.

Yesterday I found a Cochin chicken suffering severely from the gapes. It was greatly weakened, and had no food at all in its crop. I immediately had it caught, and tried the experiment of dipping a feather in turpentine, and putting it down its throat. This I did four times, and the bird gaped no more; the next morning it eat heartily, and is now running about perfectly well.

B. T. S.

Stray Notes.

"B. T. S." proposes that Brahmas should be dubbed like Game fowls. But Game fowls are not dubbed to conceal difference of comb, but to fit them for the fray. They are the fighting-men of the poultry-yard. At the Bath and West of England Show, at Tiverton, one prize was given to single, the other to pea-combs. I should be disposed to hold that judge in light estimation who would be guided by comb alone in a breed, where it is certainly not an imperative point. I am one of those who have generally approved the Brahma decisions I have seen, and should be disposed to give precedence to the pea-comb where it was allied to other points, but I should hold it as valueless if coupled with serious defects.

I have found the Brahmas *marvellous* layers, and have never lost a chicken. I cannot agree with "Zenas" in speaking

disparagingly of them, nor can I lavish praise upon them. I will, however, give them their due; they are very productive, much cheaper to feed than Cochins, and much better on the table. I cannot accord them one merit that "Zenas" does. I do not find them so easy to keep; my garden, which was sacred when I had sixty Cochins, is constantly invaded by four Brahmas. I do not think there is any difference in real merit as layers between the single and pea-combed, as although I have but four at home, I have kept many at other places.

The Crève-cœur fowls are named from a town of that name in Normandy, and supplied the birds from which the celebrated "Poulardes du Mans" were made, and which were and are so much appreciated by the gastronomers of Paris.

I am vexed to find no mention of the Rose-Combed Dorkings at Tiverton. I want to see them very successful, in order that the question may at once be settled, that they are as pure and as good as their single-combed brethren. My own impression is, that they are larger birds; and experience has taught me that both combs come from the same parents.

SYLVANUS.

Entomology.

CHAP. VI.

WE now come to a very extensive section of the order Coleoptera, the Lamellicorns, so called from their antennæ being lamellar, or toothed like a comb.

A well-known beetle *Geotrupes stercorarius*, or the dor-beetle, is the first that occurs to me in this section, and as it flies in the evening with a dull humming sound, is probably the insect alluded to by Gray, in his exquisite Elegy, where he says:—

"All the air a solemn stillness holds,
Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight."

It is a very common insect, of a dark blue colour, the blue being lighter on the under side. It has a very remarkable habit of rolling up masses of cow-dung into balls,

the extraordinary formation and position of its hinder legs being particularly serviceable in performing this operation. These balls, buried by the insect, and usually under cow-dung—on removing which the large hole into which the ball has been dragged may be very commonly seen,—serves both as a nest for the eggs, and food for the grubs as soon as hatched. The dor-beetle is very subject to the attacks of a species of acarus, or mite, which sometimes, from their great numbers, seem quite to enfeeble the poor beetle, as I have often found them apparently quite exhausted from the attack of their tormentors, which suck their juices like so many little vampyres. The tenacity of life in the dor-beetle is nevertheless extraordinary. Mr. Wood mentions that he has in his cabinet a specimen which he took on the wing, though it had lost several legs and one wing-cover, and the *whole* of the contents of the abdomen, and part of the thorax. Like many other beetles this feigns death on being captured.

Perhaps the most common, or at least best known of English beetles, is the cockchafer, or May-bug, *Melolontha vulgaris*, another of the lamellicorn section, and a very destructive insect both in the larva and imago states. In the former it lives underground, feeding on the roots of plants of almost all kinds, and when very numerous, as is often the case in pastures, the grass curls up and dries like hay. It is said that in one season a farmer actually collected as many as eighty bushels of these grubs on his farm. They live in the larva state three years, and were not their enemies legion, it would not be necessary for us to import locusts to make our country desolate by the means of insects. As it is, however, the larvæ and beetles are eagerly sought for and devoured by pigs, moles, field mice, crows, rooks, woodpeckers, thrushes, and numerous other birds, and even by some of the larger ground-beetles. They appear in the winged state during the months of May and June, when they attack all kinds of trees except the lime, and are

even more destructive than in the grub state. They pass the greater part of the day upon the trees, clinging to the under sides of the leaves in a state of repose, but as evening approaches they begin to buzz about among the branches, and continue on the wing till near midnight. In their droning flight they move very irregularly, darting hither and thither, with an uncertain aim, hitting against objects in their way with a force that often brings them to the ground; this seeming blindness and stupidity has become proverbial in the expression, "blind as a beetle."

The common, but most beautiful insect, *Cetonia aurata*, or the rose-chaffer, may be cited as another example of the lamellicorn beetles. It is nearly an inch long, of a brilliant green colour above, and a coppery-red beneath; it flies strongly, with a considerable humming noise, during the hottest part of the day, visiting all kinds of flowers, for the purpose of extracting their honey, on which it feeds, but seeming to prefer roses, whence it derives its name. The larvæ feed on rotten wood, and may sometimes be found in ants' nests; its time of continuance in this state is three years; when full grown it makes a cocoon of small pieces of wood, glued together by some secretion of its own, and passing the winter in this case, emerges in the following summer in its perfect form.

The Lucanidæ, or stag-beetles, next attract our attention; and it will be sufficient to refer to the *Lucanus cervus*, the common stag-beetle, as an example of the family. This apparently formidable beetle is in fact a very harmless insect, and only uses the stag-like horns with which it is armed, to break the tender bark of trees, in order that it may feed on the sap which exudes from the wounds. Its mouth is furnished with a kind of brush, with which its food is licked up. It is said that it also occasionally seizes caterpillars, and sucks out their juices, but whether this charge is a true one is uncertain. The larvæ are said to be six years in coming to their

growth. The perfect insect is tolerably common almost everywhere. In Suffolk I have taken several specimens on the wing in the course of a single evening, and, had I been disposed, I have no doubt I could have taken in the course of the summer several dozen good specimens. The church-yard-beetle, *Blaps mortisaga*, belongs to the family Blapsidæ. It is a dull black insect, the tip of the elytra forming a short obtuse point. It is very common in dark, damp, and dirty places about houses. Mr. Westwood relates the extraordinary fact of several instances having been noticed in which the larvæ of this beetle has been discharged from the human stomach. In one case, published by Dr. Pickells in the "Transactions of Associated Physicians in Ireland," a woman emitted, at different times, as many as two thousand larvæ, as well as one pupa and one imago. It was supposed that this arose from a disgusting and superstitious practice which she had for some time followed, of drinking daily a quantity of water, mixed with clay taken from the graves of two catholic priests. As an instance of the great tenacity of life in this insect, it is added that one of these beetles revived, and lived three years after being immersed in spirits of wine all one night.

(To be continued).

—

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, we take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

—

ERRATUM.—In No. 69, page 350, in last line of right-hand column, for "metropolitan," read "Neapolitan."

The Editor's Letter-Box.

GAME FOWLS AT ANERLEY.

SIR,—I, and I dare say many of your contributors, would be glad to know whether the game chickens exhibited at the Anerley Show are to be dubbed or undubbed. My reason for asking this is, that few, if any, chickens of this breed are hatched before March; and if their combs are removed so early as August the 1st, as they must be to be healed by the 28th, they will grow again sufficiently before the winter shows to disfigure the birds, or to necessitate a repetition of this painful operation. A line in the "Poultry Chronicle," to the effect that "Perfect combs will be considered no drawback to the success of a game chicken," would be most acceptable to me and some brother exhibitors.

For my own part I should be very glad to see all birds, old as well as young, shown as they are by nature; but though some judges have given prizes to such birds, the majority, I believe, consider the presence of the comb as almost amounting to a disqualification. It was well enough to dub these birds when they were kept mainly for fighting, but it is certainly not necessary now, when this brutal amusement is forbidden by law, and only indulged in on the sly by a few scamps, with whom it is not my wish, nor that of most exhibitors, to be confounded, and the presence of the comb would be a protest on our part, that though we keep game fowls, it is not for fighting.

I have heard it said, that it is necessary to remove the comb to prevent mischief, in case they should fight in the yard. Now, game cocks, where more than one are kept, know which is master, and are peaceable enough at most times; and, if they do get together from different yards, no want of comb as a hold will save the weaker from destruction.

I should be very much obliged if you would lend us your aid to prevent the necessity of our either giving up prize-taking or subjecting our birds to this painful and unnecessary operation.

I remain yours, DUCKWING.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SIR,—On perusing the above list in your number of this week, I quite agree in your remarks, that some most useful and important arrangements are introduced in the schedule for this year, but am surprised that Brahma Pootras are omitted altogether: this, surely, must be an oversight. I am the more astonished, as one of the most ancient breeders of poultry in the island, and also a staunch supporter of their previous exhibitions, is not only a breeder of Brahmas,

but I have this day seen at Windsor both 1st and 2nd prizes attached to some very promising chickens of his.

As there appears to be some portion of the schedule not yet decided on, I hope the committee will be induced to add Brahmas. The Anerley committee have set a good example, in giving four prizes—two each—to pencilled and light birds of this class, thereby getting rid of a vexatious question as to colour.

Yours truly,
H. B. H.
[If the Isle of Wight committee should accord indulgence to the Brahmas, and make their intention known through our columns, we should be delighted to publish the communication.—Ed.]

PRIZE SPANISH AT NEWCASTLE.

SIR,—In your number of the 16th, there appears a letter from a party signing "Scrutator," containing some very extraordinary statements with respect to the late Newcastle poultry show.

The animus shown in the letter plainly proves "Scrutator" to have been a disappointed exhibitor; and of course his assertions as to borrowing and lending must apply to those pens which obtained the prizes. Now, I beg to inform him that the birds which took the Silver Cup, and likewise those that obtained the first prize in the Cock and Two Hens Classes, were to my knowledge the *bona fide* property of the exhibitors.

I certainly think this virulent abuse of the Newcastle poultry show calls for some notice from the committee. If such practices exist, name the parties, and give them an opportunity of defending themselves, but I protest against this anonymous attack upon a society which bids fair to do good service to the amateurs of poultry breeding.—I remain, sir, yours respectfully,

HENRY WILLIAMS.

Sunderland Road End, Gateshead.

P.S.—"Scrutator," in another part of the same number, alludes to poisoning: surely he is not acquainted with parties who are capable of such rascality.

[If "Scrutator," or any visitor at a poultry show, should have reason to suspect "such rascality" as the poisoning of fowls, we most earnestly hope that he or she will at once, in justice to the committee and the public, consult with the former, and have the matter inquired into, *while the injured fowls are still in their hands.*]

PANS FOR PIGEONS' NESTS.

SIR,—As I see that many of your readers are pigeon-fanciers, and you invite all parties to send anything likely to be of interest, I beg to say that I have been a great admirer of pigeons, and an extensive breeder for some years, and have always

had my nests made in the regular way, on shelves, but have never met with such success as the present season affords me; as I have now round earthen pans for them to sit or set in, which, I consider, accounts for my better luck in breeding, as they are easily cleaned. If you wish to examine the young ones, you have only to take the pan up, and you have no occasion to handle your birds. Either sawdust, or straw cut short, answers very well to form the nest; and the pan, being round, keeps the eggs together: in fact, I consider them invaluable to pigeon-fanciers; the size of mine is 8 inches across the top, and 2½ inches deep.—Yours respectfully,
D. B. C.

YOUR SUBSCRIBERS.

SIR,—I hope to see "The Poultry Chronicle" prosper and increase in circulation year after year. The subjects of Queen "Fancy" would indeed experience a heavy blow if "The Poultry Chronicle" were to cease to exist for want of sufficient support. What should we do without our "Field-day," as Corporal Trim called our Wednesday's post. But seriously, I am sure you would have more subscribers, if you were better known. There is one good turn secretaries of Poultry Shows might do you in return for publishing their Schedules. You get them subscribers by this, and, I am sure, they might get you many subscribers from their visitors, by putting up in their Exhibition Room a few hand-bills or advertisements of "The Poultry Chronicle," with which you would, no doubt, gladly supply them. In this way, all who are interested in Poultry would hear of your work, and have a chance of reading your valuable information. Another plan might be, that you should send a few of those notices (such as you first sent us) to all your present subscribers, requesting them to circulate them among their friends. I hope, indeed, "The Poultry Chronicle" is prospering, for I very much dread the thought of losing a valuable friend, and so venture to offer my poor advice.—Yours,

AN ORIGINAL SUBSCRIBER.

[We should feel very much obliged if the kind and friendly profferer of the above good advice would favour us with his address, as we cannot find it.—ED.]

CAUSE OF DEATH IN A HEN.

SIR,—I have lately lost a valuable hen from a disease which is new to me, and which defied my attempts in the doctoring line. The complaint commenced with an almost continuous blowing, bubbling noise in the throat, such as may be produced by any one who, having finished

a sherry-cobler, will take the trouble to reverse the consuming action, and turn on a stream of breath amongst the ice remaining in his glass, broken occasionally by a kind of retching sound. For a time this was all that I could find to be the matter, though I often looked down the bird's throat, and her appetite was very good till the day before her death, when she moped, and once or twice emitted from her beak a thick, gruelly liquid, of an unpleasant odour, which on lifting her up by the legs, poured out of the mouth. She was then very feverish and thin, and when dead, very light. The comb was a trifle darker at the edges than usual, but not shrivelled. If you or one of your many readers can tell me the name and treatment of this complaint, I shall be much obliged, the more so, as I fear another of my birds is sickening.
C. G. B.

[Can any of our readers give C. G. B. any information respecting the cause of his hen's death. We should think she must have been suffering from roup, and should have treated her accordingly.—ED.]

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

A DEPRESSED trade, and the declining London season are telling on the market, and added to the arrival of many small chickens, affect the prices. Large fowls remain scarce and dear.

Large Fowls	8s. 0d. to 10s. 0d.	each.
Smaller do.	4s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.	"
Chickens	3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.	"
Smaller do.	2s. 6d. to 3s. 0d.	"
Geese	6s. 0d. to 6s. 6d.	"
Ducklings	3s. 3d. to 4s. 0d.	"
Leverets	3s. 6d. to 5s. 0d.	"
Pigeons	0s. 10d. to 1s. 0d.	"
Rabbits	1s. 5d. to 1s. 7d.	"
Quails	2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d.	"

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

Monday, June, 25th.—English supplies last week had been moderate, but there was an abundance of foreign wheat and oats, and a fair arrival of barley and beans, the samples from Essex and Kent were short in quantity. Factors commenced by demanding higher rates, which were not complied with, and there was only a slow trade at former prices. Free offers continued to be made

for good quality foreign wheat, but too low for acceptance. Many of the Baltic ships were in bad condition, and will require much care in granary. There was a steady trade in all descriptions of barley, at good prices. Malt sold slowly, without alteration in value. For sweet parcels of foreign oats, which were not numerous, there was a fair trade, at fully the previous Monday's quotations, but those out of condition (of which there were many) were sold with difficulty on somewhat lower terms. Beans and peas continued in limited demand without change of value.

Malt, peas, and beans had little or no change from Monday. Many of the foreign cargoes of oats are now arriving out of condition, which are sold somewhat low. Fresh horse corn in fair request; prime Irish, too, wanted for export—but most difficult to sell Irish white feed oats.

PRICE OF BREAD IN LONDON.

The prices of wheaten bread in the Metropolis are from 10d. to 10½d.; and household ditto, 8d. to 9½d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

To Correspondents.

W. R. R.—The weight of your ducklings will depend much on the feeding, but Aylesbury Ducks of five pounds, and Rouen Ducks of four pounds, are capital birds at ten weeks. These are very first-rate weights, and difficult to attain. The Rouen are longer getting to their size than the Aylesbury. The Rouen Ducks will get their colour at about five months old. If your ducks do not make the weights above mentioned you must not be discouraged, as they are the highest, but that is what you ask for.

Alpha.—The appearance of a small top-knot or rather lark crest at the back of the head of a Dorking fowl is fatal to any prospect of success in showing. It would, perhaps, be too much to say, they are signs of indisputable impurity, as there are vagaries in these fowls as in others, that cannot be accounted for. Under the circumstances detailed by "Alpha," we should strongly recommend a change of cocks. If no other is kept, and all the produce are thus crested, it is proof the fault is in the cock. If it only appears in one or two it may be accidental—but in either case we advise a change.

BRITISH.		Shillings	per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	.....	75	83
" " red	.....	69	76
" Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	70	75	
BARLEY, Malting, new	.....	32	33
" Chevalier	.....	34	36
" Distilling	.....	31	34
" Grinding	.....	31	33
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new	.....	65	70
" " old	.....	66	70
" Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new	70	72	
" " old	68	71	
OATS, English, feed	.....	26	27
" " potato	.....	27	30
" Scotch feed, new	.....	29	30
" " old	.....	33	34
" " potato	.....	33	34
" Irish feed, white	.....	25	26
" " fine	.....	24	28
" " black	.....	24	26
" " fine	.....	24	27
RYE	.....	40	43
BEANS, Mazagan	.....	38	41
" Ticks	.....	39	43
" Harrow	.....	39	44
" Pigeon	.....	42	48
PEAS, White, boilers	.....	42	47
" Maple	.....	40	42
" Grey	.....	27	40
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.	.....	65	70
" Households, town	.....	64	63
" " country	.....	56	58
" Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship	.....	51	53

Wednesday, June, 27th.—English wheat was quiet, but factors resisted decline. Foreign held with great firmness; a retail sale for good miller's sorts, and hard in demand for the continent. Floating cargoes off the coast were all fairly bid for, but importers unwilling to make any concession checked business. Indian corn: none arrived to be had. Cargoes on passage are offering 1s. to 2s. lower, but buyers are shy. Barley is steady in value.

Advertisements.

FOR POULTRY HOUSES.—CROGGMON'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. Croggmon'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 Croggmon & 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.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POULTRY ASSOCIATION will hold its Third Annual Exhibition at Southwell on the 19th and 20th of December next. Prize Lists and any further information can be obtained on application to **RICHARD HAWKLEY**, Jun., Hon. Secretary, Southwell, Notts.

ANERLEY POULTRY SHOW.—President, The Right Hon. the Earl of Verulam; Vice-President, Sir John Peter Boileau, Bart., F.R.S., Vice-President of the Zoological Society. The first Exhibition of Poultry and Pigeons will be held in the Anerley Gardens, adjoining the Anerley Station of the London and Croydon Railway, and near the Anerley Entrance to the Crystal Palace Grounds, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 28, 29, and 30, 1855.

The value of the Prizes will exceed 300 guineas. A detailed list of the Prizes and Certificates of Entry may be had on application to the Secretaries, at the office, Anerley, Surrey.

By special permission, the Band of the Royal Artillery will attend each day during the Exhibition.

EDGAR SMALLFIELD, } Hon. Secs.
HENRY F. WELLS, }



LIGHT HATS, 13s.—The Best in Europe. Second, 10s. 6d. Ladies' Riding Hats, 12s. to 25s. Livery Hats, 12s. Tourists' Hats, 8s. 6d.

85, Strand, and 251, Regent Street.

FANCY POULTRY.—The last Periodical

Sale for the Season.—Mr. J. C. STEVENS begs to notify that the last Sale of Poultry will take place on Tuesday, 17th July, at 12 o'clock, precisely, and that persons wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity are requested to forward particulars of any birds they are wishful to part with, at least one week before the day of Sale. The Periodical Sales will be resumed on the first Tuesday in October, 33, King Street, Covent Garden.

CHARLES BALLANCE, 5, Mount Terrace,

Taunton, Somersetshire, having taken prizes at most of the principal shows in England, including Gloucester, Taunton, Wellington, Bridgewater, Reading, Tiverton, Exeter, Torquay, Honiton, Yeovil, Bath, Birmingham, &c., will dispose of the following, at very low prices, for want of sufficient accommodation.

Malays (1854) cocks, 21s.; hens, 10s. 6d., each; Black Bantams (1854) cocks, 15s.; hens, 7s. 6d., each; eggs from both the above reduced to 5s. per dozen; pure White Peruvian Drake and two Ducks (1854) 15s. the set, very handsome; the drake measures 4ft. 2in. in the expanse of the wings.

The whole of C. B.'s unrivalled stock of Fancy Rabbits, which have won prizes wherever shown; consisting of one Buck and five breeding Does—all in perfect health; colours, Fawn and White—Black and White—Tortoiseshell and Fawn: ears, double-lopped; length 17½ to 18½ inches; price, £1 1s. each, or £5 5s. for the lot; good breeding hutchers for sale very cheap.

Orders received for Malay and Black Bantam Chicken from 1st prize birds—to be supplied in the Autumn—early application should be made to prevent disappointment.

N. B. C. B. has taken the 1st prize for Malay Chicken at Birmingham two years following—1853 and 1854.

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The last Bonus added four-fifths of the premium paid to some of the participating policies.

Provision can be made for the payment of a certain sum on attaining any given age (as 50, 55, or 60), or at death if it occur previously.

By a small annual payment, £100 may be secured to a child on attaining the age of 14, 18, or 21.

Prospectuses and other information will be furnished on application to

H. D. DAVENPORT, Secretary.
Agents wanted.

FANCY PIGEONS AND RABBITS.—On

Sale a great variety of First Class Fancy Pigeons, also a few Prize Rabbits.—Apply by letter to Mr. HENRY CHILD, Jun., Poplar Cottage, Sherbourne Road, Birmingham.

FOR SALE.—Three First Class Splendid

Black Poland Pullets and one Cockerel, with large white crests, £3 3s., white Jacobin Pigeons, 10s. pair, a stamped envelope for information.—JOHN AMPHLET, Walsall.

SERAI TAOOK, or Fowls of the Sultan,

A few Settings of Eggs from these beautiful birds to be disposed of at 21s. the Dozen.

BRAHMA POOTRA EGGS from First-rate Pea-Combed mature birds, from the 1st of July at 10s. 6d. the Dozen.

Apply to Miss E. WATTS, Monk Barns, Hampstead.

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Six Lines 8s. 0d.
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Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

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HOMESTEAD.

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Poultry Shows.

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries are closed. (No. 57.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at Boston, Thursday, July 26. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close Wednesday, July 11th. (No. 64.)

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Malton, August 1st and 2nd. Secretary, J. Hannam, Esq., Kirk-Deighton, Wetherby. Entries close July 18th. (No. 72.)

Isle of Wight, at Ryde, August 7th and 8th. Secretaries, J. Vaux, Esq., and G. Locke, Esq. Entries close July 24th. (No. 70.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th. (No. 67.)

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary, Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson,

Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq. Entries close August the 10th.

Heckmondwike (near Leeds) Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Show, including Poultry, and Cottagers' Pigs, Tuesday, August 28. Secretaries, J. Kelly, and F. Brearly, Esquires. Entries close August 13th.

Anerley, August 28th, 29th, and 30th. Secretaries, Edgar Smallfield, Esq., and Henry F. Wells, Esq. Entries close August 6th. (No. 69.)

Keighley Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighley. Entries close Saturday, August 25th. (No. 71.)

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14: Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

East Lancashire Poultry Show (late Nelson) at Colne, October 31st and November 1st. Secretaries, Messrs. J. and E. Booth, Marsden, near Burnley, Lancashire. Entries close October 17th.

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire,

at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

IN these times of wars and cruel bereavements — of increased taxation and large demonstrations—it is refreshing to turn to a subject which touches none of these questions, and to contemplate a pursuit in which, save now and then a disappointed exhibitor, there are none dissatisfied. It gives lightness to our weekly task. This is the halcyon time of poultry; the weather is genial, the chickens are growing, and are viewed with unmixed satisfaction by their owners, except at times when an irruption into the flower or kitchen garden brings a remonstrance from the presiding genius of either place. But they are now worth a little care. An unusually good pen of any breed will decorate a sideboard, and the cups now offered for competition are worth winning. The merits and demerits of each bird are so well understood, and the requirements of a first-rate pen so easily judged, that one of the first difficulties is overcome, and a comparatively

young amateur may decide for himself which of his stock are likely to make a return for extra care.

But the more complete knowledge of these things which is being duly acquired also leads to a more equitable arrangement with regard to those larger pieces of plate which belong to the best collection. The manner in which the notice of this prize was formerly framed, left no option to the judges. The taker of the greatest number of first prizes was to have the piece of plate. This discouraged many. The owners of but six pens could not hope to compete with those who sent twenty or thirty; and shows suffered in consequence. But now that it is understood the great prize goes to the largest prize-taker in proportion to the number of pens exhibited, not being fewer than six, or any given number, the field is extended, and that love of plate which would seem to pervade all classes will bring numbers in competition for such tankards or goblets as we have seen this year at Colchester, Liverpool, and Windsor. It is a long time to look forward to Birmingham, or we would point to the Ten-Guinea Cup in each class, and impress on our readers the necessity at *this time*, while there is the opportunity of choosing before the drafts are made, of having enough in reserve to prevent us from hearing the common lamentation—I could not send, for one of my birds was out of condition, or one died. No one is sure of a pen for exhibition who has not a valid substitute for every bird intended to appear in that pen. In the ordinary course of events there must be many casualties in three or four months, and there will also be many opportunities

of distinction. The first must be provided for; the second must be taken advantage of. Means then must be adopted to do it; and while we have always been unflinching advocates for clearing the yard at this time, we say, do it with judgment. Do away with every imperfect chicken; keep only your best. They will benefit by the clearance of the ground, and you will be enabled to pay them more attention in every way. If you purpose exhibiting three times, you should have four or five pens to enable you to do so with good hope of success, or with a reasonable expectation of first prizes. Such a number will afford you the means of making a good selection, and your hobby will be indulged without the painful reflection that your feathered friends have suffered for it.

In some pursuits success is the price of laboured calculations, in others it is secured at the expense of health; but in this it is principally in carefully following a healthful, cheerful, and innocent recreation. It is more to be valued, because it is at no man's expense, and is a positive gain to one without being a loss to others. This prevents that bitterness which too often accompanies other competitions.

Schedule of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society.

THE eighteenth annual meeting of this Society, open to the United Kingdom, will take place at Malton, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2nd of August. Prizes varying from £25 to £3 are offered for "Short-horns," "Best Cow for Dairy purposes," "Leicester sheep," "South Downs," "Highland sheep," "pigs," and "horses."

Prizes are also given for implements of

various kinds, reports on agricultural subjects, flax and wool.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

	1st.		2nd.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
SPANISH.				
Cock and two Hens	20	0	10	0
Three Chickens	15	0	7	6
DORKING.				
Cock and two Hens	20	0	10	0
Three Chickens	15	0	7	6
COCHIN CHINA.				
Cock and two Hens	20	0	10	0
Cock and two Hens of any colour not black or white	20	0	10	0
Three Chickens of any colour.....	15	0	7	6
GAME.				
Cock and two Hens	20	0	10	0
Three Chickens	15	0	7	6
HAMBURGS.				
Golden Spangled, Cock and two Hens	20	0	10	0
Three Chickens	15	0		
Golden Pencilled, Cock and two Hens	20	0	10	0
Three Chickens	15	0		
Silver Spangled, Cock and two Hens	20	0	10	0
Three Chickens	15	0		
Silver Pencilled, Cock and two Hens	15	0	10	0
Three Chickens	15	0		
POLAND.				
Cock and two Hens, any variety, with or without Ruffs.....	20	0	10	0
Three Chickens	15	0		
Cock and two Hens of any distinct breed not previously mentioned				
Three Chickens of any distinct breed not previously mentioned				
The prizes for these two classes are to be at the discretion of the Judges.				
BANTAMS.				
Cock and two Hens, black or white	15	0	7	6
Cock and two Hens, of any colour not black or white	15	0	7	6
Spanish Cock of any age.....	10	0		
Dorking Cock of any age	10	0		
Cochin China Cock of any age ...	10	0		
Game Cock of any age	10	0		
Golden Spangled Hamburg Cock of any age	10	0		

BANTAMS, continued.

	1st. s. d.	2nd. s. d.
Golden Pencilled Hamburg Cock of any age	10	0
Silver Spangled Hamburg Cock of any age	10	0
Silver Pencilled Hamburg Cock of any age	10	0

GEESE.

Gander and two Geese 20 0 ... 10 0

DUCKS.

Drake and two Ducks, Aylesbury. 10 0 ... 5 0

Rouen, or any other breed..... 10 0 ... 5 0

TURKEYS.

Cock and two Hens 20 0 ... 10 0

The best Pen of Birds exhibited in
the previous classes A Gold Medal.

Second A Silver Medal.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Where the chickens are mentioned, there must be a cock and two pullets, where they are old enough to distinguish.

All chickens must be hatched after the 1st of January, 1855.

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.

The Judges will disqualify any pen upon which a ticket or badge is affixed by the exhibitor.

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.

Persons desirous of becoming members of the society, can become so on application to the Secretary. Annual subscription £1, which enables a member 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 18th. Blank certificates of entry will be sent by post, on application to the Secretary, to each person intending to exhibit. Tickets of admission to the show-yard for stock, may be obtained from the Secretary, at Malton, on the Monday and Tuesday previous to the Show. These tickets will be delivered to members gratis. Non-members to pay 10s. for every head or lot of live stock, before obtaining a ticket of admission to the show-yard, except poultry, for which 1s. will be charged for each entry. No charge will be made for exhibiting implements, but 1s. will be charged for each assistant. Members may exhibit an unlimited quantity of animals as extra stock. All stock intended for exhibition will be admitted from 3 o'clock till 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31, and from 7 to 8 on Wednesday morning; and all not at the gates by that time will be excluded, except stallions and hunters shown in class 47, for the Silver Cup, which will be admitted up to 12 o'clock on Wednesday. The horses of all kinds will be allowed to leave the show-yard on Wednesday at 5 p.m., but must return by 8 o'clock the following morning, except stallions and hunters in class 47, which will be admitted until 10 o'clock a.m. 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. Persons intending to exhibit implements, poultry, wool, flax, &c., must send the certificates properly filled up to the secretary, so as to be received by him on or before Wednesday, July 18th, and all such implements must be brought into the show-yard by the night of Saturday, July 28th. 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, and one ticket to each exhibitor will be given free. All cattle, implements, &c., brought into the show-yard shall be subject to the orders, regulations, and rules of the council, or officers appointed by them. 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 10s. fine for

every entry of stock, and 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, &c., at half-fares.

By order of the Council,
 JOHN HANNAM, Secretary.
 Kirk-Deighton, Wetherby.

ADDENDA TO THE ANERLEY SCHEDULE.
 TO THE EDITOR OF THE POULTRY CHRONICLE.

*Anerley Poultry Show Offices,
 Anerley Gardens, July 7, 1855.*

SIR,—We beg to hand you the enclosed addition to our prize list, and shall feel greatly obliged by your inserting it at your earliest convenience.

It will be impossible for us to make any further alteration this season; at the same time we are thankful for suggestions.

It is imperative the adult classes of Game fowl should be "dubbed." In the chicken classes it remains optional with exhibitors.

We are, sir, yours respectfully,
 EDGAR SMALLFIELD, } Hon. Secs.
 HENRY F. WELLS, }

In addition to the prize list already advertised, the Committee have determined on giving the following prizes at the suggestion of several amateurs:—

Class.	SPECKLED DORKINGS.		
	1st. s.	2nd. s.	3rd. s.
4 a. Blue or Cuckoo, or BROWN and White (exceeding one year old)	60	40	20
4 b. Chickens of 1855	60	40	20
43 a. Best Pen of four Goslings	40	20	
44 a. Best Pen of four Ducklings	40	20	
47 a. Best Pen of four Turkey Poults	40	20	

EDGAR SMALLFIELD, } Hon. Secs.
 HENRY F. WELLS, }

The Poultry Yard.

JULY 11.

THE thermometer standing at a high degree, and the poultry lying about in shady places—while, to throw them their

porridge, we are glad to seek the shelter which they seem almost too lazy to quit—warn us of the requirements of our stocks in several items.

Let the water fountains and pans be placed in the shade, for fowls have a dislike to drinking water which is positively warm. Thorough washing and cleaning of the vessels for water is especially necessary to the comfort of the fowls in hot weather.

If once now and then we get up early, and open our hen-houses ourselves, we shall know more about the comfort of the fowls at roost, than by the most minute accounts from those who attend to them. If they are now too thickly housed, or if the houses are insufficiently ventilated, the chickens are almost sure to become sickly and go off. Those who are lucky enough to have any which are very promising, should thin out all which are indifferent, leaving plenty of room for those which promise well.

Amateurs who bestow attention on their stocks, often feeding and attending to them themselves, will second us when we say that no fowls do so well as those which are cared for either by their owners or by some intelligent person who takes an equal interest in them. A lady told us lately, "When I get out among the chickens (there were about three hundred of them), I cannot get in for an hour and a half." She, and many others, will agree with us that chickens cannot be fed in a hurry. To realise great excellence, great care must be bestowed; and the present time is of vital importance in giving strength and stamina to the growing birds by plentiful and nourishing, but judicious, feeding.

All amateurs who have not abundant space at their disposal, will do well to leave off setting hens until they have reckoned the room which the present stock will require when they are a few months older—when the cocks begin to fight, and the pullets to think about laying eggs. As they approach adolescence, the young stock cannot be crowded without ruinous

effects; if, therefore, there is not still *abundance* of room to spare, do not on any account set more hens, for the young chickens would interfere with the growing stock, and do more harm by depriving them of space, which they require, than they will ever compensate either as choice or table fowls.

Every old cock which is not handsome enough to be a very important member of the stock, might be killed or disposed off. Thus, in a number of fowls, reducing each kind of fowl, Brahma, Cochin, Spanish, &c., to one family, would leave many runs at liberty for the growing chickens.

This hot weather is favourable to young chickens, and also to less useful live stock; we must therefore white-wash, or rather lime-wash the houses often, and take care that the fowls have access to plenty of dust—wood-ash, if it can be had.

SUMMARY.—In hot weather, supply the fowls with plenty of clean, cool water. Let the houses be clean, well-ventilated, and not over-stocked. Be careful to avoid late chickens if they can injuriously interfere with the stock at present on hand. Bestow careful attention on the young stock. Decrease the number of old fowls as much as possible, to make more room for the chickens. Continue to wage war against the chickens' fleas.

Isle of Wight Poultry Prize List.

AN answer to "H. B. H.'s" enquiry might be more appropriate from the secretaries than from me; but as the allusion to the Windsor prize list and my support of the Isle of Wight exhibitions, makes the reference to me plain, I hope he will accept an answer from me.

I quite admit the desirability of having a separate class for Brahmas; but it must be borne in mind that our society is only recently established, and being chiefly in an agricultural district (the one by the by from which we ought to have the greatest support), has but limited funds, and although it has steadily prospered and

increased, it was thought desirable, when forming the last prize list, to limit the classes as much as possible. For many reasons it would not be desirable for me to follow "H. B. H.'s" implied suggestion of endeavouring to add a Brahma class to our already published list. But while no Brahma class exists, I hope "H. B. H." and others will not be deterred from exhibiting in the class for distinct breeds; and I can assure him from experience, that a prize gained in that class for Brahmas, is just as pleasing as one obtained in a more orthodox way!

Be this as it may, there can be no doubt "H. B. H.'s" suggestion is a very good one, and at our future exhibitions will, I have no doubt, receive that consideration which it deserves.

I sign my name in full, "H. B. H.'s" allusions making it plain that he refers to

Sir, yours very obediently,

Cowes, July, 5. WM. SAUNDERS.

The secretary will probably inform you to the effect that the piece of plate given by the committee is to be open to universal competition, and will be given to the most successful exhibitor.

NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SHOW.
—Extensive preliminary arrangements for the show to be held at Elmira, Oct. 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th, 1855, are completed, and we believe there is a fair prospect that the exhibition will be very large and successful. It is true that the success of each of these annual gatherings depends very much upon the weather prevailing at the time of, and just before their occurrence. Thus, last year, the most extensive preparations were made, and the number of animals and various articles on exhibition exceeded all precedent, we believe, but a cold rainy week kept back tens of thousands of visitors who would have attended but for this circumstance. So it may be at Elmira, but we can only hope for favouring skies, and go to work as if they were a certainty.—*American Agriculturist.*

An Old and Curious Document.

THE following is a verbatim copy of the original paper, which is no less than one hundred and nine years old. This curious document is, of course, preserved with great care by the owner, to whose kindness we are indebted for the opportunity of presenting to our readers a very great curiosity. It describes a Main of Cocks, which was fought near Leeds, in Yorkshire, in the year 1746. Notwithstanding the care with which it has been kept, it is now in a somewhat dilapidated condition.

WEST RIDING MAIN.

		lbs.	oz.	qr.
1	A Liver backed Pile, B. R. O. L.	3	8	1
2	White Pile, B. R. O. L.	3	15	2
3	Mealy Br. Grey, L. E. Up. O. L., leaden legs, all nails dark	4	0	0
4	Partridge Br. Birch. Dun L. N., fowl cut snake legs, I. L.	3	9	3
5	Red Dun L. E. B. L. O. R., lead legs, long nails white	3	12	1
6	Brown Spot. Bird, Dun L. E. up. B. L. O. R., both mid. nails white	3	11	2
7	Sutty Br. Bir. Dun L. E. comb fresh cut, B. L. O. R. long Ns white	3	9	2
8	Black Spangle, party Beak, sore comb forwards, yellow legs I. R. O. L. O. R. Claw club	3	7	0
9	Red pile Pinton, greenish legs, spot ^d . feet, O. R.	3	7	1
10	Spott ^d . Br. Red Spangle, low cut backwards, lowest to y ^e right side, O. R. yellowish legs, nails white	3	8	3
11	Par. Br. Yellow Dun, low comb fine cut, O. L. R. N., blue legs, and very dark nails	3	10	2
12	Part. Br. Yellow Dun, low strawberry comb, B. R. R. nor left long, nail whitest	3	8	2
13	Turk. Br. Yellow Grey, L. eye wide backwards, low comb, butt ^d . 4, snake legs, dark feet and nails	3	13	1
14	Rd. Br. dark red L. nor, low comb, all fours, greenish legs, yellowish toes, both mid. nails white	3	5	3
15	Mealy Br. Turkey wing'd Yellow, strawberry comb, L. nor. greenish legs, B. R. In L. all nails black	3	14	1
16	Throstle Br. Grey R. nor. B. L. Bon. Holdosworth	3	12	2
17	Spott ^d . Br. Yellow Grey, B. E ^r . R. nor., comb lowest in y ^e mid., O. R. blue legs and dark nails	3	5	0
18	Black Br. Grey polecat. B. E ^r . R. nor. spott ^d . face, blue legs, O. R. mid., nail R. white	3	7	1
19	Mix ^d . Br. Yellow Grey, B. E ^r . right nor. curl ^d . comb forw rd ., R. long, nail white, spott ^d . toes	3	8	1
20	A Spott ^d . Red Dun, B. E ^r ., black beak, O. L. green legs, wry feet, both mid. nails whitish	3	6	2
21	Black Br. Yellow Duck w ^s ., right nor. high round comb, greenish legs, dark toes and nails	3	9	3
22	Blk. Br. S— wing, Red, R. nor. right eye fine, light blue legs, left mid., nail stumpy, many coloured beak	3	7	2
23	Mix ^d . Br. Yellow Grey, R. nor. Raven beak tip ^d . at end, left mid., claw scar ^d	3	10	1
24	Ging. Br. Red, R. nor. curled comb forward, O. R. I. L. right mid. nail white, L. pty	3	8	3
25	Polecat Dun, sore comb backw rd ., I. L. blue legs, spott ^d . toes, both out nails pty, y ^e rest white	3	10	3

WEST RIDING BY.

		lbs.	oz.	qr.
26	Red Br. S— wing ^d . Red L. nor. R. E. I. R. green legs	3	8	1
27	Rd. Br. Ging. Dun, L. eye up, low comb, O. L. green legs, spot right side of his beak	3	4	2
28	Spott. Br. Red Dun, curled comb and sore for ^w ^d , Toad feet, no markes	4	2	2
29	Ging. Br. S— w ^d . Red, both ears mouldy, R. nor. r ^t . mid. n ^t . stumpy, O. E. in L ^t	3	6	1
30	Brass wing ^d . Black, L. N. B. R. O. L. yellowish legs	3	10	1
31	Black Red R. E. Blench ^d . O. L. nail stumpy	3	8	2
32	Mix ^d . Br. Gray pile pinioned, B. eyes R. N. spotted feet	3	6	2
33	Streak Br. Black Red L. N. picked comb, I. R. blue legs, all n ^t . pty.	3	15	3
34	Cust ^d . Dun, I. L. blue legs, white nails	3	6	1
35	Black Br. Copper wing ^d . polecat, I. R. O. L. yellow legs, low comb .	3	13	1
36	Black Br. Silver Duck wing, I. R. O. L. comb thick backwards	3	11	2
37	Streak Br. Mealy Grey, L. E. B. L. pty feet	3	6	3
38	Streak Br. Black Red Butt ^d . O. L. I. R. both mid. nails white	3	7	3
39	Black Br. S— w ^d . Red. B. n ^t . fours, both ears mouldy	3	10	0
40	Physant Br. Red B. nor ^t . all 4 ^s , blue legs, pty feet	3	10	1
41	Black Br. Red B. nor ^t . foul cut all 4 ^s , Toad feet	3	5	3
42	Streak Br. Red piled neck, both nor ^t . all 4 ^s	3	12	0
43	Streak ^d . Br. Yellow Grey, B. E. R. nor. In r ^t . nail crooked	3	4	1
44	Black Br. Birch. Duckwing, B. L. O. R. light blue legs	3	10	1
45	Streaked Br. Red L. E. O. R. green legs, dark pty nails	3	8	1

By.	West Main.	4	North Main.	By.	By.	West Main.	North Main.	By.
.. 43. ..	.. .. .	1	.. .. .	32. . . .	.. .. 36.	.. .. 6.	2	.. .. .
.. 27. ..	.. .. .	2	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	3	.. .. .
.. .. .	.. .. .	3	.. .. .	44. . . .	.. .. 42	.. .. .	12	.. .. 38.
.. .. .	.. 17. .	5	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. 5.	1	20
.. .. .	.. .. .	1	3 : 17 . .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. 16.	2	.. .. .
.. .. .	.. .. .	2	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. 3	3	.. .. 28.
.. 41. ..	.. 14. .	3	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	13	14. 16.
.. .. .	.. .. .	6	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. 35.	.. .. 13.	1	.. .. .
.. 34. 29.	.. .. .	1	6. . . .	33. 35. . .	.. .. .	.. .. .	2	.. .. .
.. 32. . .	.. .. 20.	2	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	3	.. .. 37.
.. 37. . .	.. .. .	3	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	14	7. 22.
.. .. .	.. .. 8	7	.. .. .	.. .. 43.	.. .. .	.. .. 15	1	8
.. .. .	.. 18. 9.	1	19. . . .	.. .. 34.	.. .. .	.. .. .	2	.. .. .
.. .. .	.. .. 22.	3	.. .. .	.. .. 36.	.. .. .	.. .. .	3	.. .. .
.. .. 38	.. .. .	3	.. .. .	.. .. 29. 30. 31.	.. .. .	.. .. .	15	10.
.. .. .	.. .. .	8	9. . . .	.. .. 45.	.. .. .	.. .. .	1	.. .. .
.. 45, 26,	.. 19. 1.	1	1. . . .	.. .. 39.	.. .. .	.. .. 2.	2	.. .. .
.. .. 31,	.. .. 12	2	2. . . .	.. .. .	.. .. 33	.. .. .	3	11. 23.
.. .. .	.. 24, 10,	3	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. 3.	4	16 21.
.. .. .	.. .. .	9	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1	.. .. .
.. .. .	.. .. .	1	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	2	.. .. .
.. .. .	.. .. 7	2	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	3	.. .. .
.. .. .	.. 21, 4,	3	.. .. .	.. .. 41.	.. .. .	.. .. .	1	.. .. .
.. .. 39,	.. .. .	10	15. . . .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1	24.
44, 40, 30,	.. .. 23,	1	4. 5. 13.	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	2	25.
.. .. .	.. .. 11,	2	.. .. .	.. .. 27.	.. .. .	.. .. .	3	.. .. .
.. .. .	.. .. 25	3	18. . . .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	2	.. .. .
.. .. .	.. .. .	11	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1	.. .. .
.. .. .	.. .. .	1	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. 28,	.. .. .	2	.. .. .

By.	West Main.	North Main.	By.	By.	West Main	North Main.	By.
..	3	40. . . .	.. .. .	.. .. .	2	.. .. .
..	3	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	4	.. .. .
..	1	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .

Mr. Leeds, Knaresbro', 1746,
June 16th.
Ben Holdsworth & James Bentley.
W.

Main.		Bys.	
w.	L.	w.	L.
K. 11	3	K. 4	8
St. 2	3	St. 2	4
<hr/>		Leeds 0	1
13	6	<hr/>	
		6	13

Knaresborough—weighed June 16th, 1746.
Ben Holdsworth
and
James Bentley } W.

Main—K.		St.		Bys.	
w.	L.	w.	L.	w.	L.
11	3	2	3	4	8
<hr/>		<hr/>		2	4
13	6	0	1	<hr/>	
		6	13	19	13

Exhibition of Domestic Poultry at Prescot, Lancashire.

As our readers are most of them probably aware, this exhibition was held on Wednesday, July 4th, and the place chosen was a field at Parkside, Prescot. The spot being very elevated, views of an extended character added much to the pleasure of visitors; indeed, from the day proving singularly clear, the ancient city of Chester was distinctly visible on the horizon. The attendance of visitors by railway far exceeded the anticipations of even the most sanguine of the acting committee; for, by the courtesy of the directors of the London and North Western line, not only were special trains placed for the day at the disposal of visitors (whose time would not permit journeying by the usual trains), but it was ordered that even the express trains for *this day* should "put down" at Rain Hill, thereby offering every possible facility for the convenience of the public.

All parties duly estimated the opportunity, for Liverpool and Manchester poultry fanciers were numerous on the

ground throughout the day, besides great numbers who proceeded from intermediate stations. At the time our reporter arrived at Prescot (the day preceding the exhibition), his attention was attracted to great numbers of printed placards, placed in the windows of the principal retail shops, and posted on the doors of most of the manufactories, stating, "that after 12 o'clock to-morrow, this establishment will be closed, until next day, on account of the Prescot exhibition of Poultry."

This unique and considerate mode of procedure on such occasions, gave every party full opportunity of attending; and we can confidently say but very few of the inhabitants failed to avail themselves of so doing. Hence the result proved most satisfactory as to the money received; and it is therefore now intended to greatly increase the premiums for the next year; and the committee, whose energetic efforts on this occasion are worthy of all praise, hope for much improvement as well as extension in future meetings. At the time of opening, the bells of the church rang loudly, and a band of music parading the principal streets with a perfect forest of banners (afterwards

erected on the show-field), public attention was excited, and the way to the exhibition became densely thronged, with not only every possible description of vehicle, but with pedestrians of all classes. Notwithstanding the crowd, perfect order marked the whole proceeding, and whilst the holiday was universal, no instance whatever of disorderly conduct prevailed.

It is very gratifying to find that such was the issue, as the sole intention of the committee has been to arouse in the minds of the working classes in the neighbourhood a desire for the cultivation of domestic poultry, and if possible to entice them from the careless indifference that has unfortunately in past years evinced itself (among many of them) as to the well-being and advancement of themselves and families. The change was very apparent, though last year the co-operation we have alluded to was indeed limited; *now* all seem to take a lively interest in the show; its success was therefore secured and its permanency placed beyond a doubt. Several parties in humble circumstances realised very remunerative sums from the sale of fowls, and it was most interesting to listen to their disquisitions as to the most expedient mode of laying out sums to which they had hitherto been altogether unaccustomed. No doubt exists on our minds that not only will such parties reap many present little *unexpected* comforts, but that also it will have a strong tendency to promote increased exertions in *future* years; we do therefore most heartily congratulate the originators of this truly philanthropic society, on the success with which it has been attended.

The immediate neighbourhood of Knowsley, Croxteth Park, &c. &c., led us to expect that good poultry would congregate in considerable numbers, but we did not by any means anticipate the aggregate of so unvarying a collection of first-class poultry as we there witnessed. With the solitary (*and singular exception, for the locality*) of the Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, every class was a good one. This, we are told, has been attributed to the protracted and almost

universal demand among poultry amateurs for fowls of this beautiful variety; consequently, the drain on this neighbourhood, proverbial as it has been in times past for excellence, has caused them now to become comparatively rare, and the inhabitants are using every effort to raise the necessary stock to meet the market; hence, then, the lack of good ones in the exhibition. The fowls showed well in the Messrs. Greenings' pens; but, unfortunately, several game hens were completely spoiled for exhibition purposes, from being able to fight with *adjoining* competitors; and two or three melancholy specimens, with heads that were literally scalped, were placed underneath the tressels in empty baskets, their hopes of success completely blighted. This proves incontestably that, like most other advantages, the *unobstructive* nature of the coops to the opportunity of inspection by spectators, presents a considerable drawback, from the opportunity it offers of equally *easy access* on the part of birds whose desire at the moment happens to tend to pugnacity.

The Game classes were very superior, scarcely an indifferent pen being to be met with; but with *singular want of caution*, birds of the highest character were placed out of the possibility of success, from their owners giving no attention whatever to similarity in the colour of the legs of *all* the fowls in the *same* pen. We have frequently before mentioned that such a selection must be fatal to the hopes of any exhibitor, *however perfect the fowls are in other particular characteristics of the breed*, and therefore cannot too strongly impress the importance of invariably avoiding so well-known and acknowledged an imperfection.

The Spanish were a beautiful class, and the Grey Dorkings were far beyond the generality of competition. In the Chickens of the latter class were some very forward specimens, that were soon disposed of at the prices at which they had been entered. The Cochin fowls were many of them superior, but most of them necessarily in

bad plumage, from the season for moulting having now arrived. The Spangled Hamburgs (both Golden and Silver) were very good; the importance of *white* deaf-ears seems however to have been overlooked by some of the competitors; but it was the subject of general remark among the amateurs present, that not one single pen of fowls was shown containing a "hen-tailed" cock; indeed, the "*fashion*" that prevailed a few years since for these *anomalous* birds, seems very justly to be fast fading away, and the original male feathering as universally restored in public estimation.

Some of the Polish were good, and most of the Bantams excellent. In the latter classes the name of Gilbert Moss, Esq., of the Liverpool bank, figured to the all but total exclusion of all others. The Bantams of this gentleman are really birds of superlative beauty, and the great attention evidently given them, well deserves the unlimited success that generally attends them in competition. The Game Bantams were exceedingly attractive, and certainly one of the most prominent and unique varieties in this gentleman's extensive collection.

The Ducks were very superior, and the names of Captain Hornby and Messrs. Worrall and Burnett, attest that the competition was severe. The Embden Geese and American Turkeys of Captain Hornby were vastly beyond mediocrity, and the gulls of this year much larger than any we have yet seen.

The Pigeons seemed to be the subject of universal interest, and as a whole abounded in excellent specimens. Among these were two pens quite new (and distinct as to the variety), and which we believe have never hitherto been shown at any public competition. We allude to birds entered as "Tailors," why so called we know not, but are informed the original parent birds were imported from the Canadas (under that name), at an immense expense, by the late Earl of Derby, for the Knowsley aviary. Here they not only bred very

freely but became perfectly domesticated, and from their *eccentric* plumage and extreme beauty were the earl's especial favourites. At the sale of that nobleman's live-stock they were purchased by the present exhibitor, Francis Worrall, Esq., of Knotty Ash House.

The whole of the plumage is either black or white, but it is in the extraordinary *disposition* of these extreme colours, that their novelty consists. Along the top of the head, and along the back part of the neck, they are purely black; the wings are also wholly black; the throat, back, body, and tail, are quite white. Down the sides of the neck and along the head the line of demarcation is as *curiously and regularly* marked, as though the effort of some artist, whose *only* object was to present to view a bird quaint and unnatural. Around the eye they bear much resemblance to a Barb pigeon, but the eyes themselves are considerably larger than in that variety. The judge of the poultry was Edward Hewett, Esq. of Eden Cottage, Spark Brook, near Birmingham; and we are informed that the whole of the poultry were on their return homewards, within two hours of the close of the exhibition.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH FOWLS.—1st prize, J. S. Henry, Woodlands, near Manchester. 2nd prize, T. Lawrenson, Snig Lane, Prescott. Highly commended, J. S. Henry. Commended, Miss Paterson, Knowsley. (An unusually good Class.)
CHICKENS.—1st prize, Miss Paterson; 2nd prize, W. Copple, Knowsley.

DORKING FOWLS.—1st prize, W. Wright, West Bank, Widnes. 2nd prize, D. Harrison, Singleton Park. Highly commended, W. Wright, 2 pens; Miss Paterson. Commended, Miss Paterson; J. Copple, 2 pens. (A very superior Class.)
CHICKENS.—1st prize, W. Wright. 2nd prize, J. Copple. Highly commended, W. Wright; Miss Paterson.

COCHIN CHINA, BUFF OR CINNAMON.—1st prize, T. Burnett, Preston, Lancashire. 2nd prize, W. Copple. Highly commended, T. Burnett. Commended, Captain Hornby, Knowsley Cottage; E. Lyon, Eccleston. WHITE FOWLS.—1st prize, Capt. W. H. Snell, London. 2nd prize, Mrs. M.

Hurst Wright, Widnes. CHICKENS.—1st prize, T. Burnett. 2nd prize, W. Copple. Highly commended, W. Copple.

GAME FOWLS, WHITE, PILES, DUCKWINGS, AND BLUES.—1st prize, W. W. Brandrit, Halton Road, Runcorn (Duckwing). 2nd prize, H. Worrall, Knotty Ash House, Liverpool. BLACK-BREASTED AND OTHER REDS.—1st prize, S. Arnold, Eccleston Tile works. 2nd prize, J. Beesley, Yew-tree Cottage, Prescot. Commended, Captain Hornby; H. Worrall; W. Pybus. B. Jaques, Prescot. (A very superior Class.)

HAMBURGS, GOLDEN PENCILLED.—1st prize, R. Cheshire Whiteway, Irwell House, Runcorn. 2nd prize, W. C. Worrall. Highly commended, D. Harrison; W. Worrall. Commended, J. F. Greenall, Grappenhall Hall. GOLDEN SPANGLER.—1st prize, G. Fell, Warrington. 2nd prize, W. C. Worrall. Highly commended, T. West, Eccleston. SILVER PENCILLED.—1st prize withheld. 2nd prize, J. F. Greenall. SILVER SPANGLER.—1st prize, T. Burnett; 2nd prize, F. Worrall.

POLAND FOWLS, BLACK WITH WHITE CRESTS.—1st prize, W. Seddon, Eccleston-street, Prescot. 2nd prize, R. Durning, jun., Rainford New Brewery. Highly commended, E. W. Haslewood, Bridgenorth, Shropshire. GOLDEN.—1st prize, J. F. Greenall. 2nd prize, E. W. Haslewood. Commended, E. W. Haslewood. SILVER.—1st prize, J. F. Greenall. 2nd prize, E. W. Haslewood. Commended, J. F. Greenall; W. Haslewood.

BANTAMS, GOLD LACED.—1st prize, G. W. Moss, Liverpool Bank. 2nd prize, F. Worrall. SILVER LACED.—1st prize, G. W. Moss. BLACK.—1st and 2nd prizes, G. W. Moss. WHITE.—1st and 2nd prizes, G. W. Moss.

DUCKS, AYLESBURY.—1st and 2nd prizes, T. Burnett. Commended, Captain Hornby; T. Burnett. (The whole Class excellent.) ROUEN.—1st prize, H. Worrall. 2nd prize, W. C. Worrall. (The whole Class commended.)

GESE.—1st prize, Captain Hornby. 2nd prize, J. B. Neilson, Doe Park, Woolton. Commended, Captain Hornby.

TURKEYS.—1st prize, Captain Hornby. 2nd prize, J. B. Neilson.

ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.—1st prize, G. W. Moss (Game Bantams). 2nd prize, E. W. Haslewood (Buff Polands). Highly commended, Capt. W. H. Snell (Partridge Cochins). Commended, E. W. Haslewood (White Polands).

PIGEONS.—Prizes: H. Foster, Eccleston (Silver

Beards, Blue Beards, and Black Balda; F. Worrall (Turbits); W. Copple (Blue Runts); J. Lyon, Vicarage Place, Prescot (Mottlers); F. Worrall (Barbes, Almonds, and Rough Legged Blue); W. Rigby, Toll Bars, Prescot (Rough Legged Yellow); F. Worrall (Taylors); C. R. Titterton (Fantails, and Silk Lace). Highly commended, H. Foster (Silver Beards); F. Worrall (Mottlers, Rough Legged Silver, and Taylors). Commended, W. Halsall, Fall Lane, Prescot (White Runts).

The Pigeon Class unusually good.

Exhibiting Borrowed Poultry.

BEFORE "Scrutator" brought charges against the exhibitors of the prize Spanish fowls at the last Newcastle Show, he ought to have informed himself whether these charges were founded on fact, and if so, how far were the Committee blameable in allowing birds to take prizes which had violated this rule, viz: that "birds must be the *bona fide* property of the exhibitor." From a letter signed by a gentleman in your last number, he knows personally that the sweeping charges of "Scrutator" are incorrect. After a show, it is perfectly ridiculous and absurd to bring these complaints forward; in most cases they are made by the unsuccessful, and frequently only on hearsay. Why did not "Scrutator" come forward and inform the Newcastle Committee of what he knew? As an unsuccessful exhibitor at that show amongst Black Spanish, I should have been greatly obliged, and probably I might now have the silver cup, &c., had he done so. Let me ask him, how is it possible for a committee to enforce all their rules, unless aided by exhibitors? It is quite impossible for them to know that the birds are the property of the exhibitor. It is exceedingly difficult for a committee or any one else to prove that birds are not the property of the exhibitor; therefore why does "Scrutator" give himself so much concern about a thing which neither he nor any one else can alter? His letter appears to me likely to do the Newcastle Show an injury, and therefore uncalled for, inasmuch as I am

given to understand that it was an exceedingly well-conducted one; and as I see that this is its fourth year, and more than 400 pens were exhibited, it must be in a flourishing condition.

It is high time that poultry shows were given up, if our favourites are to fall by poison at them,—which practice, according to "Scrutator," seems to be in operation. I quite agree with Mr. Williams in the latter part of his letter, and think the committee ought to require an explanation from "Scrutator;" I think also, that in justice to themselves, the exhibitors of the prize Spanish should also deny his charges. To me it would be more satisfactory; for, as an unsuccessful exhibitor, from what "Scrutator" has written, I almost think that the *cup* is not in the right hands.

In conclusion, I may say that I know neither any of the Newcastle committee, nor the successful prize men, but having had something to do with shows, I know something about complaints against committees, and therefore would advise "Scrutator," when he again makes charges, to substantiate them; and if I may offer him, as well as some others, a "wee bit o' advice," I would recommend that they should be careful how they, through anonymous letters, accuse either committees or judges: for you may be assured, Mr. Editor, these vexatious complaints, often, as I said before, only made on hearsay, and very often without the slightest foundation, will ruin our poultry exhibitions. H.

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THE CROPS IN AMERICA.—From all quarters the most cheering accounts of the crops are received. They were, very generally, beginning to suffer from drouth, but during the past week copious rains have allayed all fears on this account, and we may reasonably anticipate a bountiful harvest; and with a larger extent of land sown than ever before, with high prices and good crops, what can prevent great agricultural and national prosperity.—*American Agriculturist.*

ON BEES.

ON the departure of a second swarm, occurring eight or ten days after the first, though the hive is seriously depopulated, there yet remains unhatched the brood which the old queen had deposited during the last ten days of her sojourn in her original habitation. As this hatches, it may be sufficient to maintain the existence of the family, but considering the shortness of our seasons, it is very doubtful that so small a number of bees will be able to store a provision of food, or be able to raise the population of the hive, when the young queen commences laying. For these reasons it is not desirable to help off a second swarm. Where two or even more swarms are taken off, "an otherwise thriving colony has been weakened (if not destroyed) by being split up into fractions, which ought to have been held together as the greatest security against every evil, and the surest source of profit to the proprietor." It does, however, sometimes happen that the bees are unwise enough to incur these risks; after an interval of two or three days, during which the proceedings which have been described, are still continued, the third swarm departs.

As soon as it is arranged among the inmates that the swarming is concluded, a change comes over the scene; the time has now arrived when the succession to the throne must be established. Do the commoners decide this important point? I have every reason to suppose that between the queens reared in a family, no interference is offered by the workers, except that of preventing their destroying each other, when there may be a prospect of the family dividing into swarms, and so requiring more than one head. That the laws of their instinct may be so far violated as to lead to the destruction of their own queen by the workers, is a fact which I believe may have taken place, but it is a difficult problem to solve, and demands further consideration and investigation.

However, now the young ladies are to settle the matter, the workers are mere spectators, and the combat is sought with eagerness, at least by the elder queen. I will relate the occurrences I once observed in a hive in which there had been some peculiar movements. The bees had attempted to force the young queen to lead a second swarm. She refused for some time, even when the swarm was on the wing, to accompany it, but at length seemed driven out by compulsion. Being in an observatory hive, I watched all her movements, and at length saw her depart. While the swarm was settling I rose from my seat, and to my surprise saw her majesty on my knee. Such a claim on my protection was irresistible, and I placed her at the mouth of the hive, which she entered, and of course the swarm soon returned. She continued the only queen at liberty for three days longer; on the morning of the third day I found the body of a perfect queen cast out. The crisis had arrived, and queen the first had conquered and killed the second. On examining the combs, I found her majesty hard at work, eating open a royal cell most vigorously, while the workers stood in a circle around, watching her proceedings, but none offering assistance. In about twenty minutes she had cut open the cell from top to bottom, and then walked off, probably having stung the inclosed nymph. With her success here she was perfectly satisfied, and the bees instantly set to work, withdrew the nymph, and destroyed the cell. I had watched this elder queen from the hour of her birth; in fact when she had not been more than an hour hatched, I took her out of the hive to try her powers of flight, but she could not fly a yard, and ran unceasingly over my hand, till I restored her. At this early age she appeared very unhappy, and under a continual dread, and the workers—hard-hearted they appeared—took no notice of her. Gradually she assumed more courage; but now, elated with success in destroying two rivals, she gave way to the most amusing demonstrations of joy. She could not refrain from

practical jokes, and playing tricks on the workers. I was surprised to see her stand by a cell in which a worker's body was nearly buried; she seized the worker, and gave it a pull, which brought it out in a hurry, and it gazed in amazement at the freak of the queen, who went off, no doubt laughing in her sleeve, to play the same trick on another bee similarly employed. But her hour of sport was but short. The last surviving queen was soon hatched, of smaller size and paler colour, and easily distinguishable from the elder. I now promised myself the satisfaction of witnessing the royal duel within the hive, of which, I believe, there is no record of its having been witnessed by English apiarians, except in the apiary of Mr. Golding. The elder queen was perpetually moving over the combs, apparently seeking her rival, whose aim seemed to be to keep out of her way.

Once there was a tumult, and a partial attempt at swarming, which agitated the young queen so much that she passed through the doorway, but returned immediately, keeping however mostly on the comb near the entrance. About the same time the elder queen was seized by the workers, and forcibly prevented moving for some minutes; so rough was their treatment, I expected to see her legs or wings torn off. Then she was liberated, and at length the two queens were on the same comb, and approached each other. I waited with breathless anxiety—nearer and nearer they approach; now so close, each must be aware of the presence of the other. Now they meet, but not with a rush, to the fatal struggle; the antennæ are crossed, and each quietly pursues her way. Readers, did ever queen bees so meet before? So I must still watch, with eyes and mind in a constant strain, and as hour after hour stole away, these two rival queens paced around their habitation. I watched unremittingly till darkness closed the labours of the day. Eleven hours had been passed in tracing the movements of the queens, and at length I left them, the

elder reposing on an upper, the younger on a lower comb. Next morning I repaired to the scene, and all was over. The dead body of a queen lay before the hive. Which was it? had the elder succeeded in the mortal combat, destroying her rival, and reigning in undisputed possession, monarch of all she surveyed? No; it was the elder queen whose life had fallen a sacrifice.

There was a remarkable peculiarity in the proceedings of this hive; the period of suspense was unusually protracted, and it was not till the seventh day from the hatching of the queen that her death took place.

The fray being over, the victorious young queen utters the long plaintive notes of piping for the last time in her life. A queen will sometimes pipe when taken from a swarm. I have heard her more than once pipe while I confined her under a hand-glass, and I know a bee-keeper who has had a queen pipe while he held her in his hand.

It would be an omission were I to pass over the description of the combat given by our English eye-witness. Mr. Golding thus describes it:

“On the morning of the 26th, one queen came forth, and at 11 o'clock the workers were assisting another young queen to get out by tearing away the cell. At 12 o'clock this young queen came out, and there were thus two queens at liberty in the hive at the same time. My brother apiarians will readily believe how anxiously I watched for the combat between the two queens as described by Huber. Both queens ran over the comb, as if searching for something, and after having passed each other very closely two or three times, at length they recognised each other. The elder clasped the younger round over the back, and soon gave her the fatal sting, and left her. Though the wounded queen drooped and began to fall, yet she soon afterwards somewhat recovered, and walked about the hive. The other occasionally visited her, but did not repeat her attacks,

as if knowing it to be unnecessary.” Huber observed further that when the bodies of the two queens were in such a position that they could reciprocally sting, they disengaged themselves, and each fled away. What a wonderful provision for the preservation of the life of one queen. “It becomes necessary that they themselves should be entrusted with the destruction of their rivals, but as in these combats nature demands only a single victim; she has wisely arranged that at the moment when, from their position, the two combatants might lose their lives, both feel so great an alarm that they think only of flight, and not of using their stings.”

The combats of queens are not confined solely to the hive; wherever they meet their mutual antipathy is manifested. On one occasion I placed two queens which I had just taken out of a swarm, without considering the consequences, under a small hand-glass. They very soon met, seized each other, and engaged in the fatal struggle. A lady's hand has been the scene of a royal duel. Last season a lady who is a very enterprising bee-keeper had the royal cells cut out of a Grecian hive to prevent the issue of a second swarm. Two of the young queens were in the act of liberating themselves, and she took the cells in her hand. The queens emerged at the same time, and their first impulse was to seize each other, and before there was time to separate them, one was put *hors de combat*. A.

A NOVEL BEEHIVE.—An amusing circumstance connected with a swarm of bees occurred at the post-office, in this town, on Wednesday. Mr. Pridgeon, the postmaster, observed a vast number of bees hovering around the house, as if intending to intrude themselves into it. Doors and windows were, consequently, immediately closed, and, of course, all seemed safe. The worst, however, was not yet over. The busy hum was at length confined to one part of the shop, and, to the consternation of all, it

was found that it proceeded from the letter-box, attached to the shop window. This circumstance placed the affrighted postmaster in a dilemma more easily imagined than described, as his honour for the due transmission of the next mail-bag was now at stake. Whilst ruminating, however, over the results of such an unhappy event, the truth of the old proverb "A friend in need is a friend indeed" was very forcibly exemplified in the person of his daughter, who appeared before her dejected father armed with a pair of bellows, applied them instantly to the inside of the box, and with a few strong puffs soon succeeded in ejecting the whole of the troublesome occupants. They were at last captured in the swarm, in Mr. Pridgeon's garden, and restored to Mr. Leatherdale, the owner.—*Essex Gazette.*

Floriculture.

JULY 11.

ARRANGEMENT OF ANNUALS.

WHERE there is plenty of room in the borders for annuals, it is a good plan to mix the seeds of several sorts together, and to sprinkle them about indiscriminately; if they appear where they are not afterwards wanted they are easily removed to spots that need them, or may be destroyed by the hoe; and if two or three sowings are made, a succession will be kept up that will increase the gaiety and fragrance of the garden considerably. The following sorts may be mixed to advantage:—

Mignonette, carnation poppy, papaver amœnum, dwarf Dutch poppy, French poppy, branching larkspur, eschscholtzia Californica, ditto crocea, campanula speculum, various candytuffs, nasturtium, centaurea cyanus of various colours, hearts' ease, Clarkia pulchella, ditto white, Godetia of all sorts, antirrhinum major, ditto sparteum, ditto versicolor, colinsia bicolor, coreopsis tinctoria, convolvulus minor, lobelia, linaria triphylla, lupinus lutea, nemophila grandiflora.

Any of the hardy annuals may be sown in the open ground in September to stand the winter, and in this way will make very strong plants for early spring flowering. The Californian sorts are well adapted for autumn sowing.

Half hardy annuals, of all sorts, may be sown in the open ground in May, but will not bloom so early or so well as if raised in-doors or in a hot-bed.

With care, there are no annuals but may be transplanted; I have long been in the habit of improving my borders by transplanting annuals of all sorts, not excepting mignonette and poppies. Stocks and cœnotheras, and many other kinds, were greatly improved by the process; they bloom more strongly and last longer, frequently shaming those which have not been disturbed at all.—*From the Town Garden.*

Entomology.

CHAP. VII.

THAT worm, so fascinating to poor Philomel, and which the cruel birdcatchers use for enticing into their traps that charming songster, belongs to a family of beetles called Tenebrionidæ, the meal-worm, being the larva of the beetle called *Tenebrio molitor*. It is a very destructive insect, doing much damage by devouring flour, meal, and other substances of that kind, in granaries and mills. It is also frequently found to have greatly injured ship-biscuits packed in casks which, when opened, are found eaten through in holes by these insects and their larvæ. The larva is so well known, that it is unnecessary to describe it. The perfect insect is at first of a reddish colour, but soon assumes a black hue.

An insect formerly much, and still to some extent, used in surgery, and called the Spanish-fly, *Cantharis vesicatoria*, belongs to a family in this order called Trachelides, so named from having the head, which is triangular, or heart-shaped, carried on a kind of neck which separates it from the thorax. It is not common in

England, but is sometimes found on ash-trees in the month of June. In the year 1837, however, they appeared by millions on the ash-trees near Colchester, stripping them of their leaves. It is about three-quarters of an inch in length, and of a beautiful metallic-green gold colour, sometimes changing into a bluish-green; the eyes are of a golden colour, the elytra are thin and flexible, but very strong, and entirely covering the wings; the legs and antennæ are bluish-black; when touched it feigns death, and emits a highly offensive odour.

Most people must have observed, in picking nuts from the tree, that many of them have a small round hole drilled through the shell. This is the work of the larva of a small beetle called *Balatinus nucum*, or the nut-weevil, which belongs to an extensive family called the Curculionidæ. The egg is introduced by the beetle into the nut, when it is young and soft, by means of its long, slender beak-like snout, at the tip of which is a minute pair of sharp, horizontal jaws. The nut being but slightly injured, continues to grow, while the larva feeds on the kernel in which it is imbedded. When about to change into the pupa, it bores through the shell and escapes, burrowing into the ground, and there undergoing its transformation, and in the following summer coming forth the perfect insect, which is of a greyish-brown colour, the body being about one-third of an inch long, and the rostrum, or snout, the same length.

A nearly allied family, called the Calandridæ, is a much more destructive one, the wheat-weevil, *Calandra granaria*, being one of its members. In its perfect state it is a narrow beetle, of a pitchy-red colour, about an eighth of an inch long, with a slender snout, slightly bent downwards, a thorax, (this, being almost half the length of the whole body,) and furrowed elytra, which do not entirely cover the tips of the abdomen. Both in the beetle and grub state it devours stored wheat and other grain. The female deposits her eggs upon the wheat after it is housed, and the young

grubs, immediately they are hatched, burrow into the wheat, each individual occupying a single grain, which, with the exception of the mere shell, it devours. This destruction goes on within, while no external appearance leads to its discovery, the loss of weight being the only evidence of the mischief done to the grain. The power of multiplication of this destructive beetle is prodigious: it is stated that a single pair of them may produce six thousand descendants in one year. It will thus be seen how important it is to guard as much as possible against their attacks. When corn has become infested with them, the best method to destroy them is by kiln-drying it; but to prevent its being attacked, the wheat should be kept cool, well ventilated, and frequently moved.

Of the beautiful family of the Cerambycidæ, or longicorns, the best-known English species is *Cerambyx moschatus*, or the musk-beetle, so called from its peculiar scent which, however, more resembles attar of roses than musk; and this scent is strong enough to betray its presence, when its green colour would otherwise effectually conceal it. It is conjectured that the fragrance, which is most powerful in the female, may be intended, like the light of the glow-worm, as a guide for the males. When touched, this beetle emits a curious sound, not unlike that of the bat, but more resembling the faint scratching of a perpendicularly held slate-pencil when drawn along a slate. The larva bores holes in trees, particularly old willows, breeding in the wood. The perfect insect, very common in most parts of England, is more than an inch in length, of a fine green colour, and the antennæ are even longer than the body.

The turnip flea-beetle, commonly called the turnip-fly, so much and justly dreaded by farmers, belong to a family in the order Coleoptera, called Halticidæ; its scientific name is *Haltica nemorum*. It is stated in Young's "Annals of Agriculture," that the loss in Devonshire alone, in one season from the destruction of the tur-

nip-crops by this little insect, was estimated at £100,000 sterling. As soon as the seed-leaves of the plant appear above ground, these beetles begin their ravages, not only gnawing the young leaves in the edge, like most insects, but eating their surface, piercing them like a sieve, and by disturbing the cellular tissue, prevent their growth, and finally causing the total decay of the plant. Many plans have been tried with a view to check the increase of these beetles, but the chief object should be to bring the young plants on the rough leaf as soon as possible, when they may be considered safe from these little pests. Superphosphate of lime is perhaps the most forcing of all manures for this purpose. It is a singular fact that the beetles of this family confine their attacks almost exclusively to plants of the kind called by botanists Cruciferous.

We shall conclude the Coleoptera with a notice of the well known lady-birds, the family name of which is Coccinellidæ. The family is distinguished by their hemispheric form, the upper part being convex, and the lower flat, and by the colour and spots of their wings. The most common species is *Coccinella septempunctata*, or the seven-spotted lady-bird, the well-known summer visitant of every field and garden. The whole family seems specially designed for the purpose of diminishing the numbers of the aphides, or plant lice, on which, both in the larva and perfect state, they feed, and the numbers they thus destroy is amazing; for they will devour lice, each as big as themselves, one after another in quick succession, without appearing to diminish their appetites or activity. They sometimes appear in such numbers as to cause much alarm to the ignorant. On the 13th of August, 1847, the whole coast round Southend was visited by a flight of these beetles, consisting of at least five species. They came in such dense clouds, as for miles along the coast to resemble a swarm of bees during hiving. The sea destroyed countless millions of them; the grass and hedge-rows, and every crevice

that afforded shelter from the wind, were coloured with their numbers, and for many miles it was found impossible to walk without crushing numbers beneath the tread. From the great service they do to man, they ought to be protected and encouraged by him in every way; and, in fact, notwithstanding their disagreeable smell, they seem to be treated with the same consideration and kindness as some other animals, which, though apparently not benefiting us to any appreciable extent, yet, by universal consent, seem to be treated as sacred, and therefore are spared, when other animals, much more serviceable, would be killed or ill-treated without a thought or a pang of remorse. We now take leave of the Coleoptera, not for want of materials, however, for when I say that the English species alone of this order is numbered by thousands, it will be seen that in giving the descriptions of the few species we have glanced at, we have but dipped a bucket in an ocean.
Mac.

—
* WONDERS IN NATURAL HISTORY.—The polypus, like the fabled hydra, receives new life from the knife lifted to destroy it. The fly spider lays an egg as long as itself. There are four thousand and forty-one muscles in the caterpillar. Hook discovered fourteen thousand mirrors in the eye of the drone; and to effect the respiration of a carp, thirteen thousand three hundred arteries, vessels, veins, bones, &c., are necessary. The body of the spider contains four little masses pierced with a multitude of imperceptible holes, each hole permitting the passage of a single thread; all the threads, to the amount of a thousand to each mass, join together, when they come out and make the single thread with which the spider spins its web, so that what we call the spider's thread consists of more than four thousand united. Lewenhoeck, by means of microscopes, observed spiders no bigger than a grain of sand, who spun thread so fine that it took four thousand of them to equal in magnitude a single hair.

Poultry Balance Sheet.—No. 2.

ANOTHER half year having passed, I beg to send you my second statement of account, if you should think it worth a place in your "Chronicle."

I think you will say the result of my poultry has turned out very favourable; and in this account you will see I have expended some little on eggs, which I have obtained from prize breeders, so that my young stock consists of some first-rate birds, and if sold off would realise at least £10 and upwards. A COTTAGER.

FOWLS. DR.

JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 1855.

	£	s.	d.
To balance on last account (see "Poultry Chronicle," vol. iii., page 161)	1	0	10
Paid for 10 sundry fowls, making, with 26 last account, 36 total	0	14	6
Paid for 12 chicks	0	12	0
Paid for eggs	1	2	0
Paid for keep and other expenses... ..	3	17	9

£7 7 1

Balance forward, for which I have 16 fowls and 43 chickens of various ages	0	2	4
--	---	---	---

DUCKS. DR.

JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 1855.

Paid for 3 ducks, making a total of 11	0	8	0
Paid for 4 ducklings	0	1	6
Paid for eggs	1	4	0
Paid for keep	1	3	1

£2 16 7

Balance forward, for which I have 11 ducks and 45 ducklings ...	0	19	10
---	---	----	----

FOWLS. CR.

JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 1855.

	£	s.	d.
20 Fowls sold.....	2	0	0
19 Chicks	2	0	6
1014 Eggs	3	4	3
Balance	0	2	4

£7 7 1

DUCKS. CR.

JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 1855.

Balance in favour on last account ...	0	3	10
By 569 eggs	1	12	11
Balance	0	19	10

£2 16 7

Diseases of Fowls.

C. G. B. desires some information respecting the disease of which his hen died; from the symptoms it was evidently croup, otherwise a cold in the windpipe; it is not a contagious disease, but fowls are very liable to it if exposed to cold, damp, or easterly winds; if taken in its early stages it is easily cured, but the patient is liable

to relapse if exposed to draughts or cold winds. The way in which I have cured several is as follows:—Place the fowl in a dry, sheltered place; feed it on moist food, as boiled potatoes and bran, or boiled rice and pollard, and supply them with clean water, in which I usually put a handful of green rue; and let them have green food, as lettuce, or chickweed; at night give one of Mr. Tegetmeyer's pills,

one grain calomel, one-twelfth of a grain tartar emetic, and in the morning nine grains of jalap; sometimes it is necessary to repeat this treatment if the disease is violent; next dissolve five grains of tartar emetic in a quart of spring water, and administer from a tea-spoonful to a dessert-spoonful of the same, as may appear necessary, morning and evening, and by this treatment they generally recover in about a week or ten days.

B. P. B.

Dropsical Hen.

I AM glad to be able to send a sequel to the history of the dropsical hen, which appeared in the "Poultry Chronicle" in the spring. When last I wrote there was strong contention between dropsy, calomel and jalap, and soft eggs. The dropsy was conquered, the soft eggs and physic remained in dispute of the field; occasionally a shelled egg was laid, but more soft ones were dropped. At length the hen announced her desire to rear a family, and as this is her peculiar sphere of duty, she was indulged in the wish, hatched her chickens, received an addition to her own of three others ten days old, cherished them for nine weeks (she is a Spanish-Cochin hen), and then they separated by mutual consent, with the exception of one pert cockerel, who commenced crowing vigorously at eight weeks old, and from that hour he was driven from the presence of his mother. She has now commenced laying, and her eggs are well formed and well-shelled. There is now no symptom of dropsy, though I expect the constitutional disease may reappear.

A.

Hamburgs Non-Sitters.

YOUR correspondent, a firm supporter from the beginning, must be in error when he says Spangled Hamburgs are good sitters and mothers, at least if he means those classes of the Bolton Bays and Greys known as Moon and Moss Pheasants, which are, if pure-bred, non-sitters, or

what are termed everlasting layers, like all the varieties of the Bolton Bays and Greys; and when one does sit, it may safely be attributed to the effect of a misalliance.

B. P. B.

Chit Chat.

DIARY FOR THE POULTRY YARD.—This useful work, to which we drew the attention of our readers when the first number was published last year, is to be reproduced for the year 1856, with the useful additions of calendars for the apiary and garden. Those who wish to subscribe for the work must apply, as before, to Mr. William Warwick, Essex and West Suffolk Gazette Office, Colchester, on or before August 1st.

WHITE MUSK DUCKS.—The White Musk Ducks, exhibited at Windsor, pen 607, the property of W. A. Warwick, Esq., of Colchester, were, we are informed, purchased for her Majesty, and will become occupants of the royal aviary.

ERGOT IN MAIZE produces the same effect as that of rye. Pigs lose their hair, and posterior limbs frequently become paralysed. With mules the hair falls off, feet swell, and they frequently lose one or more hoofs. Poultry eating such grain (or any other affected with ergot), lay shellless eggs, because the ergot causes a convulsive contraction of the oviduct, which expels the egg before there has been time for the calcareous matter to be secreted upon its surface.

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, we take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

MINASI'S INCUBATOR.

A correspondent having, some time since, requested information respecting the success of this machine, we beg to present our readers with the following letters which were addressed to the inventor:—

“Kynaston Lodge, June 6, 1855.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to say that I have not been able to answer your letter sooner.

“I have done exceedingly well with your machine. I have hatched rather more than half the eggs I have put in, which I think exceedingly good. Your machine rears the chickens most admirably. I have considerably above 200, I think, running about under hens, which I hatched in the machine and reared there until I had hens ready to take them. I really think that you must not be under any anxiety about your machine; it answers admirably.

“I am selling my chickens, which I hatched and reared in January and February at 6s. per couple.

“I know, from long experience, that eggs bought in the market cannot be relied on for hatching. I have also observed that cold eggs must not be placed in the machine with those which are warm, as they injure them by the chill they convey. I place my fresh eggs in the little box for two days, before putting them in the machine.—Yours faithfully,

“CHARLES APPELYARD.”

SIGNOR MINASI'S INCUBATOR.

The following fair account of this machine is written by a noble amateur, whose signature to the letter we received is a guarantee for its exactness, but he does not wish to give it in print.

“SIR,—In reply to your inquiry as to the comparative success obtained with your incubator, or that of Mr. Cantelo, in my case your machine has given the best results. My success has not been great, but still I have done better with yours than with the rival machine; and though I am obliged now to let it rest for awhile, I certainly intend to try it again the first opportunity, and, I don't doubt, with greater success than hitherto. There has been in my neighbourhood this season an universal complaint of the number of unprolific eggs of all descriptions under natural incubation; and therefore I don't think it fair to condemn a machine during such a season. And latterly, indeed, since my machine was altered so as to contain more water, I have not done amiss. For instance, last week, 14 eggs turned out 10 chicks, all now healthy and well; this week, 10 eggs turned out only 3 chicks, the

remainder having died in the shells. In the machine are other eggs, apparently going on well. I should add, that these are all Hamburg eggs, from the same three hens; and therefore the much greater success of one lot of eggs over the rest may appear strange. It seems, however, to me, to indicate that more mischief may be done by too high a temperature, during the *first few days* of incubation, than later, for in these cases twice during the period of incubation the temperature ran up during the night to 110, and once even to 120 deg. I expected all the eggs must be spoilt; nevertheless, the first 14 gave 10 chicks; the next lot of 10, only 3 alive. The night during which the thermometer rose to 120, was only a few days after the latter lot were put in the machine, and nearer still to the time of introduction of another lot, the fate of which is yet undecided. Afterwards, I returned to the original burners, which I find quite equal to maintain the proper temperature of the increased quantity of water *at present*—perhaps in colder weather they might not be. There is still another lot of eggs in the machine, placed there after the exchange of burners, since which time there has been no very great irregularity of temperature.

The burners, however, or the spirit, is still the difficulty with me, as, after three or four days, there is a considerable tendency to smoke. I still suspect the spirit, as when I first commenced with the machine the burners went clear and well for more than a week without cleaning or new cotton, and the spirit then used I happened to have had in the house two or three years, obtained, however, from the same party who now supplies it.

Your obedient servant,

* * * *

MALAYS.

SIR,—On looking over the schedules of the Anerley and Isle of Wight poultry shows, I am surprised to find that the important class of Malays, comprising, as it does, many varieties, is omitted in both. Now, sir, I fear that something addressed to amateurs in your “Chronicle,” a short time since, warning them that they must exert themselves and get this class better represented on their shows, if they wished prizes to be given to it, has (though I believe unintentionally on your part) led to this most unjust exclusion at these shows. It is not my purpose to laud the breed, but I will only say that in the first place its very rarity is to numerous amateurs its greatest recommendation; and, secondly, that having kept and exhibited almost every variety of fancy poultry, I am quite as well pleased with my Malays as any I have ever kept. I think that the number and quality of the birds in this

class at Tiverton, shows that your warning has been taken by amateurs as it was meant, and that this extensive class, with its several varieties, is becoming increasingly popular; and, if I am not deceived, the time is coming when there will be as many prizes given to Malays and their varieties as to Cochins. If only the common and generally kept classes are to have prizes at shows, we had better at once follow the example of our French neighbours, and make a model schedule: as Class 1, Cochins; 2, say Dorkings; and 3, any other breed.

I trust, sir, that you will use your efforts to stop this injustice, and that amateurs that have kept this noble breed longer, and know their merits better, than myself, will come forward to the rescue of their favourites.—I am, sir,

A MANIAC WHO LOVES JUSTICE.

[Our correspondent will find in another column that the gentlemen of the Anerley committee do not feel at liberty to make further additions to the present schedule, but another year we have no doubt the case of the Malays will be considered.—Ed.]

THE NEW KIND OF FOWLS.

SIR,—Will any of your readers describe those birds lately imported from the Black Sea; they are said to be both pure white and black, with crests of the same colour. Several are to be seen at Southampton, where they have been landed from the war transports. What says "B. P. B." on the subject.

R. G.

Cumberland.

[Crested Persian fowls of different colours have been brought over. Mr. Higgs, of Southampton, has received some which were quite black: we have had them coloured, and we have heard of them, in Constantinople, and also in the possession of an English amateur, white. The Serai-Täook, or Sultan's fowls, before described in our pages, came from the same part; and as, in the account which we think must be referred to, these "new fowls" are mentioned as being "as large as barn-door fowls," we think they must be meant; but we have never heard of any black.—Ed.]

HASTY NOTES.

SIR,—With reference to the hastily written notes on the Windsor poultry show, which I sent you last week, I wish to say they were not intended for publication, as they then stood. I had no idea of furnishing a "report" myself, but I wished to give you such early information of what I had noticed as would enable you to begin yours; to be altered, or modified, subsequently, if your "specially employed" reporter's notes differed from mine.

As to Mr. Bridge's Grouse Cochins, I think he was fairly beaten. His hens (pullets of 1854) were too small (I should not have written "miserably small"); but had that gentleman matched his birds differently, he might have taken 2nd instead of 3rd prize. He was one of the earliest breeders and exhibitors of this variety; he has been very successful, and will, I trust, continue so.

Allow me, ere I close my letter, to ask a question. Are black-breasted cockerels imperatively required? Whether the hens shown are partridge-feathered, brown, or grouse; and will those gentlemen who usually act as judges, and others who have, like myself, bred this variety of fowl, give their opinions on the subject? My own is, that partridge-feathered, light-breasted hens should have a mottled-breasted cock; grouse-bodied, grouse-breasted hens, a black-breasted cock. But be the rule what it may, *let us know it*. With many cockerels of this year of each of the above kinds, I wish to know which to show, that my birds may not be unsuccessful because they are badly matched.

I use the signature you adopted for me, and am your obedient servant,

GREAT HASTE.

ERRATUM.—Page 429, left-hand column, three lines from the bottom, for "ancient," read "eminent."

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

WE have little variation to note since last week. The market is well supplied, and the trade barely an average one. Large fowls remain scarce and dear, but this is a natural consequence of the long scarcity.

Large Fowls	9s. 0d. to 10s. 0d.	each.
Smaller do.	4s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.	"
Chickens	3s. 0d. to 3s. 6d.	"
Smaller do.	2s. 6d. to 3s. 0d.	"
Geese	5s. 6d. to 6s. 0d.	"
Ducklings	3s. 0d. to 4s. 0d.	"
Leverets	3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.	"
Rabbits	1s. 5d. to 1s. 7d.	"
Pigeons	1s. 0d. to 0s. 0d.	"
Quails	1s. 9d. to 2s. 0d.	"

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

Monday, July 2nd.—English supplies have been dropping off, and the foreign

have been less, with the exception of oats, beans, and peas. There was a better attendance of country buyers, and more inquiry on the part of millers than was shown last week, which enabled English factors to make a more ready placement at fully last Monday's rates. Fine samples of foreign continued to be held, at full rates. Country flour was less abundant. Prices of all descriptions of barley were firm, with a moderate business. Malt has been very difficult of sale, at unaltered prices. The oat trade was well supplied. The reported lightness of the hay crop gave great firmness to all sweet parcels of corn, but inferior sorts and those out of condition were rather cheaper. There was very little demand for peas and beans, and rates were unchanged. Rapeseed and hempsced continue high-priced. Mustard, canary, and carraway, remain dull.

	Shillings per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	75 to 83
" " red	69 .. 76
" Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red 70 ..	75
BARLEY, Malting, new	32 .. 33
" Chevalier	34 .. 36
" Distilling	31 .. 34
" Grinding	31 .. 33
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new	65 .. 70
" " old	66 .. 70
" Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new 70 ..	72
" " old	68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed	26 .. 27
" potato	27 .. 30
" Scotch feed, new	29 .. 30
" " old	33 .. 34
" potato	33 .. 34
" Irish feed, white	25 .. 26
" " fine	26 .. 28
" " black	24 .. 26
" " fine	27 .. 27
RYE	40 .. 43
BEANS, Mazagan	38 .. 41
" Ticks	39 .. 43
" Harrow	39 .. 44
" Pigeon	42 .. 48
PEAS, White, boilers	42 .. 47
" Maple	40 .. 42
" Grey	37 .. 40
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.	65 .. 70
" Households, town	64 .. 65
" " country	56 .. 58
" Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship	51 .. 53

On Wednesday the arrivals of grain had not increased, and there was rather a firmer tendency in prices. Business would be more active if there was a disposition to

accept terms. Barley and oats also exhibited firmness.

PRICE OF BREAD IN LONDON.

The prices of wheaten bread in the Metropolis are from 10d., to 10½d.; and household ditto, 8d. to 9½d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

To Correspondents.

Great Haste.—We are sorry we gave the letter in a form in which it was not intended for publication, but we are always pleased to give our readers different amateurs' opinions on the shows, as well as on other matters; and we know that many of our readers take the same interest in this comparing of notes; so we hope, when "Great Haste" visits poultry shows, he will kindly oblige us again with his account of them.

D. B. Q.—A Novice will be much obliged if our correspondent will tell him, by means of the "Poultry Chronicle," where he obtained the pans for his pigeons' nests, and the price he paid for them.

Mililotus Leucantha.—Can any of our readers oblige us with an account of this plant, its flowering, height, cultivation, &c.

H. C.—A Reader of the *P. C.*—There were only two pens of Golden Spangled Hamburg chickens entered at Windsor. One pen (nine weeks old) was the property of the Rev. T. L. Fellowes, and took a prize; the other belonged to Mr. J. Dixon, of Bradford, and the age was not named. Although we did not see the birds, we believe we may answer confidently that no henny-tailed cocks took prizes.

Mina's Incubator.—The writer of the second letter in our present number respecting this machine states, in another letter, that he has known the thermometer remain perfectly steady for twenty-four hours without the lamp being touched.

Duckwing.—An excellent judge says Game chickens would not, of necessity, be disqualified from taking a prize on account of not being dubbed; but any which had been would have the advantage over them. Duckwing will find an answer to his question, from the secretary of the Anerley show, in another column.

One that can appreciate a Game Cock says, in answer to "Duckwing" that chickens which are unfit for dubbing are hardly worth showing, as dubbing would add little to the appearance of half-grown birds. He adds, that cock-fighting has been followed for generations by others than "scamps."

A Subscriber from No. 1.—We were very much obliged for the report, &c.; and, especially under the circumstances, we fully appreciate the kind recollection.

White Andalusian Fowls.—Some time since, we gave the opinion of a breeder of White Spanish, or Andalusian fowls, that they were not good table birds. As this opinion was given for the benefit of another correspondent, we are requested to say that it ought to have been confined to chickens not fully filled out; but that well-grown White Andalusians are good table fowls, and very hardy. I wish the "Chronicle" could be induced to strongly advocate the new Birmingham rule, of dividing the cock from the hens for

salo. So many persons want only a cock, and vice versa.

T. B. should require the perpetrator of the trick he describes to acknowledge the fact.

Advertisements.

WHITE PERUVIAN MUSK-DUCKS.—Mr. WARWICK will shortly send out a few Pairs of Ducklings, bred from the beautiful birds he exhibited at the Windsor Show last week, and which were purchased for Her Majesty's aviary.—Price £2 2s. per pair, basket and carriage to London included.—Donyland Lodge, Colchester.

FOR IMMEDIATE DISPOSAL—A Rich-coloured Buff Cochon-China Cock and Two heavily feathered Hens to match, from one of the most celebrated breeders in England. For address, stating price, apply to Y. Z., Post Office, Warrington.

FOR SALE—A very Fine Three-year-old Peacock, in perfect plumage, price 30s. Also a few very good Grey Dorking four-month Chicks, 5s. each. Eggs of Blue Andalusian, Black, Blue, White, Gold and Silver Polands, at 6s. per dozen; and of Brahma Pootra, Black Cochon, Silver-Pencilled Hamburg, Grey and White Dorking, 3s. 6d. per dozen.—GEORGE BOOTHBY, Louth.

FANCY POULTRY.—The last Periodical Sale for the Season.—Mr. J. C. STEVENS will sell by Auction, at his Great Room, 38, King Street, Covent Garden, on Tuesday, 17th July, at 12 o'clock precisely, a selection of Choice Poultry from the yards of John Fairlie, Esq., of Cheveley, Mr. P. Jones, and others, comprising Spanish, Dorkings, Cochins, Hamburgs, Polands, Bantams, and Game Fowls, from some of the purest blood in England. Catalogues by enclosing a stamped directed envelope to Mr. J. C. Stevens, 38, King Street, Covent Garden.

N. B.—The Periodical Sales will re-commence in October.

TO COCHIN CHINA BREEDERS.—Wanted several First-class Silver Cinnamon Hens and a Buff Cock. They must be short on the leg, and heavily feathered. Address, stating price, &c., to Z. 3, All Hallows Lane, Upper Thames Street.

ANERLEY POULTRY SHOW.—President, The Right Hon. the Earl of Verulam; Vice-President, Sir John Peter Boileau, Bart., F.R.S., Vice-President of the Zoological Society. The first Exhibition of Poultry and Pigeons will be held in the Anerley Gardens, adjoining the Anerley Station of the London and Croydon Railway, and near the Anerley Entrance to the Crystal Palace Grounds, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 28, 29, and 30, 1855.

The value of the Prizes will exceed 300 guineas. A detailed list of the Prizes and Certificates of Entry may be had on application to the Secretaries, at the office, Anerley, Surrey.

By special permission, the Band of the Royal Artillery will attend each day during the Exhibition.

EDGAR SMALLFIELD, } Hon. Secs.
HENRY F. WELLS, }

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This Office, the new income of which was doubled during the last year, presents the security of a large paid-up capital; moderate premiums for home and foreign risks; no stamp duty is charged; and all policies are declared indisputable.

The last Bonus added four-fifths of the premium paid to some of the participating policies.

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H. D. DAVENPORT, Secretary.
Agents wanted.



LIGHT HATS, 13s.—The Best in Europe. Second, 10s. 6d. Ladies' Riding Hats, 12s. to 25s. Livervy Hats, 12s. Tourists' Hats, 8s. 6d.

85, Strand, and 251, Regent Street.

PARTRIDGE and BUFF COCHIN CHICKENS, from the birds which have lately taken first prizes at so many Exhibitions, ten shillings each. Adult birds, twenty shillings.

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HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 73.]

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1855.

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Poultry Shows.

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries are closed. (No. 57 and 73.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at Boston, Thursday, July 26. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries are closed. (No. 64.)

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Malton, August 1st and 2nd. Secretary, J. Hannam, Esq., Kirk-Deighton, Wetherby. Entries close July 18th. (No. 72.)

Isle of Wight, at Ryde, August 7th and 8th. Secretaries, J. Vaux, Esq., and G. Locke, Esq. Entries close July 24th. (No. 70.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close July 24th. (No. 67.)

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary, Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson,

Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq. Entries close August the 10th.

Heckmondwike (near Leeds) Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Show, including Poultry, and Cottagers' Pigs, Tuesday, August 28. Secretaries, J. Kelly, and F. Brearly, Esquires. Entries close August 13th.

Anerley, August 28th, 29th, and 30th. Secretaries, Edgar Smallfield, Esq., and Henry F. Wells, Esq. Entries close August 6th. (No. 69.)

Keighley Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighley. Entries close Saturday, August 25th. (No. 71.)

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

East Lancashire Poultry Show (late Nelson) at Colne, October 31st and November 1st. Secretaries, Messrs. T. and E. Booth, Marsden, near Burnley, Lancashire. Entries close October 17th. (No. 73.)

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

AMONG the rules and regulations of our poultry societies, there is almost invariably one making it imperative for the exhibited birds to be the property of the exhibitor; and in consequence of some persons having been supposed to deviate from this rule, the question is mooted how far, in such a case, the committee of a show is blameable in allowing birds to take prizes which have violated it. Now, we cannot perceive that the gentlemen of the committee of a poultry show can in fairness be blamed in the *slightest degree* on account of persons transgressing their rules, while the circumstances of the case are unknown to them. If it come to the knowledge of an exhibitor or visitor that birds are shown which, according to the rules and regulations, are not eligible for taking prizes, would it not be the easiest and the best, as well as the most straightforward plan, for him to go at once to the committee, to state the circumstances which have come to his

knowledge, and to aid them in the investigation which would then become their duty? When a show is over: when the birds are distributed to their two or three hundred homes, when the labels on the prize pens have been virtually sanctioned by the silence of lookers-on, and the prize list, in the committee's copy, in the local and other papers, and in the "Poultry Chronicle," has become widely circulated, it is too late for complaints to be made: too late to assert a circumstance *then* so difficult to prove, *i.e.*, that the prize fowls were not fairly eligible. Under such circumstances we may thank those for their courtesy who volunteer a contradiction of such accusations, or an explanation of the circumstances which may have led to them; but those who are interested (and who in the poultry world is not?) have *THEN* no right to require, or even to request an explanation, because the proper time is gone by.

The proverb says, "what is every one's business is no one's business," but we believe there is much more public spirit in the world than the old saying would imply; and while we feel confident that the committees of poultry shows are earnest in their endeavours to prevent unfairness, we hope lookers-on will aid them by every means in their power, not only by giving them any important information they may receive, but by doing so at the time when the intelligence may be most serviceable.

East Lancashire Poultry Association.

(LATE NELSON).

THE Second Exhibition of Poultry, open to general competition, will take place in the Cloth Hall, Colne. On Wednesday,

the 31st October, and Thursday, 1st November, 1855.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.

Class.	1st.		2nd.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
1. Cock and two Hens.....	20	0	10	0
2. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	0	10	0
COCHIN CHINA (OF ANY COLOUR.)				
3. Cock and two Hens.....	20	0	10	0
4. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	0	10	0
DORKINGS (OF ANY COLOUR.)				
5. Cock and two Hens.....	20	0	10	0
6. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	0	10	0
GOLDEN SPANGLED HAMBURGS.				
7. Cock and two Hens.....	20	0	10	0
8. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	0	10	0
GOLDEN PENCILLED HAMBURGS.				
9. Cock and two Hens.....	20	0	10	0
10. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	0	10	0
SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURG.				
11. Cock and two Hens.....	20	0	10	0
12. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	0	10	0
SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURG.				
13. Cock and two Hens.....	20	0	10	0
14. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	0	10	0
POLAND (OF ANY VARIETY).				
15. Cock and two Hens.....	20	0	10	0
16. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	0	10	0
GAME (OF ANY VARIETY).				
17. Cock and two Hens.....	20	0	10	0
18. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	0	10	0
BANTAMS (OF ANY VARIETY).				
19. Cock and two Hens.....	20	0	10	0
20. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	20	0	10	0
ANY OTHER DISTINCT VARIETY.				
21. Cock and two Hens, or Cockerel and two Pullets...	20	0	10	0
TURKEYS.				
22. Cock and two Hens, above one year old.....	20	0	10	0
23. Cock and two Hens, of 1855	20	0	10	0
DUCKS (OF ANY VARIETY).				
24. Drake and two Ducks, above one year old.....	20	0	10	0
25. Drake and two Ducks of 1855.....	20	0	10	0
GEESE.				
26. Gander and two Geese.....	20	0	10	0

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. The Cockerels and Pullets are to be birds hatched in 1855.

2. Entries must be made on the forms sup-

plied by the secretaries, on or before the 17th October. No entries can be received after that date. The entrance money to be paid at the time the entries are made.

3. The whole of the poultry must be at the place of exhibition not later than half-past nine o'clock, A.M., on the 31st October. Birds from a distance can be taken in charge from two o'clock, P.M., the day previous to the exhibition. Arrangements will be entered into to convey the birds sent to and from the Colne station; each pen must be sent in a separate hamper, and the carriage prepaid.

4. Proper persons will be appointed by the association to attend and feed the birds, and necessary accommodation will be provided for their comfort; all hampers must be addressed in full, and the name of the exhibitor stated on the cards forwarded for that purpose.

5. After the exhibition, the men appointed by the association only will be allowed to remove the birds from the pens, and place them in their proper hampers.

6. Exhibitors may either enter their birds as not for sale, or state a selling price. All birds to which a price is affixed must be sold at the price named, if claimed; five per cent. being deducted from all sales, towards defraying the expenses of the exhibition. The hampers in which the birds are sent will, in cases of sale, become the property of the purchasers. All sales must be made through the secretaries.

7. All pens will be disqualified if the plumage of the birds shall have been trimmed, removed, or otherwise tampered with.

8. The judges will be empowered to withhold prizes where the specimens are deemed unworthy.

9. No fowls can be removed from the place of exhibition until nine o'clock, P.M., on the second day of exhibition, or the following morning, when those from a distance will be forwarded by the first conveyances to their respective destinations.

10. No member of the association, stranger, or exhibitor, to be admitted into the place of exhibition under any pretence whatever, until the judges have gone round, and the awards been given into the hands of the secretaries.

11. Specimens must be *bona-fide* the property of the exhibitor; any misstatement as to proprietorship, or age of fowl, will exclude from participating in any of the prizes awarded.

12. The ages of all specimens must be stated

as accurately as possible, birds must be named by what the exhibitor believes to be their correct title; all specimens entered in a wrong class will necessarily be excluded from competing for the prizes. There will be no appeal from the decision of the judges.

13. No dogs allowed in the exhibition; a person will be appointed to take charge of sticks and umbrellas, subject to a small charge.

14. The committee guarantee every possible care, but they will not be answerable for any losses that may occur from accident or mistake.

15. All applications requiring an answer must contain an envelope stamped, and fully directed.

16. All subscribers of five shillings will be allowed to exhibit one pen of fowls, and have one ticket of admission; subscribers of ten shillings two pens, and two tickets of admission; and so on in proportion; and an additional charge of two shillings per pen for all extra entries. Non-subscribers will be charged two shillings per pen for each entry, and one ticket allowed for admission.

17. To avoid confusion, the prize-money will be remitted in the course of a week after the exhibition.

Exhibitors are requested not to send specimens in an unhealthy state, as they will be rejected.

NOTICE.—Exhibitors may send their fowls with the greatest confidence, as the room is large, and ventilation will be especially attended to.

Prices of admission first day, from 12 o'clock, A.M., till 6 o'clock, P.M., One Shilling each; from 6 o'clock to 9 o'clock, Sixpence each.

Second day, from 10 o'clock, A.M., till 2 o'clock, P.M., One Shilling each; from 2 o'clock till 6 o'clock, Sixpence each; from 6 o'clock to 9 o'clock, Threepence each.

N.B. All communications to be addressed (post-paid), to Messrs. Thomas and Edward Booth, Hon. Secs., Marsden, near Burnley.

Royal Agricultural Society.

PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING AT CARLISLE.

Thursday, July 19.—Trial-yard open at twelve o'clock at noon, when the public will be admitted, at 5s. for each person, to view the trials of the steam-engines. This payment has special reference to the trial-yard only, and will not entitle the person who makes it to an admission into the general

show-yard for the exhibition of implements.

Friday, July 20, to Tuesday, July 24.—Trial-yard open at nine o'clock in the forenoon, when the public will be admitted on each day at 5s. for each person, to view the trials of the steam-engines, barn-works, and other agricultural machinery and implements generally. This payment has special reference to the trial-yard only, and will not entitle the person who makes it to an admission into the general show-yard for the exhibition of implements.

Wednesday, July 25.—The implement-yard open to the public from seven in the morning till six in the evening; admission 2s. 6d. each person.

The judges to inspect the live stock and award the prizes.

At one o'clock (or as soon after as the judges shall have delivered in their awards) the public to be admitted into the cattle-yard and to the exhibition of farm-poultry, on the payment of 10s. each person, at the special entrance: members of council and governors of the society being admitted by tickets to be purchased at the finance department of the society at the show-yard. N.B. Notice will be posted up over such entrance when the judges shall have completed their awards. At eight o'clock in the evening the yard will be closed.

Thursday, July 26.—The general show-yard of cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, farm-poultry, and implements, open to the public from six o'clock in the morning till six in the evening; admission 2s. 6d. each person.

The dinner of the society in the pavilion adjoining the show-yard, at four o'clock; the doors open at three.

Friday, July 27.—The general show-yard open to the public from six o'clock in the morning, till six in the evening; admission 1s. each person.

General meeting of the members in the Guildhall, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

President—Mr. Miles, M.P.

STEWARDS OF DEPARTMENTS:—

Cattle—Mr. Simpson; Mr. Woodward; Sir Stafford Henry Northcote, Bart., M.P.

Implements—Mr. Fisher Hobbs; Mr. Cavendish; Mr. Hoskyns.

Poultry—The Hon. and Rev. Stephen Willoughby Lawley.

Finance—Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart.; Colonel Challoner.

Sale of Tickets—Mr. Henry Wilson.

Receipts and Admission to Show Yard—Mr. Raymond Barker.

Pavilion Dinner—Sir John V. B. Johnstone, Bart., M.P.; Sir John Villiers Shelley, Bart., M.P.; Mr. Brandreth; Mr. Thompson.

General Arrangement of Show—Mr. Brandreth Gibbs.

By order of the Council,
JAMES HUDSON, *Secretary*.

London, May 2nd, 1855.

By the regulations of the society, all persons admitted into the show-yard, or other places in the temporary occupation of the society during the meeting, shall be subject to the rules, orders, and regulations of the council.

Pavilion dinner tickets: price 10s. each (including one pint bottle of wine) will be sold at the finance department of the show-yard on the Wednesday and Thursday of the show-week, between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon and three in the afternoon each day.

Subscriptions due to the Society will be received by the Finance Committee, at their department adjoining the public entrance to the show-yard.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD IN MAY.

The council acknowledged the liberality and general co-operation of the railway companies, in promoting the objects of the society in the transit of live stock and implements. The principal companies have signified their consent to a renewal of their concessions of last year in favour of the exhibitors at the Carlisle meeting.

The council have decided to hold the County meeting of 1856, in the district comprising the counties of Bedford, Buck-

ingham, Cambridge, Essex, Hertford, and Huntingdon, at Chelmsford, Essex.

The council have been favoured by the Earl of Clarendon with copies of dispatches from her Majesty's ministers and consuls abroad, reporting the result of their inquiries and researches connected with the occurrence of guano, or the nitrates, in tropical districts. Some of these communications have been of an important character, and have referred to discoveries of extensive deposits of those valuable manures, as well as to the occurrence of an unlimited supply of native carbonate of soda in South America. His lordship has conveyed to the council an assurance, that whatever facilities or privileges are granted to other countries by the governments, within whose territories these newly-discovered deposits occur, will be claimed by her Majesty's government on behalf of the agricultural and commercial communities of the United Kingdom.

Isle of Wight Poultry Show.

WE are requested to state that the piece of plate which is offered for competition to the exhibitors at this show, will be awarded to the most successful competitor.

The Comic Poultry-Guide.

(Continued from page 393.)

A CHAPTER ON COMBS.

THESE appear both important and familiar. They are important to the exhibitor of poultry, because on their formation, shape, and position, will often hang the question of success or defeat. They are familiar, because they are on the tip of every man's tongue. Thus, they have afforded a name to a flower; they occur in Shakspeare, when Flucellen bids Pistol eat the leek, because it is good for his "ploddy cockscomb;" and we know when a swagging bully is to be put down, it is said, "he must have his comb cut." Now, the flower was unquestionably named after a

rose or double comb, but we do not for a moment imagine Fluellen referred to either in particular. In Shakspeare, as in Dorkings or Brahma Pootras, either will do.

It is the attribute of a cock. The size of it denotes his sex, and distinguishes him from the hen. But judges are sometimes more particular than nature, and they have decided that a Poland cock must have no comb, not even a *little* one. Like Phito they are inexorable, and although it grows naturally, they say it should *not* grow. It is settled that this bird shall not have comb and top-knot as well, just in the same way that a board regulates the clothing or head-piece of a regiment. So speaks the near relation of the heavenly bodies, when after ordering each Chinaman to kill two foreigners, and drive the rest into the sea, he says, "Let this be a decree!"

The same rule does not hold good with the Hamburg cock; he must have a large comb, and it must be wide, full of points, sitting firmly on the head, with a spike behind, inclining upwards.

The Dorking cock enjoys considerable liberty; he may have single, double, or cup comb. It is said "a good horse is never of a bad colour;" and it may be paraphrased, a good Dorking cock never has a bad comb.

The Brahma Pootra cock has choice of two, single and pea-comb.

The Sebright Bantam must have a double comb. Black, White, and other Bantams may have any they please.

All hens have combs, save and except the Polands.

"Sir," said the tipsy lawyer, to an associate who was enjoying all the comfort that can be derived from sitting in the stocks, "I tell you they cannot put you in the stocks for being drunk."

"I know they can't," said the man, "but they have."

In like manner we tell Poland fowl exhibitors, their birds *must not* have combs. I know they must not, say they woefully, but they have.

The combs of all hens must be of the same character as the cocks with which they are placed, that is, if they are intended for exhibition.

It will thus be seen combs are of many sorts, single, double, cup and pea. There is another comb, which is not a comb; it is neither "fish, nor flesh, nor good red-herring." It is found on the head of a Malay. It is hard and coarse, and would seem to have been once a flourishing, juvenile double comb, but to have been at some time pressed down and flattened, as certain savage ladies treat the noses of their progeny.

Dorking fowls may have any sort of combs.

Spanish fowls must have single. The hen's must be drooping over the face; the cock's must be upright.

Hamburgs must be double.

Malays must be Malay's.

Sebright Bantams must be double.

Other Bantams may be anything.

Cochin Chinas must be single and upright.

Game hens' combs must be single and upright. It is said, that of the cock should be the same; but as it is imperative that it be cut off before he is exhibited, it is not necessary to make a fuss about it.

Such is the law of combs, and any deviation therefrom is fatal to the possession of silver medals or cups.

Lest there should be any doubt about the Hamburg comb, the following are the points as sent by an amateur. Wd. Lg. Tell 24; N. Hlw; Spd. upds; 2 Ichs. This must be plain.

As we have not been above receiving help for this work, we have not hesitated to ask it. Among other things, we required the description of a Pea comb. We have therefore, publicly to thank a friend for the following. "The Pea-comb is a most singular one; it is neither double nor single; nor is it like the Malay; in fact, it is unlike any other I ever saw."

We have imagined some of our readers might be inquisitive, and require to know

more, were it possible, than the above lucid description will afford. We have therefore endeavoured to go more into detail. It should be very thick at the base, and should present the appearance of three single-combs joined together. That in the centre is raised above the other two; the indentations are not so deep as in ordinary combs, and the points are very round at the top. The whole makes but a small comb; it is short, and rises but little from the head.

Ducks.

SUFFICIENT has, perhaps, been written in the "Poultry Chronicle" respecting the Musk, or Muscovy Duck, and also of the Grey Rouen and White Aylesbury Ducks, to need any further mention of those breeds by me; but as there are several other breeds of which little has been said, I shall make a few remarks respecting them. The varieties I allude to are the Black, the Blues, the Crested, the Hooked-billed, and Call Ducks.

The Black Ducks first claim attention because they are frequently exhibited, and rejoice in a variety of names, such as Black-amoores, Niggers, East and West Indians, Buenos Ayres, and even Labradorers. I am inclined to believe that this breed is merely a selection from our common stock, like the Aylesbury and Rouen varieties, for I have not been able to trace any importation of these birds from any of the above-named countries: I am, however, open to correction, if any of the numerous readers of the "Poultry Chronicle" are acquainted with any actual importation. It is also most improbable that they should have been imported both from East and West, consequently one of the names must be wrong.

The Labrador Duck is also a distinct variety, consequently that name is incorrect; and I very much doubt if the name Buenos Ayres is any better, for I believe these names have arisen from the foolish practice of giving a foreign name to any-

thing that it is thought desirable to puff up; and had its origin most probably in their plumage being black as a negro or Indian: be that as it may, I prefer to call them simply Black Ducks, unless a better claim can be shown for any of their other titles.

These ducks have been long bred in this country as fancy stock; they are perfectly black in plumage, with a high metallic lustre on their feathers; their bills and feet are dark, and the shells of their eggs are frequently dark-coloured; they are medium sized, and the flesh of excellent flavour.

A second and larger variety is sometimes met with, which I much suspect is a cross from the Musk Duck; for though such crosses are generally sterile, yet I have been creditably informed that they will occasionally perpetuate their kind, though such cases are the exception and not the rule.

Mr. T. B. Minor, in the "American Poultry Book," gives the following account of the Cayuga Black Duck:

"This variety of duck has been bred by Mr. J. S. Clarke, of Cayuga county, N. Y., for nearly twenty years, and is undoubtedly a cross between some wild variety and the domestic duck; and though Mr. C. has bred them for that length of time, they were first brought to notice through the columns of the 'Albany Cultivator,' in 1851.

"Mr. Howard, the editor, (now of the 'Boston Cultivator,') having seen in the market some ducks of this variety dressed, and weighing about 8 lbs. each; and always having an eye to the useful, he traced them to Mr. C., since which the stock has become more widely disseminated, and is in size superior to the Aylesbury, a trio of which were exhibited at the Birmingham Poultry Show, weighing (alive) 22 lbs., being considered as monsters even at that weight; while these dress from 7 to 9 lbs., making the trio 21 to 27 lbs. ready for the spit.

"The Cayuga Black Duck is very prolific, giving about 150 eggs in the year;

are both ornamental and quiet, not disposed to ramble, and never taking to wing."

This Black Duck I suspect to be the same as the large variety of the so-called Buenos Ayrean Ducks, and the cross spoken of to refer to the Brazilian Musk Duck.

The Blue Ducks, known also as Warwickshire Blues, are a very handsome and excellent variety, taking an intermediate place between the Rouen and Aylesburys. As their name denotes, their plumage is generally of a bluish slate, or dun colour, though their necks are mostly white, which gives them a very pretty appearance. In the drakes, the beaks are greenish, and the thigh feathers a rich chesnut colour.

Specimens of this breed are occasionally of a buff colour, and others almost black, with white throats; they are large excellent breeders, being better sitters and mothers than the Rouens, and their flesh is better flavoured than the Aylesburys, that is to say, not so insipid as most white ducks are; while they are more compact, having shorter necks and consequently less ofal than the far-famed Aylesburys. I am not able to say if the name Warwickshire Ducks as applied to them is correct; but certain it is, they only require to be better known to be more appreciated.

B. P. B.

(To be continued).

Devon and Exeter Poultry Show.

I HAVE not seen any account of the Exeter Poultry Show in your "Chronicle" of last Wednesday), which was held on Northernhay, Thursday and Friday, June 28th and 29th, I therefore enclose you the prizes that were then awarded.

The Spanish were not worthy of a first prize.

Dorkings fair, but small when compared with birds exhibited at other shows.

The prize pens of Buff Cochins were a great improvement upon last year.

Partridge a first-rate class; better birds I never saw.

The Hamburg classes very indifferent. Silver Polish and Black Polish good; Gold below the usual standard.

Game well represented.

Turkeys fair. Only one pen of Geese exhibited, and that not worthy of a first prize.

The Aylesbury Ducks the best class in the exhibition. All the prizes were awarded to Mrs. Ford for birds of extraordinary size and merit. I fancied I recognised one pen in this class that was successful at Tiverton.

To Rouen Ducks a first prize was not awarded.

The show was well arranged and conducted, but it is a matter of regret that it clashed with the Windsor Show, both being held on the same day.

Judges of poultry, Rev. W. W. Wingfield, Penzance, and Rev. J. P. Sydenham; assisted in the pigeon department by Mr. Piper, Exeter.

The silver medals for the best coloured Dorkings and Turkeys were given by the Rev. J. Huyshe, of Clisthydon.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Class 1. SPANISH (Cock and two hens).—No 1st prize. 2nd prize, James Babbage, Paris-street. 3rd prize, Mrs. Brutton J. Ford, Ide. Class 2. CHICKENS (Pens of four).—No 1st prize. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard, Aldwick Court, Langford, near Bristol.

Class 3. DORKINGS, COLOURED.—1st prize (Silver Medal), J. F. Pearse, Lower Slewton, Whimple. 2nd prize, Mrs. John Hole, Green-end, Plymtree. 3rd prize, Henry Drew, Peamore. Highly commended, Henry Drew. Class 4. WHITE.—No 1st or 2nd prizes. 3rd prize, F. J. Coleridge, Esq., Ottery St. Mary. Class 5. CHICKENS.—1st prize, Mrs. John Hole. 2nd prize, Henry Drew. Commended, J. R. Rodbard.

Class 6. COCHIN CHINA, CINNAMON OR BUFF.—1st prize, W. L. Channing, Heavitree. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard. 3rd prize, William Brown, Red Gate, Shute, Devon. Class 7. BROWN OR PARTRIDGE COLOUR.—1st prize, Rev. G. F. Hodson, North Petherton. 2nd prize, Boughton Kingdon, Upper Paul Street. 3rd prize, Mrs. B. J. Ford. Class 8. CHICKENS—1st prize, B.

Kingdon. 2nd prize, Henry L. Bean, Ashcott, near Glastonbury. Commended, B. Kingdon, H. L. Bean, S. H. Warren, Dulverton, and J. R. Rodbard.

Class 9. GAME.—BLACK BREASTED AND OTHER REDS.—No 1st prize awarded. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard. Commended, Dr. Scott, St. Leonards, and J. R. Rodbard. Class 10. DUCKINGS, &c.—1st prize, J. H. Amory, Tiverton. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard. Highly commended, J. H. Amory. Class 11. CHICKENS.—1st and 2nd prizes, J. R. Rodbard.

Class 12. MALAYS.—No 1st prize awarded. 2nd prize, J. Buncombe, Wellington.

Class 13. HAMBURGS, GOLDEN PENCILLED.—No 1st prize awarded. 2nd prize, John Westcott, Thorverton. Class 14. GOLDEN SPANGLED.—No 1st prize awarded. 2nd prize, James P. Hine, Thickthorn, near Ilminster. 3rd prize, Richard Daw, Mount Radford. Class 15. SILVER PENCILLED.—1st prize, Thos. Michelmores, Jun., Berry, Totnes. 2nd prize, Mrs. Sophia Martyn, Thorverton Vicarage. 3rd prize, S. H. Warren. Class 16. SILVER SPANGLED.—No first prize awarded. 2nd prize, Rev. H. Venn, Honiton.

Class 17. POLANDS, BLACK WITH WHITE CRESTS.—1st prize, G. S. Fox, Wellington. 2nd prize, Miss Caroline Quicke, Newton St. Cyres. Class 18. GOLDEN.—No first prize awarded. 2nd prize, Charles Edwards, Brockley Court, near Bristol. 3rd prize, T. J. Bremridge, Heavitree. Class 19. SILVER.—1st prize, Mrs. B. J. Ford. 2nd prize, Charles Edwards. 3rd prize, James Turner, Northbrook, near Exeter. Class 20. THOROUGH BRED.—1st prize, Thomas Ward, Crediton (White Spanish). 2nd prize, George Turner, Barton, near Exeter (Chittigong). 3rd prize, Miss Selina H. Northcote, Pynes (White Guinea Fowls). Commended, Mrs. Col. Servanté, Hollacombe, Torquay (Ptarmagan).

EXTRA STOCK. 1st prize, W. L. Channing, (white Spanish Chickens). 2nd prize, W. Hugo, Mount Radford (Andalusian Chickens).

Class 21. BANTAMS, GOLD LACED.—No first prize awarded. 2nd prize, Rev. G. F. Hodson, North Petherton. Class 22. SILVER LACED.—No first prize awarded. 2nd prize, W. Connett, 270 High-street. Class 23. ANY OTHER VARIETY.—1st prize, Rev. G. S. Cruwys, Cruwys Morchard House, Tiverton. 2nd prize, Rev. G. F. Hodson. SINGLE SPECIMENS.—W. L. Channing exhibited ten single specimens, and for one, a Cochín China cock, a certificate of merit was awarded him.

Class 24. TURKEYS.—1st prize (silver medal), G. Turner; 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard. 3rd prize, R. T. Head, Alphington (wild American).

Class 25. GEESE.—(Gander and two Geese). No first prize awarded. 2nd prize, Mrs. John Hole, Plymtree.

Class 26. DUCKS, AYLESBURY.—(Drake and two Ducks). 1st (bronze medal), 2nd and 3rd prizes, Mrs. B. J. Ford. Highly Commended, G. Turner. Class 27. ROUEN.—No 1st prize awarded. 2nd prize, Charles Ballance, Taunton. 3rd prize, Charles Edwards.

Class 28. PIGEONS.—PAIR CARRIERS. 1st prize, Charles Bluett, Taunton. Commended, Master A. J. Mackey, St Leonard. Class 29. PAIR ALMOND OR ERMINE TUMBLERS.—1st prize, W. L. Channing. Highly Commended, W. L. Channing. Class 30. PAIR FANTAILS.—1st prize, Miss Selina H. Northcote, Pynes. Commended, C. Edwards. Class 31. PAIR JACOBINS.—1st prize, Master A. J. Mackey. Commended, C. Bluett. Class 32. PAIR POUTERS.—1st prize, C. Bluett. Class 33. PAIR NUNS.—1st prize, C. Edwards. Class 34. PAIR BARNS.—1st prize, C. Bluett.—Commended, C. Edwards. Class 35. PAIR TRUMPETERS.—1st prize, C. Bluett. Commended, Rev. G. F. Hodson. Class 36. PAIR ARCHANGELS.—1st prize, C. Bluett. Class 37. PAIR OWLS.—1st prize, C. Bluett. Commended, W. L. Channing. Class 38. PAIR TURBITS.—1st prize, W. L. Channing. Commended, Master A. J. Mackey. Class 39. PAIR RUMTS.—No prize awarded.

EXTRA PIGEONS.—PAIR MAGPIES. 1st prize, Miss Selina H. Northcote. PAIR DRAGONS.—1st prize, W. L. Channing. PAIR YELLOW BEARDS.—1st prize, W. L. Channing.

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

[We were sorry an "Old Subscriber's" favour arrived just too late for last week.—Ed.]

Lewes Agricultural Show.

BEING at the above place, I thought you might like to hear my opinion of the poultry department, and at the same time it might be interesting to some of your readers. It was very limited, there being only, I should think, about 30 or 40 pens. The first prize of White Aylesburys was awarded to ducks with bright orange bills; the second was an excellent pen. The geese were good,

and there was a good pen of Spanish, some very good Dorkings: the first prize was taken by Mr. Lewry; and there was a pen of White Guinea fowls, but, on the whole, it was the worst I ever saw, cattle included; and I think the public must have got an idea that it would be, as the attendance was by no means good.

RED BEARD.

Prizes for Pigeons

AT THE BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND
POULTRY SHOW, TIVERTON.

CARRIERS.—Mr. G. C. Adkins, West House, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

BARBS.—Mr. Harrison Weir, Lyndhurst Road, Peckham, near London.

POUTERS.—Mr. S. Summerhenge, Taunton, Somerset.

RUNTS.—Mr. G. C. Adkins, West House, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

FANTAILS.—Mr. G. C. Adkins.

JACOBS.—Mr. G. C. Adkins.

TURBITS.—Mr. Edward H. Burge, Taunton, Somerset.

NUNS.—Mr. Thomas Twose, Bridgwater, Somerset.

ARCHANGELS.—Mr. G. C. Adkins.

TRUMPETERS.—Mr. Thomas Twose.

ALMOND TUMBLERS.—Mr. G. C. Adkins.

ANY OTHER VARIETY OF TUMBLERS.—Mr. E. H. Burge.

OWLS.—Mr. Harrison Weir.

DRAGONS.—Mr. T. J. Cottle, Pulteney Villa, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Children and Chickens.

FROM THE "AMERICAN COUNTRY GENTLEMAN."

THE feeding and care of poultry is a department of rural employment peculiarly fitted for children. And some children take to it almost instinctively. Perhaps many who now seem to feel little interest in the care of fowls, might have a taste and tact for it developed in them, if they were encouraged in some way to commence taking such a charge by superintending the raising of broods of chickens. Most children could easily be induced to enter upon this employment with interest and

pleasure. If they were promised so much money, which they might call their own and spend just as they might think best, for every chicken which they were successful in raising to maturity, this, or some similar reward, as giving them a share in the chickens raised, or a per centage of all the eggs and fowls sold during the succeeding year, would be quite likely to interest the bulk of children in the care of chickens. An interest in them begun when they were young, would be likely to continue when the fowls were older; and this interest would exercise and manifest itself in leading these children to undertake the whole care and management of the denizens of the poultry yard.

Among several beneficial consequences which would be likely to flow from such a development of a love and interest in chickens, both young and old, the following seem deserving of the attention of parents and of the friends of the young.

A love of rural life is likely to be formed by an interest in poultry and by taking care of them. Handsome poultry attract the notice both of the inmates of a rural residence, and of passers-by, about as much as any other object of interest upon the premises. Ornamental and fruit trees, shrubbery, flowers, and such like have attractions of a certain kind, but do not inspire so deep an interest as living creatures which are favourites. If this interest in the strutters around the door-yard, which is felt more or less by all, has been felt in childhood, will exert more influence on future tastes and longings than if wholly unknown to our childhood. We have known a case in which this love of fowls had a very decided influence upon the destiny of a whole family, to all appearance, too, for good.

The maternal head of the family had been reared in the country, and had been accustomed to take quite a delight in talking care of chickens and fowls. Not long after moving into a village she felt a sense of loneliness and ennui. Objects which had heretofore called forth some of

her feelings and faculties into exercise were now out of her reach, and nothing in village society could fill up the vacuum. She could not at first tell even herself what was the matter with her. A visit to a friend in the country first made her sensible of the nature of her malady. She found that she was severely afflicted with a disease which learned doctors call *nostralgia*—a longing for her old familiar haunts, or for a rural residence, and rural objects of interest. She wished she could have a flock of fowls. This feeling, though striven against, could not be overcome, and led at length to the family's return to the country. If it is desirable, then, to save our children from that current which sweeps so many into villages and cities, with all their vanities, dissipations, excitements, and disquietudes, we may do considerable towards this end by developing an interest in chickens in those children in their earliest years.

A. B.

Columbary.

NO. XVII. THE GULL PIGEON.

I HAVE seen in London individuals of a variety of pigeon by the above name, both living and stuffed: in appearance they were large, runtish-looking birds, smooth-headed and clean-footed; their plumage being white, with the exception of the wings and scapular feathers, which were black; the marginal pinion feather, however, was white, which marking exactly resembled that of the large Black-backed sea-gull, so common on our coasts, and from this circumstance they derive their name of Gull Pigeons.

B. P. B.

The Anerley Show.

I BEG leave most respectfully to inform you I shall feel truly grateful if you will afford me space in your most valuable "Poultry Chronicle" for the following appeal to the gentlemen of the pigeon fancy.

Gentlemen,—In looking over the very liberal prize list of the first Anerley poultry show, I cannot in my conscience come to any other conclusion than that the pigeon-fanciers are bound to show at this Anerley show; for, from what I have heard Miles' Boy say, I have every reason to believe that, as regards pigeons, the prizes will be doubled, or more, next year, provided they are A. 1 at this show: besides, he whispered in my ear, the "pigeons" would be judged by first-rate judges, and not by gentlemen of other fancies. However good and of whatever variety the pigeons are, I think on this occasion the best birds will win; it is only by sending first-rate birds, and having good and impartial judges, it can be ascertained who are in possession of the best birds. I therefore hope that every pigeon-fancier in the kingdom who has really good birds will follow my intended example by showing at this exhibition (or, to use a homely phrase, have a shy at the prizes if they lose their stick). I sincerely hope this will be one of the best, if not the very best show that has taken place in England, owing to the liberality of the president, vice-president, patrons, and subscribers; for when we take it into consideration that between £300 and £400 will be awarded in money and silver cups, I consider we are bound to show.—From a brother fancier,

JOHN MATTHEWS EATON.

Philo-Peristeron Society.

THE annual show of young birds took place at the Freemasons' Tavern on Tuesday last, the president, Mr. Carroll, in the chair. The only members who brought birds were Messrs. Matthew Wicking, Bult, and Harrison Weir. The first of these gentlemen had two excellent pens of short-faced Tumblers, Fantails, Jacobines, Owls, &c. Mr. Bult's Pouters were, as they always are, very good: he also brought a pen of Jacobines of excellent quality. Mr. Harrison Weir's Barbs were also pronounced to be very good, being better than had been

shown for some time; he also exhibited an immensely-feathered *Red White and Blue Trumpeter*, with others of superior breed. On the whole the show, though rather small, was very well worth seeing, as the birds were of the highest class, and reflect the greatest credit on the gentlemen by whom they were bred. R. B.

Home and the Homestead.

CONTINENTAL FARMING.

(Abridged from the "Royal Agricultural Society's Journal.")

MR. PETER LOVE, the author of this interesting account of, as much as he could see of, Continental farming, in a rapid journey from Ostend to Tokay, commences by stating that as he started with the idea that we, as farmers, are far superior to all other nations, he feels it his duty to give a clear and faithful record of what he saw to admire, as well as what he saw to regret in foreign agriculture.

He left Ostend for Cologne in May, 1853, passing through a tract of country capable of being made productive if properly drained and enclosed; but the water in parts stands within eighteen inches of the surface, causing comparative barrenness where fertility ought to prevail. The cattle of the district are thin-fleshed, and the sheep, if possible, worse; but the land is tolerably farmed, and if properly drained and enclosed would, with a better breed of cattle and sheep, more than double its produce.

After describing land, of which "the cultivation was tolerably good, considering it was nearly all done by females, who certainly keep it free from weeds," the author proceeds to describe his journey from Cologne to Dusseldorf.

"After leaving Cologne on our way to Dusseldorf, we passed over a pretty district of light red sandy soil, with some good-sized farmsteads on it, all in tillage except some water meadows, which are

well managed. This part is well farmed, as far as the cleanliness of the crops goes, but the crops were lighter than they ought to be on such soil.

"We then passed through some poor hungry soil, adjoining a barren heath, where the farming was clean, but the crops very light. This was succeeded by a better district, where the farms were generally large, to many of which were attached large distilleries. Although the facilities appeared good for producing heavy crops, yet they were light.

"The whole of these districts are open fields, which, along with the severity of the winter, prevents sheep from being brought into use for the development of the powers of this light dry soil. If the whole was enclosed, and cheap shelter sheds built with grated floors for the sheep during the severity of the winter; and green crops grown for summer and winter feeding of sheep on the land whenever the weather would permit; and the house-made sheep-manure drilled with the green crops, together with bones and guano, I feel convinced there would be more than double the produce obtained from the soil. The industry displayed in keeping the land clean is indeed great; the farmers here do not allow weeds to enter into competition with their crops: a war of extirpation bids fair to free the land of the nuisance.

"The crops grown are—rye as the staple crop, wheat and rye mixed, barley, oats, peas, beans, rape-seed, tares, clover, trifolium (*incarnatum*), turnips, beet, potatoes. About one-third seemed to be pulse and green crops, and two-thirds white crops, which were all light.

"I observed about twenty-five cubic yards of farm-yard dung being applied per English acre for either beetroot or turnips, after a crop of tares had been cut for house-feeding cows.

"The farming implements were of a simple and apparently rude description; but their ploughs were very efficient, and the pulverisation of the land was perfect. The ploughs are short, light, wooden im-

plements, with two wheels; the form of the turn-furrow is such that it completely pulverises the furrow in the act of turning it over, so that the after-operations to complete the cleaning and perfect tillage of the soil are few and simple."

The author gives his opinion that if the land beyond Dusseldorf were enclosed, and large flocks fed upon green crops, the produce of corn would be more than doubled, although half the land were at the same time growing green crops, producing wool and mutton, to which is appended the following remark as a note.

"Large flocks of sheep pre-suppose large consumption of mutton—an encouragement to the improvement of the lighter class of soils, which lends one of its most characteristic features to English farming, but exists to the same extent in few, if any, parts of the Continent. In the course of a tour through the corn districts of Silesia and Pomerania, during the autumn of 1850, the writer saw, upon a large farm near the corn port of Stettin, a field of rye of great extent, divided across the centre by a broad strip of land perfectly bare of crop. The corn dwindled away towards it on both sides, thinner and thinner, till it disappeared altogether. On enquiry, the reason given was, that the soil on this part of the field was too light to grow any corn crop. 'But why not try to grow turnips, and tread it into closer texture by feeding off with sheep?' I enquired. 'I might do that,' was the farmer's answer; 'but what am I to do afterwards *with the sheep?*' The demand here for meat would not be sufficient to find me a market for them.' The answer sounded strangely, but it applies to most of the districts passed through in the earlier part of the journey described in the above essay. Throughout the country from the Rhine to the Vistula, the regular and effective demand for animal food familiar with us would soon work a revolution in the agricultural system; and the vast tracts of land growing nothing but rye, with only a patch of wheat here and there, might be to a considerable extent applied

to wheat growing, were it aided by the essential preliminary of a home market for meat produce."

(To be Continued.)

EXPERIMENTS WITH SALT.

SEVERAL years since I sowed a field with barley—soil a marly loam, located on what geologists denominate gypseous shales. Soon after the barley came up, three bushels per acre of salt were sown on two-thirds of the field, leaving one-third in the centre unsalted. The straw of the barley that season generally rusted. Where salt was sown on this field, the straw was bright—where none was sown, the straw was rusty. The crop was best where salt was sown.

In the fall, the field was sown with wheat and harrowed, when three bushels of salt per acre were sown on the *whole* field. The wheat was nearly ruined by the midge, erroneously called weevil.

In the spring, previous to harvesting the wheat, the field was thickly seeded with timothy and a slight sprinkling of clover. For three successive years this field was mown, each year producing not less than three tons of hay per acre. The growth of grass was so large and fine as to attract great attention, some observing farmers saying they had never before seen so good. The grass was largest and best on those parts of the field which had received *two* dressings of salt.

In the spring following the last mowing, this field was ploughed once, and planted with corn, which at no time appeared promising, and gave less than an ordinary yield per acre.

So far I have given facts. I will now give my opinions, made up from observing the results of those facts.

The barley was benefited by the use of salt. The wheat showed no effect from the salt, though perhaps it would; but all had been salted, though two-thirds had received six bushels, and one-third but three bushels per acre.

The grass was best where most salt had been sown, and was more benefited by the

salt than was the barley. The corn was poor, and whether the cause was exhaustion of the soil by taking three unusually large crops of timothy hay, or the effects of the salt, or both, I cannot say; but as timothy, when taken off in hay, is an exhausting crop, and salt has a tendency to make the earth moist and consequently cold, I think both were injurious to the corn. The crop of barley which followed the corn was good, showing no difference between the parts where three bushels or six bushels of salt per acre had been used.

If others have used salt on land, I would like to have them give a detailed statement of the application and effects.

E. MARKS.

From the American "Country Gentleman."

On Bees.

THAT a stook hive which has swarmed, or a second swarm, sometimes becomes weak, and as the season advances perishes, is a fact so common in occurrence that it would be unnecessary to remark on it, were it not that by enquiring into the cause, the evil might be prevented or remedied. Unless where the family has been so reduced in numbers as actually to disable it from providing for itself, it will be apparent that failure is to be traced to the condition of the young queen. The first period of her existence it will be admitted is very precarious. To what dangers may an insect in its frequent flights through the air be exposed? and yet these are not the only risks which the young queen incurs. This is a subject which intimately concerns the prospects of the apiary, and to which it has occurred to me that less attention has been paid than it deserves; and while offering the result of my own observations, I would beg for information from those readers of the "Poultry Chronicle" who no doubt have met with the like occurrences in their apiaries, produced probably by dissimilar causes.

For the information of our general readers it may be as well to describe the effect produced on the inmates of a hive, when the death of the queen takes place *within* it. In so saying, it must be understood that the remarks are made on the most simple form in which bees give expression to their sentiments; there are other developments of their feelings which would seem to place all the laws of their instinct (according to our preconceived notions) at defiance.

The scene may be briefly described. An unusual number of bees come out in agitation; they do not go off to work, but fly about the mouth of the hive; others are running about the entrance, and a loud peculiar humming is heard; all appear restless and in disorder. At length there is a still greater rush out of the habitation, and in the midst of the bees the body of the queen is seen. First one of the crowd, then another, moves it a little further forward, all seem to shrink from the painful duty of conveying it away at once; at length in this manner the edge of the alighting board is reached, and the lifeless queen falls to the ground. The first time I witnessed the removal of a dead queen was at 8 o'clock in the evening, and the impression at first sight was, that the bees were swarming at a most unseasonable hour, so great was the commotion throughout the whole family. The only way in which I could quell it was by pushing the dead queen within the hive. The next time was at 9 o'clock in the morning; the bees continued in great agitation, flying and running about the outside of the hive as if seeking something, for about six hours, and then they gradually became more quiet, in fact their strength must have been exhausted. In neither of these instances was there brood in the hive.

The safety of the queen may be endangered during her absence from the hive. We cannot however suppose that she is permitted by her subjects to leave her domains and take these aerial flights without due care and precaution to insure

her safety. She is then the undisputed mistress of the hive, and all her movements are watched with solicitude by the workers. They guard her so zealously, that the task of watching her departure cannot be undertaken without some defence from their attack. In the middle of a hot summer's day the bees are pronounced to be cross, and it is found advisable to keep out of their way. There is indeed little comfort in their vicinity. One or two bees are continually flying with a sharp buzz at your face, and if you do not prudently walk quietly away, a sting near your eye concludes the dispute, and the bees are left to themselves. On the third or fourth day of her existence the queen commences her flights. During the morning the bees appear more than usually vigilant in watching about the entrance, they are more numerous, and some seem to be standing about as if in waiting for some great event. These are her majesty's life guards; they know it is her intention to leave the palace, and they wait at the portal, vigilantly driving away every intruder or any object that may appear likely to interfere with the privacy of the queen. On the first day of her departure, it is about 1 o'clock that all is evidently ready, the number of guards is increased, and if we look within we shall see the queen approaching the entrance to the hive, where the workers become agitated, and then she begins to exhibit signs of emotion, changing the placid demeanour with which she has traversed the hive during the morning. At length she prepares in earnest for her flight by trimming her wings and carefully brushing the eyes and antennæ. These preparations occupy several minutes, she appears irresolute: again the eyes are rubbed over, and at length she reaches the entrance. Then she advances a step or two, and not unfrequently timidly retreats within the hive, the attendants turning with her, vibrating their wings, and at this moment the spectator, if unprovided with a veil, is almost sure to have a dart planted in his face.

While on the most friendly terms with my bees, though they have refrained from stinging, I found one or two kept fluttering angrily so close to my eyes that it was impossible to keep them open, and the use of a veil became indispensable to vision. Her majesty soon returns, her attendants rush out around, and she carefully surveys the entrance to the hive, as already described some time since in the paper on the "homing" of bees. It may be recollected that on that occasion the queen was returned in safety, I will now relate an instance in which she was lost. Shortly after swarming, I found one afternoon a young queen on the ground in front of the hives. She was unable to fly, and on examination I found had lost one of her wings, and one of the antennæ, in all other respects she appeared perfect and lively. Placing a bee from one of the hives possessing a young queen with her under a glass, she at once seized and stung the worker. It was not *her* subject. I tried the bees of another hive, they immediately licked her and offered food. It appeared that she had been mutilated either in combat with a rival, or by the rough treatment of the workers, already described; however, she had become conqueror and sovereign, and now being disabled, was rendered useless, therefore I did not return her. Her fate gave me the opportunity of observing the effect produced by the loss of a young queen which had voluntarily left the hive. As evening approached, I expected to find symptoms of agitation and alarm. Instead of these appearances, all that was observable was a slight degree of restlessness; about a dozen bees were continually running about the entrances, not quietly humming as is usual after the labours of a fine warm day, but with the manner of bees who found it necessary to guard their hive from intruders. The following day there was about the same excitement as there may be seen when the young queen is about to take a flight, and in the evening the bees still seemed discontented. These appearances gradually subsided, the

family was strong, honey abundant, and they even continued to carry pollen for several weeks. The population, however, diminished, and in about a month when the hive of a sister queen carried eighty bags of pollen in five minutes, there were taken in here only fifteen. However, I repeated the experiment, placed a piece of comb, containing eggs, in the hive, and reared an artificial one. After this queen had been going abroad about ten days, I removed her, and the effect on the hive was exactly the same as before.

This then may be inferred to be the simple form in which the hive is affected by the loss of the queen under these circumstances. The bees are aware of her absence, which has been voluntarily undertaken, and which under ordinary circumstances varies in duration, from a minute to an hour: therefore we may infer that they have a consciousness that she ought to have returned sooner; and still the sentiment of *hope* overcomes the feeling of *despair* with which a certainty of her loss would inspire them.

We shall next have to consider the aspect of a bereaved family under a very different form; in the meantime, as I hope my observations will not be allowed to monopolise the bee-pages of the "Poultry Chronicle," I may express a hope that other bee-keepers will furnish us with their experience on these points, exhibiting as they do, the characteristics of our little favourites in so curious a manner. A.

Floriculture.

JULY 18.

Now is the time for the Queen of flowers to reign supreme, and our gardens are indeed a wilderness of sweetness. Occasional storms of rain, sometimes accompanied by gusts of wind, must remind us to see to the safety of the dahlias, and other tall and tufty-growing plants, which may be made secure by tying them to sticks hidden among the foliage. Carna-

tions and pinks also require constant attention in tying up the flower-stems as they grow tall, and in cutting off the flowers of the pinks as they fade. Where the ground becomes beaten down by heavy showers, it should, every now and then, be stirred on the surface. Attend to greenhouse plants by keeping the pots free from weeds, stirring the surface of the earth, and adding fresh mould where it is required. Give a gentle watering, with a rose on the watering pot, pretty nearly every afternoon. Plants which require it may be shifted into larger pots; straggling and luxuriant shoots may be shortened, removed, or tied, so as to give the plants a handsome shape. Cuttings which were planted early, and are now well rooted, may be transplanted singly into little pots; and seedlings which are strong enough may be pricked out four or five in a pot.

This is a good time for planting cuttings of succulent plants; and aloe of different kinds may be increased by slips or suckers from the stem of the plant near the ground, or from the roots just below the surface. Let the cuttings of Euphorbiums, Mesembryanthemums, &c., be laid upon a shelf in an airy room, and turned every day for twelve days. This is to prevent the wounded part decaying after they are planted. These plants in a natural state are supported very much by the air, so that while the cuttings are lying on the shelf they still maintain a kind of growth: the motion of their juices is continued, and the principle of life maintained. While lying like this, a kind of skin is thrown by nature over the wound, which afterwards enables the cutting to bear the moisture from the earth without getting mouldy.

It will still do to propagate China and Moss roses, and other sorts which are difficult to increase by layers. With powerful moist heat and light, almost all tender exotics may be raised from cuttings. In making the cuttings, leave a little of the hard, perfectly ripe wood to go into the earth; plant them in pots in mould suitable to their nature; plunge the pots in

tan, or leaves with heat in them; but the warmth in the tan should not rise above blood heat. Cover them with a glass, and water them every morning, about eight o'clock. In very hot days it may be necessary to sprinkle them twice a day, for the air about them must constantly be kept moist. Keep the glasses close until the plants begin to grow. After they are rooted admit a little air to harden them. They should not be shaded in the hottest sun till you give them air—then shade them a few hours in the middle of sunshiny days. They will strike in a pot or frame, where the tan is near the glass, without bell-glasses over them. When the nights are not very warm, cover them with mats. If the heat in the tan rises above 100 deg. it will destroy them; it is better, therefore, to err on the right side, for if the thermometer marks 80 deg. in the night it will be sufficient.

In the flower borders begin to calculate the chances of future gaiety. The roses, which are not perpetuals, will be out of flower in a very few weeks, although they are only now reaching their summer beauty—plant out, therefore, roots which promise to come to their beauty in a few weeks, and to keep the borders gay until their place shall be supplied by dahlias, China-asters, and chrysanthemums.

Entomology.

CHAP. VIII.

THE next order in entomology is *DERMAPTERA*, or the Earwigs, of which there are three if not more English species, viz. *Forficula auricularia*, the commonest kind, and *Labiator minor* and *Labiator gigantea*: the former a small species found in great plenty in old dunghills and other places of that sort; and the latter a large kind of a testaceous yellow colour, and sometimes found in considerable numbers on the seacoast in Hampshire, where they were first discovered by the Rev. Wm. Bingley. The common kind, called in Scotland the Gollach, is about three-quarters of an inch in length,

and has a somewhat flattened body; the wings are folded under very short elytra or wing-cases, and the extremity of the abdomen is armed with horny forceps: when alarmed the insect elevates the abdomen and opens these forceps for the purpose of defending itself from the attack of its enemies. It is not produced perfect from the egg, but it requires very little change before it arrives at that state which fits it for flight and generation. The fore wings of the earwig are square lengthy pieces, which cover but a very small portion of the body, and they are quite useless as organs of flight; the hind wings, folded into a small compass and completely covered by the fore wings, appear when examined in this position as useless as their coverings; when unfolded, however, they are remarkably beautiful, being of ample size, perfectly transparent, and displaying the prismatic colours; when moved in the light they are intersected with veins, which radiate from near the centre to the margin; when fully opened they are nearly the shape of the human ear, and it seems probable from this circumstance that their original name was earwing. It derives its present name from its supposed habit of insinuating itself into the ears of persons who incautiously lie down and sleep on the grass or any other place in which they are found; but though such a thing may have once or twice occurred, and I have heard of one such instance well authenticated, yet it certainly is a very unusual occurrence, and it cannot be considered more the habit of this insect to bury itself alive in the human head than it is of flies, beetles, or other insects. They seem, however, to be very timid insects, and when alarmed run into the nearest hole, and, like the ostrich, if they can but get their heads under cover and thus exclude the sight of danger, they seem to imagine that they are safe; hence it often happens that they will be found with their heads buried in the bottom of flowers, their forked tails sticking up among the stamens and pistils, so that they would probably escape the notice of any

one but a botanist or entomologist; and the few instances in which they have been known to enter the ear must be traced to this fear and desire to hide themselves, and I believe to these causes only. The gardener taking advantage of their timidity and their great liking for dark places to retire to on the approach of daylight, places traps of all kinds, consisting of little earthen pans or pots, hollow reeds, &c. &c., near the plants and in the places which they most frequent, and in the morning he kills them at his leisure. They are nocturnal in their habits and subsist principally on the leaves and flowers of plants and fruit; their mode of eating is exactly that practised by the caterpillars of moths and butterflies, clasping the edge of a leaf in their fore legs, and then stretching out their head as far as possible they bite out a mouthful, then another mouthful, and so on until the head is brought to the fore legs. They seem to be particularly fond of dahlias, pinks, and carnations, and they frequently quite spoil a flower in a single night's repast.

The female lays her eggs in the autumn in the cracks of the bark of old trees and places of a similar kind; they are usually from twenty to fifty in number; and what excites our admiration in the highest degree is that she does not, like other insects, forsake them as soon as laid, but actually sits on them like a hen until they are hatched!! This is so extraordinary that we seem almost inclined to think we must be drawing on the imagination for facts, but the circumstance appears too well authenticated to admit of a doubt. When the little ones leave the shell they closely resemble their parent, but they are without wings and are quite white; they run about after their mother wherever she moves, and she continues to brood over them with the greatest affection for many days. If they happen to be disturbed and scattered she will on the first opportunity collect them together again and brood over them as carefully as before, allowing them to push her about, and cautiously moving one foot after the other for fear of hurting them. How the young are

fed until the mother's care for them has ceased, does not appear to have been ascertained, but it is not until they are nearly half-grown that they are seen feeding on vegetables like the full-grown insect.

Crop Disease.

IN reply to your correspondent, C. G. B., I beg to state that I believe I have had several cases in my poultry-yard similar to the one he described in your last Wednesday's number; and I have no hesitation in saying that it is not roup. When I first noticed mine, it was generally after eating, when they were constantly twisting their necks as if they had swallowed something they could not get down into their crops. On examining them, I found their crops full of soft matter, and a thin gruelly fluid issued from their mouths. The first case I had, finding the crop full in the morning before the poultry were fed, I proceeded as in a case of "crop-bound"—that is, I made a small opening in the upper part of the crop, and took out the contents, which consisted of matted *dry grass*, gravel, and a little grain; after sowing the crop up again, the hen was kept by herself for three weeks, and fed on soft food, and she has since been perfectly well. In two other cases I was not so fortunate, as they were turned into the general yard in a week or ten days after the operation, and in a short time had a return of the complaint; so I put an end to their existence, as they were not valuable birds. I am under the impression that it is a want of nutritious green food that is the cause of the complaint, as the cases I have described happened in the winter, when there was but little grass in the portion of the field in which my poultry run. SELIM.

A Chapter of Scraps.

"SEEDS pass uninjured through the digestive organs of animals and birds, exposed with impunity to the most powerful of all solvents of vegetable and animal

matter, the gastric juice. And what is truly remarkable, irresistible as the action of that wonderful fluid is upon all dead vegetable and animal substances, it has no perceptible influence whatever upon any of these substances as long as they retain their vitality. No living being, when in the stomach of an animal, is acted upon by its gastric juice until the vitality of that being is destroyed."

"THE EGG, like most other living beings, maintains a temperature considerably above that of the surrounding medium. By a delicate thermometer, its vitality, that is, its freshness, may always be ascertained; and as long as it is alive it resists putrefaction under degrees of heat and moisture which cause it to run rapidly into the putrefactive process as soon as it is dead."

Why does every fowl bite and shake at a worm, earwig, or any other insect, until she has nearly divested it of vitality, but for the sole purpose of accommodating the digestive process? The more hooked the beak of any fowl is, the more that fowl will be carnivorous; and the noise that a fowl invariably makes in tearing a worm or a piece of flesh in pieces, is always the same, viz., "broody."

WHAT QUANTITY OF FOOD IS REQUISITE FOR POULTRY?—A Black Spanish cock and hen, confined and supplied with maize, oats, old mortar, pebbles riddled through a quarter-inch sieve, grass, water, and a very small portion of animal matter every day, were in splendid condition at the end of six weeks, and they consumed—First week, maize, 38 ounces; oats, 24 ounces. Second week, maize, 40 ounces; oats, 16 ounces. Third week, maize, 40 ounces; oats, 8 ounces. Fourth week, maize, 8 ounces; oats, 20 ounces. (Here oats were given alone.) Fifth week, maize, 32 ounces; oats, 10 ounces. (Both maize and oats.) Sixth week, maize, 36 ounces; oats, 11 ounces. The amount being for the 42 days—maize, 194 ounces; oats, 89 ounces. This gives an average of $6\frac{1}{2}$ ounces per day, or a little more than $3\frac{1}{4}$ ounces per bird. RUFUS.

Prescot Poultry Show—The Portable Pens.

IN the report on the above show your reporter has committed an error in ascribing the injury done to game hens, to our pens allowing their fighting their adjoining neighbours. Two cases presented themselves, and as our manager assisted in penning the birds, he is in a position to speak confidently. One of the birds was never placed in a portable pen at all, as it was found to have been much injured by its fellow-travellers. In the other case the bird was replaced in the basket because it continued to fight the hen which was in the pen with it.

Of this fact Mr. Beesley, one of the committee, can certify you, he being the gentleman who undertook that department, and was present when those very baskets were opened. It is no doubt a somewhat natural connection to suppose that injured birds have been hurt by *rival competitors*, but it is a point that should not be overlooked, that strange birds are often first brought together to make up a pen for exhibition. We think it due to ourselves to notice this error, as we have been at considerable expense and trouble enlarging the size of the cloths used, to give satisfaction to exhibitors.

We may here fulfil a promise made to your readers some time ago, that we would publish the result of an experiment in transmitting fowls by our portable pens.

We have great pleasure in being able to inform you that one of our pens, simply covered with oil-cloth, safely carried three large Cochins to Nuremberg, Bavaria, a journey of five days. In proof of this we possess the original letter of Philip Geisse, Esq., United States Consul in that place, for whom we purchased them at the Manchester Show. We are sorry the letter contains private matter which forbids its publication in full, but we are not violating any secret by printing the following, with which the communication concludes:—"Your Portable Pen I consider very prac-

ticable, and highly to be commended, as also the Patent Fencing, which could not be better—nor will I fail to recommend them.”
B. GREENING & Co.

Our Poultry Show.

(Concluded from page 380.)

THE next trouble was a complaint from an exhibitor that his birds were put in the wrong pen, and had got a prize in another person's name. Conciliating said he would arrange this, by putting up a card to that effect; but the exhibitor demanded that a note to that effect should be appended to every prize list. This Hot declared to be impossible. Exhibitor got angry; said he would never show again, and would expose it everywhere. Quarrelsome heard of him, and said he would soon put *him* to rights. He went in search of him, and found him in close conversation with Conceited, who was explaining he had nothing to do with the show. “But you have,” said Quarrelsome; “and you unpacked these very birds, and you shall be held responsible.”

These little disagreeables interfered somewhat with the harmony of the second day, and the committee separated, mutually agreeing that the sold pen was a very unpleasant affair.

The third was the cheapest, and most crowded day. Some members of the committee thought it might be left a little to itself; but here, for the first time, the Retired Tradesman spoke, and insisted on more vigilance being necessary.

Beyond some attempts at stealing eggs, nothing occurred, and the show finally closed.

The committee were together, and tired with four days' hard work, they all expressed their delight that it was over. “But the birds have to be sent away,” whispered Cool. “I am very tired,” said one. “Any one can do that,” said another. “It is dirty work,” said a third. “I unpacked them,” said a fourth. “I have pressing business at home,” said a fifth.

No one volunteered. “It will take all night,” said Despondency. “But it must be done,” said Hot. “Let us *all* set about it,” said Conciliating.

They did so; and although they passed the night at the work, it was well done. During their labours, Cool and Cautious said, according to their calculations it would pay well. “How about the £50 mistake,” said Despondency. “I will arrange that,” said Conciliating. Jokes then circulated, work was lightened by them, and even the last hard night was a pleasant one.

“This day week, gentlemen,” said the secretary, “we meet to wind up our accounts.”

Although a week was to pass before the final meeting, yet frequent communications passed between the members and the secretary, and it was soon known the accounts were satisfactory, and at the appointed time all wore smiling faces, except Conceited, who sat aloof.

The clergyman, who took the chair on the first occasion, did so now. Even Despondency was pleased, but expressed some anxiety about the disputed pen: Conciliating stated he had arranged it by seeing both parties, and they were satisfied. “Well,” said Despondency, “I must confess that Rash, Hot, and Sanguine are valuable members of committee; they gave me hope when I had but little.” “And I will say,” said Quarrelsome, “that you slow men are very useful, for I believe some of us would go too fast.” “In truth, gentlemen,” said the London Tradesman, “take you all together, you are a good committee, and have worked well. Let us thank our secretary and chairman.” When the former returned thanks, he touched modestly on his services, but stated he would not, on any account, undergo such labour again. Each member in his turn declared he was not aware of half the work there was in a poultry show. The chairman concluded all by declaring there was a balance of nearly fifty pounds; he enlarged on the good they had done, the money they had caused to be spent in the town, the benefit they would

derive from meeting together, and the pleasing fact that they contemplated no personal advantage or interest. When he left the chair, the meeting broke up, so far as its official character was concerned, but there was unmixed pleasure in the conversation, and in the respect each had gained from the others during their intercourse, with one exception. Even Conciliating could not bring Conceited to be friendly. He could not persuade others to agree to the estimate he had formed of himself; he believed his merits and services had been underrated, and declaring his contempt for the whole pursuit, he left the room.

"And now," said Sanguine, "let us resolve, with the same committee, to have another show next year." "Agreed," cried all, except the secretary; his denial of office was, however, drowned in good-humour and laughter.

Hardington is again in the list, with every prospect of success, and many of us have derived both pleasure and instruction from
OUR POULTRY SHOW.

INDIAN LIGHT BISCUIT.—A quart of Indian meal; a pint of sifted wheat flour; a very small tea-spoonful of salt; three pints of milk; four eggs. Sift the Indian and wheat meal into a pan, and add the salt. Mix them well. Beat the whites and yolks of the eggs separately. The yolks must be beaten until very thick and smooth; the whites to a stiff froth that will stand alone of itself. Then stir the yolks gradually (a little at a time) into the milk. Add by degrees the meal. Lastly stir in the beaten white of egg, and give the whole a long and hard stirring. Butter a sufficient number of cups, or small deep tins—nearly fill them with the batter. Set them immediately into a hot oven, and bake them fast. Turn them out of the cups. Send them warm to table; pull them open, and eat them with butter. They will puff up finely, if at the last you stir in a level a-spoonful of soda, melted in a little warm water.—*Extract.*

SOUND ADVICE.—A word in the ear of the young farmer, especially on a sandy

soil. Keep as much stock of cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry, as you can, and convert as much as possible of the crops into animal substance—save all the manure and offal, feed the land with it, and you will soon find that the more stock you keep, the more you may keep. S. J., *Grand Mound, Wash. Ter.—American Country Gentleman.*

In August, 1812, the average price of wheat was 155s. per qr., and the average of the year was 122s. The quartern loaf was sold at 1s. 6d.

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, we take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

BRAHMAS AND COCHINS.

SIR,—Setting aside the comparison between Cochins and Brahmas, which at all times is odious to many readers of your paper, as I have reason to know, being a reader myself, and taking two copies weekly for my friends in the country, with whom I am in the habit of corresponding, the injustice of B. T. S.'s "testimony" on the question of "*Brahma v. Cochin*" is manifest. His four Brahmas, from the middle of December till April, laid some eggs; "*the number averaged five per week during that time.*" Granting B. T. S. that suicidal admission which proves his stock to be very far from excellence, I can but conclude that he fixes his standard low, and is easily contented. From six Cochins during the same period, in 115 days or upwards, B. T. S. "*has hardly had more than a dozen eggs;*" and in a time of the year when persons conversant with poultry matters are fully aware that Cochins do lay well and regularly. Were the eggs removed by other

hands? was there mis-management? or were the Cochins cock birds with one exception? Even in the last case, mis-management must exist to cause a single Cochin or Brahma in 115 days to lay so few eggs as one dozen. Apologising for thus censuring the report of your correspondent, I remain,

VERITAS FOR EVER.

HAMBURGOS SITTING.

SIR,—I have seen in the pages of the "Poultry Chronicle" lately, discussions as to Hamburgs being good sitters or not. I beg to say that I have two Silver-Spangled Hamburg hens sitting now in two boxes, side-by-side, and no Cochin or Dorking hens can sit better than they do, only coming off for a very short time each morning to feed; one of these hens set very well last year, and would have hatched, only a few days previously a strange hen got into her nest, and broke her eggs. I believe them to be *pure*-bred Silver-Spangled Hamburgs; they are very handsome birds, and have been "commended." I have only had at present three chickens attacked with "gapes" out of upwards of a hundred, and those three I cured by catching them *directly* I saw them ailing, and putting a feather dipped in spirits of turpentine down their throats, turning it round, and *very quickly* withdrawing it; this I did twice or three times, and the chickens were cured.

A CONSTANT READER.

CAUTION TO AMATEURS.

SIR,—In a certain number of the "Poultry Chronicle" an advertisement was inserted, offering for sale two first-class Shanghai cock birds. Being in want of a first-rate Partridge-coloured bird, I wrote respecting him to the advertiser, and received a reply that he was a first-class bird, with "pure black breast, short, well-feathered, bright yellow legs," and a bird fit for the exhibition pen, "bred from first prize birds, which had on one occasion beaten one of Mr. Punchard's best pens." Upon receiving so favourable an account, I became the purchaser for 1*l.* 1*s.*, which was duly forwarded by post-office order; and, in due course, I received a bird, with a charge of 3*s.* 8*d.* for carriage. You may imagine my disgust upon opening the lid of the hamper, when out stepped a long and almost featherless-legged bird—the feathers from the breast either cut or eaten off; in fact, a bird not worth the carriage paid on receipt of him. I at once wrote to inquire if the bird sent was the one described in the letter to me, and in the advertisement in the "Poultry Chronicle," as such a first-class bird; and, after writing a second time, and waiting

some ten days, I received an uncourteous reply, refusing compensation. The bird was so wretched a specimen of the breed, that in my letter I hastily offered to pay the carriage of him back, thus incurring a loss of more than 7*s.* This I should have been glad to have done, in order to get him out of my sight as quickly as possible, that I might not be continually reminded of the manner in which I had become a victim to misrepresentation. If the public are to be led away by the highly-coloured statements of such advertisements, it is time for some one to step forward and sound a "note of warning," that amateurs, or those about to become so, may escape falling into the snare. During my experience in the poultry world, nothing has tended more to my annoyance than this matter. Trusting, for the respectability of your journal, that it may not become a medium for the sale of worthless stock through such means as I have described,

I am, sir, yours respectfully,
A subscriber from the first to your valuable Chronicle.

July 12, 1855.

SILVER CUPS AT ANERLEY.

SIR,—On looking over the very liberal prize list of the Anerley Poultry Show, my mind has been led to think how the silver cups will be awarded to the most successful exhibitor of not less than eight pens of poultry, as stated in the prize-list. I beg to say I have no idea of winning either of the cups myself, but my motive for making these few remarks is to gain all the information I can. I wish to learn if it is the intention of the committee to award the cup to the exhibitor of the largest number of prize pens, or (as I think in justice due) to the exhibitor whose pens of poultry average the best fowls, and takes most prizes, exhibiting not less than eight pens. There are many amateurs, who, had they sufficient room for the different varieties of poultry, would keep many more than they now do; and I for one think that any individual who shows not less than eight pens should be entitled to the cup should his poultry exceed the average of large exhibitors, there will then be a little chance, peradventure, for the small exhibitors (though, had they room, large ones) to have the pleasure of gracing their sideboards with—eh!—What shall I say? Why, a silver cup. In the event of the cups being given to the largest exhibitor, though not exceeding the average of the smaller one, I think it will be useless for any one to anticipate gaining a cup who cannot send say thirty or more pens of good poultry. Wishing every success to the Anerley Show, and trusting some one will be kind enough to give some information on the subject above named, which I believe

many are anxious to learn, I remain, sir, yours respectfully,
 COCK PHEASANT.

We have been favoured with the following reply to "Cock Pheasant," from the Secretary of the Anerley Society:—

*Poultry Show Offices,
 Anerley Gardens, July 14, 1855.*

SIR,—In reply to "Cock Pheasant's" application, we refer him to the prize list. We purposely avoided awarding the silver cups to the taker of the greatest number of first prizes, as it would not be giving the exhibitor who breeds only three or four varieties any chance against the breeder of fifteen or twenty. Therefore, we state, "to the exhibitor of the best general collection of not less than eight pens."

We shall at all times be most happy to furnish your correspondents with any information. I remain, sir, yours obediently,

HENRY F. WELLS.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

A DULL, dear, and bad season is drawing to a close. Supply is larger, and demand less.

Large Fowls	6s. Od. to	7s. Od. each.
Smaller do.	4s. Od. to	4s. 6d. "
Chickens	2s. 9d. to	3s. Od. "
Geese	5s. Od. to	6s. Od. "
Duckings	3s. 3d. to	3s. 9d. "
Leverets	4s. Od. to	4s. 6d. "
Quails	1s. 3d. to	1s. 6d. "
Pigeons	0s. 10d. to	1s. Od. "
Rabbits	1s. 5d. to	1s. 6d. "
Wild do.	0s. 10d. to	1s. Od. "

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

Monday, July 9th.—THE supplies coast-wise had continued moderate, but the foreign arrival of wheat was fair; of oats, Spanish flour, and linseed, very abundant. An advance on previous rates was attempted, but though a healthier tone was perceptible, it was only in a few instances realised, and the trade generally was only considered brisker, at fully last Monday's rates, without any alteration in foreign. Prices of all descriptions of barley were firm. Malt has been very difficult of sale, at unaltered prices. The oat trade was well supplied.

BRITISH.

	Shillings
	per qr.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	75 to 83
" " red	69 .. 76
" Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red ..	70 .. 75
BARLEY, Malting, new	32 .. 33
" Chevalier	34 .. 36
" Distilling	31 .. 34
" Grinding	31 .. 33
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, now ..	65 .. 70
" " old	66 .. 70
" Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, now ..	70 .. 72
" " old	68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed	26 .. 27
" " potato	27 .. 30
" Scotch feed, new	29 .. 30
" " old	33 .. 34
" " potato	33 .. 34
" Irish feed, white	25 .. 26
" " fine	28 .. 28
" " black	24 .. 26
" " fine	26 .. 27
RYE	40 .. 43
BEANS, Mazagan	33 .. 41
" Ticks	39 .. 43
" Harrow	39 .. 44
" Pigeon	42 .. 48
PEAS, White, boilers	42 .. 47
" Maple	40 .. 42
" Grey	37 .. 40
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.	65 .. 70
" Housholds, town	64 .. 65
" " country	56 .. 58
" Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship	52 .. 54

Wednesday, July 11th.—Although the arrivals of foreign grain had increased, those of English continued limited. In consequence of this state of things no great alteration occurred in the trade, and prices, on the average, were supported. Only a limited business took place in other varieties of grain.

PRICE OF BREAD IN LONDON.

The prices of wheaten bread in the Metropolis are from 10d. to 10½d.; and household ditto, 8d. to 9½d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

To Correspondents.

B. T. S.—Our correspondent, W. W., proposed dubbing the Brahmas only in pleantry. We do not think any breeder of them would, in right down earnest, think of robbing them of their really beautiful combs, whether pea or single.

A Subscriber, with but limited accommodation, would like to keep a few fowls. He would like to indulge a little love of the fancy, and at the same time to have the domestic convenience of keeping fowls. In his case we would buy a very small number of first-rate fowls—say a pair of excellent Brahmas, a good Dorking hen, and three or four Cochins, chosen as good layers. In the spring, set all the Brahma eggs for the fancy, all the eggs of the Dorking

for the table, and let the Cochins' eggs supply the family. The Cochins would do for mothers also.

A Lark.—The presence of vermin in your fowls is indicative of very bad condition. If the cause had been in the house, the measures adopted would have proved a sufficient remedy. Strong healthy chickens will shake off these troublesome visitors, but sickly ones lie down and die. They are very often inherited from the hen that hatches the eggs. In the sunniest spot in your yard, and as near as possible to the haunts of the chickens, place a goodly heap of wood ashes. If the chickens bask and dust in them, that will get rid of the vermin; if they do not, dust them thoroughly. If that does not succeed, anoint them with sweet oil, on the crown of the head and under the wings. The weather is not enough, therefore close your houses, and *make* them sleep out of doors. If you have any small chickens, see they choose a sheltered spot.

Advertisements.

FOR POULTRY HOUSES.—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.



LIGHT HATS, 13s.—The Best in Europe. Second, 10s. 6d. Ladies' Riding Hats, 12s. to 25s. Livery Hats, 12s. Tourists' Hats, 8s. 6d.

85, Strand, and 251, Regent Street.

ANERLEY POULTRY SHOW.—President,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Verulam; Vice-President, Sir John Peter Boileau, Bart. F.R.S., Vice-President of the Zoological Society. The first Exhibition of Poultry and Pigeons will be held in the Anerley Gardens, adjoining the Anerley Station of the London and Croydon Railway, and near the Anerley Entrance to the Crystal Palace Grounds, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 28, 29, and 30, 1855.

The value of the Prizes will exceed 800 guineas. A detailed list of the Prizes and Certificates of Entry may be had on application to the Secretaries, at the office, Anerley, Surrey.

By special permission, the Band of the Royal Artillery will attend each day during the Exhibition.

EDGAR SMALLFIELD, } Hon. Secs.
HENRY F. WELLS, }

SOVEREIGN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. 49, St. James's Street, London. Established 1845.

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This Office, the new income of which was doubled during the last year, presents the security of a large paid-up capital; moderate premiums for home and foreign risks; no stamp duty is charged; and all policies are declared indisputable.

The last Bonus added four-fifths of the premium paid to some of the participating policies.

Provision can be made for the payment of a certain sum on attaining any given age (as 50, 55, or 60), or at death if it occur previously.

By a small annual payment, £100 may be secured to a child on attaining the age of 14, 18, or 21.

Prospectuses and other information will be furnished on application to

H. D. DAVENPORT, Secretary.
Agents wanted.

ISLE OF WIGHT EXHIBITION OF POULTRY, under the Patronage of H. R. H. Prince Albert, under the Annual Exhibition will take place at Ryde on the 7th and 8th of August. Entries close on the 24th of July. An AUCTION will be held on the 8th of August, at 11 o'clock. In addition to the pens entered for competition, space will be afforded where breeders can send stock for sale, on payment of 1s. per basket. For a List of Prices, and Pieces of Plate, with Forms of Entry, apply, enclosing a stamped envelope, to

JOHN VAUX, Esq., Ryde } Hon. Secs.
MR. GEORGE LOCKE, Newport }

FOR SETS OF PURE-BRED AYLESBURY DUCKLINGS, apply to Mr. PAGE, Siddington, Gloucestershire.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 17s. 4d.; half-yearly, 8s. 8d.; quarterly, 4s. 4d.; payable in advance.

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The Poultry Chronicle:

A JOURNAL OF

POULTRY, PIGEONS, BEES, FLORICULTURE, AND THE
HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 74.]

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1855.

[PRICE 3D.

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Poultry Shows.

Royal Agricultural Society, at Carlisle, in the week commencing July 23rd. Secretary, James Hudson, Esq., Hanover Square, London. Entries are closed. (No. 57 and 73.)

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Malton, August 1st and 2nd. Secretary, J. Hannam, Esq., Kirk-Deighton, Wetherby. Entries are closed. (No. 72.)

Isle of Wight, at Ryde, August 7th and 8th. Secretaries, J. Vaux, Esq., and G. Locke, Esq. Entries closed July 24th. (No. 70.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries closed July 24th. (No. 67.)

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary, Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at Boston, Thursday, August 23rd. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close August 8th. (Nos. 64 and 69.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson,

Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq. Entries close August the 10th. (No. 74.)

Heckmondwike (near Leeds) Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Show, including Poultry, and Cottagers' Pigs, Tuesday, August 28. Secretaries, J. Kelly, and F. Brearly, Esquires. Entries close August 13th.

Anerley, August 28th, 29th, and 30th. Secretaries, Edgar Smallfield, Esq., and Henry F. Wells, Esq. Entries close August 6th. (No. 69.)

Keighley Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighley. Entries close Saturday, August 25th. (No. 71.)

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th.

South West Middlesex Agricultural Society, Friday, October 5th. Secretary, J. Gotelee, Esq.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

East Lancashire Poultry Show (late Nelson) at Colne, October 31st and November 1st. Secretaries, Messrs. T. and E. Booth, Marsden, near Burnley, Lancashire. Entries close October 17th. (No. 73.)

Bedford: in November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

WE were disposed this week to be more than usually cheerful over our leader, but the melancholy grinding of one of those so-called soft organs, the heavy falling of the rain, the doleful look of the dripping performer, and the threatening of a fit of the "blues," changed the current of our thoughts, and we felt more inclined to remonstrate with our readers than to congratulate them. But as, after all, we have much to thank them for, a change came o'er, and the remonstrance gradually assumed the shape of advice. The first of a pile of labelled papers was a complaint from the secretary of a show, that exhibitors did not make their entries till the last day. It runs thus: "It is too bad; we keep open as long as possible, for the benefit of the dilatory or the absent, but every one takes advantage of it. The result is, that the

last two days we are overwhelmed with letters. That is within three weeks of the show, and till then we cannot make any preparation for catalogues, nor can we form an idea how many pens are wanted. Confusion under such circumstances is unavoidable; yet any little mistake is magnified, and often finds its way into your columns. Do, Mr. Editor, break a lance in our behalf."

We hope the mention will be enough, for we cannot help sympathising with our complainant. Having had much to do with shows, we know there is truth in what he says, and it entails labour on the secretary, and anxiety on the committee. The sooner they know what they will require, the better their arrangements will be. If any one doubt, let him reflect what it is to receive eight hundred letters in the course of three days. Many, probably, contain an entry; some several; and all require answering. The entries must be classed, made, and arranged for exhibition and catalogue. Then the number of pens required must be made, and all the letters must be acknowledged or answered, and labels, properly filled up, must be enclosed.

This is laborious, if spread over weeks; but if it is to be done in a day or two, it is very hard work, and we hope our readers, who are exhibitors, will bear it in mind. We would not press it if we could see any object to be attained by waiting. It is more charitable to be a few days in advance. Our friend goes on to say, "many entries do not come in till a day or two after the last time named, but are dated rightly. In many instances it is a two days' post." An active secretary sends off his catalogue as soon as

the last day is past: these entries, then, must either be omitted or refused, or the whole must be altered.

The next paper is a request from a fair correspondent, begging us "to give, as a leader, next week, a paper on matching Dorking fowls, written so as to be intelligible, and to put it as a leader, in order that it may bear the stamp of authority." We have much pleasure in doing so, and, did we write for a month, we could not say more than this. In order to match, they must be alike. Brown hens do not match gray ones; but we have the authority of good judges, whom we have consulted, for saying, that it is not necessary the feathers of two birds should be identical; a shade darker or lighter in one of three birds is not important, provided this latitude is not abused, and made to justify incongruities plain to every one but the exhibitor. Match them *perfectly* if you can; if you cannot, do so as nearly as possible. But colour is not the only thing; let them be alike in size.

The last paper to which we will refer, is from a committee man, asking us to devise some plan for preventing the abuse of members' tickets of admission. We wish we could; many have been tried, but we have not heard of a successful one. Our columns are open, and we invite all our friends to send us their suggestions. Who shall say that among some of those whose diffidence keeps them in the back-ground, the right man and the right plan are not to be found.

—♦—
 WITHIN a short distance of Aberdeen, nearly 400 acres of land have been reserved for the cultivation of flax.

Schedule of the Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, & Agricultural Society.

THE annual exhibition of this Society will take place on Friday, August 24th. It is open to universal competition, and will be held in the marquee belonging to the society, in a field belonging to Mr. C. N. Wilson, Malkroyd Lane. It is mentioned in the schedule that specimens (floral of course) presented by any lady or gentleman for decoration, will be thankfully received by the committee.

This Society has been established for the purpose of promoting the knowledge and cultivation of flowers, fruits, plants, vegetables, and agricultural productions. It is managed by a committee, consisting of not less than eleven members, five of whom have power to act, and are chosen annually; in them is vested the entire management of the affairs of the society. Being anxious to promote improvement in the breeds of domestic poultry and pigs, they have offered prizes for that purpose. It is supported by annual subscriptions. Every person subscribing 2s. 6d. is entitled to three tickets of admission; 5s. to six tickets; 7s. 6d. to nine tickets; 10s. to twelve tickets; and additional tickets in proportion to subscription. On the day of the exhibition subscribers will be admitted at one o'clock on payment of 1s. each, with a ticket of admission, or two subscriber's tickets. Non-subscribers will not be admitted before two o'clock. A gentleman's gardener, amateur, or sale grower, shall be entitled to four tickets of admission for 5s.; two tickets for 3s. 6d.; a farmer, to two tickets for 2s. 6d.; and a cottager, to one ticket for 1s. 6d.;—in addition to the privilege of being allowed to exhibit in their respective classes. Non-subscribers to be admitted by tickets at 1s. each.

If any one procure any fruits, flowers, plants, or vegetables from another, to exhibit as his own production, or in any manner endeavour to deceive, if proved, he will not be allowed to exhibit at any future meeting of the society.

All productions intended for competition at the exhibition, must be on the premises and ready for delivery to the stewards by ten o'clock precisely, or they will not be allowed to compete; and no exhibitor will be allowed to enter the marquee for the purpose of staging his productions.

The articles intended for exhibition will be ready for inspection by two o'clock, and must remain on the stage until six in the evening.

The judges will be chosen by the committee, and declare, (if required) that they have not, by growth, private mark, or otherwise, any knowledge to whom the articles belong.

Persons intending to exhibit, must pay their entrance money before the specimens are given in for exhibition.

No person will be allowed to handle the plants, fruits, flowers, &c. exhibited; and a notice to that effect will be put up in the marquee.

The exhibitors of this society are divided into three classes, viz. :—1. Gentlemen's gardeners and sale growers; 2. Amateurs; 3. Cottagers.

By consent of the committee, the judges may withhold a prize from any single specimen included in the list, which a majority of them do not consider worthy; and award prizes to any other specimens which they may consider deserving, although not inserted in the list.

No exhibitor will be permitted to remove any of his productions until the marquee is cleared of company; nor will he be allowed to enter the marquee for that purpose without producing his ticket.

Bottles for single specimens of Dahlias, &c., will be provided by the committee. Exhibitors will have to provide their own stands, boxes, or trays.

The prizes for fruit, flowers, plants, and vegetables are very numerous.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

COCHIN CHINAS.

Class.	1st. s.	2nd. s.
1. Cock and two Hens	20	10
2. Chickens of 1855	10	5

Class.	1st. s.	2nd. s.
SPANISH.		
3. Cock and two Hens	20	10
4. Chickens of 1855	10	5
DORKINGS.		
5. Cock and two Hens	20	10
6. Chickens of 1855	10	5
MALAYS.		
7. Cock and two Hens	20	10
8. Chickens of 1855	10	5
GOLDEN SPANGLED HAMBURGS.		
9. Cock and two Hens	20	10
10. Chickens of 1855	10	5
SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURGS.		
11. Cock and two Hens	20	10
12. Chickens of 1855	10	5
GOLDEN PENCILLED HAMBURGS.		
13. Cock and two Hens	20	10
14. Chickens of 1855	10	5
SILVER-PENCILLED HAMBURGS.		
15. Cock and two Hens	20	10
16. Chickens of 1855	10	5
POLANDS, BLACK WITH WHITE CRESTS.		
17. Cock and two Hens	20	10
18. Chickens of 1855	10	5
GOLDEN SPANGLED POLANDS.		
19. Cock and two Hens	20	10
20. Chickens of 1855	10	5
SILVER SPANGLED POLANDS.		
21. Cock and two Hens	20	10
22. Chickens of 1855	10	5
GAME, BLACK BREASTED AND OTHER REDS.		
23. Cock and two Hens	20	10
24. Chickens of 1855	10	5
GAME, WHITES AND PILES.		
25. Cock and two Hens ..	20	10
26. Chickens of 1855	10	5
GAME, BLACK AND BRASSY WINGED, EXCEPT GREYS.		
27. Cock and two Hens	20	10
28. Chickens of 1855	10	5
GAME, DUCKWINGS, AND OTHER GREYS AND BLUES.		
29. Cock and two Hens	20	10
30. Chickens of 1855	10	5
BANTAMS, WHITE, ANY AGE.		
31. Cock and two Hens	10	5
BANTAMS, BLACK, ANY AGE.		
32. Cock and two Hens	10	5
BANTAMS, SILVER LACED, ANY AGE.		
33. Cock and two Hens	10	5
BANTAMS, GOLDEN LACED, ANY AGE.		
34. Cock and two Hens	10	5

Class.	1st.		2nd.	
	s.	s.	s.	s.
ANY OTHER VARIETY.				
35. Best Cock and two Hens of any breed not mentioned in the above classes	20	...	10	
36. Chickens of 1855	10	...	5	
DUCKS, WHITE.				
37. Drake and two Ducks	20	...	10	
ROUEN DUCKS.				
38. Drake and two Ducks	20	...	10	
GEESE.				
39. Gander and two Geese	20	...	10	
TURKEYS.				
40. Cock and one Hen	20	...	10	

All specimens must be the property of the exhibitor, and have been in his possession at least one month previous to the exhibition. The ages of all entries must be accurately stated and computed to the 24th August, 1855.

Two shillings will be charged for each entry for poultry; but parties exhibiting must be subscribers. All entries for poultry must be made on or before the 10th day of August, 1855. Entry papers with regulations may be had on application to either of the secretaries.

PIGEONS.

Class.	1st.		2nd.	
	s.	s.	s.	s.
A. Best six Common Pigeons	2	.....	1	
B. Best pair Carriers	2	.....	1	
C. Best pair Tumblers	2	.....	1	
D. Best pair Almond Tumblers	2	.....	1	
E. Best pair Barbs	2	.....	1	
F. Best pair Turbits	2	.....	1	
G. Best pair Jacobins	2	.....	1	
H. Best pair Fantails	2	.....	1	
I. Best pair Croppers or Pouters	2	.....	1	
K. Best pair Antwerps	2	.....	1	
L. Best pair Nuns	2	.....	1	

Each specimen must be the *bond fide* property of the exhibitor, and have been in his possession at least one month.

Each exhibitor of pigeons to provide his own pen. Subscribers to be entitled to exhibit pigeons, and also to admission to the show.

R. R. NELSON, Esq., } Secretaries.
J. NEWSOME, Esq., }

SEVERAL Poultry yards have lately been visited and plundered by foxes, which breed yearly on the lings called Hatfield Moors.—*Hatfield Paper.*

Poultry at our Agricultural Meetings.

BEING a resident in an agricultural district, a breeder, and occasional exhibitor of prize poultry, I regret at this time to observe at our numerous agricultural shows, now held almost weekly for a time, in connection with poultry, that the prize lists of the latter are not at all in proportion to the sums given to a more favoured class, even where the funds are sufficient for all, if more fairly distributed; as you will observe by the enclosed schedule sent for your inspection, and where the sum of £329 7s. 6d. is to be awarded as prizes. As you will observe £15 are offered for a 1st prize bull, and £10 for a ram, &c. &c., and so on in proportion. Yet when we arrive at the poultry (*which is open to all England!!*) no more than 15s. can be afforded for the best pen of poultry that can be produced, and 7s. 6d. for the second! By this schedule, which is nearly the same as three more I have before me while writing, it is quite clear that the farmers generally who are on the committee and have the entire control of the funds after they are collected are no friends to poultry, and it is only admitted to their agricultural shows to enhance the general receipts, and which it is found to do most effectually, more especially in fine weather, when all the ladies of rank and fashion in the neighbourhood are induced to honour them with their presence; and without such attractions so recently added in my neighbourhood, many agricultural shows would not at present have been in existence. Thanks to the ladies and amateurs for such important assistance, and I trust, when the attention of your numerous readers is called to this subject, that every effort will continue to be made by yourself and them, to place our favourites in the position they so well deserve to occupy, and that in a short time many other places will follow the noble example now set them at the next Anerly poultry show, by its most liberal list of prizes.

A subscriber from the beginning,
July 17th, 1855. X. L.

Odds and Ends.

I MUST say I felt rather pleased at the attempt made in your last week's issue by "A Maniac who loves Justice" to gain a measure of sympathy in behalf of the oppressed Malay. With Mr. Maniac I have no desire to laud the breed *unduly*, but this I can most truly say, that having kept and bred extensively during the last few years both Malays and Cochins, I am in a position to prove that in almost all respects the former is the better bird of the two. A well bred Malay cock is a splendid and majestic bird, very similar in carriage and bearing to a Game cock, but superior to him in size and *peaceability*. I find the Malay hens to be good layers of very beautiful well shaped eggs. In addition to this commend me to a Malay hen in preference to a Cochin as a careful, attentive, constant mother! You don't catch your Malay hen looking out for her lord and laying her eggs after three weeks catering for her progeny. In fact I have known the Malay hen tend her chickens most anxiously and constantly for three or four months.

Talking of Cochins, I had the other week a partridge hen wanting to sit. I set her on eggs which had been already covered by another hen upwards of a week. When the partridge hen brought her chickens off I took them from her and substituted for them fifteen others of various ages, from five to nine weeks old: these she took with the greatest pleasure, and seemed not to be at all aware of the change effected.

It has been said that Poland hens never sit. It is certainly a thing of rare occurrence, and yet I have this season had a Gold Spangled Poland hen which has sat as long as a month, and a Blue one which has sat even five weeks, these are fully as good as, or even better mothers than, either Cochins or Dorkings.

I have a beautiful little white silky hen running with her little batch of seven Gold Laced Sebright Bantam chicks of six weeks old. Out of these seven as many as four

are cockerels; and it is perfectly laughable to see the largest of these very diminutive birds—himself a perfect pigmy—ever and anon stretching out his neck, elevating his little rose-combed head, and sending forth a shrill, full formed *crow*, which can be heard as far off as some three or four yards, certainly not much farther! A most precocious youth is he, and I have only to take his mother from him and conceal her from his view to cause him at any time to crow as well, though not so loud, as his seniors.

It is a common occurrence with me to have eggs hatched which have been stone cold for hours and even a day together; and not unfrequently have I brought *dead* chicks to life again by holding them near a fire, gently chafing them with my hand, and blowing into their beaks.

GEORGE BOOTHBY.

Spangled Hamburgs Sitting.

I HAVE no doubt that the sitting of Hamburgs is an uncommon occurrence, and therefore I mentioned the fact that one of mine had hatched a brood. The statement in Mr. Bailey's book may be a typographical error but it is very remarkable that I now have another one sitting, and I have little doubt that in due time she will be as successful as the first. "That goes far to *prove* that you have a cross in your stock," cries Hasty, but gently, Sir Hasty, listen, and you shall hear further. I bought the hen which first sat and hatched of a gentleman, who assured me that she had taken prizes at the Birmingham, Bury St. Edmunds, Great Metropolitan, Great Yarmouth, and Southampton shows. This gentleman stands so high in the poultry world that I am convinced he has not misled me, nor was himself misled when he made such a statement, the other hen I bought at Stevens' rooms on the 2nd of January this year, she was lot 58 or 60 in the catalogue, and is described as "bred by Francis Edwards, Esq., from birds which obtained first prizes at the following

exhibitions, viz., Birmingham, 1853, Great Metropolitan, 1854, Manchester, 1854."

Now it is *just possible*, notwithstanding they are in appearance as near perfection, in spangling and other points, as the most fastidious could desire, that both of these birds—I possess no others of the kind, save chickens, from them, and many of these are most promising—have come of a stock that has a stain in it, but this is so improbable that I cannot for a moment listen to such a suggestion, and I take it the assertion, that because a Hamburg hen sits she is therefore not a true bred fowl, is simply absurd. Spanish and Polish are non-sitters, yet I know of my own knowledge of a Spanish hen, the mother of two of the three chickens in the second prize pen at Windsor, having been broody this year, she continued so for days, though no eggs were given to her. And I know of two cases of Polish hens being broody this season, one has hatched a brood of eleven ducks, the other belonging to a gentleman second to none (with the exception perhaps of Mr. Adkins), in this class (Silver), has hatched a brood of chickens.

I think that until we are able to speak more certainly of the origin of the breeds of domestic poultry, some of which are apparently so distinct, it is premature to conclude that because a hen of the non-sitting varieties has hatched a brood that she ought to bear the bar sinister on her escutcheon. Just see the difficulty in which such an assertion places us. If the Hamburg is a fowl descended from a pure stock distinct from the Polish, Spanish, Dorking, and all other breeds, there must yet have been a time in which the original stock were not domesticated, and how *then* was the breed perpetuated, did they lay their eggs in the sand to be hatched by the sun? or had they access to a hydro-incubator? or did they, like the *megapodidæ* of Australia, form hot-beds in which their eggs were deposited and hatched? Take the other side of the question, suppose the Hamburg, Polish, Spanish, Dorking, and other fowls, to have originated from one parent stock,

that stock was doubtless propagated in the usual way of cocks and hens, viz., by the hens hatching their eggs with the heat of their own bodies; this being so, who is to say at what particular generation the descendants of this original stock, though bred for some peculiarity of feature or feather, lost or shall *entirely* lose an instinct inherent in the very nature of this order of birds, viz., the sitting on and hatching her eggs by the female. I have not studied the subject deeply, but it seems to me there is good cause for believing that the domestic fowls of the present day are descended from one original stock, and for this reason that all our varieties will breed freely with each other now. Nature in the animal kingdom sets her face most determinedly against the propagation of hybrids. It has been found quite impossible to perpetuate a breed of animals produced from the union of parents not of the very same species, witness the vain attempts to breed from the mules of the goldfinch and canary, and the pheasant and common fowl. In a case with which I am acquainted an attempt to perpetuate a breed between the china and common goose failed in like manner. As long as the true bred (china) gander was retained, however, the cross was prolific, even with his grand-daughters three-fourths china bred, but when he died and a three-fourths bred son of his succeeded to his dignity and harem, no goslings were ever obtained.

The subject is so intricate, I mean the subject of the origin of our domestic animals, that I feel I should be only getting out of my depth by entering further into it, it is one which must for ever remain a mystery, however mortifying to our pride—the being obliged to consider it so may be—and since the wisest of us may be in error when we least suppose it, in giving an opinion on this subject, we ought to be very diffident of making an assertion at all bordering on the dogmatical. It is singular to me that a man so well informed as "B. P. B." evidently is, should persist in styling the Hamburgs Bolton Greys and

Bays, what good can the sticking to these obsolete names do? A man may be so firm that his enemies may call him obstinate, and even class him with the unfortunate juror, who whenever called on to give his services to his country in this capacity always had the misfortune to have as fellow labourers eleven particularly obstinate men, men who never could be brought to take the same view of the question as he did, but surely, unless we are constituted like the unhappy juror, the decision of the majority, who are quite as likely to be as well informed on the subject as ourselves, should settle the question definitely and for ever.

The Malay hen of which I wrote on being removed from the chickens of which she had assumed the management to a distant yard, immediately took under her charge another brood of forsaken chickens, towards which she has continued to show the same care and attention up to the present time as she bestowed on her first adopted foundlings.

ZENAS.

Origin of Silk.

THE following interesting account of the early history of the use of silk, recently appeared in the *Boston Journal* :—

In the early ages of the Christian era, the inhabitants of the little island of Ceos, were accustomed to manufacture a species of silk, or rather a sort of thin gauze, from the web of a worm, which they fed upon the leaves of the oak, the ash, and the pine trees; and this Cean manufacture, the invention of a woman, was long admired, and extensively used, both in the East and at Rome, for female dresses. They were, however, after a while, superseded by the Chinese silks, which at that early period were so costly, that but few, comparatively, could afford to wear them. Aurelian is said to have complained that a pound of silk was sold at Rome for twelve ounces of gold. The Phœnician women sometimes unravelled these costly fabrics, and multiplied the precious materials by a looser texture, and a mixture of linen threads.

For more than two hundred years after the age of Pliny, the use of silk as a garment was entirely confined to the female sex; and it is said that the Emperor Heliogabalus was the first Roman who, by the adoption of this effeminate habit, "sullied the dignity of an Emperor and a man."

Silk was supplied to the Romans by the agency of the Persians, who, in their turn, procured it, with quantities of aloes, cloves, nutmegs, and sandal wood, from the Chinese merchants, and conveyed it to their own country, at first by long, toilsome, and dangerous journeys, in caravans, and subsequently by vessels, which carried on a beneficial trade between the silk merchants of China, and the inhabitants of the shores of the Persian Gulf.

As the use of silk became more and more indispensable to the Romans, the Emperor Justinian, in the middle of the fifth century, seeing with concern that the Persians had secured, both by land and sea, the monopoly of this important supply, and that the wealth of his subjects was continually drained by a nation of enemies and idolators, tried various expedients to remedy the difficulty, but without success. Finally two Persian monks, actuated by some stronger impulse than that of patriotism, and encouraged by the promises and persuasions of Justinian, penetrated the silk-growing country, and concealing a large number of the eggs of the silk-worm, in a hollow cane, succeeded in returning safely and in triumph with their spoils. These eggs were hatched by artificial heat, and the worms being carefully taken care of, and fed on mulberry leaves, lived and laboured, and wove their golden tombs, and soon the Romans achieved a greater perfection in the art of educating the insects, and manufacturing the silk, than the Chinese themselves. Since that period, the culture and manufacture of silk has never been exclusively confined to any distinct portion of the earth, but has been encouraged and practised whenever and wherever it could be made profitable. The southern countries of Europe, however,—

France, Italy, and Spain—still retain the supremacy which they acquired in the sixth century; and it is from those countries that we now derive our finest silks, and our most costly and luxurious laces.

Management of Poultry.

A FARMER at Point Leoni, C.E., in the 18th number of the "Country Gentleman," makes some inquiry about fowls, and asks for the best model for a hen-house. To obtain a good model, it is only necessary to consult the habits of the hen when permitted to run at large. She is as much at home in the farm-yard as *puss* at the fireside, or the faithful *dog* at the door-steps. Fowls, like the "pampered goose," were made for man, and man for them. They are social beings, and like to talk and be talked to.

No man can dine with his outer door open without being saluted by "How-do-you-do-o!"—a sure sign of a call of some friend, says superstition.

But to the habits of the hen. They are clean and tidy birds, having every feather in its proper place, if possible. When forced to shed their plumage, they will avoid civilisation, and become unsocial.

Fowls never do so well as when permitted to roam at large. One quart of food in the morning to a dozen of them, when thus permitted, will bring more eggs than the best of feeding in a house. It may be said you are liable to lose many eggs; but not so; every farmer that is around his farm can tell where any of the hens lay nearly as well as where his cows are, if he has his ears and eyes open; and to look after the eggs every night, is as much a duty as to milk the cows.

In the spring, as the hay goes out of the barn, the hen finds her nest in some good clean straw, if there be any, the rooster always aiding and assisting. But no sooner new sweet hay comes into the barn, than every egg will be deposited in the clean hay. Many times old nests are forsaken, to do this.

Never approach a nest, or look after the

eggs, until the hens have gone to their roost. They are as secret and as tenacious of their treasures as any man of his desk, or "housewife" of her bureau.

When left at large, they will visit, if possible, the green grass, plowland, and wet holes, several times a day. Should they be housed, all of this should be found in the hen-yard. Three departments in the house would be necessary for every family—one for roosting, one for feeding, and one for the nests; this last should be as retired as possible.

As to food, a variety would be needed; all they could find, if at large, would be required. Wheat is the best, buckwheat and Indian wheat are good, and some fresh meat is required to supply the place of worms, bugs, &c. — *American Country Gentleman.*

Columbary.

CONCLUSION.

HAVING described all the varieties of domesticated Pigeons with which I am acquainted, it only remains for me to make a few concluding remarks. Most countries probably have some other varieties, which are not known to me, for as a subscriber to the "Poultry Chronicle" some time back remarked, it is a subject that one man is incapable of fully describing, and therefore, I must beg those that know of any varieties, that I have omitted, to give a description of them? The extinct Dodo belonged, I believe, to this class of birds, as it has been called by some naturalists, a wingless dove: other curious varieties of this vast class are to be met with, as the Columba Coronata, or large crowned blue Pigeon of the Moluccas, having a large fan-shaped crown or crest on its head. The Crested Turtle has a pendant crest, hanging from the back of the head, in shape like that of the Pewits or Lapwings. A friend informed me he once saw a pair of web-footed Pigeons in Leadenhall Market, but being pressed for time, he did not stay

to examine them closely, and when he afterwards returned, with the intention of purchasing them, they were gone, and all the information he could gain was, that they had been brought home by some sailor; I have also heard of Swallow Tailed Pigeons, but like the preceding, I know nothing more of them.

Australia abounds in many varieties of Pigeons or Doves, among which, are the large Wonga Wonga. A Green Pigeon and the Bronze-wing, which last, I have been informed, has been domesticated in that country, and I know no reason why some few of the numerous wild Pigeons of other countries, should not be capable of domestication, but I think such as nestle on the ground or among rocks, would most likely be more capable of domestication, than such as are arboreal, or build their nests in trees.

The Passenger Pigeon of America is there met with in countless numbers, and I have been informed, that they too have been domesticated, while other writers assert them to be intractable.

The only instance I know of arboreal Doves being allowed their liberty, without abusing it, is in the case of the Collared Turtles, the common cage Dove, of a light fawn colour, with a black ring round the neck.

Yet I am not willing to suppose, that all our varieties of tame Pigeons are originally of one stock, neither do I think it possible, to trace all to the Rock Pigeon and Dove-house combined, which are the most probable ancestors, at least, of many of the Toys.

To enumerate the varieties I have already described, they are as follows: first, the two originals, or at least the breeds, still to be found in a state of nature, in this country, the Blue Rock, and Chequered Dove-house Pigeon. Secondly, the sagacious and flying birds, as the English Carrier, Horseman, Dragoon, Antwerp Carrier, and Tumblers. Thirdly, Runts, or domesticated Giant Pigeons, the most familiar of which are, the Leghorn, Roman, and Span-

ish, but there are many others. Fourthly, the Fancy Pigeons, as Short Faced Tumblers, Powters, Fantails, Jacobins, Trumpeters, Laughers, Barbs, Turbits, Owls, Finikins or Smiters, Mahomets, Lace or Silky Pigeons, and Frillbacks; and lastly, the Toys, properly so called, having but one property, namely feather, as the Sva-bian, and other spangled pigeons, the Nun, Priest, Monk, Archangel or Bullfinch, White Archangel, Stomacher, Spot, White Spot, Starling Breasted, Swiss, Ice, Stock Dove or Wild Blue Pigeon, Stork, Tern or Sea Swallow, Magpie, Helmet, Shield, and Gull Pigeon, in all forty-two varieties, without enumerating their sub-varieties, of which few have less than four, and some a great many more, perhaps the Tumbler has the greatest number of sub-varieties, colours, or divisions of colour, which would exceed fifty, without including the foreign varieties of this breed.

The common flying Pigeons of this country are the Skinnums, bred mostly from a common Tumbler and Dragoon, but others are crossed with the Dove-house, Antwerp, &c., their only value is their sharp flying; for they cannot be considered as a breed. In France what they call "Voyageurs," are mostly a mixture of Tumbler and Dove-house, and are generally some mixture of white and red in colour, they are good breeders, but of little other value. Belgium too, abounds with this nondescript kind of flying Pigeon, and also crossed with the Owl Pigeon, and such are often sold as true Antwerps.

The common mixtures or Mongrels are too common to need a description, and too various to make one possible, they are made up of crosses of various kinds, and their only value is as food, for if properly attended to, to prevent their being too numerous for their accommodations, and the superabundant males destroyed, they will be found very productive.

I shall now conclude my papers on Pigeons for the present, hoping that I have at least given some little information to the readers of the "Poultry Chronicle," and if

I can be of any further use in that way to any brother fancier, I shall feel happy to impart any further information I may possess.

Mr. J. M. Eaton has published an excellent work on the Almond Tumbler, which is worthy the attention of all amateurs, thanks are also due to him for rescuing Mr. Moore's work from oblivion. Mr. E. has not ceased here, but has lately published a diagram of how a Pigeonary should be fitted up, of which no doubt many brother fanciers will avail themselves.

B. P. B.

Poultry Diseases.

CAN any correspondent throw any light on the cause or cure of a disease which has carried off a very valuable Dorking cock of mine. He first appeared drooping and moped about, refusing food, in two or three days he lost the use of his legs and his comb turned black at the edge, his breath seemed hot and feverish, but there was no discharge from his nostrils. He still refused to take food voluntarily, and, notwithstanding the administration of a dose of castor oil, followed by a grain of calomel, and that he was crammed with scalded bread and other things, he died in four days from his first attack. The last day or two there was a sort of rattling in the throat, produced by breathing. The bird was in high condition, but not over fat. He had a large run of an acre or more.

ZENAS.

TO CLEAN FEATHERS.—Take for every gallon of clear water, one pound of fresh made quick-lime, mix them well together, and let it stand twenty-four hours, then pour off the clear liquid. Put the feathers into a tub, and pour over them enough lime-water to thoroughly cover them. Stir them briskly and rapidly, for a few minutes, and leave them to soak for three days. Then remove them from the lime-water, and thoroughly rinse in clean water, and spread them to dry. They will dry better where a draught of air can

reach them: and should be spread very thinly, and frequently moved, until they are quite dry. This plan may be used, either for new feathers, or for such as have become heavy or impure by age or use.

Pigeons at the Forthcoming Anerley Show.

I BEG to second Mr. Eaton's appeal to pigeon fanciers and hope they will support this exhibition; and trust to see some of the rare varieties there, such as Laughers, Silk Fantails, Taylors, and others: and dare I express a hope that Mr. Woodhouse will show his Crested Bald-head; and also a possibility of the appearance of any real Mahomet pigeon, (not inferior White Barbs), but with their peculiar black skin, wattle, and cere.

B. P. B.

Home and the Homestead.

CONTINENTAL FARMING.

(Abridged from the "Royal Agricultural Society's Journal.")

THE general result of Mr. Love's observations on Continental farming is that it is, to use his own words, "beautifully clean and neat," but productive of very light crops, and most injuriously deficient in fencing and draining. From what he almost universally witnessed, sentences much to the purport of the following are necessarily of frequent recurrence: "drainage is all that is required to make these districts treble their produce; but, as far as I have seen, it appears to be totally unknown on the Continent."

In journeying between Rhoda and Minden, he writes, "At Porta we passed through the mountain, along the river Weser, winding our way through the pass worn by the mighty waters through the mountain chain; the rock, which is mountain limestone overlaying the silurian, is tilted up vertically, dipping south-west. Leaving this mountain, which is but a

narrow ridge, behind us, we entered a beautiful district of good light loamy soil, all under cultivation, except the mountain forests, and a succession of meadows that are greatly damaged by the too frequent and lengthened flooding of the river."

"This district is enclosed, and sheep extensively kept folded upon green crops, also grazing the meadows, where they are followed by the shepherd, who makes them all eat abreast, clearing the ground as they advance; thus they are not allowed to trample their food into the ground. The breed of sheep, as far as I could judge, are merinos. The crops are good, and the land as clean as a garden. After passing Minden (towards Hanover), the soil improves, and the farming is exceedingly good."

After this, the traveller passed through land where "the only thing required to make it a district of great fertility is enclosure and thorough drainage;" and where "the pastures are grazed by rather a useful sort of cattle and sheep, which, if properly selected for breeding, would soon become good stock."

Mr. Love speaks most encouragingly of the ease with which the land might be drained, in land which he passed from Hanover to beyond Magdeburg; and he considered it the best farmed district which he saw. "Farmers here," he writes, "are wealthy, as such men ought to be. There appears to be considerable improvement going on in the breeds of cattle and sheep, from care and attention being paid to the selection of breeding animals, and rearing and keeping them upon nutritious food."

In the district beyond Magdeburg "there are scarcely any horses used; the whole of the work is done by the dairy cows, a pair of which walk along with comparative ease, drawing excellent little ploughs. They appear to work the cows in relays of about three hours each pair per day, drawing the manure out, the weeds home, soiling tare or clover as they go and return from plough. I was told that the exercise was conducive to the secretion of milk of a better quality. I was struck with the

mode of yoking cattle here: viz., a board about six inches wide and two and a half feet long, tapering to both ends, where there are hooks similar to those used on the ends of our swingle-trees; this board has padding under it, and it is hung to the horns by two straps, which suspend it across the forehead, just below the horns; the traces are attached to the hook at each end of the pushing-board. Thus the animal has the line of pressure caused by the draught or tractions passing straight along the back-bone pressing its joints more closely together. After looking minutely into the working of this system, and observing the ease with which the cattle drew their loads, chewing their cud as they walked along, I became convinced that it was the proper mode of yoking oxen.

"I was surprised at the ease with which two small cows drew the plough, working at least six inches deep; but the soil is very light and free. Their ploughs are, probably, the models from which the Americans took theirs, being very short and light; the shortness of the mould-board makes them easy in draught, while it completely breaks the furrow-slice to pieces in the act of turning it, so that the implements required to pulverise and prepare the land for turnips, after tares and other soiling green crops, are few and simple."

On Bees.

WHEN the young queen is lost through some casualty, while on the wing, or during her absence, it may naturally be inferred that the effect on the bees will be the same as when, though in the neighbourhood of the hive, she is unable to return. I am inclined to think that she is very seldom lost during her absence; the precautions taken by herself and the bees, and the rapidity of her flight, as soon as she has become acquainted with the locality, are great securities.

My readers must not understand that every departure is attended by the same tedious deliberation as that already described. There is always a degree of vigilance exhibited by the bees, but as the queen becomes more accustomed to these airings, she undertakes them with less hesitation, and with less regard to the hour of the day. The earliest hour I have seen a queen go abroad was a little before ten, and the latest time between three and four.

It is to be observed here, that the two queens whose deaths I have related as having taken place in the hive, had not commenced laying. That which was brought out dead in the evening, I had seen leave the hive, apparently in health, during the day; the other I had not seen for a few days, and fancied she had begun to lay; but subsequent events proved I was mistaken. What could have caused their premature death? Had I tampered with them so as to injure their delicate organisation? Possibly it was so, as I had captured both these young queens on their first leaving the hive, and cut off the tip of a wing for the purpose of marking them. They were handled with great care, and their power of flight was not apparently impaired, yet their fate has always deterred me from marking young queens by mutilation.

And now I have to present my little community in a new aspect to my readers. If there should be among them any who, in studying the habits of the bee and its remarkable instincts, have been led to the conclusion that there are general laws by which this instinct is invariably governed, I must crave their indulgence while I advance that which, at first sight at least, I am aware must appear a monstrous proposition.

We have all admired that civil government of the community, and the sentiments and proceedings of its several members, which resemble so closely the social system of the human race. We all have sympathised with the loyalty of the bees, in

devotion to their queen, with their patriotism in the defence of their dominions; with the industry of the workers, with the maternal solicitude of the nurses, and with the self-preservation of the queen; for these are cherished virtues in the heart of an Englishman. But can we say that our bees are patterns of virtue only; do they never fall from this high standard, nor represent to us, alas, the strife and destruction with which man's passions blight the fair scene of existence? The universal answer I believe will be, that here the comparison fails—the laws of their society are never outraged.

Before I proceed to the immediate subject of our consideration, it will be as well to draw attention to a very curious fact, which is so well authenticated as to leave no doubt on the minds of those who read it.

All bee-keepers are aware that the bees of a hive guard their treasures with jealous care. No visitor from a neighbouring hive is allowed to enter; and when a weak family is discovered by a powerful neighbour, the latter, especially in spring and autumn, often makes a vigorous attack in hope of enriching itself with the spoils of the weaker hive; which, in its turn, resists to the utmost the intrusion of the depredators. Except in such cases of spoliation, each family is unnoticed by its neighbours.

It is said that a queenless stock will admit stranger drones; and it is said too, that a hive will receive a queenless family which has deserted its own habitation: in proof of this, I think there is a want of ocular evidence. However it is not too much to assume the independence of each community. What is to be thought then of two hives establishing a friendly visiting. This was observed by Mr. Knight, the late scientific president of the Horticultural Society.

Very remarkable instances of the same kind also occurred in the apiary of Mr. Golding.

The bees of two hives are described as

having maintained a friendly intercourse for several days. A continuous stream of bees was kept up between two hives from morning till night; the visiting was amicable, both hives increased in weight during the time, and both were internally right as regarded their queens. A similar case is related by Feburier. But none of these bee-keepers have been able to form an opinion as to the nature of this singular intercourse, which was neither hostile nor predatory. All that I wish to prove for my present purpose is, that the proceeding was not in accordance with the common course of nature, and then I will show that I have found that course deviated from in a directly opposite direction. The peace and love and harmony which reign among the members of the family, have been changed to despair and rage and self-destruction!

I will simply relate the occurrence. Ten days after swarming, on the ground in front of one stock containing a queen of three years old, and another whose young queen I had seen abroad a few days before, I found the dead body of a queen. At first I concluded it was that of the old lady, for instead of resembling the sleek downy princess, it was dark-coloured, the down worn off, and it might have been supposed the bee had been moistened, from its appearance. The hive of the old queen, however, was quite calm; there was a little agitation about the other, though not more than a full hive and a rush of young bees might account for on a hot day. Yet there was a restlessness about the bees in the evening; they seemed on the alert as if ready to pick a quarrel if they could.

Next morning, a friend learned in bees, who happened to be with me, came in haste and said a hive was attacked by robbers, and the slaughter was so furious it must soon be destroyed. I hastened to the scene and beheld, indeed, a dismal spectacle. The ground around was strewed thickly with dead and dying. I was amazed to find so strong a hive at that season so rapidly demolished.

After a few minutes attentive observation, a light began to dawn on my mind. The fighting was furious, but none of the bees about the mouth of the hive had the peculiar movement, a combination of impudence and fear, which distinguishes the robber hovering round its prey. The bees came struggling out of the hive, but there was no attack from the outside; and many that lay around, were exhausted but not stung.

Could it be possible, that having lost their queen, despair had taken possession of them, and, deprived of hope, they were committing self-destruction. I acted instantly on the idea, carried off the hive, removed the bees, and found there was no queen nor a morsel of brood. To cut out of another hive a piece of comb containing eggs, and fix it in this, was the work of a few minutes; the hive was closed, replaced on its stand, and from that hour order was restored. On examining it four days afterwards, I found the rudiments of three artificial royal cells, and the queens were reared in due time.

There seemed no possibility of having been mistaken in this instance of an aberration of instinct; yet I did not remember ever having heard or read that such had been observed by the most vigilant bee-keepers, therefore it was with no small satisfaction I had my views confirmed by one whose field of observation is very extensive, and who is accurate in every detail. He informed me that he had known cases in which there could not be a doubt that, on the loss of the queen the bees had mutinied, and civil war had ended the existence of the family. What, we shall ask then, was the cause of the death of the young queen? Her appearance was remarkable: had she met her untimely end by foul means?—had the bees finding her unprolific, laid on her the hands of a regicide? We cannot answer further, but throw out these suggestions, and it may recur to the mind of some bee-keeper, that a hive has been attacked and destroyed in an unaccountable way, when its strength

seemed proof against an enemy; but that civil warfare is the most active and the most baneful of all the evils with which a nation can be afflicted. A.

Floriculture.

JULY 25.

WHEN the weather is hot and dry, let the auriculas be kept cool, and water the ground about them now and then. Prepare a bed or beds for the reception of the pipings of pinks when they shall be sufficiently rooted. An over-rich soil is not necessary for the nursery beds, but if a little manure be worked in about two or three inches deep, it will encourage the young plants to make fibre freely. Cuttings may still be taken from choice good sorts. To carnations and picotees a little weak manure water once or twice a week will do good. Take pipings of choice kinds. Earwigs in dahlias, and other tufty plants, are very injurious, and will become numerous as the plants increase in size, and offer them more shelter. Little pots, turned upside down upon the sticks belonging to the plants, crab or lobster claws, or anything similar, which gives them a dark chamber to hide in, will catch them in great numbers, when they may be easily knocked out and killed, or given to the chickens, who will thoroughly appreciate the delicacy. After the cuttings of succulent plants have been treated as recommended last week, make a compost for them with a mixture of light sandy earth and the rubbish of old walls. Plant the cuttings in pots, and plunge the pots in a slight straw hotbed, and cover them with very dry earth or tan. Cockscombs and balsams, and annuals of a like character, which may have been kept in the frames, may be brought out, and cleared of decayed leaves. Stir the earth on the top of the pots, and add a little sifted earth. Give the tall growing kinds stakes, and tie the plants to them, to save them from accidents and injuries. Afterwards water them well

all over. They and most plants in pots must be regularly watered in dry weather. If there is still any transplanting to do, choose showery weather if possible, and remove the roots with good balls of earth. Water them immediately, and support those of a tall habit of growth with sticks. Choice carnations should be ranged on the stages where they are intended to flower. Before staging, let the pots be properly cleaned, stirring the surface of the mould, and adjusting the flower stems in nice order. Any of the pods not opening fair, should have the pod carefully slit with a penknife in two or three places round the edges, and a little way down, to allow the petals to expand; without this little help, large flowers sometimes open irregularly, which quite spoils their beauty. Watch them constantly with this view, to make them open well, but never split the pod much at once. If the pod is tied round the middle with a little bit of bass or green worsted the flower will last much longer. In order to have fine bloom, florists often remove all the side shoots from the stem, and leave only two or three top pods for flowering. Give the carnation pots frequent gentle waterings, which will make them perfect good flowers, and at the same time enable the layers to take root kindly. Continue to layer shoots which are long enough for the purpose. If a succession of gaiety and beauty is more welcome than a very few first-rate flowers, the side buds may be allowed to remain, when the plants will continue in bloom for a long time; for the top buds will expand a long time before the lower ones.

Make new plants of chrysanthemums, either by dividing the roots, or by cuttings. For cuttings take the strongest tops of the shoots, about three inches in length, plant them in small pots, and plunge them in a little heat. It is a plant which easily strikes.

Keep the withered flowers constantly cut off the rose trees, and prune back the old flowering branches to the new shoot or bud, from which the next flowers will pro-

ceed. Many of the most delicate of the French roses are apt to die at the point of the shoots when they are pruned in the winter or early in the spring. In order to remedy this evil, a second pruning of the tender shoots should be performed now or when the flowers fade. In the same manner, as in winter pruning, all dead and decayed wood should be cut out, and those shoots which have been flowering should be shortened back to a healthy, strong bud. The buds which have not yet blown may be left unshortened until the end of September or the beginning of October. Some rose-growers prune all their best roses now, and the common sorts in winter. Geraniums which are planted out in the borders, are, generally, only now in their beauty; but those which are out of bloom should be cut down to within a few eyes of the old wood. Those in pots which are equally forward may be served the same, and placed in a hot situation, fully exposed to the sun. Water them sparingly, so as not to excite them into fresh growth, but to enable them thoroughly to ripen the wood previously to preparing them for the next season.

Myrtles, and other evergreens, should be freely watered, especially if much exposed to the sun. Syringe them often, to keep the foliage clean and free from dust.

PREVISION.

At this season it is a good plan to look round our gardens, and calculate the plants which we shall require another season, as cuttings and offsets may easily be obtained at this time, and during the autumn months. The dahlia is a flower which has become indispensable in a flower-garden of any size, and amateurs often find at the end of winter that their stock of plants is very much reduced: sometimes the tubers push no buds, and then we apply for aid to a liberal neighbour. But, though willing, he may be unable to render much assistance, all the plants that can be raised being required to supply his own wants. At this season, however, cuttings may be

easily spared, the side shoots of the branches strike readily in gentle heat; the young plants will die down in the autumn, but if allowed to remain in the pot, and kept in a dry cool place, they are easily kept over winter, and become nice little plants, which may be sub-divided the following spring. Thus we easily obtained a stock of such flowers as take our fancy while in bloom. Another plant which I recommend your gardening readers to propagate now by cuttings, is the graceful *Dielytra spectabilis*, which has so rapidly and deservedly become an universal favourite. When the blooming is over, cuttings may be made of the side shoots, and I understand they root readily. Geranium growers find that cuttings taken in the middle of summer, and placed in a border exposed to the sun, and without shade, make finer plants, and with less trouble, than when the old routine of striking in a hot-bed is followed. A.

SINGULAR OCCURRENCE.—A remarkable instance of the rapid increase of a swarm of bees has occurred at Warwick House, near Carlisle. An unusually large swarm was hived on the 11th of June, which quickly filled the hive, and on the 22nd of the same month threw a virgin swarm. This virgin swarm filled the hive in which it was placed, and in fifteen days (on the 7th of July), also threw a swarm, which in its turn is prospering greatly. Such an occurrence must be extremely rare, as in the whole course of a lengthened experience we have never before known this happen.—[A correspondent who kindly forwarded us the above extract from the "Carlisle Journal," could vouch for its correctness, as the circumstance happened to a neighbour of his own.—ED.]

TO EXTRACT A GLASS STOPPLE.—When the glass will not come out, pass a strip of woollen cloth around it, and then "saw" backwards and forwards, so that the friction may heat the bottle neck. This will cause it to expand, become larger than the stopple, and the latter will drop out, or may be easily withdrawn.

Bridlington Agricultural Show.

THE Twentieth Exhibition of Stock, Poultry, Implements, &c., was held at Bridlington, on Wednesday, July 18th.

Judges of Pigs and Poultry.—Mr. John O. Jolly, Acomb, York; Mr. John Seaman, Hull; Mr. James Elletson, Thomgumbald, Hedon.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Class 47. COCHIN CHINA, BUFF (Cock and two hens).—5 entries. 1st and 2nd prize, Rev. G. Hustler, Appleton. Class 48. (Cock).—3 entries. 1st prize, T. Richardson, Quay.

Class 49. DORKINGS (Cock and two hens).—4 entries. 1st prize, Rev. G. Hustler. 2nd prize, William Jordan, Caythorpe. Class 50. (Cock).—4 entries. 1st prize, Emanuel Kirby, Driffild.

Class 51. SPANISH (Cock and two hens).—4 entries. 1st and 2nd prizes, Dr. Pierson, Quay. Class 52. (Cock).—1 entry. Dr. Pierson.

Class 53. GAME (Cock and two hens).—12 entries. 1st prize, J. W. Jordan, B. Agnes. 2nd prize, John Graham, B. Agnes. Class 54. (Cock).—2 entries. 1st prize, James Laycock, Driffild.

Class 55. POLAND (Cock and two hens).—2 entries. 1st prize, J. Smith, Marton Lodge. 2nd prize, J. Bell, Marton Station.

Class 56. PHEASANTS, GOLDEN (Cock and two hens).—3 entries. 1st prize, T. Garton, Bridlington. 2nd prize, G. W. Duffill, Beverley. Class 57. SILVER (Cock and two hens).—3 entries. 1st prize, W. Charter, Malton. 2nd prize, Edward Tindall, Brid.

Class 58. HAMBURGS, GOLDEN SPANGLED (Cock and two hens).—2 entries. 1st prize withheld. 2nd prize, J. Smith. Class 59. SILVER SPANGLED (Cock and two hens).—2 entries. 1st and 2nd prizes, Edward Tindall. Class 60. GOLDEN PENCILLED (Cock and two hens).—3 entries. 1st prize, J. Smith. 2nd prize, J. Reynolds, B. Quay. Class 61. SILVER PENCILLED, OR CHITTEPRATS (Cock and two hens).—9 entries. 1st prize, Leonard Brown, Settrington. 2nd prize, Jameson Denton, Bridlington.

Class 62. BANTAMS, GOLDEN LACED (Cock and two hens).—6 entries. 1st prize, Mrs. Coverley, Bridlington. 2nd prize, George Wells, Malton. Class 63. SILVER LACED (Cock and two hens).—1 entry. 1st prize, Richard Woodmansey, Bridlington. Class 64. ANY OTHER

VARIETY (Cock and two hens).—6 entries. 1st prize, George Wells. 2nd prize, George Grimshaw, Bridlington.

Class 65. CHICKENS (Six, distinct variety, hatched in 1855).—8 entries. 1st prize, Rev. G. Hunter (C. China). 2nd prize, J. Taylor, jun., Burton Agnes (Golden Pheasant).

Class 66. GEESE (Gander and Goose).—2 entries. 1st prize, Mrs. W. Dixon, Settrington. 2nd prize, Mrs. R. Penrose, Hilderthorpe. Class 67. (Three Geese, hatched in 1855).—8 entries. 1st prize, J. Smith.

Class 68. TURKEYS (Cock and hen).—2 entries. 1st prize, Mrs. W. Dixon. 2nd prize, Richard Goulden, Brid. Class 69. (Three Turkeys, hatched in 1855).—2 entries. 1st prize, Mrs. Robert Jarratt, Harpham.

Class 70. DUCKS, AYLESBURY (Drake and two ducks).—4 entries. 1st prize, Miss M. Taylor, Sewerby. 2nd prize, Richard Golden, Bridlington. Class 71. (Couple of Ducks, hatched in 1855).—6 entries. 1st prize, Miss M. Taylor. Class 72. ANY VARIETY (Drake and two ducks).—1 entry. 1st prize, R. Ridsdall, Walkington. Class 73. (Couple of Ducks, hatched in 1855). 1st prize, Mr. G. Simpson, Marton.

Class 74. GUINEA FOWLS (Pair of Guinea Fowls).—1 entry. 1st prize, Miss E. Creyke, Marton.

Class 75. PIGEONS (Six Tumblers).—1 entry. J. Bower, Bridlington. Class 76. (Six Fantails). 1 entry. Leonard Brown. Class 77. (Six Carriers).—1 entry. J. Bower, Barmston. Class 78. (Six Jacobins). Sidney Taylor, Bridlington. Class 79. (Six of any new or distinct variety).—no entries.

Class 80. RABBITS. (Pair of any variety).—7 entries. 1st prize, G. and T. Heselton, Bridlington. 2nd prize, Miss Tindall, Bridlington.

Louth Flower Show.

THE second show of the season of the Louth Floral and Horticultural Society, took place on Friday, the 13th inst. By the kindness of the mayor (J. B. Sharpley, Esq.,) the large room of the New Town-hall was lent to the committee, and large as it was, it was not at all too large for the occasion. The day was beautifully fine, and the company numerous and gay. Some disappointment was experienced at

the absence of the judge (Mr. Gibbs, head gardener to the Earl of Yarborough); but it has since transpired, that the noble Earl was seriously attacked with paralysis, which may have prevented the presence of his gardener. However, it happened fortunately that Mr. Crowder, of Horneastle, nurseryman and florist, together with his assistant, were in the town, and the committee deemed it advisable at once to secure their services. Great credit is due to the secretaries, Messrs. R. Cropper, and T. F. Allison, for their indefatigable exertions and affable demeanour. The charge for admission to non-subscribers was one shilling; but a large number availed themselves of the opportunity of *entrée* at 3 o'clock, by payment of 3d.—The following is a list of the prizes awarded.—

Best three greenhouse plants, Rev. W. Smyth; 2nd do., Lady Albinia A. Pye. Best 2 achimenes, Mr. E. Loocock. Best 3 bal-sams, Mrs. F. Chaplin; 2nd do., Mr. Loocock. Best 6 calceolarias, Rev. James Garvey; 2nd do., Rev. J. Walls. Best 6 fuchsias, Miss F. Lister; 2nd do., Lady A. A. Pye; best three fuchsias (amateurs only), Mr. H. Boothby, jun.; 2nd do., Rev. J. Garvey. Best 2 ferns, Mr. Loocock; 2nd do., Rev. W. Smyth. Best 6 petunias, Mr. Boothby; 2nd do., Mr. Boothby; best 3 petunias (amateurs), Mr. L. R. Lucas; 2nd do., Mr. Boothby. Best 6 pelargoniums, Rev. J. Walls; best 3 do., Rev. J. D. Waite; 2nd do., Mr. Lucas. Best 3 scarlet pelargoniums, Lady Pye; 2nd do., Rev. W. Smith. Best three roses (in pots), Mr. Lucas. Best 6 verbenas, Mr. Lucas; 2nd do., Rev. W. Smyth; best 3 verbenas (amateurs), Mr. Lucas; 2nd do., Mr. Lucas. Best stove plant, Rev. W. Smyth. Best heath, Mrs. Chaplin. Best fuchsia, Miss. F. Lister. Best calceolaria, Rev. J. Walls. Best seedling (a *Phox Drummondii*), Mr. H. Boothby.

Cut Flowers.—Best 6 antirrhinums, Mrs. F. Chaplin; 2nd do., Mr. H. Boothby. Best 6 calceolarias, Rev. J. Garvey; 2nd do., Rev. W. Smyth. Best 24 roses (in trusses as grown), Rev. J. Garvey; 2nd do., Mr. H. Falkner; 12 roses, Rev. J. Garvey; 2nd do., Rev. J. Walls; best 6 do. (amateurs), Rev. J. Garvey; 2nd do., Mr. Falkner; best 3 ditto, Mrs. Chaplin; 2nd do., Rev. W. Smyth. Best 12 verbenas, no award; 2nd do., Rev. J. Garvey; 6 do., Mr.

Lucas; 2nd do., Miss F. Lister. Best collection of hardy flowers, Rev. J. Garvey; 2nd do., Capt. Fox. Best collection of greenhouse and stove ditto, Rev. J. D. Waite. Best hand bouquet, Rev. J. Walls; 2nd do., Rev. J. Garvey. Best collection of wild flowers, Miss Mason; 2nd do., Miss Wood; 3rd do., Mr. H. Allison.

Our space will not permit us to give the awards to fruit and vegetables.

The cottagers' table was well supplied with vegetables; and Mr. Crowder, of Horneastle, and Mr. Mitchell of Louth, exhibited stands of plants for sale. The show of roses was really splendid, as was also that of antirrhinums, in which there was much competition; and the judge must have found it no easy matter to make his awards. The collection of seedling petunias (including a large light-coloured double one), raised by Mr. H. Boothby, attracted much attention, and was deservedly admired. Mr. Lucas showed some very beautiful ones; and Mr. Waite's geraniums were admired, as they always have been.

The So-called New Variety of Domestic Fowls.

ONE of your correspondents asked recently what "B. P. B." said about these fowls. If he will turn to my first chapter on Crested Fowls, No. 56 of the "Poultry Chronicle," page 55, he will find all the information I am able to give.

I know not if I am right in considering the tailed variety as the original, or if the tailless variety should have precedence; if the first is the original, then we may suppose the other lost its tail by an alliance with the Rumpkin, which is also of Persian origin; if the second is the original, which is not improbable, then the tailed Crested Persian or Turkish fowl, as well as the common Rumpkin, must be regarded as offsprings of the tailless Crested fowl.

The Guelderlands, which I enumerated as a sub-variety of this class, are not probably traceable to an alliance between the Persian Crested and the St. Jago

Crested, from their partaking of the properties of both varieties, and on the supposition that two crests nullify each other, as it is a fact, that two non-setting breeds will produce by their union birds that set well.

I enclose the following newspaper extract that may be interesting to your readers:

B. P. B.

"NEW DOMESTIC FOWL.—Since the war with Russia a new kind of domestic fowl has been introduced into England from the Black sea, and is likely to prove a formidable rival to the Shanghai and Cochinchina. It is quite as large as the barn-door fowl; is crested; has feathered legs; its colour is generally all white or black—when the latter, of a raven hue and glossy. This bird is pugnacious, and its movements are very lively. Its most distinguishing peculiarity is, however, in the arrangement of the tail feathers. These are very few, and do not project as in other birds, but drop down, and lie close to the body, so that the creature appears tailless, and when its head is erect scarcely has the appearance of a bird. Several of these birds are to be seen at Southampton, where they have been landed from the war transports."

Household Matters.

CHURNING.—In churning butter, if small granules of butter appear which do not "gather," throw in a lump of butter, and it will form a nucleus, and the butter will "come."

TO REMOVE RUST FROM KNIVES, &c.—Cover the knives with sweet oil well rubbed on, and, after two days, take a lump of fresh lime, and rub till all the rust disappears. It forms a sort of soap with the oil, which carries off all the rust.

TO CLEAN BRASS.—Rub the tarnished or rusted brass, by means of a cloth or sponge, with diluted acid, such as the sulphuric, or even with strong vinegar. Afterwards wash it with hot water to remove the acid, and finish with dry whiting.

GLOSS ON LINEN.—To restore the gloss commonly observed on newly-purchased collars and shirt bosoms, add a spoonful of gum-arabic water to a pint of the starch as usually made for this purpose. Two ounces of clear gum-arabic may be dissolved in a pint of water, and, after standing over night, may be racked off, and kept in a bottle ready for use.

TO THAW FROZEN PUMPS.—Some throw in salt, some heat iron rods, &c., but an incomparably better way is to place a small lead pipe within the pump, and pour in hot water by means of a funnel. The pipe should be as long as the frozen portion; and, conducting the boiling water right on the ice, removes it with astonishing rapidity, say one foot per minute, the pipe settling as rapidly. Where pumps are liable to freeze, it is well to have a lead pipe always at hand.

Entomology.

CHAP. IX.

ORTHOPTERA.

THE third order in the sub-class Mandibulata is Orthoptera, which, as we have seen, includes, amongst others, the locusts, grasshoppers, and crickets. The order derives its name from two Greek words, signifying straight wing. The English species are not numerous, and it is a fortunate thing for us that they are not; for of all animals capable of injuring mankind, the migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria*), an insect belonging to the family locustidæ in this order, possesses the most fearful powers of destruction. Not only do these insects eat up every green thing which comes in their way, but from their immense numbers the putrefaction of their dead bodies is supposed to be the cause of some of those desolating pestilences which almost depopulate whole districts in the countries where they are found. Mr. Barrow, speaking of a flight he saw, says, "The whole surface of the ground might literally be said to be covered with them for an area of nearly 2,000 square miles. When driven into the sea by a north-

west wind they formed upon the shore, for fifty miles, a bank three or four feet high; and when the wind was south-east, the stench was so powerful as to be smelt at the distance of 150 miles, the air being, in fact, poisoned by their fetid exhalations." These insects have sometimes visited Europe, particularly Poland, in amazing numbers, and instances have been known of their reaching our coasts, but the cold and humidity of this climate is not favourable to their production.

It has been questioned by some more fond of cavilling at the Scriptures than desirous of acting on the principles inculcated by them, whether the account of St. John's feeding on locusts is credible, urging that this food would be quite unnatural; but so far from this being true, it is related by almost all travellers in the East, who have written on the subject at all, that the locust forms part of the food of the Arabs, whenever they can be had in sufficient abundance; they are either ground in hand-mills, and made into a sort of bread, or fricasseed with butter, forming a dish said to be far from disagreeable. Gordon Cumming, in his work on South Africa, also says, "Locusts afford fattening and wholesome food to man, birds, and all sorts of beasts—cows, horses, lions, jackals, hyænas, antelopes, and elephants, all devour them. We met a party of Ballapis carrying heavy burdens of them on their backs; our hungry dogs made a fine feast on them. The cold frosty night had rendered them unable to take wing until the sun should restore their powers. As it was difficult to obtain sufficient food for my dogs, I and Isaac took a large blanket, which we spread under a beech, whose branches were bent to the ground with the mass of locusts which covered it, and, having shaken the branches, in an instant I had more locusts than I could carry on my back; these we roasted for ourselves and our dogs."

The migratory locust is of a brownish colour, varied with pale red, and the legs are of a bluish cast: there are several other species, but not known in this country.

The *achetidæ* is a family of this order, and our little well-known friend, "the cricket on the hearth" (*Gryllus domesticus*) is a member of that family. The crickets are distinguished by their long antennæ, and the comparative smallness of their thighs, which in many of the members of the order are very much developed, and calculated for leaping. The chirping noise "so familiar to our ear" is produced by the friction of the bases of their elytra against each other, these parts being curiously adapted to produce this sound: it is very common in kitchens in London, and in most towns; and but few bake-offices are without them. The field cricket (*Acheta campestris*) is another member of this family; it is larger and rarer than the house cricket, and more noisy. It is of a blackish colour, with a large head in proportion to the body, and full prominent eyes; it is found in sandy districts, forming a burrow on the sunny side of footpaths, &c., to the depth of from 6 to 12 inches, and sits at the mouth of it, watching for any wandering insect that may come in its way, which it seizes and devours. The most singular insect in this order, known to English collectors, is undoubtedly the mole cricket (*Gryllotalpa vulgaris*). It is about two inches long, and of a broad shape in front, gradually tapering off towards the posterior extremity: it derives its name from the very peculiar formation of the fore legs, which resemble in no slight degree the hand-like foot of the mole. It is a very strong insect, and in making its burrows it cuts through almost any root that lies in its way. It emerges from its subterranean retreat only by night, when it creeps about the surface, and occasionally employs its wings in flight: it is at this time that its not unmusical cry is heard, which in some parts of England has obtained it the name of the Churr-worm. It lives entirely on vegetables, devouring the young roots of grass corn, and various esculent plants, and sometimes commits great havoc in gardens. It is not common in collections, on account of its underground and nocturnal habits. The nest of

this insect is carefully fortified with avenues and entrenchments; a ditch which few insects are capable of passing encompassing the whole. The nest is formed of clay, and is about the size of a hen's egg; it is carefully closed up on every side, as well to defend it from the weather as the attacks of carnivorous beetles. At the approach of winter, these nests are sunk deeper into the ground, so as to be out of the influence of the frost, and they are again raised higher as the weather gets milder, until the brood hatches out, when the mother, perishing, leaves her progeny to stem the storms of life by themselves. The common grasshopper is another insect belonging to this order, and to the family *locustidae*; it is a very common insect, of a green colour, with a line of brown which streaks the back, and two pale lines under the belly, and behind the legs. The female deposits her eggs in the earth about the end of autumn, she first making a hole by means of the instrument which seems to have been placed at the end of her body for that purpose. The eggs hatching about May, in the ensuing spring, produce insects about the size of a flea, at first whitish, but in a day or two changing to a black colour, and again to a reddish brown. From their first leaving the egg they look like wingless grasshoppers in miniature, hopping amongst the grass with the greatest agility. At the end of about twenty days the larva betakes itself to some place of shelter, and after a great many laborious writhings and heavings, the skin which covers the head and neck bursts, and the insect extricates itself from the old skin, and appears as a perfect insect, at first extremely feeble, and quite soft, but gradually it dries, and becomes the active merry little insect which seems to imagine that its chief object in life is to sing without ceasing; this singing being performed in the same manner as the chirping of the cricket. Those curious animals, the leaf insects, belong to this order; but as we have no English species, I shall say nothing about them. The cock-roach (*Blatta orientalis*), commonly but errone-

ously called the black beetle, is a member of this order; it is not an indigenous insect, but is supposed to have been brought to this country from Asia: however this may be, it is now so common as to be familiar to almost everybody. It is nocturnal in its habits, and devours almost anything which comes in its way. It is stated that the peel of cucumber is poisonous to this insect, and that it will quite clear a house of them, if placed in the situations which they frequent. They are repulsive-looking insects—to me more so than any with which I am acquainted. A very large kind, called *gigantea*, found in the West Indies, is said sometimes even to eat the skin and flesh from the toes of dying persons, so voracious is its appetite; in fact, these insects are represented as complete pests in all hot countries. We cannot be too thankful to that gracious God who has allowed us to enjoy immunity from those insect scourges to which many other countries are so subject. Here we have no desolating locusts changing our smiling fields to a dreary wilderness; no hungry blattas, unable to stay their appetite till death shall give them what must be food for worms; no blood-thirsty mosquitos, ever eager to suck the blood of any poor unfortunate wight who cannot or will not take the trouble to guard against their attack. No; there may be lands where the skies are brighter, the land more fertile, the flowers more gorgeous, the birds and insects more numerous and beautiful; yet there is a land all other lands beside, whose men are heroes, in whom the chivalric blood of Agincourt, Blenheim and Waterloo, yet flows, whose arms are yet strong, whose hearts are yet brave, whose cares are not yet so deadened by "trade's unflinching train" as to turn from calls of a sister country for help from the encroachments of a barbarous power. There is a land whose men, I repeat it, are heroes—heroes such as might grace the palmiest days of Greece or Rome; heroes who, regardless of famine, death, pinching cold, and odds 'gainst which none but men of the sternest stuff could stand unshrinkingly,

perform their duty; a land whose women stand pre-eminent in beauty, modesty, and goodness.

"Oh! need I say this *country's* name."

Hurrah! for England—England; thrice happy England; England, whose men are men; whose women are worthy mothers, wives, and daughters of men: England, where God is honoured, and where alone true liberty reigns. Yes! England is that happy country's name; and though storms may lower, and angry tempests threaten, and all may now look dark and gloomy, yet God-fearing and God-serving, we may hopefully and fearlessly commit our cause and our country to Him who holds the waters in the hollow of his hands, and who can and will help when vain is the help of man. Yes! England, I fear not for thee, thou art yet destined, methinks, to see brighter and happier days; thou art not yet forsaken; thou wilt yet lead the van in the arts of civilisation and peace; and, by thine agency, I yet believe that happy day at last will come when the "knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the seas."

WE feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, we take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

BRAHMAS, ETC.

SIR,—"*Public opinion*" (as expressed in the letter of your correspondent "*Veritas for Ever*") being so decidedly against me on the subject of *my own* Cochins and Brahmas, I fear I shall have to dispose of my stock of poultry, and discontinue the "Poultry Chronicle," which has

heretofore been a very welcome addition to my breakfast-table on a Wednesday morning (I'm a bachelor, Mr. Editor, and so can read my paper, at breakfast without interruption). However, being so severely censured by Mr. Veritas for telling that which he wishes to consider himself perfection in, I have been greatly vexed with you for inserting his letter without his name; for allow me to add, that when any one appears as a reformer, or a censurer (?), the concealing one's remarks under an assumed name is rather derogatory. But as I ought to know more about my own birds than any stranger, Mr. Veritas will be sorry to hear that the eggs were *not* removed by any one else than myself; there was *no* mismanagement; and there was *not* a single Cochin cock on the premises (I would not be known to own such a deformed creature). Since I began to write to you, my wrath has disappeared, and as I know not who Mr. Veritas-for-Ever is, I feel that his censure will not oppress me very much; so I shall not give up my feathered pacts, nor discontinue the "Poultry Chronicle;" but tell Mr. V. if we compete in the same classes, I may try to have the satisfaction of beating him; and further, that when I meet him, I may have the satisfaction of censuring *him* for taking upon himself the office of "*public censurer*."—I am, sir, yours,
B. T. S.

With reference to your own remark; is not the comb of the game cock equally as beautiful as that of either variety of Brahma. *Why*, then, is it still dubbed?

[Many agree with our correspondent, "B. T. S.," in his inference; and we would be pleased to see an entire, delicate, and beautifully formed comb one of the points of our beautiful English game cock.—ED.]

CAUTION TO AMATEURS.

SIR,—With reference to the letter, headed as above, in last week's "Poultry Chronicle," allow me to ask the writer, why he is so unjust to all the breeders of Partridge Cochins who advertise in your columns (myself among the number) as to make a charge against some particular *one* IN GENERAL TERMS. I quite agree with him that sellers who practise tricks ought to be exposed, but this must be done not only by a publication of *facts*, but also of *names*.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. H. SNELL.

St. Swinith's Lane, London,

July 20, 1855.

[It was we who felt obliged to make the wording of "W. S.'s" letter more "general" than he had done, as it was our wish (and doubtless his also) to point to occurrences, not to persons.—ED.]

To Correspondents.

Amateur.—In the schedule of the "Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland," prizes are offered for pairs of fowls and pairs of pullets. "Amateur" would like to collect opinions as to when a hen ceases to be a pullet. We think she is generally reckoned a pullet until after she is a year old, but perhaps it would be more correct to consider her a hen when she begins to lay.

Banua.—It is difficult to procure a photographic likeness of a fowl, from the extreme difficulty of getting it to stand perfectly still.

Meeting at Carlisle.—The department for poultry will be first opened on Wednesday after the judges have completed their labours.

Philo-Peristeron Society, E. J.—The meetings are held at the Freemasons' Tavern. The birds are in handsome cages placed on tables; we believe the cages are the property of the exhibitors.

Clarion.—Our correspondent gives a more detailed account of "W. S.'s Caution to Amateurs," and trusts that the mention of such transactions may be the means of teaching a lesson of caution to Amateurs.

Advertisements.

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To be sold by an amateur, for want of space, the pen of magnificent Game Fowls that won **FIRST PRIZE** at WINDSOR Exhibition, Class 17—beating so many distinguished breeders: the birds are now in first-rate condition, and fit to exhibit anywhere with success.—For price, apply to Mr. FAIRHEAD, Winford, Maiden Newton, Dorset.



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ISLE OF WIGHT EXHIBITION OF POULTRY,

under the Patronage of H. R. H. Prince Albert. The Annual Exhibition will take place at Ryde on the 7th and 8th of August. Entries close on the 24th of July. An AUCTION will be held on the 8th of August, at 11 o'clock. In addition to the pens entered for competition, space will be afforded where breeders can send stock for sale, on payment of 1s. per basket. For a List of Prices, and Pieces of Plate, with Forms of Entry, apply, enclosing a stamped envelope, to

JOHN VAUX, Esq., Ryde }
Mr. GEORGE LOCKE, Newport } Hon. Secs.

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H. D. DAVENPORT, Secretary.
Agents wanted.

ANERLEY POULTRY SHOW.—President,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Verulam; Vice-President, Sir John Peter Boileau, Bart. F. R. S. Vice-President of the Zoological Society. The first Exhibition of Poultry and Pigeons will be held in the Anerley Gardens, adjoining the Anerley Station of the London and Croydon Railway, and near the Anerley Entrance to the Crystal Palace Grounds, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 28, 29, and 30, 1855.

The value of the Prizes will exceed 300 guineas. A detailed list of the Prizes and Certificates of Entry may be had on application to the Secretaries, at the office, Anerley, Surrey.

By special permission, the Band of the Royal Artillery will attend each day during the Exhibition.

EDGAR SMALLFIELD, } Hon. Secs.
HENRY F. WELLS, }

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Poultry Shows.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society, at Malton, August 1st and 2nd. Secretary, J. Hannam, Esq., Kirk-Deighton, Wetherby. Entries are closed. (No. 72.)

Isle of Wight, at Ryde, August 7th and 8th. Secretaries, J. Vaux, Esq., and G. Locke, Esq. Entries are closed. (No. 70.)

Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland, at Carlow, Aug. 8th, 9th, and 10th. Secretary, J. Harkness, Esq., Upper Sackville Street, Dublin. (No. 75.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close August 9th. (No. 67.)

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary, Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries close August 7th. (No. 63.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at Boston, Thursday, August 23rd. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close August 8th. (Nos. 64 and 69.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry,

Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq. Entries close August the 10th. (No. 74.)

Heckmondwike (near Leeds) Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Show, including Poultry, and Cottagers' Pigs, Tuesday, August 28. Secretaries, J. Kelly, and F. Brearly, Esquires. Entries close August 13th.

Anerley, August 28th, 29th, and 30th. Secretaries, Edgar Smallfield, Esq., and Henry F. Wells, Esq. Entries close August 6th. (No. 69.)

Keighley Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighley. Entries close Saturday, August 25th. (No. 71.)

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th.

Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Meeting, at Bury, Friday, Sept. 21st. Secretary, J. Cross, Esq. Entries close September the 16th. (No. 75.)

South West Middlesex Agricultural Society, Friday, October 5th. Secretary, J. Gotelee, Esq.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

East Lancashire Poultry Show (late Nelson) at Colne, October 31st and November 1st. Secretaries, Messrs. T. and E. Booth, Marsden, near Burnley, Lancashire. Entries close October 17th. (No. 73.)

Bedford: Wednesday and Thursday, the 7th and 8th of November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

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." Advertisements must be sent prepaid to the Publishers.

WHEN we visit the yard of a fellow-amateur to purchase from his stock, we ask him questions respecting them, and are often guided by his recommendation in our selection. When we go to a poultry show, we rest on the necessity which existed for the exhibitor to choose to the best of his ability to avoid defeat and disqualification. We must feel certain that he has done all he can, and therefore it is our opinion, that after examining the birds well in their pens, with the advantage which such near examination gives, the purchase, like a certain other great event in our lives, must be for better or worse.

After a lapse of time we may find our-

selves disappointed in our purchase. The birds *may* not have been sent to the show in sufficiently high condition to stand the test of several days' confinement and the accompanying excitement; or, in young birds, there may be a mistake regarding the sexes. In such a case, what can we do? Can we call upon the committee for compensation, whose real share in the sale is only the arrangement of the monetary part of the transaction? If the secretary of the show, and the gentlemen of the committee deliver the birds for the money, and the money for the birds, neither seller nor purchaser can have further claim on them, nor right to trouble them upon the subject; except, of course, to ask their opinion in courtesy. Can we call upon the seller for compensation, when we have had almost the same opportunity of judging that he has had; when he did not press the birds on us for sale, but we claimed them? Certainly not.

There are many advantages in buying at the poultry shows,—comparison, consideration, and examination with the birds stationed near the spectator, but we think the purchase, when concluded, should be considered a finished matter.

We were led to these remarks by the communication of our correspondent "Gallus Primus," and we recommend the committees of poultry shows to take his suggestions under their consideration, and also those of our contributor "X. X."

A TIGHT screw may be easily loosened from a metal socket, by heating the latter by means of cloths with boiling water, or in any other way—on the simple principle of expansion by heat.

The Poultry Yard.

AUGUST 1.

"EXAMPLE is better than precept," says the proverb, but once now and then (perhaps oftener) we meet with an example which is a note of warning rather than a friendly hand-post to guide us on our way—something to tell us what to avoid, not what to follow. With this wholesome caution before our readers, we proceed. We have often said, do not house the chickens too thickly: we will just describe a chicken home, and we hope our readers who have better arrangements (especially if they are not more expensive) will give us the advantage of their experience.

No. 1 is a stable-yard, and a little bit of the stable is the hen-house. Here reside the old Cochins (at present without the solace of a cock's company). For pasturing the inhabitants run out into the orchard for a few hours each day. The warmth of the stable gives this domicile its great value. Hens which are roosted here in the winter months are sure to keep the family well supplied with eggs. It is ventilated by a swing window over the door, and an open trap-door at the further end into a very airy loft.

No. 2 is a house of wood, covered with felt. Its ventilation is very simple (a window of holes in the door); it measures six feet by four, and the run attached to it measures nine yards by four. Here are located a mother and her young brood of twelve, and a sitting hen on a shelf. The house is somewhat small, but it is cool, being shaded by trees, and partly grown over with ivy. Great success has attended the broods lodged there. They are cooped out on the lawn, or allowed to run in the orchard for a portion of each day.

No. 3 is a wooden house, ten feet by seven, with a run ten yards by four. Fifteen chickens, turned off by their mothers, lodge there and thrive. The house is ventilated by two windows, in front, of perforated zinc, and sundry holes

and cracks, and knots pushed out all over it. The chickens run out into the orchard for a few hours each day.

Nos. 4 and 5 are two houses built together; each house is six feet square, and the runs are a little larger than that of No. 3. One house is inhabited by nine chickens, the other by a family of old fowls—a cock and four hens. As these runs are of grass, the fowls are not let out.

Nos. 6 and 7 are again a pair of houses, built together, measuring five feet by five feet, with good grass runs eighteen yards long and six yards wide. In each of these houses a brood was established when first hatched, each with the mother, who had her entire liberty almost from the first. The plan answers very well, and is perhaps the best we can follow when desirous of rearing a limited number of first-rate chickens. The houses are a framework of wood covered with patent asphalted felt. There was a little difficulty about ventilation, which might easily have been prevented, when they were made, by the introduction of two little windows of perforated zinc, one in the door and one opposite to it, near the top of the house. A pattern of holes in these places, made without difficulty, has however remedied the evil.

No. 8 is a house about ten feet square, with a small paddock for a run. It was built with the idea that a good many chickens might be turned into it, and would thrive. It is well ventilated, having folding-doors on one side, with a lattice above, a window opposite of perforated zinc, and on a third side two little hatches near the ground for the ingress and egress of the fowls. It is much in favour of housing fowls and chickens in small parties, that twenty-five chickens in this house do not do nearly so well as thirteen in houses much smaller in relative proportion to the number.

No. 9 is a mud-wall house, with a gravelled shrubbery for a run. The clay not having been very well annealed, there is no lack of ventilation. Here the old

Brahmas live; they get a run in the orchard every morning.

No. 10 is a moveable house and wired in-run which perambulates the lawns, and is tenanted by a pair of Bantams, with four worthy scions.

Many who read this history of ten little hen-houses would like also to know how other amateurs house their fowls and chickens, the space they allow them, and the room they require to do well; and we shall be greatly obliged to any who will tell us how they have prospered, their successes and their failures: their observations and experiences will all convey valuable lessons.

Schedule of the Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Society.

THE annual Meeting of this Society will be held at Bury, on Friday, September 21, when prizes will be offered for the best cultivated farms—for draining, for laying down land in grass, hedges, crops, cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, poultry, vegetables, seeds, butter, and implements.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

PRIZES OPEN TO GENERAL COMPETITION.

SPANISH.

	1st.	2nd.
Cock and three Hens, chickens of 1855	20	5
Cock and two Hens, of any age	15	

DORKINGS.

Cock and three Hens, chickens of 1855	20	5
Cock and two Hens, of any age	15	

COCHIN CHINAS (CINNAMON OR BUFF.)

Cock and three Hens, chickens of 1855	20	5
Cock and two Hens, of any age	15	

COCHIN CHINAS, (BROWN OR PARTRIDGE.)

Cock and three Hens, chickens of 1855	20	5
Cock and two Hens, of any age	15	

COCHIN CHINAS, (BLACK AND WHITE.)

Cock and three Hens, chickens of 1855	20	5
Cock and two Hens, of any age	15	

GAME.

Cock and three Hens, chickens of 1855	20	5
Cock and two Hens, of any age	15	

1st. 2nd.
. . .

GOLDEN HAMBURGS.

(This variety includes the Golden Pencilled Hamburgs, Bolton Bays, Golden Pheasants, Golden Mooneys, Copper Moss, and Red Caps).

Cock and three Hens, chickens of 1855	20	5
Cock and two Hens, of any age	15	

SILVER HAMBURGS.

(This variety includes the Bolton Grays, Chittyprats, Silver Pencilled Dutch, Silver Pheasants, Silver Mooneys, and Silver Moss).

Cock and three Hens, chickens of 1855	20	5
Cock and two Hens, of any age	15	

POLANDS.

Cock and three Hens, chickens of 1855	20	5
Cock and two Hens, of any age	15	

BANTAMS, (ANY VARIETY).

Cock and three Hens, chickens of 1855	20	5
Cock and two Hens, of any age	15	

TURKEYS.

Cock and two Hens, of any age	15	5
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GEESE.

Gander and two Geese, of any age	15	5
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DUCKS, (AYLESBURY, OR OTHER WHITE VARIETY.)

Drake and two Ducks, of any age	15	5
Hatch of Ducklings, not less than four	10	

DUCKS, (ROUEN, OR OTHER DARK VARIETY.)

Drake and two Ducks, of any age	15	5
Hatch of Ducklings, not less than four	10	

For the best pen of Poultry at the show, 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. 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 cer-

ificates, whenever this can be done. Chickens of 1855 cannot be shown in the classes for fowl above that age.

All the specimens must have been bonâ fide the property of the exhibitor for at least one month previous to the show. Fowl out at "walk" will, however, be equally admissible for exhibition by their real owners.

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.

The exhibition will not be confined to a particular district, and specimens may be sent from any part of the country.

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 10th day of September 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.

ARRIVAL AND ARRANGEMENT OF STOCK.

The Show Yard will be open for the admission of stock from 6 to 8 o'clock on the morning of exhibition, after which hour none can be admitted, as the Judges will proceed to view the stock without delay.

Each servant, who has charge of stock, will be required to remain with them until they leave the show ground, and must be acquainted with the various particulars required to be certified, regarding the stock of which he is in charge.

The public will be admitted to view the Show Yard from 9 to 11 o'clock, on payment of 5s. each; from 11 to 1 o'clock, on payment of 1s. each; and from 1 to 3 o'clock, on payment of 6d. each; members admitted free of charge. All stock, &c., exhibited, must remain in the Show Yard until 3 o'clock.

The Committee particularly request that exhibitors will be punctual to the time and regulations, and also to be very particular in seeing that their servants attach to each animal the numbered card, agreeable to the instructions they will receive, as it will greatly tend to

facilitate the business of the day, and prevent mistakes and confusion.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JUDGES.

The Judges, without inquiry as to the names of parties or places, are requested to determine, by reference to the number affixed to each lot by the Secretary, and in forming their judgment they will have regard to the symmetry, size, early maturity, and qualities, characteristic of the different breeds they have to judge, making due allowance for age, feeding, and circumstances peculiar to the cases which may come before them.

No Premium will be awarded where the Judges shall be of opinion that there is not sufficient merit in the stock, or implements, &c., exhibited, to justify their award, especially in cases where there is no competition.

Schedule of the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland.

THE meeting of this society will be held at Carlow on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of August. Numerous high prizes are offered for cattle of various breeds, horses, sheep, pigs, poultry, dairy produce, flax, and implements.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

**CLASS K.—POULTRY.—FOWL
DORKING.**

<i>Class.</i>	<i>£ s.</i>
1. Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old	1 10
2. Couple of Pullets	0 10
SPANISH.	
3. Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old	1 10
4. Couple of Pullets	0 10
POLISH.	
5. Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old	1 10
6. Couple of Pullets	0 10
MALAY.	
7. Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old	1 10
8. Couple of Pullets	0 10
HAMBURG.	
9. Speckled Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old	1 10
10. Couple of Speckled Pullets	0 10

Class.	£	s.
COCHIN CHINA.		
11. Cock and Hen, not exceeding two years old	1	10
12. Couple of Pullets	0	10
TURKEYS.		
13. Cock and Hen, not exceeding three years old	1	10
14. Couple of Poults	0	10
GEESE.		
15. Couple of Geese	1	10
Second best ditto	0	10
DUCKS.		
16. Aylesbury Drake and two Ducks, not exceeding three years old	1	10
Second best ditto	0	10
17. Drake and two Ducks of any other breed, not exceeding three years old	1	10
Second best ditto	0	10
CAPONS.		
18. Lot of Fowl of any breed, not less than ten	2	0
Second best ditto	1	0
19. Lot of Turkeys, not less than ten	2	0
Second best ditto	1	0

For the best lot of Poultry in this Class—
The Medal.

Disappointment.

NOISELESS wheels do not prevent jolting, if the road is uneven; the only difference is, the public do not perceive it; the poor creature inside feels it none the less. So it is at poultry shows; some trivial complaints are not heard, because the sufferers are *noiseless* men, others are trumpeted forth because they are *noisy*. The first deserve sympathy, the latter fail to excite that feeling. Much disappointment is sometimes the result of claiming pens of poultry. They lack condition, or it may be, in some classes, there are mistakes of sex. Now a noisy man seldom reflects; if he did, he would in a moment see that whoever exhibits for a prize conforms to the rules to the best of his ability, knowing that any deviation will be visited with disqualification, and consequent defeat.

I am led to make these remarks from a question recently mooted, and warmly,

I may say hotly, contested, about a pair of claimed pigeons, both of which were cocks. Threats have been used to the committee. What is a committee-man? A humorous writer some time since said, "A Consul was a cross between the Foreign Secretary and a Police-constable." A committee-man suffers for a failure, reaps no benefit if successful; it is, therefore, too much if he be made responsible for the mistakes of exhibitors and purchasers.

The poultry pursuit is a pleasing and harmonious one, and as this is one of the few things that can alter its nature, I advise all committees in future to exhibit in a conspicuous place, and to print on their catalogues that "Birds may be purchased at the prices marked, but that they are not responsible for sex or condition." X. X.

On Moulting.

MOULTING is a sickly season with fowls. The old damaged plumage has to be got rid of, and the place supplied by stout and brilliant feathers. These furnish more warmth in the winter, and are fully perfected when the breeding season comes on. This is the period of full and beautiful plumage in all birds. It is a singular process, unlike any other that we know of, unless it is the shedding antlers in deer. At whatever period of the year you may pull out feathers, they will grow again; but if they are cut off, and the quills are left in the flesh, there is no feather grown till the regular moulting season comes on. If the wings of a bird are stripped of their flight feathers, they will grow enough in six weeks to enable it to fly, and in two months it has again a full wing. When feathers are pulled out, if the spot is noticed, small stubs or tubes will be seen ranged in perfect symmetry. First they are not perceptible to touch, then they protrude a little from the skin, and afterwards they grow rapidly. At the end of a few days the tip of the feather is seen to come out of the tube; then it grows till its increasing bulk bursts its barriers, and it

becomes daily more fully developed. But so long as the feather is in process of formation, the lower part is soft to the touch, and if pulled out is found to be full of blood. This nourishes the feather during its growth. It becomes perfect and hard at the top first, and continues to harden downwards till it reaches the stub from which it first sprung: as nutriment is then required no longer, it dries up, hardens, and forms the quill.

It will easily be seen that this process is like all the other works of nature; it is perfect. As soon as the breeding season is over, and the chickens are able to do for themselves, the process of renovation commences. Every outward appearance of condition disappears; combs diminish in size, and look dead and withered, the plumage is dingy and shabby, the feathers fall, two or three at most are seen in the tail, the neck is bare, and it is evident that some internal effort is going on. It is the production of a new plumage.

This will bring us to answer the question propounded,—What is the effect produced on fowls if exhibited when moulting? It must be called an unfavourable time to show them; but it will be easily understood that fowls well attended to and generously fed, suffer much less than those that are in any way neglected or left entirely to themselves. At no time do they require such liberal feeding as during moult, but it must not be anything heating, as, if feverish, the stubs dry up and the feather dies. Close observation and long experience have taught us, that the most sickly time is when the stub is first appearing through the skin; the bird is then comparatively naked, and should not be exhibited; but when this first stage is past, there can be no objection to exhibit them anywhere, if they are properly attended to, provided with green food, and carefully denied that abomination in an exhibition pen—*whole corn*. As soon as the new tail feathers are a few inches long, the sickliest time is over; there is little risk or danger in exhibiting them, but they should be

handled *delicately*. A moulting fowl *rudely* caught up will scream with pain, and on examination the tender stubs will be seen bent and out of place, crushed and bleeding; not one of these will ever make a feather, but the bruised top will harden, and the feather will grow inwards, either between the skin and the flesh, or will form an angry ulcer, causing fever and discomfort.

But to meet our querist's views we must give a positive answer to the question.

Seeing that there is one moulting season for all fowls—as Francis Moore, physician, says of the weather, a week sooner or a week later—we say it is not likely the fact of their being in moult will interfere with success at any show held at that time of year. And next, that fowls being otherwise in good condition, and properly handled, may be exhibited without injury, although in moult.

Ducks.

(Continued from page 464.)

THE varieties of ducks already described are merely those of colour, which may be attributed to the effects of domestication; but those to be described as the Crested, Penguin, and Hooked-bills, have other properties which I think can hardly be considered as solely the effects of that cause: it therefore remains for us to enquire into the history of our tame ducks, to try and discover the cause of these variations of structure.

Some have endeavoured to trace the origin of our ducks to the East, as if man, having, according to tradition, come originally from that quarter, must consequently have brought all our domesticated animals with him from that part. To this opinion I am not inclined to assent; and I agree with most of our naturalists, who suppose that the Wild Mallard and Duck are most probably the originals of our common tame ducks.

If we refer to the old writers on poultry, we shall find that the Romans took great

pains to reclaim these birds, and made enclosures, well-fenced and provided with artificial ponds, etc., for that purpose; and it is not too much to suppose, that the common Wild Mallard and Duck were not the only occupants of these enclosures, but most probably several other varieties were also partially reclaimed; and that from these, occasionally, cross breeds may have been produced.

But it may be advanced, cross breeds or mules, being unnatural productions, are, as a rule, unproductive; still exceptional cases do occur in which mules, at least from allied tribes, will re-produce; and though such crosses have a tendency to return to one of the original species, yet where a cross has once taken place, it is known that the progeny do occasionally cry back, as it is termed by fanciers: in this way I account for the diversity of form that sometimes meets the eye among our domesticated animals.

The Crested or Top-knotted ducks are distinguishable from the common sorts, from which they are sometimes produced, by a large crest or top-knot of feathers on the head. Some have supposed this to be a mere freak of Nature; but Dame Nature is too old and staid in her ways, to be given to such freaks, without a good cause for indulging in such eccentricities. In Australia, I have been informed, there are three varieties of crested ducks; but I think we need not go so far for the top-knot in our ducks, as there is one variety in our northern hemisphere which is an occasional visitant in this country, and may possibly have more to do with our top-knotted ducks than is generally admitted.

Latham describes this bird somewhat as follows:

“This inhabitant of the extremity of America is of the size of the Wild Duck, but is much longer, for it measures twenty-five inches in length; a tuft adorns its head; a straw yellow, mixed with rusty-coloured spots, is spread over the throat and front of the neck; the wing speculum blue, beneath edged with white; the bill,

wing, and tail are black; the irides red; and the rest of the body ashy grey.”

Although our tame top-knotted ducks are occasionally produced from those without crests, nevertheless it is to be inferred from that, that the parents had some of that particular cross in their blood. In colour they are various. I have had them the colour of the Wild Mallard and Duck; quite white, and ashy blue, as also parti-coloured; but perhaps the prettiest coloured birds are those of a particularly light grey. In the drakes, the head and upper part of the neck are bluish purple, and they have the blue mark on the wings like most grey ducks; the pinions and tail are black, and the body bearing some resemblance to the Mallard, but very much lighter. In the ducks, the plumage of the head is of a rusty brown, and that of the body a pale silvery grey, delicately pencilled and spotted with fine black marks; the blue patches on the wings are small, and sometimes exchanged for a dull brown colour.

The Penguin duck is another offset from our common ducks, and so called from its erect carriage. I know little of them, but suspect their peculiarity also to be attributable to some cross that has taken place among our ducks, during the length of time they have been subject to the whims and caprices of man.

The Hooked-bill ducks, called also Dutch Hook-bills, are rather small, being not much larger than the common Wild ducks. They derive their name from the formation of the beak, which is bent in the middle, downwards, which gives them a Roman-nosed appearance. They are of various plumage, but usually either of the wild colour, or pure white; they are very loquacious, and were formerly much imported from Holland, and esteemed as excellent layers; indeed they occupy the place among ducks, that the Bolton Bays and Greys do among fowls, being what are termed, everlasting layers. One thing worthy of note is, that if these are crossed with the straight-billed ducks, many young ones are produced with the upper mandible

shorter than the lower, which not unfrequently causes the death of the bird, from its inability to pick up sufficient nutriment.

Call ducks are the most diminutive of the class of tame ducks, and may not inappropriately be considered the Bantams of their kind. Their plumage is usually either that of the wild, or quite white; they derive their name from their incessant quacking or calling, on account of which they are used as decoys for Wild ducks.

B. P. B.

Young Geese.

“Alas! What bothers *do* increase
Around *his* head—who shows *young* geese.”
HUDIBRAS.

Nor satisfied with having been a not unsuccessful exhibitor of poultry, I must needs, for my sins, dabble a little in the *goose* line, and a very pretty kettle of fish I have made of it.

I venture to pour my sorrows into your sympathising ear, partly from the wish that my fate may tend to keep other ambitious exhibitors from the *Slough of Despond*, into which I find I have *gone and put my foot*; and partly, because I am not without a hope, that poultry Committees who may hear my case, may be induced to make such changes in the classification of their prize lists, as may prevent future disappointment on one side, or annoyance on the other.

In the early summer of 1854, I encountered in a farm-yard in the North of England some of the finest goslings I had ever seen. A bargain was soon struck, and after a jury of (goose) matrons had sat on the sexes of the birds, I found myself the happy possessor of (so called) a gander and three geese.

They grew and prospered;—were again examined by a competent judge, who confirmed the previous award as to sex; and at a large show in February, 1855, (being about eight months old,) competed in the class “Gander and two Geese” with old

birds, and were awarded first prize by two competent judges, Messrs. Baily and Hewitt.

They were claimed, to my sorrow; and I heard no more of them till the following June, when a complaint was made “*that they were ganders.*” I at once said, “That though too long a time had been allowed to elapse before any complaint was made, I was willing either to allow their present owner to select from my best goslings of 1855, or to leave the decision, as to what I ought to do in the matter, to the committee or the judges;—in short, I would do whatever a gentleman *should* do, under the circumstances.”

I made this offer through one of the Committee, from whom I have not since heard; but a few days ago I received a lawyer’s letter, to say that unless I immediately sent him *even* a larger sum of money than I had received from the Committee, “legal proceedings” would be adopted. My answer is, “That he knows I can have no fear of such a threat;—that I am in the hands of the Committee, and will act by their decision, without any regard to any threat of ‘legal proceedings.’”

I make no comment on this matter beyond this, that great allowance must be made for the disappointment of a purchaser, who has seen the spring pass, without any proceeds from his highly priced and prized—prize pen: and I do not think either that I am to blame in the matter, for I did not breed those goslings, but bought them;—and I cannot think that I have any claim on my North Country farmer friend, whose answer to my complaint would be, “*Why did you not find fault before?*”

I believe everybody will allow the difficulty of judging the sex of *young geese*. The best judges are at fault. After their second spring, there *can* be no mistake about it; but I would suggest, that if (as with poultry) there were two classes for geese,—for a gander and two geese more than a year old, and for three goslings under a year old,—any claimant of a gosling pen

would be aware of the risk he ran in buying *them*.

But (putting my own case on one side) I would ask you, whether a rule, naming a *time* after which no complaint about claimed birds *could* be made, would not be a fair thing to all parties?

This would more particularly attach to young geese, about the sexes of which I have known several errors made in my own yard, as well as in those of others.

As it is very desirable to prevent wrangles and heart-burnings about poultry shows, I trust that you will give this letter a place in your journal; and encourage the adoption of my suggestion, or any other which you or others may think better calculated to gain the end I have in view,—that of insuring friendly feeling *in*, and the avoidance of disputes *from*, every poultry show.

GALLUS PRIMUS.

The Minor Miseries of Poultry Keeping.

HAVING, with great trouble, collected together a large and excellent stock of first-rate and choice poultry—having, as may be supposed, paid *sweetly* for them, and having fitted up house, nests and roosts, with the greatest care, and of course great expense—then to find that they are gradually disappearing into thin air, or rather adding to the size and richness of the dung-heap, by dying and drooping in a most miraculous manner, is, I think, among the minor miseries of poultry-keeping.

Such has been my luck—for every week, one or two are sure to be carried off by some dire disease or grievous accident. This morning I found that two had passed into hands unknown—one, a Brahma hen, had the misfortune to fall from a row of nests about two feet from the floor, and the consequence was she broke her neck; the other had hung herself between two planks, being caught where the opening was too narrow to let her head pass.

Last week a stately cock in his prime and beauty was picked up by a wily ferret; the week before, a matronly hen was tramped

on and killed by a clumsy cow. What, then, you *would-be* poultry-keepers, do you think of my sad fate?

This luck has been mine for months. Last summer I bred some 200 chickens of every kind—Dorkings, Spanish, Shanghais and Brahmas, and out of these I saved about two dozen—the greater part cocks. Notwithstanding all this, I will again return with renewed vigour to this agreeable amusement, for gain it is none, and try and make up for lost time. I will now close, hoping that my complaints have not been too tedious, and that you will pity poor PILLGARLICK.—*Montreal*.

The Megapodius in Labuan.

IN a work which has been recently published, "Contributions to the Natural History of Labuan," we meet with the following account of that singular gallinaceous bird the Megapodius:—

"They are not uncommon in Labuan, but are principally found on the sandy beaches of its small islands; they are very shy, and frequent the dense and flat parts of the jungle, where the ratans grow in which they hide. The Malays snare them by making long thick fences in unfrequented parts of the jungle, in which, at intervals, they leave openings where they place traps; the birds, running through the jungle in search of food, come to this fence, run along it till they find one of the openings, through which they push their way, and are caught in the trap.

"In walking they lift up their feet very high, and set up their backs somewhat after the manner of Guinea fowls; they frequently make a loud noise, like the scream of a chicken, when caught; they are very pugnacious, and fight with great fury, by jumping upon one another's backs, and scratching with their long strong claws. Their food consists principally of seeds and insects. The eggs are of a fine dark cream colour, and are very large; it is said that three of them weigh very nearly as much as the bird itself. According to the ac-

count given by the Malays, each bird lays about eight or ten eggs at each period of breeding; their nests are merely large heaps of shells and rubbish, deposited over the sandy soil, in which the eggs are buried to the depth of about eighteen inches. Since receiving this account we have had an opportunity of inspecting a very large and perfect nest, or breeding-hill, and found it to be about twenty feet in diameter, and composed of sand, earth, and sticks; it was close to the beach, just within the jungle, and scarcely above high-water mark; it appeared to have been used for many years. The boatmen seemed to have no clue as to what part of the hillock contained eggs, but said they were never without some, when frequented at all; after a search of half an hour they succeeded in finding one, and, continuing their search, they succeeded in getting about a dozen together; they were buried at a depth of from one to three feet in an upright position, and the ground about them was astonishingly hard. The eggs thus deposited are left to be hatched by the heat of the sun, and this, the Malays assert, requires between three and four months to complete; the eggs obtained from this heap were taken home and buried in a box of sand, and, a month or two afterwards, it was discovered that they had all hatched, but that from neglecting to place them in a proper (*i.e.*, probably an upright) position, the chicks could not get up through the sand, and had all perished. When hatched, the chicks are almost entirely fledged; even the long quills being, as the Malays say, 'needled.' When first dug out, some of the eggs had lost much of their outer colour, which appeared to have scaled off, leaving only a white chalky shell. On a former occasion some eggs were brought by the natives, and were buried in a box of sand and exposed to the weather; at the end of about three weeks one of the chicks was hatched. A Malay who saw it emerge, said that it just shook off the sand, and ran away so fast that it was caught with difficulty; it then appeared to be nearly half-grown, and

from the first fed itself without hesitation, scratching and turning up the sand like an old bird. Two more afterwards emerged in the same state. Their eggs are held in such high estimation as food, both by natives and Europeans, that one cannot but fear that these interesting birds, though now very abundant, will ere long become scarce."

Royal Agricultural Society's Show.

THE Royal Agricultural Society of England is a sort of Wandering Jew, found everywhere, but seldom twice in the same place. We believe it is an object of competition, that deputations from the different towns and cities wait on the "Council" in Hanover Square, to urge their claims, and to solicit their countenance. Not only innkeepers, but every one who has a bed to spare, dreams of a golden harvest, and gloats over the guineas to be realised from a thing that has

"A double debt to pay,
A bed by night, a chest of drawers by day."

And we have often thought it would not be a bad speculation to send a number of *chaises longues*, and to retail them at the price of one night's lodging; at least the visitors would bring home something for their money.

We do not blame the inhabitants. It is said, when George II. was travelling in Germany, his carriage broke down, and driven by hunger, he ate seven eggs in a farm-house, which were charged two guineas each. "Eggs are scarce here," said the monarch. "No," said the farmer, "but Kings are." The same may be said of Royal Agricultural Society meetings; and, being so far north, our friends will be excused for "making hay while the sun shines."

It was a good show, and plenty of good birds were exhibited, but it was not what it should have been.

The Royal Agricultural Society coquets with poultry. If it would undertake to

receive and return the birds, and attend to the sales, it would form an important item in the balance-sheet. Their laws are too much in the "Mede and Persian" school, they cannot be altered. If poultry be "*infra dig.*," let it be given up; if it is worth doing, let it be done well, and as other societies do it. The funds of many agricultural societies can bear golden testimony to the attractions of the Gallinaceæ, and so can hundreds of farmers. Honoured by Royal patronage, and supported by names which, centuries hence, will be revered as well-meaning benefactors, nothing short of pre-eminence should satisfy it. We trust our remarks will be taken in good part. In common with most Englishmen, we are disposed to reverence everything Royal, and we *hate* to see it in the second rank. It is not its place. Again, what is the object of the society? It is trade. Where, then, is the trade, if the society will not offer facilities? So far as the poultry world is concerned, the society is behind the spirit of the age, and if an account were kept of the receipts of the cattle, implements, and poultry, that strongest argument of the Englishman, £ s. d., would prove it. We are not finding fault, we are suggesting; and as we see things only through a poultry-glass, those who do not agree with us will forgive us.

For the reasons we have assigned, the show, though a good one in almost every class, was a small one, not amounting to 300 pens. None but men in easy circumstances can afford to show, and this, of all others, is the exhibition where facilities should be offered to the poor man. We dislike giving advice, and will therefore proceed to our duty.

The good people of Carlisle were glad to see us, and, compared with some places we have visited in our vocation, we had beds for nothing. It was a holiday. Edinburgh, and the lakes within easy reach; and our impression of the borderers was, they were good, kind people.

Dorking, Spanish, and Game classes were especially strong, and those who won

have nothing to fear elsewhere. The principal prizes in these classes came to the "Southrons," Mr. Davies, of Hounslow, taking first prizes in Dorkings, adults and chickens, in Spanish, Brahma Pootras, both prizes in Aylesbury Ducks. Mrs. Towneley Parker took the first prize for a Dorking Cock, and if we are not deceived, it was the same bird we saw last year at Lincoln. A truly noble and we believe matchless bird. The Dorking Chickens were wonders, considering the season.

We must ask indulgence, seeing the short time we have to prepare for press. The Cochins were *bad*, and but for the unyielding rules the first prizes would have been withheld. These birds have not justice done them *now*; their valuable properties are not dependent on their making £50 each.

The Game fowls were beautiful, and there was much competition, but the old complaint was apparent, exhibitors will not match the legs of the birds in the same pen.

We are compelled to pass over many classes, but we dare not forbear the mention of the Aylesbury and Rouen Ducks; both prizes in the first went to Mr. Davies, and in the latter both to Mr. Fowler, of Aylesbury. The Geese, though not numerous, were a wonderful class in weight; one thing we must congratulate the society on, the presence of the Hon. and Rev. S. W. Lawley as Steward of Poultry; the universal respect which attaches to his name, and his unvaried kindness, make him a "tower of strength."

The judges were Mr. G. J. Andrews, Dorchester; Mr. Trotter, Hexham.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

FARM-POULTRY.

Class 1. DORKINGS (Cock and two hens, chickens of 1855).—1st prize, H. D. Davis, Spring Grove House, Hounslow. 2nd prize, Miss Bell, Woodhouselees, Canonbie, Dumfries. 3rd prize, G. A. Gelderd, Aikrigg End, Kendal. 4th prize, G. A. Gelderd. Class 2. (More than one year old, Cock and two hens).—1st prize, H. D. Davies. 2nd prize, G. A. Gelderd. 3rd

prize, Dr. Hitchman, Mickleovhr, Derby. 4th prize, Thomas Ullock, Quarry House, Windermere. Class 3. (Cocks of any age.)—1st prize, Mrs. Thomas Towneley Parker, Astley Hall, Chorley, Lancashire. 2nd prize, Daniel Harrison, Singleton Park, Kendal.

Class 4. SPANISH (Cock and two hens).—1st prize, H. D. Davies. 2nd prize, Wm. Lightfoot, Shieldfield, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 3rd prize, Miss Bell. 4th prize, Wm. Lightfoot. Class 5. (Cocks of any age.)—The prize, James Dixon, North Park, Horton, Bradford.

Class 6. COCHIN CHINA (Cock and two hens, chickens of 1855).—1st prize, Mrs. Mary Parker, Coalstaith, Brampton, Cumberland. 2nd prize, Thomas Blaylock, Botcherby, Carlisle. 3rd prize, George Dobson, Fox-lane, Whitehaven. 4th prize, G. A. Gelderd. Class 7. (Cocks of any age.)—The prize, G. A. Gelderd.

Class 8. BRAMAH POOTRA (Cock and two Hens).—The prize, H. D. Davies.

Class 9. GAME (Cock and two hens).—1st prize, C. R. Titterton, Snow-hill, Birmingham; 2nd prize, Robert Pickthall, Mint-house, Kendal, Westmoreland; 3rd prize, William Ellison, jun., Low Sizergh, Milnthorpe. Class 10. (Cocks of any age).—The prize, Robert Pickthall.

Class 11. HAMBURGS, GOLD PENCILLED (Cock and two hens).—1st prize, Daniel Harrison; 2nd prize, James Fletcher, Stoneclough, Manchester.

Class 12. SILVER PENCILLED (Cock and two hens).—1st prize, Henry Sharp, Mill-lane, Bradford, Yorkshire; 2nd prize, James Dixon. Class 13. GOLDEN SPANGLED (Cock and two hens).—1st and 2nd prizes, James Dixon. Class 14. SILVER SPANGLED (Cock and two hens).—1st prize, Henry Beldon, Prospect-place, Eccleshill Moor, Bradford, Yorkshire; 2nd prize, Jas. Dixon.

Class 15. MALAYS (Cock and two hens).—1st prize, William Lort, Great Heath, Tenbury; 2nd prize, Henry Blocklow, Marton Hall, Middlesborough, York.

Class 16. POLANDS (Cock and two hens).—1st and 2nd prizes, George C. Adkins, West House, Edgbaston, Birmingham; 3rd prize, Henry Blocklow.

Class 18. GESE (Gander and two geese).—1st prize, Henry Ambler, Watkinson Hall, Halifax; 2nd prize, Daniel Harrison; 3rd prize, Henry Ambler.

Class 19. AYLESBURY DUCKS (Drake and two ducks).—1st and 2nd prizes, H. D. Davies; 3rd prize, G. A. Gelderd. Class 20. ROVEN DUCKS

(Drake and two ducks).—1st and 2nd prizes, J. K. Fowler, Prebendal Farm, Aylesbury; 3rd prize, withheld. Class 21. DUCKS OF ANY OTHER VARIETY (Drake and two ducks).—1st prize, James Dixon; 2nd prize, no competition.

Driffield and East Riding of Yorkshire Agricultural Society.

THE second annual show of this society took place on Wednesday, the 25th ult. The judges of poultry were T. Chaloner, Esq., Burnt Lays; J. O. Jolly, Esq., York; F. Fergusson, Esq., Esq., Walkington. The following prizes were awarded to poultry.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Class 43. CINNAMON OR BUFF COCHIN CHINA.—1st prize, T. H. Barker, Hovingham. 2nd prize, F. Nicholson, Wootton. Class 44. CHICKENS.—H. H. Taylor, Newland. Class 45. COCK.—T. Richardson, Bridl. Quay. Class 46. ANY OTHER VARIETY OF COCHIN CHINA.—1st prize, D. B. Turner, Hull. 2nd prize, D. Smith. Class 47. CHICKENS.—No Competition. Class 48. COCK.—J. T. Sigston, Welburn.

Class 49. DORKINGS.—1st prize, Rev. G. Hustler, Tadcaster. 2nd prize, J. Stephenson, Jun., Hull Br. Class 50. CHICKENS.—Rev. G. Hustler. Class 51. COCK.—M. Kirkby, Jun., Driffield.

Class 52. SPANISH.—1st prize, T. T. Pierson, Bridlington. 2nd prize, T. T. Pierson. Class 53. CHICKENS.—T. T. Pierson. Class 54. COCK.—T. T. Pierson.

Class 55. MALAY.—1st and 2nd prize, no competition. Class 56. COCK.—W. Dowthwaite, Beverley.

Class 57. GAME FOWLS.—1st prize, W. Jordan, Caythorpe. 2nd prize, J. Graham, Burton Agnes. Class 58. CHICKENS.—C. Holt, Northallerton. Class 59. COCK.—J. Maw, Driffield.

Class 60. POLAND FOWLS.—1st prize, W. Black, Castle Howard. 2nd prize, G. W. Boothby, Louth. Class 61. COCK.—W. Arkwright, Hotham Ha.

Class 62. GOLDEN PHEASANT.—1st prize, T. Simpson, Hull. 2nd prize, J. Dales, Cottingham. Class 63. COCK.—J. P. Martin, Cottingham.

Class 64. SILVER PHEASANT.—1st prize, J. Brittain, Walkington. 2nd prize, R. Marshall,

Patrington. Class 65. COCK.—Thos. Cobb, Beverley.

Class 66. CHITTEPRAT OR CORSICAN.—1st prize, J. Denton, Bridlington. 2nd prize, R. Golden, Bridlington. Class 67. CHICKENS.—J. Spedding, Sledmere. Class 68. COCK.—J. Denton.

Class 69. GOLDEN OR SILVER PHEASANT BANTAMS.—1st prize, W. Nicholson, Brigg. 2nd prize, G. W. Boothby, Holme Cottage, Louth.

Class 70. CHICKENS.—No Competition. Class 71. COCK.—No Competition. Class 72. ANY OTHER VARIETY.—1st prize, W. Charters, New Malton. 2nd prize, W. Simpson, Tickton. Class 73. CHICKENS.—No Competition. Class 74. COCK.—J. Brittain, Walkington.

Class 75. ANY BREED NOT PREVIOUSLY CLASSED.—1st prize, Mrs. Conyers, Driffield. 2nd prize, G. W. Boothby. Class 76. CHICKENS.—T. Ringrose, Cottingham. Class 77. COCK.—Rev. C. Hotham, Roos.

Class 78. BEST COLLECTION OF FOWLS (To consist of 1 male and 5 hens).—M. Kirkby, jun.

Class 79. GEESE (Gander and Goose).—1st prize, Mrs. Dixon, Settrington. 2nd prize, T. Brittain, Walkington. Class 80. Pair hatched in 1855. J. Tindall, Malton.

Class 81. DUCKS.—1st prize, R. Ridsdale, Walkington. 2nd prize, Miss M. Taylor, Sewerby Cot. Class 82. Couple hatched in 1855. Miss M. Taylor. Class 83. MUSCOVY.—W. Witty, Driffield.

Class 84. TURKEYS.—1st prize, Mrs. Dixon. 2nd prize, W. Arkwright, Hotham H. Class 85. Three hatched in 1855. Mrs. Jarratt, Harpham.

Class 86. GUINEA FOWL.—1st prize, Mrs. Rounding, Kilnwick. 2nd prize, Mrs. Dawson, Poundsworth.

Class 87. PIGEONS.—Carriers, H. H. Taylor. Class 88. Trumpeters, Mrs. Bielby, Beverley. Class 89. Croppers, Mrs. Conyers. Class 90. Tumblers, Mrs. Angas, Bainton. Class 91. Jacobins, H. H. Taylor. Class 92. Fantails, Mrs. Bielby. Class 93. ANY OTHER VARIETY.—Mrs. Conyers.

Class 94. RABBITS.—1st prize, W. Charters, Malton. 2nd prize, No Competition.

On Lending Subscribers' Tickets.

I FIND on perusing the leader in your last week's "Poultry Chronicle," a request that some one would devise a plan for preventing the abuse of members' tickets of

admission at our exhibitions of poultry; and a subsequent remark states, "that many attempts have been made, but that you have not heard of a successful one." To committees generally, the abuse you speak of presents a *very* important feature, being one well calculated to blight *very* considerably, not only the present receipts, but necessarily the *ONLY* means at the disposal of the managers, of rendering the institution permanent and self-supporting.

It is a matter for deep regret, that any real poultry amateur should even *thoughtlessly* thus lessen the funds of any exhibition, by lending his admission cards to acquaintances and neighbours, well knowing they were issued as "not transferable." But what I have just stated is a *very* lenient view of the case; for on many occasions it has come to my personal knowledge, that individuals have purchased tickets simply as a matter of sheer speculation, their only purpose being to lend them at a reduced price to parties anxious for admission; and were I desirous of so doing, I could refer to a publican, who boasted that three admission cards he had purchased at five shillings each (from members who had themselves used them), afterwards produced *him* a net profit of upwards of five pounds from lending them (throughout the extensive circle of his acquaintances) "at half-price, or sixpence per hour, at the *option* of the party visiting." As in all probability such money-getting adventurers will always present themselves, more or less, at most of our poultry shows, it will, I think, on all hands be generally admitted, that it behoves committees to adopt some measure to prevent its practice for the future.

Luckily the remedy is not difficult, nor one of which subscribers can justly complain; it consists in *detaining every ticket the first time it is presented* at the door. If thought expedient so to do, let a greater number of admission cards be granted for a certain amount of subscription, as by such an arrangement also, the objection raised by subscribers, of "not being able

to *revisit* the exhibition," will be obviated altogether, whilst at the same time the committee will have a positive guarantee, that no one has entered without being duly entitled to admission. If competitors desire again to examine the poultry, only one of two courses is open to them, either to reserve for themselves the necessary admission ticket or to pay the usual amount for entry. In several instances in which committees have deplored to the writer the grievous losses their exchequer has sustained from the above abuse of privileges, I have advised the plan now suggested, and it has *uniformly* worked well, indeed I myself fully believe it to be the *ONLY* means of obviating the difficulty; besides which, it prevents all those unpleasantnesses that have frequently arisen if remonstrances are urged by the committee "*against lending tickets again and again*;" those who are impatient of coercion are prone to be irascible under such complaint, whilst in very many cases a committee-man feels it "a point of considerable *delicacy* even to mention the subject," though flagrantly obvious to every one. In short, remonstrances, however politely urged, are ever open to objections, and sometimes promote lasting offence; for this reason it is surely the wisest policy to avoid them altogether, wherever it is possible so to do. It is equally the duty of committees to keep strict faith with the exhibitors as to the *PAYMENT* of the prizes, and also to protect their own coffers from parties who would clandestinely appropriate a portion of the admission money to their own individual aggrandisement, and I regret to say that several societies have urged the impossibility of meeting the just claims of the successful prize-takers, by stating, "their funds to be altogether expended, and that their present unenviable position has arisen *entirely* from subscribers lending their admission cards to others, and thereby greatly limiting their anticipated receipts."

When exhibitors have with considerable trouble and expense obtained an award in

their favour, the amount should be at once forthcoming, otherwise this breach of faith causes distrust for the future in any committee withholding their advertised premiums. It is also a considerable hardship for a few gentlemen who may have originated a poultry show, to supply the whole money from their own pockets for the payment of the prizes when such deficiency has "*entirely arisen*" from the loss consequent on admissions surreptitiously obtained, and after they have themselves gratuitously rendered all the personal services such exhibitions ever entail on a committee-man. I trust, therefore, this will be deemed a sufficient apology for my present somewhat lengthy intrusion on the space of a periodical anxiously devoted to the general interests of the admirers of domestic poultry.

EDWARD HEWITT.

Borrowed Fowls.

IN reply to Mr. Trotter, in your last valuable "Chronicle," respecting the borrowing and lending of fowls for exhibition, at the late Newcastle Poultry Show, and which I find since I last wrote you, also practised at many other places as well as at Newcastle, (but seldom discovered until after the shows are over, and often not at all; even many persons thinking it of no consequence whatever); therefore all I would suggest to Mr. T., and the other gentlemen of the committee, would be (as they were not aware of it at the time), to keep a sharper look out at their next exhibition, it being now too late to interfere or exercise any authority in the matter, as those persons who had the loan of birds on that occasion, no doubt, have since purchased them at good prices; and they are now *bona fide* their own property; the act not being a criminal one, for which they can be punished, my chief object in naming the circumstance, was to put members of the various committees as much on their guard as possible (*where it is one of their regulations, before the show*

takes place); and it is not my intention at present to enter further into discussion on a subject so familiar to most of your readers, nor do I think it would greatly interest them.

July 27th, 1855.

SCRUTATOR.

Home and the Homestead.

CONTINENTAL FARMING.

(Abridged from the "Royal Agricultural Society's Journal.")

SPEAKING of the same well-farmed district referred to in our last number, Mr. Love writes: "This district is not enclosed, but the farming is first-rate. Large flocks of sheep are kept and folded upon green crops. Also, large herds of cattle grazing the marshes, which extend to about a tenth of the district. The crops grown are wheat, barley, a few oats, tares, peas, beans, clover, and sugar-beet: the management of this crop is truly excellent. We saw gangs of hoers, from five to sixty-four in number. I was informed that three represented a hundred acres English; therefore the farms are from one hundred and fifty acres to upwards of two thousand. The homesteads are large and substantial, and, with their steam engines and tall chimneys, are an imposing sight to the lovers of agricultural improvement. I think this (notwithstanding the want of enclosure and drainage of the marshes) is perhaps the best-farmed district I have seen. The horses used are nearly thorough-bred, and their rapid movements, combined with the activity of the labourers, form a strong contrast with the sleepy smock-frocks of our southern counties. Nearly the whole of the crops are drilled and horse-hoed in this district; and a weed or a square yard of waste land is a rare thing to meet with. Passing along the side of the Elbe, up into Bohemia, the soil became various and hilly, the farming gradually getting worse, until we reached Prague. After leaving that town we passed a hilly district, reduced to great poverty by the system of over-cropping practised by

the farmers who occupy this country. They keep the crops tolerably clean, but too much land is sown with wheat, rye, and oats; and too little peas, tares, turnips, and clover grown. The farms are small, and the farmers very poor. The people are too poor to be able to help themselves, or advance without aid: indeed, it is evident that as the land becomes reduced in productive power by the too frequent sowing grain crops, so are they driven to sow a greater width, until it is reduced to the lowest degree of poverty, returning little more than double the seed sown. Such being the case, it behoves the state to look to the interest of a people who are thus industriously struggling with difficulties."

On the way to Brunn, "water-meadows and flax-mills were seen along the whole of this route, and the processes of steeping and preparing flax were in active operation. About the busy town of Brunn (the Leeds of Austria) all is activity, both in town and country. The land is magnificent, a fine alluvial loam, generally dry, except where the river-water is pent back for want of proper fall. From this cause there is a large track of marsh or fen about Brunn, which, if drained, would either become rich pasture or first-rate tillage. These extensive marshes are grazed by large flocks of sheep, herds of swine and cattle. The herds are attended by shepherds before and behind them, who keep the stock far too close together, and move so fast that they damage more grass with their feet than they eat. The cattle are generally large, of dun colour; and, if well managed in the selection of breeding animals, would soon become a first-rate breed. The sheep are something of the Merino breed, carrying but little mutton. The pigs I do not like; they have too much head, legs, and hair about them. After leaving Brunn, the upland is first-rate light loam, dry, and in part enclosed; the farming is pretty fair, but as we got on towards Vienna, there were evidences of a paralysed state, through poverty and want of confidence."

This district is divided into portions of from thirty to twenty-thousand English

acres; the homesteads are gigantic, substantial, well-arranged, and built of first-rate material. The horses are nearly thorough-bred, strong, active, little animals: they do the light work, and the heavy haulage is done by large, strong oxen.

"The plough and waggon are the same throughout the whole of the countries I passed through, and although they are rude-looking implements, it would not be an easy task to improve either of them without expending more capital than would return fair interest: indeed, if the thorough pulverisation of the soil is the object of cultivation, the continental plough is superior to the British. Within some miles of Brunn I saw a field of land preparing for sugar-beet and turnips, the extent of which I was informed was upwards of 3000 acres. The management of this field was truly splendid: about two-thirds was thinned, and part of it just up, while the remainder was being sown; there were upwards of 100 teams at work. Besides those teams that were hauling the manure, there were four drills at work, which kept regularly going, following each other: thus they were covering about 33 feet as they passed along. The field was upwards of three miles long; they were drilling from end to end. The land was perfectly level, so that the whole was to me an imposing sight.

"I was informed that the owner of this farm was a gentleman from Saxony, a native of that magnificently farmed district where sugar-beet is grown and manufactured into sugar so extensively. It is evident that this gentleman will give the impulse this splendid country requires."

A contrast. "As we approached Vienna, the land became lighter, and the farming more neglected; indeed, we travelled some miles through fine land that had been completely laid waste during the revolution."

On Bees.

A HIVE governed by a young queen is subject to another misfortune. The sove-

reign may exist, but through a deterioration of her functions, she is unable to renovate the family, and lays the eggs of drones only. Such a condition of the queen is fatal; consequently, when the evil is found to exist, the remedy should be promptly applied. It is, I am inclined to think, of rare occurrence, depending in a great measure on the weather, after swarming, but not in a greater proportion than two or three per cent. Yet, as this condition of the hive seems often overlooked by beekeepers, who are consequently unable to determine the cause of the loss of their stock, it is difficult to ascertain with any certainty how often it may occur. We shall now endeavour to throw some light, practically, at least, on this mysterious subject.

In the first place, then, if a young queen should be found to leave the hive after having attained the twentieth day of her age, the sooner she is removed the better; and the hive should be supplied with worker brood immediately, that it may be able to raise a new queen; or, still better, if there are hives yet swarming, a supernumerary queen may be obtained, and thus time will be saved. Then again, in not longer than six weeks from the birth of the reigning queen, young bees ought to be seen in the hive. Of course in bar hives a very satisfactory method may be pursued, in order to ascertain that all is right. It is easy to raise a worker comb from the centre of the hive, and examine the brood. It may here be useful to describe its appearance, when produced by a queen whose functions are vitiated. The eggs deposited are those of drones *only*. The instinct of such a queen is defective; she does not discriminate the different cells, or, what perhaps is nearer the truth, she is ignorant of her own imperfection, and deposits the eggs of drones in the cells in which workers should be reared. Thence the appearance of the comb is very curious. Instead of presenting the regular surface which is found when the larvæ of workers are ceiled over, it has a very irregular appearance; the bees being aware that the

cells contain drones, increase the space for their development as much as possible. The upper part of the cell, in form, resembles the natural drone cell when covered over—if anything, being more convex; therefore, the comb is very uneven. Newly hatched drones are also suspicious characters at this time. If any of them appear of unusually small size, it may be supposed they have been reared in these small cells, and then the condition of the hive ought to be at once investigated. It is also an unfavourable sign when drones are retained in any hive after their general destruction in the neighbourhood.

During the earlier period of his researches, Huber was led to consider that a young queen (perfect in her functions) produced the eggs of workers *only*, during the first eleven months of her existence. This assertion he afterwards modified, having ascertained that in very favourable seasons a young queen sometimes lays the eggs of drones when she is only a few weeks old; and this, we may observe, in this country, when honey is unusually abundant; and instances are even known in which, after this deposition of a small quantity of drone eggs, the youthful queen leads off a swarm. But I think such examples do not entirely invalidate the force of Huber's opinion, which is this: "As in the natural state, she lays the eggs of workers only, during the first eleven months; it is clear that these, and the male eggs, are not indiscriminately mixed in the oviducts. Undoubtedly they occupy a situation corresponding to the principles that regulate her laying—the eggs of workers are first, and those of drones behind them. Further, it appears that the queen can lay no male eggs until those of workers occupying the first place in the oviducts are discharged."

Thus we find that in the favourable seasons alluded to, the young queen does in fact deposit an enormous quantity of worker eggs, to such an excess indeed as to enable the hive to throw a swarm. But more than this, Huber even insisted on

a definite period, during which the eggs of workers were to be produced, viz., eleven months, before the *great laying* of drones took place. He says, "In our series of experiments, which more or less disturbed the natural state of things, it often happened that the queen did not attain this age till October, and then immediately began laying male eggs." This assertion is not confirmed by the subsequent observations of apiarians; it is on the contrary ascertained that if a hive is in good condition, the queen invariably deposits drone eggs in April or May, according to the advance of the season. Having reared an artificial queen very late in the summer, I resolved to test the accuracy of Huber's statement. She began to lay the 15th of August, and by constantly supplying food, the population was raised in autumn so as to carry the family in safety through the winter, and in the spring I supplied food very liberally, in order to insure that there should be no cause of failure, except such as might proceed from the queen; and the experiment was decisive, for drones' eggs were deposited in April, and the hive swarmed earlier in May than has ever occurred in the same apiary before or since.

It is a very wonderful prescience, that the queen is cognisant of the kind of egg she is going to deposit in each cell; a perfect queen never mistakes the size of her infant's cradle! But further than this, I am led to conclude that she has the still more surprising power of producing the kind of egg she chooses. Of course this is to be understood with some limitation as to the time which is required for the evolving of the egg in the ovarium, but the difficulty which was a stumbling-block to the mind of Huber I do not find so insuperable. He was lost in an abyss in reasoning on the transformation of eggs which ought to have been workers, becoming those of drones. Yet when we reflect on the number of eggs sometimes produced by a queen in one day, certainly as many as two or three hundred, we can scarcely

imagine a limit to the rapidity with which they are formed in the ovarium, and it does therefore seem no stretch of the imagination to believe that there is not even the rudiment till within forty-six hours of the time the first egg is laid, especially as on the first few days their number does not exceed two or three dozen. Hence when a queen's powers become so impaired that she loses the faculty of producing worker eggs, I should be more inclined to refer the change in the nature of the egg to her imperfect functions than to any transformation of the egg itself. The whole subject is enveloped in mystery, but a medium path may guide towards the truth, and help to clear our way. It is in the existence of those small bees, which are neither drones nor workers. I believe them to be very rare, indeed I do not remember that any writer, not even Huber, has described them; and in addition to the rarity of their appearance, there is the improbability of being able to trace the origin of their existence. In this I have been fortunate enough in one instance to succeed. The queen of an observatory hive did not commence laying till the 19th day of her age. From such a queen, according to Feburier, a *hatcher* swarm would have proceeded; that is, a swarm which is composed of a very large proportion of drones. But her peculiarity was developed in a different manner. On the 21st day from the laying of the first egg I was counting over my newly hatched treasures (the few drones that had accompanied the swarm having all disappeared), I was startled to see among the young bees the large eyes of a drone. Was the queen vitiated for life? Such was the first idea, but no, there were above a dozen workers newly hatched; and then I saw another pair of large eyes. They proved to be drones in form, but extremely diminutive in size, much smaller than those raised in worker cells, deposited by drone-laying queens. I immediately captured my little curiosity. During the next few days I saw two or three more; the bees seemed to disapprove of their society, for they immediately worried them, and they soon

disappeared from the hive. The queen conducted her family with great propriety, and there was nothing further to remark till the following spring, when among the earliest hatched workers I detected another pair of large eyes, and found a little creature with the head of a drone and the body of a worker. I opened the hive and took possession of my prize, which I found was furnished with a sting. In a day or two another appeared; I had not time at the moment to remove it, and when I returned it was not to be found. This queen produced drones in only ordinary numbers, and led off a swarm in due time. Those apiarians who have studied this subject, will know what value is to be attached to these observations. An anomaly may sometimes be the finger-post which points to unsuspected truths; they may even be open before us, and we are blind and see them not. A.

—

SQUIRRELS.—The Boston city authorities have procured a number of red and gray squirrels from Vermont, and set them at liberty upon the celebrated Boston Common. This is the finest city park in America. It contains nearly 50 acres of beautiful undulating lawn, well stocked with magnificent elms and other trees, and is provided with gravelled walks, fountains, miniature artificial lakes, &c. The new inhabitants thus introduced will be vigilantly guarded from boys and dogs, and will add much to the life and animation of the grounds. This plan was adopted some time since in the Philadelphia parks, and the squirrels have become so tame as to take food from the hands of visitors.

—

Floriculture.

AUGUST 1.

JULY is the time for layering carnations, but many are even now not ready this year. The sooner they are put down the better, for those which are done early root more

freely and make stronger plants than those which are layered late. Prick out the rooted pipings of pinks, keep them clear of weeds, and water them well in dry weather: continue to take pipings until you are pretty sure of a good stock of plants for blooming next season. In the flower borders constant attention to order and neatness is necessary at all seasons, and never more so than now, when cutting off withered flowers, tying up flower stems and plants, and constant weeding, offer daily employment in the flower garden and shrubbery; and occasional careful raking (with great care not to disturb small roots) will not only make the borders look neat, but will improve the growth of the plants by loosening the earth about their roots. Look over flowering shrubs and evergreens, and trim those with a knife which have grown wild. When the growth of shrubs is too rampant and tangled, the roots may be pruned or shortened, which will keep the heads within bounds. Some choice jasmines may be budded on the common white sort or propagated by layers, but this is better done in the spring. Cuttings of Cape jasmine may be planted in pots and plunged in a hotbed. They must be kept in a greenhouse the whole of the winter. Plants in doors and in the greenhouse will require frequent and plentiful watering: it is well to put on the rose, and water them well over the foliage.

Biennials, raised in the spring, may be planted out, on a cloudy evening, about four inches apart, those of a larger growth not so near. Let them be well and frequently watered till they have quite taken to the ground, and after that they will only require occasional weeding. In the autumn they will want removing to the places for which they are intended.

Examine all the summer plants which bloom abundantly, with a view to having a good succession of flowers; this may be managed by preventing the perfecting of seed. Mark the plants which you wish to ripen their seed; leave the seed-vessels produced from the finest flowers, and do

not allow the plant to flower any more, that all its strength may go to produce good seed. With regard to the plants saved for the beauty of the flower garden, leave no bloom on which has passed its glory; for when it begins to fade, it also begins to set for seed; and at the same time remove some buds, so as not to allow it to produce too many flowers at one time. This treatment will make the plant branch at the sides, and the means, which would appear at first sight to decrease the number of flowers, will on the contrary produce a succession of gaiety, instead of appearing in one great cluster, thus soon exhausting the root.

Choose a moist day to clip and trim the box-edgings; cut them regularly even at top and on both sides, keep them pretty low, and do not let them get too broad. Keep the edging about two or three inches high, and not more than two inches broad. Edgings of thrift, daisies, &c. should be reduced to their right line.

Dahlias require constant attention in tying the side shoots as they grow heavy; for if this be neglected, a storm of wind and rain may in half an hour lay low our dahlias, and our hopes of gaiety from them. Keep traps set for the earwigs, which are now beginning to get plentiful. If it is thought desirable to ripen the seed of pinks, leave only a few on each root, and let them be well exposed to the sun.

Carnations and picatees, now in bloom, should be shaded and protected from the sun during the heat of the day. Attend to the late pods, tie them in time, and loosen the ties which may have become too tight. Give the plants a liberal supply of water: a sprinkle over the foliage after the sun has left will help to swell the pods. The pots containing the choice carnations and picatees must, if possible, be kept safe from the invasion of insects. They are safest ranged on an elevated wooden stand or stage; and if this have a little framework for an awning, it will protect the bloom and at the same time show it to advantage. To prevent the approach of

creeping insects, the legs of the stand may be placed in little pans of water. A temporary stage may be made by placing a plank or two on large garden-pots turned upside down in pans of water.

Lawns and grass-walks want mowing about once a week in damp weather: frequent rolling will make them out easier, and the trimming of the edges, which is the longest job, need only be done once now and then. Gravel-walks require constant rolling, weeding, and sweeping.

Shrubby exotics may be layered, making choice of shoots of the present year's growth. Oleanders may be placed in a bottle of water until rootlets show themselves, and then plant them. The bottle should be kept corked (with a hole for the cutting): oleanders, so handsome and showy while in bloom, require a very liberal supply of water.

The Anerley Poultry Show.

As one of the Committee of the Anerley Poultry Show since it was first mooted, I have felt a vital interest in its success, particularly with reference to its ultimate results; and admitting that some such stimulus in the vicinity of the metropolis has hitherto been a desideratum, I feel a confidence that our efforts to establish a permanent good will be dealt with leniently. At the eleventh hour we have received many valuable suggestions, and feel that our prize list is anything but perfect; yet when we consider the hasty manner in which it has been got up, the total absence of that powerful auxiliary, "A Subscribers' List," and the risk run in ascertaining how the pulse of the amateur world would beat upon the subject, we cannot express our thanks too warmly for the kind assistance we have derived from such names as Adkins, Fairlie, Hornby, Snell, Wickens, Davies, Worrall, Eaton, and many other well-known gentlemen co-operating with us. Such names are "material guarantees" that we are right; and it leaves us to suppose, that though the past has been

a blank, the present is a prelude to brighter hopes for the future. It has been attempted to give to this poultry show a higher position than ordinary, by obtaining the direct sanction and approval of the London Zoological Society, and the name of Yarrell among our patrons is a host in itself. In the prizes for pigeons, we are fully aware that the classification is not sufficiently extended, and to amateurs generally the pecuniary awards are only nominal. We never believed the amount offered was, alone, a sufficient inducement to entrust valuable birds in the hands of comparative strangers; it is the spirit of rivalry and emulation we confide in. Upon the result depends an extended prize list hereafter, and it determines whether Anerley shall become the annual exponent of general progress.

We wish to *lead*,—to beat our friends at Birmingham *if we can*. They in return will do likewise, and it is with much pleasure we find three gentlemen from that locality on our list of patrons. Anerley holds out many peculiar advantages: the beauty of the scenery,—its contiguity to the Crystal Palace grounds,—and the kind facilities afforded by the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company, render it incumbent upon all to make a visit to the poultry show a day of real enjoyment.

The first judges in the country are appointed; and for safety, security, and general arrangements, as far as possible, nothing shall be found wanting to contribute to general satisfaction. Already our success is beyond doubt; not in a pecuniary sense, but as to the number and beauty of the birds to be exhibited.

The entries close ere another issue of your valuable journal, therefore in conclusion permit me to hope that the poultry world will accept this first attempt, upon our part, in the spirit in which it was intended; and if your numerous subscribers will only contribute as many varieties as possible, the public will do them ample justice by appreciation and patronage.

JOHN N. RYDER.

City, July 30th.

We feel very anxious, on our own account, as well as on that of every person who would take an interest in our columns, that every one should at any rate hear of the existence of the "Poultry Chronicle." We shall feel very much obliged if all our friends will mention it among their acquaintance, and, at the same time, we take this opportunity of thanking most heartily those who have done so already.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

CHICKENS AT CARLISLE.

SIR,—As might be expected at this season of the year, the old birds exhibited at Carlisle were in very poor feather, and I saw nothing remarkable in the poultry department, except the extraordinary precocity of the combs of the Dorking chickens. I have for years been a breeder, and a not unsuccessful exhibitor, of Dorkings: but I consider myself fortunate if my pullets, at nine or ten months' old, have combs as well developed as many of those entered at Carlisle at 2½ to 3½ months; and unless some of your knowing contributors will kindly give me a hint how to obtain such early maturity, I fear I must confine my future entries to birds of mature age.

The show of pigs was very good. The prize sow of the large breed was an uncommonly fine animal, combining great length, squareness, and weight, with very fine quality; and she had the merit, too, of being only in fair show condition, unlike many others, and especially some of the prize animals of the small breed, which were in such a plethoric state as would have disqualified them for competition a year or two ago, and must greatly impair their breeding powers.

Disqualifications were numerous, on account of the teeth indicating a greater age than the entries, and the unfortunate exhibitors thus branded must think it very hard that an equal latitude is not conceded to them with that accorded to the exhibitors of Dorking chickens.

Will no observing poultry-breeder favour your readers with his remarks on indications of age in poultry, from chickenhood upwards?

Yours truly,
M. S.
Carlisle, July 26, 1855.

AIREDALE EXHIBITION.

SIR,—We respectfully inform you that in our Airedale exhibition, which takes place on 14th

August, we have considered, as respects the closing of the entries for poultry, which was advertised to close on the 24th of this month, to keep it open until the 9th of August, on account of the number of shows on. We shall esteem it a favour by your inscribing to the above effect in your next "Poultry Chronicle."

We are, sir, yours respectfully,
per pro Committee Airedale Exhibition,
WILLIAM LUDLAM.

CAUTION TO AMATEURS.

SIR,—In reply to the letter of Captain Snell, in your last "Poultry Chronicle," in which he says, "not only facts, but names also, ought to be made public," of parties who practise such dishonourable tricks as I have been subject to, and of course clear those parties who advertise in your journal not guilty of such conduct, I am sure not only Captain Snell, but many others whose names are "household words" in the poultry world, set a much higher value upon a good name than the value of any fowl. I have purchased from Captain S. and other well-known and respectable parties, from advertisements I have from time to time seen in your valuable journal, and have had the satisfaction to find my dealings were with gentlemen who not only had good birds, but, when they had sold them, sent them. In conclusion, I can say I very much regret you should have thought it right so far to alter the wording of my first letter, that the feelings of any honourable man should have been wounded thereby; for perpetrators of such vile trickery deserve holding up to public contempt and reprobation—pity they cannot be criminally proceeded against for obtaining money by false pretences.
W. S.

[Query: Could they not be proceeded against? Would "A. J. H.," or some other friend, possessing the necessary knowledge, tell our readers how?—Ed.]

Price of Corn at Mark Lane.

ON Monday, July 23rd, though the British supplies had continued moderate, we had plenty of foreign wheat, flour, oats, and beans, together with a large arrival of lentils. The good arrivals of foreign corn, as well as of flour, together with the hot forcing weather, brought the market to a state of inaction; Friday's improvement was lost, and the former Monday's rates led to very few sales either in English or foreign samples, and at the Kentish stands

1s. less was accepted. There was very little business in barley, and prices remained unaltered. There was a plentiful arrival of foreign oats, but so few of the late arrivals have come in good order, that fresh corn is comparatively scarce; but all inferior kinds and those out of condition, the quantity of which quite pressed on the market, could only be sold at 6d. to 1s. less money.

	BRITISH.	Shillings per qt.
WHEAT, Essex and Kent white	76 to 84
" " red	70 .. 77
" " Norfolk, Lincoln, and Yorkshire, red	71 .. 76
BARLEY, Malting, new	32 .. 33
" " Chevalier	34 .. 36
" " Distilling	31 .. 34
" " Grinding	31 .. 33
MALT, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, new	65 .. 70
" " old	66 .. 70
" " Kingston, Ware, and Town-made, new	70 .. 72
" " old	68 .. 71
OATS, English, feed	25 .. 26
" " potato	26 .. 29
" " Scotch feed, new	28 .. 29
" " old	32 .. 33
" " potato	32 .. 33
" " Irish feed, white	25 .. 26
" " fine	28 .. 28
" " black	24 .. 26
" " fine	27 .. 27
RYE	40 .. 43
BEANS, Mazagan	38 .. 41
" " Ticks	39 .. 43
" " Harrow	39 .. 44
" " Pigeon	42 .. 48
PEAS, White, boilers	42 .. 47
" " Maple	40 .. 42
" " Grey	37 .. 40
FLOUR, Town-made, per sack of 280 lbs.	65 .. 70
" " Households, town	64 .. 65
" " country	58 .. 60
" " Norfolk and Suffolk, ex-ship	53 .. 55

Wednesday, July 25.—English wheat sold on better terms than on Monday. Foreign had a fair but not extensive sale, and the turn in favour of sellers. Floating cargoes off the coast are getting in a small compass. Importers are firm, and buyers have to pay former prices. Indian corn has greatly recovered its tone, and is rather dearer. Barley steady, but thin grinding sorts ruled dull. Malt, peas, and beans without alteration. Foreign arrivals of oats are too liberal, and difficult to work off, but factors seem unwilling to face granary charges. Some sales of foreign are slow and irregular; but buyers had

the turn in their favour on all sorts, while Irish were comparatively neglected.

PRICE OF BREAD IN LONDON.

THE prices of wheaten bread in the Metropolis are from 10d. to 10½d.; and household ditto, 8½d. to 9½d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

Poultry Market, Leadenhall.

We have little alteration to note since last week; if any, it is that while the supply remains the same, the demand is somewhat less.

Large Fowls	.....	6s. 0d. to 7s. 0d. each.
Smaller do.	.....	3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. "
Chickens	.....	2s. 6d. to 3s. 0d. "
Geese	.....	5s. 6d. to 6s. 0d. "
Ducklings	.....	3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. "
Pigeons	.....	0s. 9d. to 0s. 10d. "
Quails	.....	1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. "
Rabbits	.....	1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. "
Wild do.	.....	0s. 9d. to 0s. 10d. "
Leverets	.....	3s. 0d. to 4s. 6d. "

To Correspondents.

To X. L.—We shall feel much pleasure in receiving the remarks on rearing chickens; our correspondent's success is very gratifying.

M. B. H. would be very much obliged if one of our American exchanges would give us a receipt for making pumpkin pie, that we may transcribe it in our columns.

A Young Housekeeper wishes to know if it is at all likely that a convenient portable oven will be manufactured? We fear not.

B. P. B.—The "Chapter on Bolton Bays, &c." next week: it arrived after our column was a little more than full.

Advertisements.

ISLE OF WIGHT EXHIBITION OF POULTRY, under the Patronage of H. R. H. Prince Albert. The Annual Exhibition will take place at Ryde on the 7th and 8th of August. Entries close on the 24th of July. An AUCTION will be held on the 8th of August, at 11 o'clock. In addition to the pens entered for competition, space will be afforded where breeders can send stock for sale, on payment of 1s. per basket. For a List of Prices, and Pieces of Plate, with Forms of Entry, apply, enclosing a stamped envelope, to
 JOHN VAUX, Esq., Ryde }
 Mr. GEORGE LOCKE, Newport } Hon. Secs.

SOWERBY BRIDGE PIG AND POULTRY ASSOCIATION, open to general competition. The Second General Meeting of the Association, and Show of Stock, will be held in a covered tent in the Cricket Field, Rose Hill, on Friday, September 14, 1885. Lists of Classes, and the Premiums to be awarded, may be obtained on and after Thursday, August 2nd, on application to Mr. WILLIAM STOTT, the Treasurer, or FREDERICK DYSON, Honorary Secretary.—Sowerby Bridge, July 27, 1885.

POINTERS.—A Brace of handsome Liver and White Pointers for sale. The owner gives his word they are from the best of stock; the pedigree will be given with them. Perfectly broken. The dogs can be seen at work. For particulars apply to M. LENO, Jun., The Kennels, Kinsbourne Green, near Harpenden, Herts.

SPANISH, DORKING, BRAHMA, and WHITE COCHIN, about 100 Fowls, from the Yards of Mr. W. SAUNDERS, of Cowes, will be sold by Auction at the Isle of Wight Poultry Show at Ryde, on the 8th of August. For catalogues of the Auction apply to J. VAUX, Esq., Ryde; Mr. G. LOCKE, Newport, and Mr. MAY, Cowes.

FOR POULTRY HOUSES.—CROGON'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 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.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POULTRY ASSOCIATION will hold its Third Annual Exhibition at Southwell on the 19th and 20th of December next. Prize Lists and any further information can be obtained on application to RICHARD HAWKLEY, Jun., Hon. Secretary, Southwell, Notts.

EGG HATCHING with ease, certainty, and profit; (see "Poultry Chronicle," July 11). MRS. NASH'S Patent Hydro-Incubator, as exhibited at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, &c., &c., which is now well known and used throughout the United Kingdom, can be delivered free, upon receipt of Post-office Orders. Price from £10 10s. Can be seen in operation only by applying by letter. Eggs of a choice description will be hatched gratis. Address, CARLO MINAST, 16, Brecknock-place, Camden-road, London.

WANTED TO PURCHASE, Two First-class Aylesbury Ducklings, and a First-class (Partridge) Cochin Hen Chick; also a Male and Female Toulouse Goslings (not related), and a Male Canada Gosling. Address, "F. Y. S." 16, Post-office, Blackburn.

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This Office, the new income of which was doubled during the last year, presents the security of a large paid-up capital; moderate premiums for home and foreign risks; no stamp duty is charged; and all policies are declared indisputable.

The last Bonus added four-fifths of the premium paid to some of the participating policies.

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Prospectuses and other information will be furnished on application to

H. D. DAVENPORT, Secretary.
Agents wanted.

CHARLES BALLANCE, 5, Mount Terrace, Taunton, Somersetshire, has a few sets of Black Bantam Chickens to dispose of, bred from his celebrated little Black Bantam Cock, "Gem," 1st prize at Reading and Tiverton, (Messrs. Hewitt and Baily, Judges at both places,) and highly commended at Birmingham last December. One Cockerel and three Pullets in a set, price only 21s. As C. B. is giving up the breed, early application is requested.

FOR SALE.—A Blue Andalusian Cock, of last year, price 10s. 6d. Also a few Andalusian, Black Spanish, Buff Cochin, Silver Pencilled, and Silver Spangled Cockerels, eight and ten weeks old, 5s. each; the four latter from prize stock.—Address, Rev. W. H. ELLIOT, Worsall Hall, Yarm.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

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HOMESTEAD.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1855.

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Poultry Shows.

Isle of Wight, at Ryde, August 7th and 8th. Secretaries, J. Vaux, Esq., and G. Locke, Esq. Entries are closed. (No. 70.)

Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland, at Carlow, Aug. 8th, 9th, and 10th. Secretary, J. Harkness, Esq., Upper Sackville Street, Dublin. (No. 75.)

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries close August 9th. (No. 67.)

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary, Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries closed August 7th. (No. 63.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at Boston, Thursday, August 23rd. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries close this day, August 8th. (Nos. 64 and 69.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq. Entries close August the 10th. (No. 74.)

Heckmondwike (near Leeds) Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Show, including Poultry, and Cottagers' Pigs, Tuesday, August 28. Secretaries, J. Kelly, and F. Brearly, Esquires. Entries close August 13th.

Anerley, August 28th, 29th, and 30th. Secretaries, Edgar Smallfield, Esq., and Henry F. Wells, Esq. Entries closed August 6th. (No. 69.)

Keighley Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighley. Entries close Saturday, August 25th. (No. 71.)

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th. (No. 76.)

Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Meeting, at Bury, Friday, Sept. 21st. Secretary, J. Cross, Esq. Entries close September the 10th. (No. 75.)

Northamptonshire Agricultural Society, at Kettering, September 27th. Entries close September 13th. (No. 76.)

South West Middlesex Agricultural Society, Friday, October 5th. Secretary, J. Gotelee, Esq.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq.

East Lancashire Poultry Show (late Nelson) at Colne, October 31st and November 1st. Secretaries, Messrs. T. and E. Booth, Marsden, near Burnley, Lancashire. Entries close October 17th. (No. 73.)

Bedford: Wednesday and Thursday, the 7th and 8th of November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

It is very seldom we can look back without sadness; happy if we can do so without remorse. Our next number will complete the third volume of our periodical.

During eighteen months we have catered for the public in poultry matters; we have loved our vocation, and have striven hard to keep every promise we made, both to our readers and ourselves, when we started.

We believe we have succeeded, and the Poultry question now stands firmly in the estimation of all parties. Whether as an amusement, or a commercial pursuit, it is well considered and understood. Shows are established. We have remonstrated against an undue number in the same district, and have shown that, properly managed, they cannot fail to be successful. We have done much to simplify the exhibition of poultry, by seeking from the best authorities those instructions which must be the guide to

success. If there be any part of our duty which yields us more satisfaction than another, it is that, on all occasions, where there has been any trifling misunderstanding, we have done our utmost to conciliate all parties, with almost unvarying success.

We trust, then, we have done our duty, and redeemed our pledges to our supporters. In that retrospect we have no cause for sadness; but we are bound to admit that, so far as our interests have been concerned, we have not had cause for the same satisfaction. A paper devoted to Poultry may pay its expenses, but it will not command a sufficient circulation to be profitable. The owners of the "Poultry Chronicle" had then to choose between a formal extension of subjects, or an amalgamation with some other periodical which had already taken possession of them. If they could find one whose position and management offered guarantees that the interests of their favourite pursuit should not suffer, they deemed that the best course. Acting on this conviction, they have made arrangements by which the "Poultry Chronicle" will, after the conclusion of the present volume, form part of the "Cottage Gardener." Hoping that their plan will succeed, they ask their friends to follow it still.

It has, throughout, been a pleasure to us to believe that all our subscribers might be ranked among our friends; but we do not confine ourselves to them; we have many and hearty thanks to offer to our contributors. Association has linked us to them, and we feel sure that the poultry world would indeed be sorry if Wednesday morning passed without its accustomed instruc-

tion and information, friendly jousts, and meetings in print.

This is the last number but one, and the "Poultry Chronicle," as established on the 1st of March, 1854, will then conclude; but, like the actor in some of the popular performances of the day, it drops one character to assume another. Or, if we dare compare it to larger things, we would paraphrase the speech on the death of a crowned head—"The 'Poultry Chronicle' is dead;" "Long live the 'Poultry Chronicle.'" As in this case the only question is a transfer, so we ask for our successor the same kindness, co-operation, and good-will, which has made our task a pleasure. A space will be set apart every week for poultry intelligence in the periodical with which the "Poultry Chronicle" is in future to be connected.

Schedule of the Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Association.

THE second General Meeting of the Association and Show of Stock will be held in a covered tent in the Cricket Field, Rose Hill, on Friday, September 14th, 1855, when the following premiums will be offered to poultry:

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.			
Class.		1st. s. d.	2nd. s. d.
1.	Cock and two Hens	10 0	5 0
2.	Cockerel and two Pullets	5 0	2 6
DORKINGS.			
3.	Cock and two Hens	10 0	5 0
4.	Cockerel and two Pullets	5 0	2 6
COCHIN CHINAS.			
5.	Cock and two Hens	10 0	5 0
6.	Cockerel and two Pullets	5 0	2 6
GAME.			
7.	Cock and two Hens	10 0	5 0
8.	Cockerel and two Pullets	5 0	2 6

GOLDEN PHEASANTS.			
Class.		1st. s. d.	2nd. s. d.
9.	Cock and two Hens	10 0	5 0
10.	Cockerel and two Pullets	5 0	2 6
SILVER PHEASANTS.			
11.	Cock and two Hens	10 0	5 0
12.	Cockerel and two Pullets	5 0	2 6
CHITTA PRATS.			
13.	Cock and two Hens	10 0	5 0
14.	Cockerel and two Pullets	5 0	2 6
POLANDS.			
15.	Cock and two Hens	10 0	5 0
16.	Cockerel and two Pullets	5 0	2 6
BANTAMS.			
17.	Cock and two Hens	10 0	5 0
18.	Cockerel and two Pullets	5 0	2 6
19.	Cock and two Hens of any breed, not enumerated in the schedule	10 0	5 0
CLASSES FOR SINGLE COCKS.			
A.	Spanish	10 0	5 0
B.	Dorking	10 0	5 0
C.	Cochin China	10 0	5 0
D.	Game	10 0	5 0
GEESE.			
20.	Goose and Gander	10 0	5 0
21.	Two Goslings	10 0	5 0
TURKEYS.			
22.	Pair of Turkeys	10 0	5 0
23.	Pair of young Turkeys	10 0	5 0
DUCKS.			
24.	Drake and two Aylesbury Ducks	10 0	5 0
25.	Three Aylesbury Ducklings	5 0	2 6
26.	Drake and two Rouen Ducks	10 0	5 0
27.	Three Rouen Ducklings	5 0	2 6
28.	Drake and two Ducks, any other kind	5 0	2 6
PIGEONS.			
29.	Pair of Carriers; 30. Almond Tumblers; 31. Balds, Beards, or Mottled Tumblers; 32. Fantails; 33. Pouters; 34. Dragons; 35. Runts; 36. any other new or distinct variety	5s. each.	
RABBITS.			
37.	Pair of Rabbits, for length of ear	5 0	
38.	Pair of coloured Rabbits	5 0	
39.	Pair of Rabbits, for weight, foreign or any other variety	5 0	

REGULATIONS.

The exhibition will be opened to the public at twelve at noon, and close at five o'clock P.M.

All stock intended for exhibition must have been the bona fide property of the exhibitor one month prior to the day of showing, and all vegetables must have been grown by the exhibitor.

The entrance for the premiums must be made, and the necessary certificates lodged with the honorary secretary on or before Tuesday, the 28th day of August, after which date none will be received; they may either be sent by post prepaid, or attendance will be given at the Royal Hotel, Sowerby Bridge, on the said 28th day of August, from 3 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and from 7 to 9 in the evening, to receive the same.

The stock must be at the place of exhibition by 8 o'clock in the morning, or they may be excluded; and no stock will be allowed (under any pretence) to be removed from the ground until after 5 o'clock P.M.

The judges will be empowered to withhold a prize or prizes in any of the classes in which the specimens are of inferior quality.

The exhibition will not be limited to a particular district, and specimens may be sent from any part of the United Kingdom.

The discovery of any false statement as to the possession or ownership of stock, or their age, or growing of vegetables, &c., will be followed by the exclusion of the exhibitor, who shall not be entitled to any premium that may have been awarded to them. No stock will be allowed to be shown in two classes.

The committee assure exhibitors that every attention and care will be paid to the stock sent for exhibition, but they cannot be responsible for any losses that may occur from accident or mistake.

All stock intended for sale must have the price affixed to the pen, and the same must be made known to the honorary secretary, and no alteration will be allowed to be made afterwards; £5 per cent. will be deducted from all sales, to go to the funds of the association.

The entrance for pigs is 2s. per pen; poultry, 1s.; rabbits, 1s.; pigeons, 6d.; roots, 1s. per lot.

Exhibitors of pigeons will have to provide their own pens for exhibition.

Tickets of admission to the show from 12 A.M. to 3 P.M., 6d. each; and from 3 to 5 P.M. 3d. each.

Members of the association will be admitted free on producing their tickets.

All the premiums awarded by the judges will be paid immediately after the dinner.

Dinner for the members at six o'clock, at the Bull's Head Inn. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each. Each member has the privilege of obtaining an additional ticket for a friend.

FREDERICK DYSON, Hon. Sec.
Sowerby Bridge, August 1st, 1855.

Schedule of the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society.

The Annual Meeting of this Society will take place on Thursday, September 27th, and the Poultry Show will be held in connection with it, at Kettering.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

DORKING FOWLS (ANY COLOUR).

Class.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.
	s.	s.	s.	s.
1. Cock and two Hens ...	20	10		
2. Chickens of 1855 (Cockerel and two Pullets)	30	20	10	
3. Cockerel and one Pullet	10	5		
4. Cock of any age	10	5		
COCHIN CHINA FOWLS (ANY COLOUR).				
5. Cock and two Hens ...	15	10		
6. Chickens of 1855 (Cockerel and two Pullets)	20	15	10	5
GAME FOWL (ANY COLOUR, ANY AGE).				
7. Cock and two Hens ...	20	10		

HAMBURGS (PENCILLED, ANY AGE).

8. Cock and two Hens ... 15 ... 10 ... 5

HAMBURGS (SPANGLED, ANY AGE).

9. Cock and two Hens .. 10 ... 5

ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED OF ANY AGE.

10. Cock and two Hens ... 20 ... 10

CROSS-BRED FOWLS, OF ANY AGE.

11. Cock and two Hens ... 10 ... 5

AYLESBURY DUCKS, OF ANY AGE.

12. Drake and two Ducks 15 .. 10

DUCKS, ANY OTHER BREED, ANY AGE.

13. Drake and two Ducks 15 ... 10

TURKEYS, ANY AGE OR COLOUR.

14. Cock and two Hens ... 20 ... 10

REGULATIONS AND RULES.

The judges will be empowered to withhold a prize or prizes in any of the classes in which the specimens are of inferior quality.

The ages of the chickens must be stated.

Exhibitors will, in all cases, be required to state the price at which they will sell their specimens; one of the main objects of this exhibition being to enable farmers, &c., to improve their breed of fowls, by purchasing the best varieties.

This exhibition will be limited to the county of Northampton. Members of the society can enter any number of pens FREE, but those not members will be charged 2s. 6d. for each pen.

Each pen must be sent in a separate basket, 2 feet 6 inches square, specimens of which can be seen at Cooke's, Basket-maker, Bridge-street, Northampton.

All the poultry must be in the show-yard before eight o'clock in the morning of Thursday, September the 27th, and must not be removed until permission is given by the stewards.

Proper certificates of entry must be procured from the secretaries, and the entries close September 13th, fourteen days before the show.

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 Mr. P. M. Gue's, Rothwell, near Kettering, who will also give any information that may be required.

Bolton Greys and Bays: their Sitting and Nomenclature.

A FEW weeks since, a letter appeared in the "Poultry Chronicle" to the effect that Spangled Hamburgs were good sitters and mothers, which was backed by a quotation from Mr. Bailey's work on fowls; and, thinking that that assertion, accompanied as it was with the authority of a person who so frequently acts as judge, might be instrumental in misleading the unwary, I felt bound, as a lover of the fancy, to correct such a statement, as undoubtedly all the varieties of this class, whether they are known as Bolton Greys and Bays, Chittrats and Pheasants, or Dutch Everyday-layers, are, as a rule, non-sitters—any exception to this rule, whenever occurring,

or from whatever cause, can only be regarded as a fault in that individual, and consequently such birds must be looked upon, if not impure, at least as departing from the peculiarities of the breed.

"Zenas" need not have considered himself aggrieved by my correcting that error in general terms, as no allusion to him or his birds was made or meant, nor was his former statement even thought of. His birds may be all that is desirable in other respects, and may have pedigree on their side; still, their sitting is a departure from the rules of the breed, and they consequently cannot be considered as having untarnished claims to this class of non-sitters, and must, however unpleasant to their owner, bear, as he designates it, "the bar sinister on their escutcheons." As "Zenas" has passed his veto that the origin of our domestic animals "must for ever remain a mystery," it would be impolitic in me to give my version of "so intricate" a subject at present; perhaps he will agree with me that if such sitting hens were bred from, the particular feature of this valuable breed could no longer be depended on. I am aware that close confinement, or the absence of a sufficient supply of egg-producing food, will sometimes cause a deviation from this and other rules; nevertheless, these sittings are the exception, not the rule, and should be treated with the same disrespect that we should show to the appearance of a white leg, a red ear-lobe, or a single comb. My remark was made generally, and applies generally; exceptions do occasionally happen to all rules, even to the breeding of mules or hybrids, though, as a rule, they are sterile, yet exceptional cases have been recorded, the accuracy of which statements we have no reason to doubt.

In respect to the nomenclature of the breed, my reason for adhering to the old name is, my conviction that the new one is incorrect, doubly so from its depriving another breed of their rightful title;—"Zenas" styling it obsolete does not, in fact, make it so, nor can it strictly be con-

sidered so while the names of Buffon, Mowbray, Dickson, Richardson, Martin, and others, are to be found among our poultry authorities. Some say they call this fowl a Hamburg, simply as they would name a chair or table: were that all, I might perhaps be induced to float with the tide of fashion, and countenance a popular error, that these are Hamburg fowls. Excuse me, gentle readers, and, though comparisons are odious, allow me to make one between the names of fowls and furniture. The Hamburg is a bearded and crested fowl, brought here from Hamburg; the Bolton Greys and Bays are as much English fowls as any other, though some of the pencilled birds have also been brought from Holland. On the other hand, a chair is simply a seat, of which there are, like the Bolton Bays and Greys, several varieties, all differing in certain respects and having individual names; but a table is a different sort of furniture, of which there are also several varieties. Let us then suppose one of our lexicographers were to say, it is better to class all kinds of seats together by the name of tables, for the seats and their varieties are too puzzling a definition. But what is to be done with the tables? exclaim some. Oh! do without them. But we will not, say the public. Then call them large benches, if you like. Now this is just the case with the Hamburg fowls. The Rev. E. S. Dixon says, Class all the varieties of the Bolton Greys and Bays as Hamburgs. Ah! but what is to become of the Hamburg fowls imported from that country for considerably more than a century? "Send them to the fattening coop;" "for there are either *two breeds*" of crested fowls, or else "the beard is a monstrous appendage of the Poland fowls." But the public said, we will not send the Hamburgs to the fattening coop; so then they are to be called bearded Polish. Such are the facts of the perversion of the name. I know there are other incongruities in poultry nomenclature, and when I state I am no mushroom poultry amateur, but a fancier of the old school,

before ever Dixon or the Birmingham show promulgated their new names, I think "Zenas" need not express surprise at my declining to adopt the name of Hamburg for the Bolton Greys and Bays, or that of Dorking for the Sussex fowls, or of Cochinchinas for the Shanghais. He may call me obstinate if he chooses—I claim a right to hold my own opinions, so long as arguments are not brought to disprove them. "Zenas" is not the first who has tried ridicule, but that merely shows a want of argument, and unless he can find more substantial chains to fetter me with, he must permit me to go free—at least, I may be permitted to express my own views while my opponents are unable to refute my statements.

Nor is it merely here that it is of consequence, but France and America both acknowledge the Hamburg as a bearded and tufted fowl—France through Buffon, America through Miner; and, as these countries are likely to become purchasers, it may be as well to avoid the various mistakes that will inevitably occur in our future transactions with them, if this mistake of the Rev. E. S. Dixon's is not corrected. I will only further remind my late opponent that it is possible his unfortunate juror might be the only conscientious man of the twelve. We do sometimes hear of packed juries.

B. P. BRENT.

Wine-Making in Australia.

As some of our vine-growers will now be engaged in the manufacture of wine, we give the following account of the process adopted by an experienced vine-grower, at the Kinross vineyard, on the Lower Hunter, New South Wales:—"The grapes, gathered carefully at the vines into wooden baskets, are emptied into large flat tubs on a cart, and drawn to the crushing room above the cellar. The stalks are here separated, and the fruit is crushed by machine rollers. The mass thus crushed descends through openings in the floor into the fermenting

vats, of about 400 gallons' capacity, in the cellar. The fermentation continues from about 86 to 150 hours, according to the temperature, which may vary from about 64 deg. to 70 deg. No covering is used to the vats. When the fermentation has almost totally subsided, the liquor is racked off into casks of 130 gallons, and the residue is pressed by a $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch screw press. The liquid of the pressings is kept separate for about six months, when it has generally undergone two rackings, and is equal to the must of the first run, and is then put to it. The other portion, or first run of must, is closely bunged down as soon as the fermentation is over. According to the weather and convenience, the wine is racked off into clean casks about June, when all sediment is carefully separated. This operation is repeated three times within the first year, twice in the second, and once in after years. Care is taken to fill up all casks about every three or four weeks. Kinross wine has never been disposed of at less than two years old, in most cases not under three years old. The average produce of the vineyard may be stated as follows, viz. :—The Black Cluster Grape has yielded at the rate of 100 gallons per acre; the Reising at the rate of 600 gallons; the Shiraz at the rate of 600 gallons; the Medoc and White Pineau at the rate of 500 gallons. The other varieties have not been subjected to sufficient observation."—*Melbourne Morning Herald*.

Hen-Roost Guano.

NOTICING an article in a former number about hen manure, I take this opportunity to try to encourage the saving principle among the agricultural community. Some individuals are annually paying small sums of money for guano to use in their gardens and small plots, which will in time amount to quite a sum. This they might save, were they only prudent enough to keep shelves or boxes under their poultry roosts. I do not mean to say that buying guano is not a profitable investment for the

farmers. Yet I do say, that saving their own guano, made on their own premises, is more profitable. A large amount of this powerful manure or fertiliser is allowed to go to waste, without even being thought of, by those individuals who are annually paying sums of money for Peruvian Guano, and who think that they could not get along without it. It may look like a small business to some, but let them remember that this mighty globe is composed of small atoms. Well, let me state some experience to those who think that saving the manure from hen-roosts is a small business. I have a flock of about 35 hens, and winter a pair of turkeys.

Last fall, my attention was called to the subject of saving my hen manure. I constructed a hen-roost in one of my manure sheds, by nailing up four pieces of boards to the timbers overhead, letting them hang down about two feet, and then, about a foot from the floor overhead, I bored holes through the board, put in poles, and then laid on poles at right angles with the former ones. This formed two poles to perch upon, besides the ends. I took boards a little longer than the frame, and fitted them together, flooring over the bottom poles as tight as possible, and let them run out at the ends as far as needed to catch what was dropped from the end poles. In making the perch I laid my perching poles far enough from the edge to prevent the dropping over at the edges.

I have another on a similar principle. It will take but a couple of hours at the most to make a roost of this kind, and but a small outlay of money for materials, as they can be made of old scraps and fragments of boards, of which every farmer has enough. I built mine at the time the ground froze last fall, and shall save six barrels of the most powerful fertiliser that exists in the knowledge of man. This is encouraging to me, but falls short of the amount that I shall have by the first of May. I used this article in my garden last year, and, from the estimate that I made, in comparison with crops that were

not manured with poultry manure, I judged it to be worth at least one dollar per bushel. Thus you see that with an outlay of perhaps one dollar in time and material, I shall save this winter eighteen dollars' worth of manure, which, taking out the dollar for time and material, leaves me seventeen dollars' worth of property that has heretofore gone to waste.

Read this, farmers, and go immediately to the work, and you will find that "a penny saved is as good as twopence earned."
—A. HUTCHINS.—*Maine Farmer.*

Melbourne General Markets.

APRIL 28.—The retail rates are as follows:—

VEGETABLES, FRUIT, &c.—Cabbages, 4s. to 8s. per dozen; ditto large, 8s. to 12s.; carrots, 6d. per bunch; turnips, 6d. do.; parsnips, 6d. do.; radishes, 4d. do.; cress, 6d. do.; vegetable marrow, 9d. to 1s. 6d.; pine apples, 3s. each; tomatoes, 1s. per lb.; beet-root, 4d. to 6d. each; French beans, 1s. 6d. per lb.; potatoes, 28s. per cwt., or 4d. per lb.; lettuces, 4d. to 6d. per bunch; apples, 1s. to 2s. per lb.; pears, large, 4s. to 6s. per dozen; onions, 4d. per bunch, or 6d. per lb.; lemons, 8s. per dozen; beans, 1s. 6d. per lb.; water melons, 1s. to 3s.; rock ditto, 1s. 6d. to 5s.; grapes, 1s. to 2s. 6d. per lb.; cucumbers, 9s. to 15s. per dozen; damsons, 1s. 6d. per lb.

DAIRY PRODUCE, POULTRY, &c.—Butter, fresh, 5s. per lb.; ditto, salt, 2s. to 3s. do.; new laid eggs, 6s. per dozen; milk, 1s. to 2s. per quart; geese, 20s. to 25s. each; turkeys, 30s. to 40s. do.; ducks, 20s. per pair; wild ducks, 10s. do.; fowls, 12s. to 16s. do.; teal, 6s. do.

BUTCHERS' MEAT.—Beef, 5d. to 7d.; mutton, 5d. to 7d.; veal, 7d. to 9d.; pork, 9d. to 1s. 6d.—*Melbourne Argus.*

OILING LATCHES AND HINGES.—Every person who lives in a house, should spend fifteen minutes once every month in going over every part with a teaspoonful of oil

and a feather, and give all the hinges, locks, and latches a touch. It will save an incredible amount of scraping, banging, jarring, squeaking, harsh grating, dismal creaking, and other divers and disagreeable noises, which result from the want of a little oil.

WETTING BRICKS.—As it is important that every one engaged in building should be well informed in regard to the durability of materials, we publish the following from an exchange paper:—Very few people, or even builders, are aware of the advantage of wetting bricks before laying them, or if they are aware of it, they do not practise it; for of the many houses now in progress in this city, there are very few in which wet bricks are used. A wall twelve inches thick, built of good mortar with bricks well soaked, is stronger in every respect than one sixteen inches thick built dry. The reason of this is, that if the bricks are saturated with water, they will not abstract from the mortar the moisture which is necessary to its crystallisation; and on the contrary, they will unite chemically with the mortar, and become as solid as a rock. On the other hand, if the bricks are put up dry, they immediately take all the moisture from the mortar, leaving it too dry to harden, and the consequence is that when a building of this description is taken down or tumbles down of its own accord, the mortar from it is like so much sand.—*Scientific American.*

Jersey Poultry Show Prizes.

At the Jersey Summer Agricultural Meeting, which took place lately in the usual locality, the following were the awards of prizes to poultry:

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

Class 1. BLACK SPANISH (Cock and two hens).—M. Jacques Gouillon, very highly commended.
Class 2. CHICKENS OF 1855 (Cock and two pullets).—1st prize, Thomas Aubin.

Class 3. COCHIN CHINA, CINNAMON AND BUFF (Cock and two hens, buff).—1st prize, M. De La Taste; 2nd prize (buff), Mr. Falle, Highlands,

Hon. Card. Class 4; CHICKENS OF 1855 (Cock and two pullets).—1st prize, Thomas Aubin. Class 5. COCHIN CHINA, BROWN, PARTRIDGE-FEATHERED, WHITE OR BLACK (Cock and two hens, partridge).—1st prize, Nicholas Poingdestre. Class 6. CHICKENS OF 1855 (Cock and two hens, partridge).—1st prize, Nicholas Poingdestre.

Class 11. GAME FOWLS, BLACK-BREADED AND OTHER REDS, BLACK, AND BRASSY-WINGED (Cock and two hens, black red).—1st prize, Mr. Godley; 2nd prize, Mr. Godley, Hon. Card. Class 13. WHITE AND PILES, DUCKWINGS, AND OTHER GREYS AND BLUES (Cock and two hens, duckwings).—1st prize, M. Mellish De La Teste.

Class 20. DUCKS, WHITE AYLSBURY (Drake and two ducks).—1st prize, Joshua Brayn.

VARIOUS BREEDS. Cock and two pullets (Minorca).—1st prize, Thomas Aubin. Cock and two hens (Minorca).—1st prize, N. Poingdestre. Cock and two hens (Persian), M. De La Teste, Hon. Card. Cock and two hens (Golden Bantam), ditto, ditto. Pair of Carrier Pigeons, ditto, commended.

JUDGES FOR POULTRY.—Messrs. Fred. Poignand, Wm. Shaylor, and Clement Du Parcq.

The Durham County Agricultural and Poultry Show.

IN case you do not receive a report of the above meeting, which was held at Gateshead upon the 31st of July, I have sent you the following, in hopes it may be entertaining to some of your readers. The show of sheep was very good, especially the Leicesters belonging to Mr. Mason, of Palsinsburn, near Wooler. The bulls were good, as were some of the horses; and it was for the most part a very satisfactory show, but unfortunately the rain was incessant during the day, and consequently the visitors were few.

I now come to the poultry, upon which I will make a few remarks before writing the prize list. Mr. Lightfoot's prize Spanish fowls were excellent, and well worthy of a more valuable prize, which, no doubt, they will soon gain; the show of Dorkings was first-rate, especially the prize birds belonging to Mr. Spearman, of Newton Hall, who

was very successful during the meeting. In many classes there was little or no competition, but a pen of Black Polands, belonging to Mr. Shorthose, were very beautiful birds. The Bantams belonging to Mr. A. Baillie, of Mellerstain, Kelso, N.B., were extraordinary birds, such as are rarely seen; but, owing to some mistake in the entry, and there being a hen too little, the prize was adjudged to the next best, which were very middling, but Mr. Baillie had the satisfaction of the Judges' assurance that his birds were by far the best. I must not omit to state how courteous Mr. Coulson, the secretary, was to all present.

ONE WHO WAS PRESENT.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.—1st prize, Mr. Lightfoot; 2nd prize, Mr. Shorthose. CHICKENS.—1st prize, Mr. Lightfoot.

DORKINGS.—1st and 2nd prizes, Mr. Spearman. CHICKENS.—1st prize, Mr. Spearman.

COCHINS.—1st prize, Mr. Murray. CHICKENS.—1st prize, Mr. Ralph Thompson.

GOLDEN PHEASANTS (Cock and two hens).—1st prize, Mr. Walkinshaw. SILVER.—1st prize, Mr. Walkinshaw. CHICKENS.—1st prize, Mr. George Dixon.

POLANDS.—1st prize, Mr. Grey; 2nd prize, Mr. Shorthose.

BEST COCK AND TWO HENS OF ANY BREED.—Mrs. Winyard.

BANTAMS.—1st and 2nd prizes, Mr. Spearman.

BEST COCK OF ANY BREED.—1st prize, Mr. Grey.

DUCKS.—1st prize, Mr. Gregson; 2nd prize, Mr. Ramsay.

TURKEYS.—1st prize, Mrs. Forrester.

Selby, Tadcaster, & Market Weighton District Agricultural Association.

THE second annual meeting of this Society was held at Tadcaster, on Friday, July 27th, when the following prizes were awarded:—

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH.—1st prize, T. Metcalfe, Bramham; 2nd prize, T. B. Ireland, Tadcaster. CHICKENS.—T. Metcalfe.

DORKINGS.—1st prize, Rev. G. Hustler, Apple-

ton; 2nd prize, T. Metcalfe. CHICKENS.—Rev. G. Hustler. Commended, T. Metcalfe.

COCHIN CHINAS.—1st and 2nd prizes, Rev. G. Hustler. CHICKENS.—Rev. G. Hustler.

GAME.—1st prize, T. Metcalfe; 2nd prize, Jonathan Marshall, Tadcaster. CHICKENS.—T. Metcalfe. Commended, T. Richardson, Selby.

GOLDEN PHEASANTS.—1st prize, J. Richardson, Thorne; 2nd prize, W. Smallwood, Acaster Malvis. CHICKENS.—Georgiana Mollet.

SILVER PHEASANTS.—1st and 2nd prizes, J. Richardson. CHICKENS.—J. Richardson.

CHITTEPRAT, or CORSICAN.—1st prize, T. Metcalfe; 2nd prize, J. Richardson.

POLANDS.—No prize awarded.

OTHER DISTINCT BREED OR CROSS.—1st prize, Rev. Geo. Hustler; no 2nd prize awarded. CHICKENS.—Rev. G. Hustler.

BANTAMS.—1st prize, (Golden), Lady Londesborough; 2nd prize, Mr. —, Tadcaster.

COCK OF ANY BREED.—Equal prizes to T. B. Ireland and the Rev. G. Hustler.

HEN OF ANY BREED.—J. Ridsdill, Skeldergate, York.

GANDER AND GOOSE.—1st prize, E. Appleyard, Thorne; no 2nd prize awarded.

DUCKS, ANY BREED EXCEPT AYLESBURY.—1st prize, T. Metcalfe; 2nd prize, Mrs. M. Bean.

DUCKS, AYLESBURY.—1st prize, Col. G. H. Thompson, Bolton Lodge; no 2nd prize awarded.

TURKEYS.—1st prize, B. B. Thompson, Tadcaster; no 2nd prize awarded.

Would any of your readers and writers pen something about the "words" in Italics, and the meaning thereof.

"Selim," page 474.

His impressions are quite right; poultry "ought not to be fed on very dry grain or food of any sort," (Nature ought to be studied in every minutæ). If dry grain be given, it ought to be either crushed, boiled, or ground; and then only in limited quantities. Grain that is either scalded or boiled never disagrees with them, and they never get crop-bound with it, as satiety comes on sooner than if they had dry grain. I acknowledge that they prefer dry grain. If I have to give dry grain, I moisten it with a weak solution of salt and water.

"Salt as a Manure," page 469. E. MARKS.

According to my ideas, the application of salt, as a manure, is only productive where the land is previously rich in worms, snails, &c., &c. The greater the quantity of salt applied, the more luxuriant the crop the following year, in consequence of the "salt killing nearly the whole of the worms and insects that it comes in contact with." This dead animal matter is as good as bone-dust, but not so lasting.

"C. G. B.," page 430.

I have lost several valuable fowls by this disease, but it was in consequence of their getting at and "devouring" too much dry grain. They became crop-bound, and did nothing but drink, drink, drink, until death put an end to their wheezing. The contents of the crop were highly charged with sulphuretted hydrogen gas, so much so that no one could go near it; the liquid from the contents having been absorbed into the system, poisoned the birds in a slow but very effectual manner. The crop was swollen to an immense size.

I noticed a Cochin egg laid the other day; the one half chocolate, and the other hemisphere white. Can any of your readers assign any cause?

Let aw thoes furrin* birds aloon,
They'r nout but grizzle, fat, an boan.

* Means Cochins.

A Chapter of Odds and Ends.

DREAMING, ABOUT WHAT?

"POULTRY CHRONICLE," (what does "Chronicle" mean, old fellow?)—eh, will you give it up?—Johnson—Walker—Biography.

DEATHS and Marriages . . . esteemed Animal . . . * * * * * Genealogy . . . lots of eggs . . . some blue—there's one half-and-half . . . just so . . . it had Instinct? . . . Reason?

MESMERISM? . . . "this is true," . . . I'll show it to you and others . . . *Flesh Acid?* . . . *Blood Alkaline?* . . . oh, that fowl gives out sparks when . . . *Bump of Time?* . . . *hatch'd with a wooden leg?* Awoke by a *pleasing peal of thunder*, but it was in *reality* . . . a cock-crowling!!

"Cheap Food for Horses, Poultry, &c."—Make bread of three parts potatoes and one part oatmeal, *i. e.*, when potatoes are cheap.

Country people say, that if you keep fowls in a confined situation, that they ought to have a sprig of rue put into their water-trough.

"Nutritious Oats."—Crush them in a mill; or steep them in hot water for one night (the addition of a little carbonate of soda is an improvement). Three bushels will keep the animals in good condition in place of six.

"Bitter Principle."—The Rat Hare (in Siberia) hollow out their burrows between rocks and hollow trees, and live in small societies. About the middle of August they collect their winter's provender, which is formed of select grasses and the sweetest herbs, and a portion of *bitter herbs* to render the rest more wholesome. These stores are sought for by the Sable-hunters, to feed their harassed horses, and likewise for food for their cattle in winter.

"Grass."—Twenty parts of fresh-cut grass only weighed (after being dried in the open air) $3\frac{1}{2}$ parts; therefore, ruminating animals are kept alive and healthy with three-fourths of moisture out of the food they consume. RUFUS.

Brahma Pootras as Useful Poultry.

As a correspondent, who does not wish to have his letter published, would like to know what we think of the Brahmas (leaving the somewhat over-discussed but unanswerable question of their origin), we will speak of their faults and their merits as useful domestic poultry.

The hardness of their constitution, and the rapidity with which the chickens grow, and the manner in which they thrive, even under unfavourable circumstances, greatly increase the value of these fowls in our ever-varying climate. In our experience, with rather a large stock, we have found them good and *regular* layers of fine, large-sized eggs. After laying immensely through-

out the autumn months, they discontinued towards winter, and re-commenced in January. From that time to the present they have laid exceedingly well. All the hens except one, which has not been broody, have set and brought up chickens during the spring, and one only became broody a second time. The Cochins have, in the same period, most of them set three times, and from this cause have laid a smaller number of eggs than the Brahmas. From one Brahma hen, which was noticed particularly—because, from her beauty, it was thought desirable to get all her eggs hatched—thirty-five chickens were reared, seventeen eggs were spoiled when set, from the intensely cold weather and other causes, and about a dozen were other ways made use of. After laying these eggs she set, and is still with her chickens, now a month old. She did not begin to lay regularly until the first of March, as, after laying six eggs in January, she was put off her laying by a little indisposition, which kept her back until that time. Some which began earlier, and have laid since rearing their broods, have produced more eggs, but, being less admired, no exact account has been kept of their doings.

We have found the Brahmas excellent mothers to their own chickens, but rather spiteful to those belonging to other hens. They often begin to lay when the chickens are five or six weeks old, but sometimes not so soon.

From its hardness, and the ease with which it accommodates itself to the inclemencies of our climate, we reckon the Brahma the most valuable fowl which has ever been introduced among us; for when more delicate sorts are pining and dying off, and at times all kinds are suffering more or less from cold and wet, we have noticed the Brahmas alone continue brisk, happy, and healthy.

Sundries.

EVERY spare minute is spent among the young broods now so numerous, and so full

of interest, that to sit down and write about them is out of the question—that is, by day-light; but when they are safely housed, and the coo of the pigeons has ceased, and they have retired from sight, it is a pleasure to sit down and write about them, especially to those who have profited so much by the experience of others, detailed in the columns in which your own will appear.

I never told you, Mr. Editor, how I first met with the "Poultry Chronicle." It was on a railway station. I was looking over the array of books and other publications, with the view of investing a sixpence or a shilling in shortening my journey—and an interesting book wonderfully decreases the distance—when I saw a neat square little periodical, "The Poultry Chronicle," Vol. I., No. 5. That's the book for my money, the very thing. Can I have the back numbers? Yes, they were all there, and how cheap—too cheap; and how interesting. We were at the end of the journey in about the time it usually took to reach the first of so many stations—at least so seemed it to me. From that time I have continued to take it in, to have it bound as the volumes are completed, to read it, refer to it, and now I am venturing to write in it. From that time, too, it has continued to improve; greatly so when it was promoted to the establishment from which it is now published: its price is more in accordance with its merits; it was then an experiment, it is now, I trust, established. The greater variety of subjects to which it now refers is also an improvement: whilst articles on bees, horticulture, &c., are most acceptable to some, they can be objectionable to none, especially as they are never to the exclusion or diminution of our more peculiar and favourite topic; indeed, my observation convinces me that those who love greatly any one branch of Natural History, have a liking, more or less, for all. The only thing I don't understand about the Chronicle is, why it should be square. It is emblematical of its position, that all is square. Then we'll excuse it. But square books are not pretty, nor

portable. They don't fit the pocket, don't look well on a table, don't match with others, don't suit the shelves. Shall we have triangular books soon? But, never mind, if the shape is—and I believe it is—the worst that can be said of the Chronicle.

Well, Mr. Editor, I have been hatching Cochins to keep me supplied with eggs in the coming winter—Dorking for the table, and—shall I say—for exhibition? and Silver-pencilled Hamburg for their beauty. How valuable are these varieties for their characteristics—how useful in their several departments!

The Silver-pencilled Hamburgs are a picture on a lawn, and lay continually during the summer months. The Cochins do the maternal duties, and supply us with eggs when they are scarcest. And if the Dorking are excelled by some other variety in any one respect, yet in the aggregation of good qualities they are unequalled. With reference to the subject of a recent discussion, I will just say that I have kept from half a dozen to a dozen Silver-pencilled Hamburgs for three or four years, and have never seen the least inclination to sit, or any sign of broodiness on the part of any one of them. When I hear of such being the case, I am led to doubt the entire purity of the breed. Deception on such a point is not unfrequent. I have pigeons, a pair of white fantails, true to a feather, prize birds. Now, the young of these birds are almost invariably what we term saddle-back—that is, they are far from white; the old ones "throw back." The young resemble their grand-parents, as many of us do, rather than their parents. These birds, then, are not true white Fans, though, till you bred from them, you would suppose, and, from their appearance, be more than justified in supposing them to be so.

How different the temper of sitting hens! Two I have now sitting differ as widely as possible, though sisters, and sitting each for the first time, and under similar circumstances. One will allow me to feed her, handle her—do in all respects

as I wish with her, her eggs, or her nest. The other defies me to come near her; I cannot get within a yard of her, she is so spiteful.

I have been much interested in the description of the fowl-houses in the last Chronicle, but must not get on a fresh topic now. So, good-bye, Mr. Editor, with every wish for your success. J. B.

Home and the Homestead.

CONTINENTAL FARMING.

(Abridged from the "Royal Agricultural Society's Journal.")

"THE whole of the district from Vienna to Pesth is capable of producing at least treble the quantity of beef, mutton, wool, and grain, if well farmed; but the people of this beautiful country are broken in spirit, and sunk in apathy.

"The farming in Hungary is bad, but the crops are generally good; indeed, if the district were properly drained and well farmed, the produce would be enormous. What a glorious sight it would be to see all this plain drained and cultivated as it ought to be! thus insuring an abundant reward to the industry and perseverance required to bring about such reclamation and improvement, causing health and wealth to prevail where now nothing but sickness, decay, and poverty exist.

"The Hungarian peasantry are a fine, strong, active, well-made race of men; they have just been emancipated from serfdom by the present Emperor of Austria; and, being now in the transition state, will no doubt soon raise themselves in the moral scale so far as the circumstances of their country will permit: they are in a shocking state of poverty, working bare-footed and legged, with only coarse canvas shirts and trousers (if they are worthy of the name); they are just a wide petticoat cut up the middle, and each side sewed up to form legs; the waistband is the same as that of a petticoat; their coats are sheepskins, with the

woolly side out, dyed black. It is evident that these people feel acutely the degraded position they have risen from. Not much of the country is cultivated, except about the towns and villages, which are few and far between: its wealth consists in herds of cattle, horses, pigs, and flocks of sheep. Where the land is high and dry, the cattle are grazed in herds of the same age and sex. If these cattle were well selected for a few generations, there is no doubt that they would be one of the best breeds in the world: great numbers of them are excellent handlers; they are deep in the rib, wide in the back, deep and broad in the thighs, deep, but rather narrow, in the breast; their head and horns are in many cases beautiful; the worst fault they have is flatness in the rib: they are the finest working oxen in the world; always yoked so as to push with the forehead, so that the work in no way disfigures them as our system of yokes and collars does.

"Swine are fattened in great numbers, when the floods subside, upon fish and frogs, which swarm the shallow pools in these marshes: as the flesh is not fit for food, the whole carcase is melted down (with beef and mutton suet) to make tallow; the flesh, dried, is given to other young pigs.

"Numbers of pigs are also fattened in the oak forests upon acorns. Hungary supplies the greater part of Austria with beef, mutton, pork, and horses. The herbage on the land which is not liable to flood is of the finest description; in fact, I have no doubt that this whole plain, exceeding twenty-one millions of acres in extent, could not be excelled by any land in the world for fertility, if properly drained and cultivated; it might produce more than one-and-a-half million tons of beef, mutton, pork, butter, and wool, which, at the low price of 4½d. per lb., amounts to 63 millions sterling; wheat, at least 24 million quarters, which, at 30s. per quarter, amounts to 36 million pounds sterling, making a total of 130 millions, of which one-half may be allowed for exportation

annually, enabling these people to consume foreign necessaries and luxuries to the value of 65 millions annually."

In the neighbourhood of Tokay Mr. Love visited a large fair, at which he mentions the following prices; but says, that "everything was selling 25 per cent. higher than formerly, owing to the depreciation of the Austrian paper currency. New waggons, to carry 50 cwt., 5*l.*; ploughs, of wood, with two wheels, from 1*l.* to 1*l.* 10*s.* Good store bullocks, four years old, that will feed to from 9 cwt. to 10 cwt., sold at from 7*l.* 10*s.* to 12*l.*; store pigs, about a third less than in England.

"Farm horses, a sort of mongrel breed, of small size, about 15 hands high, bad shape, but hardy and durable, four to six years old, sold at from 4*l.* to 6*l.* each.

"Land lets at from 10*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per acre of 4,800 square yards. Labourers are paid from 10*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, according to ability. The average crop of wheat is about twenty-four bushels per Hungarian acre; fifty bushels is a common crop on newly broken up land. Much of the best grass-land will fatten the largest bullock per Hungarian acre in about a hundred days. Threshers receive 1-11th of the produce for threshing, and reapers 1-11th for reaping, binding, stooking and storing home all sorts of grain crops."

The roads are described as mere tracks over the driest part of the land. "I was much pleased to find that this people had studied the best principle of mechanics in the construction of their rude waggons and other carriages, and that they also displayed knowledge in their mode of attaching oxen or horses to wheel carriages, so as to enable them to get with the greatest ease through the many sloughs or mud-pools that occur on these roads, or rather tracks. To give one instance: they yoke their horses and oxen with very long traces, so that the team is out of the slough upon the sound ground before the waggon or carriage requires severe pulling to draw it out; they invariably go through these sloughs at a canter, so that the moment the

teams see pools of water or mud in the road, they start and canter through it as fast as the weight of their load will allow them. It was truly distressing to see the waste of labour that was taking place in making a new highway at Tokay. Two men and two boys were employed making an open drain at the sides, but doing less work than one of the men could have done with a good spade and shovel. The hoe was their only tool: one man hoed up the alluvial earth, and scraped it into a basket which one boy held between the hoer's feet until filled; then he handed it to another man on the bank, who threw it into a waggon, in which a boy was placed to throw out the basket. Now, these men were harder worked than one of them would have been digging up the earth and filling it into the waggon. Spades and shovels seem unknown in this part of the world."

After relating more particularly how the produce of this country would, if well farmed, astonish the agricultural world, Mr. Love proceeds to give an account of General Haynau's estates, which he found low and wet, without the means of drainage, on account of there being no outfall without cutting through another estate, the owner of which was opposed to draining altogether, because, he said, they suffered oftener from drought than from wet: whether he can finally get his estate (consisting of 2,000 acres) drained will depend on the result of a lawsuit now pending.

On Bees.

NECTAR-SECRETING ORGANS OF PLANTS.

IN the account compiled by Gärtner ("Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Befruchtung," 1844, p. 75) of the various organs in plants, from which nectar is secreted, no mention is made of the stipulæ of the leaves of the common vetch and bean. On two occasions I have observed hive-bees by the thousand industriously visiting the little

dark (but sometimes colourless) glands on the under side of the stipulæ of the vetch. On a hot day, on each gland a minute drop of nectar may be seen almost with the naked eye, and which is sometimes so large as to be just perceptibly sweet. I have seen the hive and another species of bee, a moth, ants, and two kinds of flies, sucking these drops. The hive-bee never once even looked at the flowers, but attended solely to the stipulæ; whereas, at the very same time, two kinds of humble-bee were sucking the flowers, and never visited the stipulæ. I noticed the hive-bees on three successive hot days thus employed; but on the overcast morning of the 12th, after the previous very rainy day, not one was to be seen at mid-day, but numbers of humble-bees were sucking the flowers; at 4 o'clock P.M., however, after some hot sunshine, a little glittering drop of nectar studded every gland, and the hive-bees, by their mysterious means, had found it out, and were swarming all over the fields. The fact of nectar being secreted by an organ quite distinct from the flower (though known in other cases), seems to me of some little interest, as showing that those botanists cannot be correct who believe that nectar is a special secretion for the purpose of tempting insects to visit flowers, and thus aid in their fertilisation. No one probably who has attended to this subject, will dispute that insects in very many cases do thus aid the act of fertilisation; but we must, I think, look at the nectar as an excretion which is only incidentally (as is so often done by nature) made use of for a further but most important object.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

The present season has most fully exemplified the lights and shadows of bee-life. The early part of the year tried many a family till it sank and died, and then, when the number of stocks was sadly reduced, came such a season as we seldom are fortunate enough to experience. First swarms filled their hives with amazing rapidity; in general the interregnum, till the young queens were hatched, was unusu-

ally long, consequently the second swarms became very strong, and those who ventured to establish them as keepers, have had no cause to repent their experiment. During the last month, from the middle of June till towards the end of July, the land has indeed been flowing with honey, and the energy of the labourers in the harvest has maintained a corresponding vigour. Where additional room has not been promptly afforded, the swarms having filled their hives with honey and brood, have thrown off *virgin swarms*; and so great has been the produce of honey, that it would be bold to predict that even these may not prosper. The fertility of the queens too has kept pace with the rapid strides of vegetation, and population has doubled and trebled in an incredibly short time. How many eggs does a queen lay in an hour? is a question, the sovereign of my unicorn hive must solve for me some day soon.

I trust all my bee-keeping readers are profiting by the beauty of the season, in obtaining well-filled glasses and boxes of honey, and that some of them will be found competing for the honours offered by the Horticultural Society. Those who reside near moors and heaths, will be preparing for the journey, as the purple heather is again lavishing its sweets on its tiny votaries. If the hives are to be carried any distance, the plan adopted by one of your correspondents who conveyed his bee-boxes in safety a hundred miles, proves its efficiency by its success. The idea of preventing vibration by slinging the hives, is excellent.

I will now give a short account of the management of the bee-keeper on the moors, to whose success last year I alluded a few weeks since. It may be recollected that he took from his bees 800 lbs. of pure honey, leaving the original number of stocks well provided for the winter. Last season, however, even on the moors, was not a first-rate one. He calculated that had it been so, he should have obtained 1100 lbs. of honey. This bee-keeper it

may be supposed is very intelligent, very observant, and a perfect realisation of the bee-master. He does whatever he wishes with his little people, his courage and patience are equally unbounded, and his mercy to his dependents is not the least admirable trait in his character: he never kills his bees. His system of management is that of driving exclusively. The hives used are all, with two exceptions, the common cottage-hive; many of them are flat on the top, with a much larger aperture than is usually made in these hives. The district is not one which is favourable for bees in spring. There is a great deficiency of spring flowers, and therefore at that season food must be liberally supplied. Not long ago, a good deal was written about the advantage of feeding with barley-sugar. I remember asking if he would approve? and the smile with which the answer was made, "that it might suit those who kept bees for their amusement, but it would not do for us."

The first work of spring is to make a minute examination of the condition of each hive. The store of honey is ascertained, and the health and efficiency of the queens. Sometimes a stock is found to be queenless, or a late-hatched queen is imperfect; occasionally a solitary drone is seen—a suspicious circumstance, but one that *may* prove unimportant. A queenless stock in March would be considered a hopeless case by most bee-keepers; but our professor on the moors is too provident to be placed in a difficulty. A few old hives have been retained over the winter, for the express purpose of supplying a queen to fill a vacant throne in spring. Or if a queen is found mutilated, or apparently old, she is replaced by one of these reserved queens. Food is judiciously afforded, and the progress of every hive attentively watched. Yet, with the greatest care, some hives become more prosperous than others, and then a system of equalisation is put in operation. A very strong hive, well filled with brood, is driven; a weak hive is driven at the same time; the ener-

getic queen and her large family are transferred to the weak hive, and the smaller number to the other hive, whose brood soon hatches, and the family becomes flourishing. Swarming is regulated in a similar manner. I cannot describe this plan better than by relating the management of the only natural swarm which proceeded from the apiary last season. The swarm was a very large one—having, in fact, come off with two young queens. Two other hives in good condition, but exhibiting no signs of the intention to swarm, were immediately driven. Their bees were set up for stocks, possessing all the advantages of first swarms. The swarm was divided into three parts—a large proportion of bees, with one of the queens, was hived for a stock; a second portion, with a queen, was put into one of the driven hives; and a third portion, without a queen, occupied the other. As both these hives contained a quantity of brood, the population soon increased—that which possessed no queen immediately forced artificial royal cells, and raised their princesses. Thus three stocks were formed from one swarm, and all the five hives became prosperous and productive. The season, in this locality especially, was unusually late, and it was not a swarming year; therefore, when the time arrived for removing the hives to the moor, their number was under the average. They were, however, strong, and by forming artificial swarms, and the weather being favourable, the bees were enabled to carry on the work of comb-building rapidly, and the honey was collected in abundance. Another very important object was gained, for, by the division of the families, a considerable number of young queens were produced, thus insuring the future welfare of the apiary.

This short sketch will prove what may be done by simply taking Nature as our guide, aiding the insect where climate and vegetation prove adverse, by assisting in the development of its habits, rather than by opposing them. Such has been the course to which I have endeavoured to

guide the readers of these papers. I hope they may be useful to some bee-keepers in a practical view; to others, who are more fascinated by the science of the subject, they may suggest an inquiry into some of the proceedings of the bees which yet remain clouded in mystery. I am aware how inadequately I have treated my beautiful subject, and have often wished to see it in more able hands, which could have rendered it fuller justice; at the same time I have felt that if those who have given their attention to this or any other particular branch of natural history, would make known the result of their observations, a very valuable means of arriving at right conclusions would thus be afforded: a single observation, if strictly correct, may become a useful link in an otherwise unconnected chain.

A.

Floriculture.

AUGUST 8.

THE flower gardens will require much general setting to rights after the continued heavy rains with which the good saint, who is said to preside over this season, has favoured us during the last fortnight. Annuals which are getting shabby, and which are not wanted to remain to ripen seed, may be pulled up. Where it is intended to preserve seed, leave only that from the six or eight flowers which bloomed earliest upon each plant; if any of these were not fine flowers, remove them, and allow only as many more to open as will supply their place. The weeds continue to require constant watching, and must be hoed up or picked with the hand continually, to prevent their flowering. All creeping plants should be cut and trained, and suckers removed from about their roots, and also from those of worked roses, and other shrubs and trees. Attend particularly to tying up dahlias, and as soon as the earliest bloom begins to show colour let them be mulched. Half-decomposed horse or fresh cow manure is proper for the

purpose. Begin about eight inches from the stem, and give a layer three inches thick and twelve or fifteen inches wide. It will be a great improvement to mix a little strong loam or fat mud from a river with the manure.

This is the best time for increasing fibrous rooted perennials by dividing the roots, after the plants have done flowering. Double rose campion, catchfly, double scarlet lychnis, double rocket, ragged robin, gentianella, polyanthus, auriculas, double daisies, large hearts-ease, campanula, and many others, may be subjected to the same treatment. Where the plants have grown into large tufts, dig them up entirely, and divide them into separate plants of a convenient size, taking care that each one is well furnished with root. When thus parted, let each plant be trimmed by cutting off all the straggling or broken parts of roots and leaves, and then plant them where they can be sheltered until they have taken root. Some may be slipped as they remain in the ground, by detaching the offsets with their roots. These will become nice strong plants: they can either be placed in the borders where wanted at once, or planted in the nursery and removed to the flower garden, with good balls of earth to the roots, in the autumn or spring.

The seed of bulbous flowers of various kinds should now be sown. Although the young plants require time and patience, we are often repaid for waiting by getting pretty new varieties; it is, therefore, well worth while to save and sow the seed of lilies, martagons, narcissus, iris, fritillarias, tulips, hyacinths, &c. Sow the seed in tubs, pots, or boxes, filled with light, rich earth; sow each kind of seed apart, cover it with half an inch of light sifted earth, and place the boxes in an eastern aspect, where the seedlings can enjoy the morning sun only. Sprinkle them often with water, and let them remain until October, when they had better be placed where they can have the sun all day. The young plants will make their appearance

in the spring. The following winter they must be protected from severe frost and from snow, and they must be kept continually free from weeds. The following June and July, clear the tops of the pots, and sift on a layer of fresh earth, and let them remain another year, when they will be fit for transplanting.

Choice auriculas may be shifted into fresh light mould, enriched with a little rotten dung. The compost should be prepared some time before it is wanted; pull off all decayed and broken leaves, shake the earth from the roots, cut off any unsound parts, and trim the extremities of the fibres. Throw a little of the new earth into the pot, place the plant upright in it, spread out the roots, fill up with the compost, and shake the pot so that the earth may get between the fibres. Close the earth well to the roots, place the plants in a shady place, and give them a moderate watering. They will then require no further care than weeding and watering. If there are any offsets from the old plants, they should be taken off and planted, in small pots, in the same compost.

Young plants of mignonette may be pricked out in pots to stand the winter. Plant two or three in a pot of light rich earth, water them, and stand them in a shady place till they begin to grow. A little mignonette seed may at the same time be thinly sown in pots. When the young plants are fit, transplant all but two or three in each pot, and leave them to bloom. If they run up with one shoot, stop them, and they will shoot well near the pot.

Carnation layers which were layered in June may be rooted enough to take off from the old plants, and may be planted either in pots or in beds. Have ready fine rich earth, and pots thirty-two's or forty-eights, according to the strength and vigour of the plants. Take off each layer, being very careful not to damage the new roots. Trim off the tips of the leaves and the bottom of the stalk, and plant each layer singly in a pot. In the same manner

remove all the layers, water them, and place them in a shady place until the plants make fresh root. The ground where the pots are placed should be covered with ashes, to prevent the worms getting to the roots. Carnation shoots which are only now long enough for the purpose may still be layered; those which can be done earlier will make the strongest plants; but this year, the carnations, like many other things, are much later than usual.

The layered pinks may also be separated from the old plants, and planted either in pots or in the beds. If the weather prove moist, pinks may be slipped from older ones, and planted in the beds or borders. They will grow readily, and bloom next summer.

Choose the opportunity which this moist weather offers to plant out seedling perennials or biennials which may still remain. Plant them six inches apart, and they may remain until wanted for the borders in the autumn or spring.

Flowers in pots now require constant watering. Autumnal bulbs must be planted, if it is not done already. Sow anemone seed, and the seed of ranunculuses and spring cyclamen.

Entomology.

CHAP. X.

THE next order in the sub-class Mandibulata, is Neuroptera, and well do most of the insects in this order know how to use those organs from which the sub-class derives its name. The order is named from two Greek words, signifying a nerve and a wing, in allusion to the beautiful network of the wing, formed from the interlacing of the nervures. The wings are four in number, and transparent. In beauty, size, and fierceness alike, the dragon-fly stands pre-eminent amongst the neuroptera. From the time of its exclusion from the egg, till as a perfect insect it falls shattered and chilled by the cold storms of autumn, its life is one continued course of rapine and destruction. In the larva and

pupa states, it inhabits the water, where it preys on any living thing which comes in its way, unable from weakness to escape. As the perfect insect, it is equally ready to catch and kill butterfly, fly, or other insect which may cross its path; and from the extreme strength and swiftness of this flying dragon, few can escape its pursuit. Ravenous as a hyæna, it seems to kill and eat only for sport. Even when captured, its appetite does not seem to be at all diminished by fear. Mr. Wood relates that having once taken an insect of this species, it devoured in rapid succession, whilst being held in his hand, a great number of flies which he caught and gave to it, and even then its appetite seemed to be in no way diminished. Mr. Wood, however, becoming tired of his jackal occupation, did not give the fellow an opportunity of showing to how great an excess his extraordinary *penchant* for flies would carry him. But, what is still more extraordinary, they have been known to eat flies after their body has been cut off, and when they had apparently no place to put them in.

The head is armed with a most singular organ for seizing its prey; it consists of a flat proboscis, jointed in the middle, and terminated with two sharp claw-like appendages. This instrument, when not in use, is folded up over the face somewhat like a mask, but is instantly stretched out when an insect passes within its reach, and it rarely fails in securing the object it aims at. One of the largest English species is *Libellula Depressa*; the male is of a bluish colour; the female yellowish: it is rather a common species, and is usually found flying near ponds beside woods. Another very fine species is *Aeshna varia*, the great variegated dragon-fly: it is rather a common measure nearly four inches from tip to tip; the body is three inches in length, the thorax is of a greenish-yellow colour, marked with longitudinal black streaks; the body is black, variegated with bright blue, and rich deep grass green. It flies during the day with

amazing rapidity, but during the morning and evening it may be easily taken, as it then sits lazily with its wings expanded. There are many other species, but none of sufficient importance to make it necessary to allude further to them. The ephemeridæ, those favourite emblems of frail mortality, form another family in this order. The most familiar species is *Ephemera vulgata*, the common May-fly, so plentiful in the early part of summer about the banks of our rivulets and stagnant waters. It is of a greenish-brown colour, with transparent wings, elegantly mottled with brown; the extremity of the body is furnished with three long black bristles. The larva and pupa states, in which it continues for at least two years, are passed in the water. When about to assume the imago form, the pupa crawls out of the water, and standing on some dry place, usually the sedges or grass growing out of the water in which it has hitherto lived, bursts the skin-like case in which it was enshrouded, and mounts into the air to pass its little life of light and love, that life bounded by the rising and setting of one summer's sun. The words,—

“Loveliest of lovely things are they,
On earth which soonest pass away,”

are not strictly applicable to this particular insect, beautiful and fragile as it is; but some of the tropical Ephemera are literally “loveliest of lovely things,” and their career is not less circumscribed than that of poor *vulgata*. How saddening a reflection is the transient nature of all earthly things, the loveliest the most so. Flowers, those lovely gifts of an all-kind Providence, sent to gladden our eyes by their pleasing tints, and refresh us with their fragrant perfumes to-day, decorating our houses, gardens, fields, and woods; to-morrow their beauty faded, their fragrance gone, they pass away. Insects in all their rainbow hues and forms of beauty, to-morrow trodden in the dust they pass away. Dear partners of our life, child,

wife, or friend, blooming a little day in youth and grace and beauty, to-morrow torn from our bleeding hearts by ruthless death, they pass away, leaving for us nought save sad memories and vain regrets.

Dear reader, we thus see that neither youth, beauty, nor sweetness, all that earth calls lovely, can escape the swift, cruel hand of death; our life lengthened even to its longest span is, after all, but "a tale that is told," "a shadow that departeth," "a watch in the night," "a vapour," "so soon passeth it away and we are gone." And do not the fading flowers, the passing insects, the friends gone before us, bring us sweet messages of love and mercy? do they not tell us "this is not your rest?" do they not show us the transitory nature of earthly things? do they not wean our hearts from earth, and all its passing toys; and should they not, are they not intended to fix our hearts and hopes on that brighter and better world, the thought of the blessedness of which cheers the Christian under his heaviest calamities? calamities which he feels can endure but for a moment, compared with that "eternal weight of glory which God has prepared for them that love him."

Old George Herbert, in writing on the passing away of flowers, seems to have had some such thoughts as these: he says,—

"And now in age I bud again;

After so many deaths I live and write;

I once more smell the dew and rain,

And relish versing. Oh! my only Light!

It cannot be that I am he

On whom thy tempests fell all night.

These are thy wonders, Lord of Love,

To make us see we are but flowers that glide;

Which when we once can find and prove,

Thou hast a garden for us where to bide."

The ant-lion belongs to this order, but as it is not an English insect, it scarcely comes within our province to describe it; and I shall only say that in the larva state it lives at the bottom of a pitfall made in sand, devouring any hapless insect which

venturing too near its den, is precipitated over the side into the cruel jaws below: should the insect endeavour to escape, the ant-lion throws up a quantity of sand, which, blinding the poor animal, usually brings it down again to its certain destruction. The ant-lion is found in France and Italy; but I believe there is only one instance recorded of its capture in this country. Mac.

Reptiles of Labuan.

REPTILES of sixteen sorts are found in Labuan, of which six are varieties of the Lizard tribe. One of these, the *Hydrosaurus Salvator* occasionally attains a length of six feet; among the natives it is sometimes called the land alligator. The smallest lizard is about the size of a butterfly. The flesh of the *Hydrosaurus* is much esteemed by the natives for its supposed restorative and invigorating properties; when dressed as a curry, it somewhat resembles chicken in flavour. These creatures are regularly sold in the market at Manilla, and fetch a good price. The dried skin is eagerly bought by the Chinese, who use it in some of their gelatinous soups.

Their most curious lizard is the *Dracovolans*, of which they possess two species. These beautiful little creatures are frequently met with in Labuan in companies of six or seven. When on the wing, they might easily be mistaken for large butterflies; though they move their wings, their flight never rises, but is always directed to a lower point. They rest on the trunks of trees, tail downwards, and while at rest the yellow fold of skin under the throat is frequently inflated, giving them a very odd appearance. The Malays are much afraid of them, believing them to be venomous; they assert that they bite men in the back of the neck, and that this bite causes death.

Seven snakes are described, one only of which is poisonous, and this not always. One kind they tame and keep as a pet. When in a state of nature it haunts the thicker parts of the jungle, where there is

much low wood, and is very active. Its form is long and graceful, its colour peagreen striped with yellow; its movements are remarkably elegant, and it is fond of basking on the fallen trunks of trees.

Mr. Motley frequently gives the Malay name as well as the English one, and they are very significant.

The owl has a name which means goblin bird; another bird, from its note, is called call-call; a third, from its brilliant plumage and swift flight, has received the name of fire-spark, which, says Mr. Motley, is very appropriate; as, when darting about among the bushes, the cock bird really looks as bright as a flash of fire.

To my Poland Rooster.

FROM THE "AMERICAN COUNTRY GENTLEMAN."

O THOU, whatever title please thine ear,
He-Chicken, Rooster, Cock, or Chanticleer;
Whether on France's flag you flap and flare,
Or roost and drowse in Shelton's elbow-chair;
Or rouse the drones, or please the female kind,
And cluck and strut with all your hens behind;
As symbol, teacher, time-piece, spouse, to you
Our praise is doubtless, Cock-a-doodle, due.

Oviparous Sultan, Pharaoh, Cæsar, Czar,
Sleep-shattering songster, feather'd morning-star:
Many wived Mormon, cock-pit Spartacus,
Winner alike of coin and hearty curse;
Sir Harem Scarum, knight by crest and spur,
Great, glorious, gallinaceous Aaron Burr,
How proud am I—how proud you corn-fed flock
Of cackling houris are—of thee, Old Cock!

Illustrious Exile! far thy kindred crow
When Warsaw's towers with morning glories glow,
Shanghai and Chittagong may have their day,
And even BRAHMA-POOTRA fade away;
But thou shalt live, immortal Polack, thou,
Though Russia's eagle clips thy pinions now,
To flap thy wings and crow with all thy soul,
When freedom spreads her light from Pole to Pole.

F. S. Cozzens.

Toads.

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Cambridge (Mass.) Chronicle" puts in a plea for toads, and justifies his partiality by the following,

which we extract from his communication:

"We have in our garden a small nursery of plum trees, which have been nearly destroyed by the canker worms. Last season we commenced shaking them off. One day we observed many toads about these trees, that on our approach became frightened and retreated in great haste to their retreats in the neighbouring bushes. Soon finding that they were not pursued, they commenced hopping back, and caught with avidity each canker worm, as it descended on its tiny thread. We counted at one time thirty immediately round our feet. Day after day we fed them with their favourite food, and they became so tame as to follow us, watch our hand, and take the worm from our fingers."

This is new to us, though it may not be to many of our readers; but whatever taste the toad may have for canker worms, we are quite sure that it does a world of good in a garden, by destroying earth worms, of which it eats large numbers. We once tried to surfeit a toad with earth worms, but our patience was exhausted before his hunger was appeased, and we have always held that to destroy one of those disgusting-looking reptiles was doing one's grounds a deal of injury. There is no charge brought against the toad but its disagreeable appearance, and it might well quote the old saw to those who despise it, without seeking to learn its real value,—looks are nothing, behaviour is all.

Buckwheat.

FEW crops can be turned to better account on a poor, light, gravelly soil, than buckwheat. It possesses a chemical action on the soil, by which the coarser particles are disintegrated or rendered finer, and the soil is thereby improved.

If a soil, then, is coarse, the object of the farmer is to pulverise it, which can only be done by some chemical application, or the growing of some crop which has

this chemical power. Buckwheat, by a process yet undiscovered, has that power, and the longer it is cultivated on a given piece of ground, the finer will be the particles of the soil. It injures land for corn, but leaves it in fine order for potatoes, and is the best crop to kill out bushes, wild grass, and mellow greensward. To fit the land for the next succeeding crop in rotation, plough in a crop of buckwheat in blossom.

As food for man, except in small quantities, we could not recommend it, as cakes made from it, though light when hot, are heavy as cold liver when cold. A constant use of it has a tendency, also, to produce cutaneous diseases; but, boiled with potatoes, apples, or pumpkins it is first-rate for hogs. When ground, it is excellent for milch cows. Given raw, or left standing in the field, it is good for Shanghais (they being allowed to harvest for themselves). The blossoms afford material for the very best honey, and at a season of the year when other flowers are gone.

It should never be given in any form to horses, as it bloats them rather than fattens; and what appears to be fat, put on a horse by buckwheat in a week, will disappear by hard work in a day.—*Ohio Farmer.*

The Editor's Letter-Box.

DEWSBURY AND HECKMONDWICKE POULTRY SHOWS.

SIR,—I wish to ask you a question respecting Dewsbury and Heckmondwicke poultry shows.

Supposing birds sent a hundred miles, and you wish them to attend both the above-mentioned shows, will the secretaries of the Dewsbury show keep the birds in charge during the three days that intervene between the shows? Or, will the secretaries of the Heckmondwicke show take charge of the birds, if sent direct from the Dewsbury show?

Your early answer will much oblige,

Yours truly, JONATHAN BELL.
High Shield, Hexham, Aug. 1, 1855.

[We shall be greatly obliged by an answer to the above letter: for obvious reasons it must be in time for next number.—ED.]

INFLAMMATION OF THE TRACHEA.

SIR,—In your paper for the 25th a correspondent wishes to know the cure of a disease which has carried off a very valuable Dorking cock of his, and, as I am a breeder of Dorking fowls only, and only a fortnight ago had the good luck to cure a Dorking cock whose symptoms were the same as the correspondent's was, I have great pleasure in informing you of the treatment which I obtained from W. C. L. Martin's book, called "The Poultry Yard." I have great confidence in many other of his remedies which he gives in his book.

A remedy for the gapes, or inflammation of the trachea:—Give six pills (one every other day), made of Plummer's Pill, three grains, after which let flour of sulphur be administered with a little ginger in barley-meal. My bird was so weak that it could not stand. I therefore fed it with the food, and let it have a plentiful supply of clear water from the spring, and it was restored in less than three weeks. Should you think this worth a space in your Chronicle, I feel confident it will be found very valuable to Dorking breeders. I lost, a year ago, a valuable cock, from not at the time knowing this remedy. As I am on the committee of our Flower and Poultry Show here, I have instructed our secretary to forward you a schedule to look at.

I remain, yours respectfully, M. K.

[The publishers of the above-named work, Messrs. Routledge and Co., have now in the press a new edition, revised by the Editor of the "Poultry Chronicle."]

BOCKHARA CLOVER.—(MELILOTUS LEUCANTHA.)

SIR,—Some time since, inquiry was made in the "Poultry Chronicle" for some account of this plant, in reference to its cultivation, as advantageous to bees. I beg to say, that I have it growing now about six feet high, covered with a profusion of white flowers, and literally hung with bees. The plant is of easy cultivation from seed: it may be sown either now or in the spring. The plant is a native of the Southern parts of Europe.

Yours, A. P. I. A. B. I. A. N.
Southampton, July 31, 1855.

PURCHASING.

SIR,—Observing a letter signed "W. S." in your last publication, I can commiserate with him, as a victim, having been induced, through an advertisement in your paper, to purchase a drake and three ducks that were represented to have taken the first prize, as Aylesburys, in the amateur class at Birmingham. When they

the unusual scarcity of the present year, have passed away, leaving only muttered regrets and expressions of sorrow, that the present ample supply was not at hand when the demand was so large. The future will tell us whether any of the classes interested in its production will have profited by its lessons.

Large Fowls.....	5s.	6d.	to	6s.	0d.	each.
Smaller do.....	3s.	6d.	to	4s.	0d.	„
Chickens.....	2s.	3d.	2s.	6d.	to	3s. 0d. „
Geese	6s.	0d.	to	6s.	6d.	„
Ducks	3s.	3d.	to	3s.	6d.	„
Pigeons.....	0s.	9d.	to	0s.	10d.	„
Leverets	3s.	6d.	to	5s.	0d.	„
Quails	1s.	3d.	to	0s.	0d.	„
Rabbits	1s.	5d.	to	1s.	6d.	„
Wild do.	0s.	9d.	to	1s.	0d.	„

◆
To Correspondents.

R. B.—We have not been able to get the answer, but hope to do so for next week.

W. S.—We are very much obliged indeed for the kind interest expressed by our correspondent, and for his suggestions, and are only sorry that numerous efforts of the kind he mentions, have failed in attaining the desired end. We confess ourselves at a loss to understand how it can be.

Queret.—Mr. May's sale of choice poultry will take place at the Isle of Wight exhibition, on the 8th of August.

Driffield Agricultural Society's Show.—In addition to the prizes as we gave them last week, the following for extra poultry were awarded. B. L. Wells, Newland, near Hull; 3 white Cochins China Chickens. Mrs. Jordan, Driffield; 2 Ducks. R. Lawson, Driffield; 2 Game Pullets. Mrs. Dixon, Settrington; Drake. And in class 48, "Any other variety of Cochins China, best Cock," two first prizes were awarded; to B. L. Wells, and to J. T. Sigston, Welburn, Castle Howard.

Advertisements.

TO AMATEURS.—For Sale, or Exchange for Spanish Chickens, two very small handsome black and tan Terriers. For further particulars, apply to J. S., 3, Sale Street, Cambridge Terrace, London.

FOR SALE.—The Silver Pencilled Hamburg Cock that took Second Prize at Birmingham last year in the Class for a Single Cock. He has not moulted. Price 30s.—Apply to Mr. PECKHAM, Bread-sall Moor, near Derby.

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This Office, the new income of which was doubled during the last year, presents the security of a large paid-up capital; moderate premiums for home and foreign risks; no stamp duty is charged; and all policies are declared indisputable.

The last Bonus added four-fifths of the premium paid to some of the participating policies.

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By a small annual payment, £100 may be secured to a child on attaining the age of 14, 18, or 21.

Prospectuses and other information will be furnished on application to

H. D. DAVENPORT, Secretary.
Agents wanted.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POULTRY ASSOCIATION will hold its Third Annual Exhibition at Southwell on the 19th and 20th of December next. Prize Lists and any further information can be obtained on application to RICHARD HAWKLEY, Jun., Hon. Secretary, Southwell, Notts.

SOWERBY BRIDGE PIG AND POULTRY ASSOCIATION, open to general competition. The Second General Meeting of the Association, and Show of Stock, will be held in a covered tent in the Cricket Field, Rose Hill, on Friday, September 14, 1855. Lists of Classes, and the Premiums to be awarded, may be obtained on and after Thursday, August 2nd, on application to Mr. WILLIAM STOTT, the Treasurer, or FREDERICK DYSON, Honorary Secretary.—Sowerby Bridge, July 27, 1855.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six Lines 3s. 0d.
For every additional Line 0s. 4d.

Latest hour for Advertisements, Twelve o'clock on Monday; and, to prevent disappointment, advertisers are requested to take notice that they must be prepaid.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, for the stamped edition, 17s. 4d.; half-yearly, 8s. 8d.; quarterly, 4s. 4d.; payable in advance.

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The Poultry Chronicle:

A JOURNAL OF

POULTRY, PIGEONS, BEES, FLORICULTURE, AND THE
HOMESTEAD.

VOL. III.—No. 77.]

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1855.

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Poultry Shows.

Airedale Exhibition, at Shipley, Tuesday, Aug. 14th. Secretaries, J. Wilkinson and J. G. Hyslop, Esqrs. Entries closed August 9th. (No. 67.)

Tottington Agricultural Meeting and Poultry Show, Friday, August 17th. Secretary, Eli Roberts, Esq. Entries are closed. (No. 63.)

North Lincolnshire Agricultural Meeting, at Boston, Thursday, August 23rd. Secretary, John Hett, Esq., Brigg, Lincoln. Entries are closed. (Nos. 64 and 69.)

Dewsbury Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural fifteenth Annual Show, including Poultry, Friday, August 24th. Secretaries, R. R. Nelson, Esq., and J. Newsome, Esq. Entries are closed. (No. 74.)

Heckmondwike (near Leeds) Floral, Horticultural, and Agricultural Show, including Poultry, and Cottagers' Pigs, Tuesday, August 23. Secretaries, J. Kelly, and F. Brearly, Esquires. Entries closed August 20th. (No. 77.)

Anerley, August 28th, 29th, and 30th. Secretaries, Edgar Smallfield, Esq., and Henry F. Wells, Esq. Entries are closed. (No. 69.)

Keighley Agricultural Show, September 5th. Secretary, Wade Smith, Esq., Keighley. Entries close Saturday, August 25th. (No. 71.)

Sowerby Bridge Pig and Poultry Show, September 14. Secretary, Mr. F. Dyson. Entries close Tuesday, August 28th. (No. 76.)

Bury and Radcliffe Agricultural Meeting, at Bury, Friday, Sept. 21st. Secretary, J. Cross, Esq. Entries close September the 10th. (No. 75.)

Northamptonshire Agricultural Society, at Kettering, September 27th. Entries close September 13th. (No. 76.)

Thirsk, Wednesday, October 3rd. Secretary, C. McC. Swarbreck, Esq. Entries close September 18th. (No. 77.)

South West Middlesex Agricultural Society, Friday, October 5th. Secretary, J. Gotelee, Esq.

Dorsetshire Association, at Dorchester, Oct. 24th and 25th. Entries closed September 9th. Secretary, J. G. Andrews, Esq. (No. 77.)

East Lancashire Poultry Show (late Nelson) at Colne, October 31st and November 1st. Secretaries, Messrs. T. and E. Booth, Marsden, near Burnley, Lancashire. Entries close October 17th. (No. 73.)

Bedford: Wednesday and Thursday, the 7th and 8th of November. Honorary Secretaries, J. T. R. Allen, Esq., and F. A. Lavender, Esq. Entries close October the 16th. (No. 55.)

South Durham and North Riding of Yorkshire, at Darlington, Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. Secretary, J. Hodgson, Esq. Entries close Monday, November 19th. (No. 60.)

Birmingham and Midland Counties Seventh Annual Show, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th of December. Secretary, J. Morgan, Jun., Esq. Entries close November 10th. (No. 48.)

Nottinghamshire Third Annual Exhibition, at Southwell, Wednesday and Thursday, December 19th and 20th. Secretary, R. Hawkesley, Jun., Esq., Southwell. Entries close Tuesday, November 20th. (No. 66.)

THERE are many with whom we have walked in pleasant companionship during the eighteen months' existence of the "POULTRY CHRONICLE;" and in this, our last number, we say good bye to those who have gone along with us, as contributors, correspondents, readers, and cotemporaries, with deep regret and cordial kind feeling towards all. Even a humble editorship like that of our little, unobtrusive "POULTRY CHRONICLE," has perhaps *never* passed over the same space of time, brightened with such unvarying kindness, and clouded with so few mortifying circumstances.

To our numerous band of contributors and correspondents we are especially grateful: they have covered the bare trellis that we reared with refreshing foliage and useful fruit. Several of them, from an introduction through the medium of the columns of our little periodical, we are pleased to number among our personal friends; and many, with whom we have not the pleasure of acquaintance, we gratify ourselves with considering friends also.

Without their invaluable and varied help our weekly labours would have been in vain; and we thank them heartily, no less for their kindness to us, than for the spirit of candour which has almost uniformly dwelt in our columns.

Towards our readers we entertain the sort of feeling which, according to the poet, "makes one wondrous kind;" we have delighted in the same pursuit, and those who have watched with the greatest eagerness for our weekly sheet, have not felt more pleasure in its perusal than we have experienced in all our editorial duties.

As a lady occupying a position so seldom assumed by one of the weaker sex, we have been particularly gratified by the countenance of the ladies who have kindly assisted us with their writings. From one, whose modesty would not permit us to mention her name, we have received continued and material aid; contributions which could be depended on, alike from their intrinsic merit and from their regularity: many others we have to thank also for valued and valuable help.

Our cotemporaries, both in England and America, who have honoured us by proposing or conceding an exchange of papers, we have to thank for many amusing and useful columns which we are sure our readers, who are not favoured with a sight of their journals, would have been sorry to have missed.

Now, how shall we sufficiently condense all the good wishes we are anxious to express? Of the poultry we say, may they continue to progress in beauty and usefulness as much as they have done since the time when, in the beginning of 1851, under

the signature of "ANSTER BONN," in the "COTTAGE GARDENER," we first took up our pen in their cause: may all our friends who take an interest in the pursuit, in which we have taken so much, find their poultry prosper in their poultry-yards, and at exhibitions; and may they, themselves, prosper at home and abroad.

In our editorial capacity we have never allowed personal bias, even if only in favour of a particular breed of fowls, to interfere with the complete impartiality which should be an editor's chief aim; and it has been one of our greatest gratifications to find this impartiality appreciated.

THE Subscribers to the "Poultry Chronicle," whose periods of subscription have not expired, are respectfully informed they can, if they please, be supplied with the "Cottage Gardener," the paper with which this publication will henceforth be incorporated, to the end of their terms. The Editor of the "Poultry Chronicle" will feel obliged if those who wish to accept these terms will signify the same to her with the least possible delay.

The "Poultry Chronicle," in its present form, being now complete in three volumes, those who wish to complete their copies, are requested to apply immediately to the Publishers.

Schedule of the Dorsetshire Poultry Show.

THE Dorsetshire Association for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry (open to all England), will hold the fourth exhibition in Dorchester, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 24th and 25th days of October, 1855.

The members' subscription to this society is 10s. or upwards per annum, and members only can be Exhibitors, except in the case of cottagers.

The Rules decide that the Judges shall not award prizes unless the fowls exhibited have sufficient merit, especially where there is no competition; that any person knowingly making a false entry shall forfeit the premium that may have been awarded to him, and be excluded from the society; all specimens must have been the property of the Exhibitor for one month previously to exhibition; Exhibitors must state the price at which they will sell their birds; no offer can be received for one hour next after the opening of the show, and five per cent. will be deducted from all sales, towards defraying the expenses of the exhibition.

The rate of entry is to each subscriber three shillings per pen, and cottagers may compete without subscribing.

Every subscriber of one sovereign will be entitled to two cards of admission, and every subscriber of 10s. to one card of admission; and the subscriptions shall be considered due at the time of subscribing; and for each future year shall become due on the 1st of July.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

A PIECE OF PLATE, value £5, given by the Earl of Ilchester, Patron of the society—

To the owner of the best pen of Cochin China Fowls, shown in Classes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

A PIECE OF PLATE, value £2 10s., given by John James Farquharson, Esq., 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., 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., 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 pen of Game Fowls, shown in Classes 19, 20, 21, and 22.

A **PIECE OF PLATE**, value £5, given by R. B. Sheridan, Esq., M.P.—

To the owner of the best pen of Spanish Fowls, shown in Classes 1 and 2.

A **PIECE OF PLATE**, value £5, given by Gerard Sturt, Esq., M.P.—

To the owner of the best pen of Dorking Fowls, shown in Classes 3, 4, 5, and 6.

A **PIECE OF PLATE**, value £5, given by Thomas Coombs, Esq., Mayor of Dorchester—

For the best pen of Bantams, shown in Classes 37, 38, and 39.

A **PIECE OF PLATE**, value £3, given by Edward Digby, Esq.—

For the best pen of Spangled Hamburg Fowls, shown in Classes 23, 24, 25, and 26.

A **PIECE OF PLATE**, value £3, given by Charles Porcher, Esq.—

For the best pen of Pencilled Hamburgs, shown in Classes 27, 28, 29, and 30.

A **PIECE OF PLATE**, value £3, given by Hastings N. Middleton, Esq.—

For the best pen of Brahma Pootra Fowls, shown in Classes 13, 14, 15, and 16.

A **PIECE OF PLATE**, value £3, given by Herbert Williams, Esq.—

For the best pen of Malay Fowls, shown in Classes 17 and 18.

A **PIECE OF PLATE**, value £3, given by the Committee—

For the best pen of Poland Fowls, shown in Classes 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36.

SPANISH.

Birds exceeding one year old.

Class.	1st.	2nd.
	s.	s.
1. Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
2. Cockerel and two Pullets (Chickens of 1855)	20	10

The prizes are of exactly the same amount to all the classes, which are: Class 3.—Coloured Dorking. Class 4.—Chickens. Class 5.—White Dorking. Class 6.—Chickens. Class 7.—Cochin China (Cin. and Buff). Class 8.—Chickens. Class 9.—Cochin China (Brown and Partridge). Class 10.—Chickens. Class 11.—Cochin China (White). Class 12.—Chickens. Class 13.—Pencilled Brahma Pootra. Class 14.—Chickens. Class 15.—Light Brahma Pootra. Class 16.—Chickens. Class 17.—Malay. Class 18.—Chickens. Class 19.—Game (Black-breasted and other Reds). Class 20.—Chickens. Class 21.—Game (any

other colour). Class 22.—Chickens. Class 23.—Golden Spangled Hamburgs. Class 24.—Chickens. Class 25.—Silver Spangled Hamburgs. Class 26.—Chickens. Class 27.—Golden Pencilled Hamburgs. Class 28.—Chickens. Class 29.—Silver Pencilled Hamburgs. Class 30.—Chickens. Class 31.—Polands (Black and White topknots). Class 32.—Chickens. Class 33.—Golden. Class 34.—Chickens. Class 35.—Silver. Class 36.—Chickens. Class 37.—Bantams (Gold-laced). Class 38.—Bantams (Silver-laced). Class 39.—Bantams (Black, White, and other colours). Class 40.—Geese. Class 41.—Ducks (Aylesbury). Class 42.—Ducks (Rouen). Class 43.—Ducks (any other variety). Class 44.—Turkeys.

A First prize will not be given to any pen to which a Cup shall be awarded.

Birds entered for Sir E. B. Baker's and Mr. Farquharson's Cups, are not eligible to compete for the Society's prizes.

The poultry must be at the Show on Tuesday the 23rd of October, by eight o'clock, p.m., and remain there until five o'clock, p.m. on the Thursday following, when such poultry will be returned.

Non-Subscribers will be admitted from twelve o'clock at noon, on Wednesday the 24th October, on payment of two shillings; and from nine till five on Thursday, the 25th October, 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 Saturday the 29th 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.

Schedule of the Thirsk Poultry Society.

THE Second Annual Exhibition of this Society will be held at Thirsk, on Wednesday, October the 3rd, 1855. Open to all England.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

All the Chickens must be of 1855.

SPANISH.

<i>Class.</i>	<i>1st.</i>	<i>2nd.</i>
	<i>s.</i>	<i>s.</i>
1. Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
2. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	15	10
DORKINGS (COLOURED).		
3. Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
4. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	15	5
DORKINGS (WHITE).		
5. Cock and two Hens.....	15	5
COCHIN CHINA (CINNAMON AND BUFF).		
6. Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
7. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	15	5
COCHIN CHINA (BROWN AND PARTRIDGE FEATHERED).		
8. Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
9. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	15	5
COCHIN CHINA (WHITE).		
10. Cock and two Hens.....	20	10
11. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	15	5
GAME FOWL (BLACK-BREASTED AND OTHER REDS).		
12. Cock and two Hens.....	15	5
GAME FOWL (WHITE AND PILES).		
13. Cock and two Hens.....	15	5
GAME FOWL (DUCKWINGS AND OTHER GREYS AND BLUES).		
14. Cock and two Hens.....	15	5
GAME FOWL (BLACK AND BRASSY WINGED, EXCEPT GREYS).		
15. Cock and two Hens.....	15	5
GAME FOWL (ANY VARIETY).		
16. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	15	5
HAMBURG (GOLDEN SPANGLED).		
17. Cock and two Hens.....	15	
18. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	10	
HAMBURG (SILVER SPANGLED).		
19. Cock and two Hens.....	15	
20. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	10	
HAMBURG (GOLDEN PENCILLED).		
21. Cock and two Hens.....	15	
22. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	10	
HAMBURG (SILVER PENCILLED).		
23. Cock and two Hens.....	15	
24. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	10	
POLANDS (GOLDEN).		
25. Cock and two Hens.....	15	
26. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	10	

POLANDS (SILVER).

<i>Class.</i>	<i>1st.</i>	<i>2nd.</i>
	<i>s.</i>	<i>s.</i>
27. Cock and two Hens.....	15	
28. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	10	
POLANDS (BLACK AND WHITE CRESTS).		
29. Cock and two Hens.....	15	
30. Cockerel and two Pullets.....	10	
FOR ANY OTHER DISTINCT BREED.		
31. Cock and two Hens (of any age).		
N. B. Brahma Pootras, Malays, Ptarmigan and Andalusian Fowls, &c., to be entered in this class. The sum of £1 10s. will be awarded by the Judges, amongst deserving pens.		
BANTAMS (LACED).		
32. Cock and two Hens (of any age)...	10	5
BANTAMS (ANY OTHER VARIETY).		
33. Cock and two Hens (of any age)...	10	5
GEESE.		
34. Gander and two Geese.....	15	5
DUCKS (AYLESBURY).		
35. Drake and two Ducks.....	10	5
DUCKS (ROUEN).		
36. Drake and two Ducks.....	10	5
DUCKS (ANY OTHER VARIETY).		
37. Drake and two Ducks.....	10	5
TURKEYS.		
38. Cock and one Hen.....	20	10
GUINEA FOWL.		
39. For the best pair.....	5	
PIGEONS.		
40. Six of any breed.....	10	5
EXTRA STOCK.		
42. For the best dressed Young Goose fit for the table (without Giblets)	20	
Second prize.....	15	
Third prize.....	10	
N.B. No entrance charged in this class. The prize birds to become the property of the Committee.		
REGULATIONS.		
The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th are like those in the Birmingham Schedule, numbered 1, 6, 2, 4, and 8.		
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 shall be the purchaser, and the surplus go to the society's funds. No sales can be effected		

before two o'clock on the 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.

8. High condition, beauty of plumage, and purity of race will be taken into consideration by the Judges, in preference to mere weight, without these distinctions, if the more perfect specimens are at the same time of a fair average size.

9. All Eggs will be destroyed.

10. The Entries must be made with the Secretary on or before the 18th of September, on a form supplied by him for the purpose, 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. No alteration can be made in the certificates after they have been received by the Secretary.

11. Exhibitors to pay 2s. 6d. per pen entry. Cottagers of a rental not exceeding eight pounds a year, 1s. per pen. No entrance fee charged in class 42.

12. Subscribers or Donors of 5s. will be entitled to exhibit one pen, free of entrance fee; of 10s., two pens; of £1 and upwards, four pens; and for every additional pen an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. 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 loss that may occur from accident or mistake. No dogs, sticks, or umbrellas will be allowed in the place of Exhibition.

14. The Exhibition will be opened to Subscribers or Donors of 2s. 6d. and upwards at eleven o'clock, and Visitors will be admitted at that time at 2s. 6d. each. The public will be admitted at one o'clock at 1s. each, and from three o'clock till six, at 6d. each. The Exhibition will close at 6 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 Mc'C. SWARBRECK,
Secretary.

Lending Tickets at Exhibitions.

I AM quite sure that the remarks you and Mr. Hewitt make on the above subject will have the greater value, because they are much called for; I can truly say, that I never knew a poultry show at which I did not hear great grumbling at the shabbiness of some visitors, *quasi* patrons! lending, transferring, or otherwise fraudulently using the tickets, to wit the *property* of the promoters of the show.

Now unfortunately the moral sense of injustice of lending non-transferable tickets is so weak that the only way of counteracting the evil is to devise some plan of "confounding their knavish tricks," and I know of no way so simple, so practical, or so efficient as tearing off the corner of each card as the holder of it passes the door. For instance; suppose a show lasts four days, tear off the four corners at each visit, and refuse admission when they are "used up;" if it lasts only two days, tear the card in half, or nearly so; so that if the real owner of the card *will* abuse his privilege of each day visiting the show, let him provide the means, as the promoters of the show originally intend that the ticket shall be available for one person each day, it matters very little who that person is.

The mode will prevent a plan I have known to be worked at Birmingham, of a person going out with several borrowed tickets in his pocket, and after passing in parties with the tickets, either use them again "*ad nauseam*," or return them to the accommodating owners. W. W.

Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

A FULL meeting of the Board of Management of this Society was held on Saturday morning; the president, Nicholas Le Quesne, Esq., in the chair.

The Board was specially convened to inquire into the circumstance that, on the occasion of the Society's Show of the 18th instant, prize-cards had been affixed to three articles:—a seedling calecolaria, a seedling gladiolus, and some "newly-introduced plant,"—*after* the judges had actually passed those articles over, as *not being prize-worthy*.

From evidence adduced, it appeared that the prize-cards in question were affixed by an after-thought of one of the judges, with the subsequent partial consent of another of them, and with the eventual most reluctant assent of a third. A very general expression of condemnation of such an irregular mode of procedure was uttered by the board; but, it having been announced that the obnoxiously accorded "prizes" had already been withdrawn, the matter was allowed to drop.

Before the Board separated, General Touzel took occasion to inform the president and members, that the boys of a small industrial school established in St. John's parish, and in which he took a particular interest, were to hold a competitive Horticultural Exhibition, on a miniature scale, of their own garden-produce, in the School-room, near the Church, about the middle of August; the General adding, that he should be much gratified by the attendance on the occasion, of any of the gentlemen whom he had then the pleasure of addressing.—*Local Paper*.

HYDROPHOBIA.—The following remedy for the bite of a mad dog, is reported to have been used by a person who was bitten by a rabid animal six times, and never used any other remedy:—Dissolve a pound of common salt in a quart of spring water, and wash and squeeze the bitten part

immediately after the infliction of the wound for an hour, and then bind some salt upon it for twelve hours. This will neither counteract nor supersede any other means that may be deemed necessary. The person bitten should keep as quiet as possible before the ablution, that exertion may not promote the absorption of the virus. In Germany, when such an occurrence takes place, some dust, or any dry article, is directly thrown on the bitten part, which absorbs the froth or saliva, and thereby tends to diminish infection by imbibing the infectious matter. When so many eminent practitioners have failed in their endeavours to cure this dreadful malady, so simple an expedient is worth the trial; for, if it does not effectually cure the disorder, it will, doubtless, mitigate its direful effects.

Home and the Homestead.

CONTINENTAL FARMING.

(Abridged from the "Royal Agricultural Society's Journal.")

MR. LOVE states that he met with great kindness and hospitality among the Hungarians: that they appeared, in fact, as if watching for opportunities to do him a kindness or a service.

By Mr. Haswell, the talented manager of the railway engine and carriage manufactory at Vienna, he was introduced to Mr. Smallbones, of Deutsch Kreutz, near Odenburg, in Hungary, consulting agent to Prince Esterhazy, under whom he occupied an extensive farm, which is a model of what can be done by English ingenuity, industry, and perseverance.

"Mr. Smallbones is highly thought of in Hungary by both rich and poor. By invitation, I went down to visit his farm, which convinced me that the views I had taken of the productive powers of the soil of that ill-cultivated country were sound and correct." Mr. Smallbones' farm is upwards of 1200 English acres, in tillage, with extensive pasturage upon the neigh-

bouring plains. The country round Odenburg is slightly hilly, with mountains in the distance. The soil is a fertile, light loam, but through the wretched system of farming practised, its productive powers had been much reduced; however, the example and success of Mr. Smallbones must ultimately do great good. He grows about 450 acres of wheat, 150 of barley, 150 of maize (which he cuts green for fattening bullocks, and feeding his farming horses and oxen), 150 of tares, which are partly eaten in the houses by the fattening cattle and teams, the rest is eaten on the land by sheep, which have a liberal allowance of corn or cake at the same time; this crop is immediately followed by one of turnips. He has 150 acres of mangold wurzel, and 150 of clover—about 50 of lucerne. I believe his rotation runs thus: wheat after clover, tares followed by turnips, barley, Indian corn sown thick for soiling cattle, working oxen and horses, wheat, mangold wurzel, wheat, clover."

The soil had at first been in a poverty-stricken state, but Mr. Smallbones came over to England, took out a stock of machinery and implements best adapted to the country, and his system of farming; and now his farm is getting into excellent condition, and his crops are very good. "He has arranged his farm in rotations as near 150 acres each as the form of the land will permit; he has made four fields as nearly as possible, 75 acres each, close to the homestead, and four of the same size at the greatest distance, one of each being cropped together; while in the middle distance the fields are the full size of 150 acres—thus he makes the distance for the manure and other haulage the same one year as another. The house is a splendid edifice, and the farm buildings of the best description, and conveniently built." His stock consisted of 100 head of large Hungarian cattle, 30 working oxen, 30 horses, and a large flock of sheep.

"I saw Garrett's drill and horse-hoe managed by Hungarian ploughmen as well as I have ever seen them in England. It

was gratifying to see the efficiency and expedition exercised by these poor ill-used people, when properly treated.

"Mr. Smallbones' farming is first-rate; he drills his roots sixteen inches apart, and his grain ten inches, and horsehoes the whole. Well-ordered economy is the rule of his establishment. He has several German, Austrian, and Hungarian gentlemen's sons learning the art of agriculture with him.

"He finds that the proper way to make oxen work is by letting them push the head against a padded board. Oxen so worked are not injured for the butcher; they travel faster, chewing the cud at the same time, and can work longer hours without being over-tired. He finds that the plough in general use is much better than ours for moving and pulverising the soil; and that the rude waggons of the country are as economical as our more powerful and highly finished ones, from their only being of half the weight: a most important item, when the roads are mere tracks across the country, and where produce has to go far to market. The people of the country adopt, as a rule, that the carriage should never exceed *one-fifth gross weight* of the load." Mr. Love adds, "these are, I believe, the only implements in which the continental nations excel us."

When Mr. Love left, he observed that the farming was much better near this farm, and that it declined gradually as he got further. Some of the larger owners had, however, followed the good example, and one was using such implements as Hornsby's drills, Garrett's horse-hoes, and Crosskill's clod-crushers, and was also draining the land, and enclosing it for rotation husbandry. "This, I have little doubt, will soon become the rule in place of the exception, as at present; for when we see a people taking up the example thus shown them, and unprejudicedly adopting it as far as their means will permit, it argues well for their advancement, especially when that example is such as will lead them to wealth and prosperity.

"Mr. Smallbones is now beginning to breed Hungarian cattle, with the view of improving them to the utmost. He has also been making great improvement in his flock of sheep, by careful and judicious selection of his male and female animals; he is of opinion, that the best way to get first-rate stock is to improve the *native breeds* by proper selection, treatment, and feeding, in which opinion there is much sound judgment and sense."

On Bees.

THE account of a series of rapid swarming published in the "Poultry Chronicle" of July 25th is very interesting. It proves not only the enormous production of honey during July, but also fully exemplifies the nomadic propensities of the bees, where circumstances are favourable; for it is to be observed that each of these swarms was formed by the same queen, and a portion of the same bees. During the first eleven days we may picture ten thousand bees collecting honey, and ten thousand more elaborating it into wax, and building the combs, while the queen was not less diligent in filling many of these combs with brood, and then, leaving a princess in embryo to succeed her, she decamps with a good proportion of her subjects, and founds another colony; whence in four days longer than the first time, she again takes flight with a fragment of the first swarm. May she be prosperous! Perhaps your correspondent will kindly let you hear the result of these swarms. The last, with which this energetic queen remains, must necessarily be a weak family, but if they are near enough to the heather, they may become flourishing; if not, and the hive cannot provide well for a winter's store, this good queen, it is hoped, will not be sacrificed. I would honour her with the highest position in the apiary. She is a marvel in England; a living evidence of how bees increase and multiply in their native clime. Your correspondent would

also oblige by informing you, for the elucidation of a theory, whether the queen had deposited drone eggs with each of the two colonies she founded: if so, the drones would be seen the end of July and beginning of August.

I have just had reports from two apiaries of facts bearing on the subject lately discussed—the loss of young queens. In one, where the succession to the throne was established in most of the hives, a queen was found dead on the ground. The nearest hive being examined, neither queen nor brood was found; therefore, a comb of brood was transferred from another Grecian hive. In the other apiary, the young queen had a defective wing, which incapacitated her from flying. This bee-keeper knew something about bees, but not enough to meet the emergency, and therefore restored the queen each time she fell. Such a queen ought at once to have been removed, as she could never become fertile, and a comb containing eggs should have been placed in the hive two days afterwards. To insure that the bees are aware of their loss, it is a good plan to blow a puff or two of smoke into the hive; for, as Mr. Golding observes, the approach of danger immediately calls forth the exercise of their instinct, in ascertaining and assuring themselves of the safety of their queen.

It is not invariably found that the bees will at once convert a worker grub into a queen. If the family has become weak and dispirited, I have seen them apparently indifferent, and they merely continue to hatch out the worker brood. Should a royal cell then not have been forced, a second piece of brood comb, afforded after the lapse of four or five days, may be more successful.

However, as at this season, unless the heather is accessible, bee-keepers begin to think of the harvest, and their own share of the stores, it may be as well to unite the bees of a stock which may be found queenless to one which is to be reserved over winter, and this it is best to accomplish by

driving, and then placing the hive containing the dislodged bees beneath the stock to which they are to be added, and blowing a few puffs of tobacco smoke amongst each family, the union is generally formed with but little tendency to fighting. There is another mode of dislodging bees, which is by fumigation, to which it will be necessary to advert, as it is a method preferred by some apiarians.

Unless in the neighbourhood of heaths, the season is just past when bees could be removed into an empty hive with any prospect of success, for the honey gathering is over. If the box in which R. B. proposes to locate them contains combs, they will then only require the quantity of feeding to make up a sufficient weight for winter; but if there are no combs, a large demand will be made on the liberality of the owner. I beg to refer to the paper in No. 57 of the "Poultry Chronicle," page 83, where some idea of the requirements of an empty hive may be formed; at the same time it must be remembered that that dislodged family had the spring before them, which was much in their favour. For removing bees from their hive, I prefer driving to fumigating; whichever method is adopted, the bee-keeper must ascertain that the queen accompanies the bees. The plan of driving is described in No. 70 of the "Poultry Chronicle," p. 400, and of course all the bees must be compelled to quit the hive. In the evening the hive should be placed on a cloth, of which the ends are tied together on the top, and in this way the bees can be easily and safely carried by hand a few miles, care being taken not to move the hive with any sudden jerk, so as to break up the cluster. By reversing the hive under the box they are to occupy, the bees will ascend, and take possession of their new abode. A.

SWARMING OF BEES.

THE swarming of bees in this neighbourhood (Staffordshire) has been unusually late, there being few or none before the beginning of July, but such swarms have

generally been large, and have already (Aug. 7), gathered sufficient store to carry them through the winter. Two instances of rather unusual occurrence have come under my notice in this neighbourhood, connected with the swarming of bees. In one case two swarms, *both of them vagrant swarms*, took possession of the same hive within a quarter of an hour of each other, and peaceably formed one family. It is remarkable that a swarm emigrated from this hive last year to the hive from which one of these vagrant swarms came.

In the other case, a swarm annually takes possession of a crevice in the wall of a farm-house, which not being large enough to allow of the bees storing up sufficient honey for the winter supply, not a bee is found alive by spring. The remarkable feature in this case is, that bees are not kept at the house spoken of, nor are there any within half-a-mile; yet for the last twenty years a swarm has regularly, during the summer, taken possession of the hole in the wall, and the worthy farmer, being a little superstitious in the matter, will not have them interfered with.

I have also noticed that swarms generally this year have been accompanied by two or three queens. W. N.

A REMARKABLE PIECE OF HONEYCOMB.

A SMALL piece of comb was taken about the beginning of June from a hexagon-shaped receiver, formed part of wood and part of glass, placed on the top of a square box hive. The receiver measured each side two and five-eighths inches, depth six inches, and breadth from opposite angles five inches. It was expected to contain two rows of comb, but on removing it, it was found filled with one solid piece of comb, weighing about three pounds which entirely occupied the receiver, with the exception of sufficient space to allow the bees to pass between the comb and the glass. The comb measured in the thickest part four and a quarter inches in thickness, and some of the cells were two and a half

inches in depth. The ordinary thickness of brood comb is about an inch, though the comb for storing honey is often much thicker than this. W. N.

Yorkshire Agricultural Society's Meeting at Malton.

THIS Agricultural Meeting took place at Malton, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2nd inst. The site for the show was one of the most convenient possible—the site of part of the ancient castle of Malton, now the Orchard Field. The railway arrangements were on the most liberal scale; the North Eastern Company, with a praiseworthy anxiety, giving every possible facility to the exhibitors and to the public. Their Thirsk and Malton Branch intersects the Orchard Field, and here a temporary siding was laid in, and all stock and implements landed immediately in the show ground. On entering the ground from the Old Malton road the *coup d'œil* was most imposing. The show of horses, beasts, sheep, and poultry was first-rate, and by 2 o'clock an immense number of visitors had entered, including a large proportion of ladies. Towards 3 o'clock it began to rain, and continued nearly an hour, which interfered considerably with the comfort of the visitors; afterward the weather cleared up and lasted fine during the remainder of the day.

Judges.—Hon. and Rev. S. W. Lawley; Rev. R. Pulleine, Kirby Wiske; Mr. T. H. Smith, Skelton Grange, York.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH. (11 entries.)—1st prize, T. H. Peirson, Bridlington Quay; 2nd prize, James Dixon, North Park, Horton, Bradford. **CHICKENS.** (7 entries.)—1st prize, T. F. Pierson; 2nd prize, James Dixon.

DORKING. (15 entries.)—1st prize, Mrs. J. Parker, Astley Hall, Chorley, Lancashire; 2nd prize, G. Hustler, Appleton, Tadcaster. **CHICKENS.** (9 entries.)—1st prize, W. Dods-worth, Malton; 2nd prize, George Hustler.

COCHIN CHINA. (4 entries.)—No 1st prize.

2nd prize, T. Lightowler, Malton. **ANY COLOUR, NOT BLACK OR WHITE.** (10 entries.)—1st prize, Harriet Preston, Bulmer Rectory, Castle Howard; 2nd prize, G. Hustler. **CHICKENS.** (17 entries.)—1st prize, T. H. Barker, Hovingham; 2nd prize, F. Nicholson.

GAME. (23 entries.)—1st prize, S. Armitage, Bradford; 2nd prize, Henry Willoughby. **CHICKENS.** (14 entries.)—1st prize, Wood and Holling, Great Horton, Bradford; 2nd prize, Charles Holt, Northallerton.

HAMBURGS GOLDEN SPANGLED. (9 entries.)—1st prize, James Dixon; 2nd prize, Wood and Dixon. **CHICKENS.** (2 entries.)—James Dixon. **GOLDEN PENCILLED.** (7 entries.)—1st prize, J. Dixon; 2nd prize, Henry Sharp, Bradford. **CHICKENS.** (3 entries.)—1st prize, Wood and Hollins. **SILVER SPANGLED.** (16 entries.)—1st prize, Henry Beldon, Bradford; 2nd prize, James Dixon. **CHICKENS.** (5 entries.)—1st prize, Jas. Dixon; extra prize, Samuel Armitage, Bradford. **SILVER PENCILLED.** (17 entries.)—1st prize, James Dixon; 2nd prize, Samuel Armitage. **CHICKENS.** (4 entries.)—1st prize, James Dixon. **POLANDS, ANY VARIETY, WITH OR WITHOUT RUFFS.**—1st prize, Henry Beldon; 2nd prize, James Dixon. **CHICKENS.** (4 entries.)—1st prize, Jas. Dixon. **ANY DISTINCT BREED.** (8 entries.)—1st prize, John Teasdale, Welburn, York. **CHICKENS.** (5 entries.)—1st prize John Teasdale; 2nd prize, Julia Willoughby, Birdsall House.

BANTAMS, BLACK OR WHITE. (10 entries.)—No 1st prize; 2nd prize, James Dixon.—**ANY COLOUR, NOT BLACK OR WHITE.** (7 entries.)—1st prize, James Dixon; no 2nd prize.

SPANISH COCK, ANY AGE. (2 entries)—John Jacques, Knaresborough.

DORKING COCK. (7 entries.)—T. Parker, Chorley.

COCHIN CHINA COCK, ANY AGE. (15 entries.)—George Palliser, York.

GAME COCK. (15 entries.)—John Scott, White-wall House, Malton.

HAMBURG COCK, GOLDEN SPANGLED. (2 entries.)—C. J. Russell, Malton. **GOLDEN PENCILLED.** (2 entries.)—James Dixon. **SILVER SPANGLED.** (2 entries.)—Jas. Dixon. **SILVER PENCILLED.** (2 entries.)—James Dixon.

GANDER AND TWO GESE. (9 entries.)—1st prize, E. Donkin, Birdsall, Malton; 2nd prize, H. Ambler, Halifax.

DRAKE AND TWO DUCKS, AYLESBURY. (8 entries.)—1st prize, Miss Mary Taylor, Bridlington; 2nd prize, J. Dixon. **ROUEN, OR ANY**

BREED, NOT AYLESBURY. (11 entries).—1st prize, Isaac Hartas, Pickering; 2nd prize, H. Ambler.

TURKEY COCK AND TWO HENS.—Julia Wilmoughby.

DORRING COCK AND TWO HENS.—A GOLD MEDAL: Mrs. T. Parker, Astley Hall, Chorley, Lancashire.

SPANISH COCK AND TWO HENS.—A SILVER MEDAL: T. F. Peirson, Burlington Quay.

Isle of Wight Poultry Show.

THERE is as much difference in poultry shows as in races, and the smaller the exhibition the more certain its success, in some places. They are like the races of a small country town; every member speaks of them as *our* races, and is personally interested in them. The well established town or city, conscious of its security, spurns those appliances eagerly caught at by one just emerging from obscurity, or rising from the second to the first rank in a district. Again, as in an army there is an "esprit de corps" which, while it belongs to every soldier, is more particularly moved by that regiment to which he belongs—so in certain districts, when there appears to be little difference, everything is eagerly adopted which can turn the scale. Wherever there is a reasonable prospect of success in any undertaking, if it is adopted by any community it is safe from failure, because unanimity is its guarantee. It is only division that brings defeat. These remarks usher in the report of a small show in a rising place. We speak of the exhibition held at Ryde by the Isle of Wight Association for the improvement of domestic poultry. It was a pleasant, friendly, and successful show, liberally conducted by a few gentlemen and supported by all. Their insular position does not prevent the good folks of Vectis from following the examples of other places; and the pieces of plate were the spurs to excellence and the rewards of the deserving. A handsome Silver Cup, a Cream Jug, and a pair of Salt Cellars, caused some to envy

now, and to threaten greater exertions for next year.

We have but one fault to find, and that is the wording of the rule by which the cup was to be awarded. It was to be given to the most successful competitor, one prize being for Dorking or Spanish. It will be seen there is here no mention of pens, no restriction of number. Instead of a stimulus, this is a damper; the owner of five or six pens has no chance of success against fifteen or sixteen. We doubt not this will be remedied next year. There was one innovation of which we can speak with decided approval. We allude to a prize for the best cock of each breed; and they were not exhibited separately, but selected by the judges. In several instances we observed, the tenant of the first-prize pen was not distinguished as the best of his class, and it explained decisions which otherwise were hard to understand, except to judges,—and the visitors are not always competent to act in that capacity. We have already said it was a small show, of 130 pens, but many of the birds that have figured, and will figure, at our large exhibitions were there. There were perfect Spanish fowls, excellent Dorkings, good Cochins, beautiful Game, capital Polands, and Bantams of more than usual merit. The weakest points were the Hambro's, and the Aylesbury Ducks. The Dorking cock of Mr. Vaux, the Spanish of Mr. Plummer, the White Cochin of Mr. Rodbard, the Game of Mr. Mew, and the Poland of Mr. Parkin Jones, were all perfect specimens. But if we were asked to select the most beautiful bird of his sex, we should take a White Bantam belonging to Mr. Mew. We were also much pleased to see the Game Bantams in force. Mr. Mew took the cup, as the most successful exhibitor. Mr. W. Saunders took the salt-cellars and cream-jug. Everything was well ordered, quiet and comfortable. There was not a murmur of dissatisfaction that we heard, and we doubt not this and last year's shows are only the precursors of many happy gatherings. The kindness

and liberality of all concerned, richly deserve the fullest amount of success.

Judges, H. Hinxman, Esq., Durnford House; Mr. J. Baily, Mount Street, London.

POULTRY PRIZE LIST.

SPANISH FOWLS.—1st and cock prize, W. Plummer, Bristol. 2nd prize, W. Saunders, Cowes. Highly commended, P. P. Cother, Salisbury. Commended, G. W. Locke, Newport. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize, W. Plummer. 2nd prize, G. W. Locke. Commended, W. Plummer.

COLOURED DORKING.—1st prize W. A. Warwick, Colchester. 2nd and cock prize, J. Vaux, Ryde. Highly commended and commended, W. Saunders; 2 pens; a meritorious class. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize, W. Saunders. 2nd prize, W. Saunders. Highly commended, W. Saunders.

WHITE DORKING.—1st prize, N. Antill, Portsea. 2nd prize, G. Ray, Ivy Cottage, Munstead. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize, C. Dain, Southampton; 2nd prize, Miss Flemming.

COCHIN CHINA, COLOURED.—1st prize, R. Griggs, Dibden, Southampton. 2nd prize, J. Vaux. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize, J. W. Kelleway, Ryde. 2nd prize, P. Jones, Fulham. Highly commended, J. W. Kelleway; and Lord de Blaquiere; a meritorious class.

COCHIN CHINA, WHITE AND BLACK.—1st prize, N. Antill. 2nd prize, W. Saunders. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize, W. Saunders. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard, Bristol. Cock prize, J. R. Rodbard.

GAME FOWL, RED.—1st prize, T. P. Mew, Cowes. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard. Cock prize, T. P. Mew. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize, T. P. Mew. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard.

GAME, DUCKWING.—1st prize, T. P. Mew. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard. **CHICKENS.**—1st prize, T. P. Mew. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard. **COCK.**—Highly commended, J. Downer, Brixton.

GAME, WHITE AND PILES.—1st and 2nd prizes, T. P. Mew. **CHICKENS.**—No prize.

HAMBURGS, GOLDEN-PENCILLED.—1st, 2nd, and cock prizes, T. P. Mew. **GOLDEN-SPANGLED.**—1st prize, R. James, Fareham. **SILVER-PENCILLED.**—1st prize, T. P. Mew. 2nd prize, R. James. **SILVER-SPANGLED.**—No 1st prize. 2nd prize, Lord de Blaquiere.

POLANDS, BLACK WITH WHITE CRESTS.—1st and 2nd prizes, T. P. Edwards, Lyndhurst; Com. I. Harvey, Newport. **GOLDEN.**—1st; prize, T. P. Mew. **SILVER.**—1st prize, P. Jones; 2nd prize, T. P. Edwards. **Cock prize, P. Jones.**

BANTAMS, GOLD AND SILVER-LACED.—1st and 2nd prizes, Casteels Cooper, Guildford. **WHITE.**—1st, and, 2nd cock prizes, T. P. Mew. **BLACK AND OTHER VARIETIES.**—1st prize, W. Saunders. 2nd prize, T. P. Mew. Highly commended, T. P. Mew; a meritorious class.

DISTINCT BREED.—1st prize, Lord de Blaquiere (CUCKOO COCHIN CHINA). 2nd prize, W. Saunders (BRAHMA POOTRA). Highly commended, Hervey Ickwell, Bury, Bedfordshire (SILK FOWLS); H. B. Higgs, Southampton (BLACK GHODOOKS). **Cock prize, W. Saunders (PENCILLED BRAHMA POOTRA).** **CHICKENS.**—1st and 2nd prizes, W. Saunders (BRAHMA POOTRA).

GEESE.—1st prize, C. W. Estcourt, Newport. 2nd prize, W. A. Warwick. Commended, T. P. Edwards.

DUCKS, AYLESBURY.—1st prize, J. W. Kelleway. 2nd prize, T. P. Edwards. **ROUEN AND OTHER VARIETIES.**—1st prize, N. Antill.

TURKEYS.—1st prize, W. Saunders. 2nd prize, J. R. Rodbard.

A piece of Plate, by W. G. Ward, Esq., was awarded to Mr. Saunders, of Egypt House, Cowes.

A piece of Plate, by the Committee, was awarded to T. P. Mew, Esq., of Cowes.

A piece of Plate for the best pen of Turkeys, was awarded to Mr. Saunders, of Egypt House, Cowes.

The White Dorking.

You will probably recollect my writing you an article on the above subject almost at the commencement of your labours, and I thought that you might like a short account of my last year's experience with this breed for your concluding number; and allow me to say how sorry I am to hear that such is the case, and I doubt not but that I am only one of many who feel the same.

I think no one who has seen a pen of perfect and true-bred White Dorkings, or what is better still, a flock of them, roaming on some wild common or green lawn,

but will award the preference to them over most other kinds of poultry for beauty, and for giving an appearance of liveliness and cheerfulness to the landscape. The chief objections to them have been that they are small, and difficult to rear: to the first of these objections I reply that the smallness of their size may be chiefly attributed to neglect, and now that their beauties and merits have become appreciated, I think we have them as large as is necessary for a perfect bird for the table, and that those who feel interested in this breed cannot but observe at the coming shows the great improvement in this respect; but I will also add, that with careful breeding, and the judicious selection of birds, their size may be still farther increased.

To the second objection I cannot reply more effectually than by giving statistics. I have just referred to my list of last year, and find that we hatched 72 chickens: out of these, notwithstanding the acknowledged difficulties of the season, we reared 70 birds. Now, however hardy a breed may be, I think few persons can show a better balance sheet than this. For this year I can say nothing at present, but if any of your readers are sufficiently interested to know our mode of rearing, and will signify so to you, I shall be happy to contribute a chapter between now and next breeding time on this subject. In conclusion, I would say, that though they do not lay the same amount of eggs as the Poland or Hamburg, yet still they lay well, added to which they are the first of setters and mothers, and nothing can compete with them in delicacy for the table, a combination of good qualities not to be found in any other breed than the Dorking.

D. C.

The Editor's Letter-Box.

PURLOINING EGGS.

SIR,—I was an eye-witness at Yorkshire Agricultural Show at Malton last week, of a discreditable trick, which I do not consider fair to exhibi-

tors of poultry. I allude to the removal of eggs by visitors from the different pens. I saw a man remove an egg from the prize pen of Silver Spangled Hamburgs, and, as he did so, make the remark to his companion, that it made the ninth he had collected that morning, and remarking also that he ought to get some good chickens, as he also got an egg from the prize game fowls, &c. I think it is a pity that some means cannot be adopted to prevent this pilfering. I observed, when at Lincoln last year, that a man was appointed to collect and break all the eggs, and the pens were so constructed that it was impossible to get an egg out, without opening the pen: this at small shows might not perhaps be practicable; but at such meetings as the Great Yorkshire, I think some remedy might be found.

Whilst on the subject of poultry, I must mention the difficulty there was at Malton of purchasing fowls; for, being anxious to buy a pen, the price of which was marked in the catalogue, I went to the secretary, expecting to be able to make the purchase through him, when I was informed that he had no power of selling, but could register my claim, and I must write immediately to the owner, and inform him of my having done so: this course I pursued, but as yet have received no answer; whereas, if I could have made my bargain at Malton, I should have taken the birds away, and had them safe in my own yard, which they may now never see.

I remain, yours obediently,

A SUBSCRIBER.

[In suggesting what should have been done in the above-mentioned case, we fully sympathise with the feeling of its unpleasantness. Any one who sees a person so engaged should let the committee know, and the delinquent should be dealt with as he deserve.—ED.]

DORKING CHICKENS.

SIR.—Your correspondent "M. S." deserves the thanks of all honest breeders of Dorking fowls, for his letter to you, dated from Carlisle (July 26).

Not having been present at the Royal Agricultural Show, I am not able to confirm his "suspicions" about the age of the Dorking chickens there exhibited, by adding my opinion; but I (as you know) "have also not been an unsuccessful exhibitor of Dorkings," and ought to be able to form some idea of their ages. I am therefore sorry to say that, in my humble opinion, several of the Dorking chickens (?) exhibited at the late Windsor Show were older than they were represented to be.

More fully I will not speak out at present, but I warn those whom it may concern, that there is

"a party" determined to put down these dishonest practices.

We are all looking forward to a good show at Anerley: let us hope that the course which (I have no hesitation in saying) has been pursued by parties at different shows within the last two years will not be renewed there.

Personalities are dangerous; I have pointed at no one, and am content that by-gones should be by-gones: but I say again to all this letter may concern,
BEWARE!!!

August 9, 1855.

HECKMONDWICKE POULTRY SHOW.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Jonathan Bell's inquiry in your Editor's Letter Box, August 8, respecting fowls sent to the Dewsbury and Heckmondwicke Shows, we beg to say that any fowls sent to Heckmondwicke from Dewsbury Show, will have every attention the committee can give, and places have already been engaged for their safe keeping. We have also sent you the prize-list, and given seven days longer for entries to be sent in. We are making every arrangement for the comfort and safety of the birds entrusted to our care; and the show-ground, being only a few minutes' walk from the railway station, we hope to have a large attendance of visitors from a distance.

Yours, most respectfully,
JAMES KELLY, and
FREDERICK BREARLEY, } Secs.
Heckmondwicke, near Leeds,
August 9, 1855.

TO "W. N."

THE bees are guided by circumstances, based on fixed principles, in the construction of the kind of comb. The centre combs of the hive, which is the *constant abode*, will be found to be those of workers; but no rule is followed in the combs built in supers or nadirs, which the bees design as store-houses; in these the proportion of drone-celled combs is regulated by the abundance of honey collected while they are in course of being constructed. A gush of honey produces drone-celled combs greatly elongated. I should not like more than about 1-7th or 1-8th of drone combs in a stock; and when superabundant combs of this description are removed, I should suppose that it would not be necessary to remove the foundations, *provided* there was not a very great honey-gathering while the bees are rebuilding them. They can reduce the size of the cell in three or four rows of the intermediate forms.

The process described at page 494, it is to be remembered, took place in a Grecian hive. It

was carried from the apiary to avoid the interference of bees from other hives; the bars being raised and the bees swept off the combs, the search for brood was easily made. It was equally easy to turn up another hive, blow in a puff of smoke, cut out a piece of brood, and fix it in the comb of the other hive, by running a twig two inches long through the bit of comb.

The mode of driving was explained in the paper on forming artificial swarms. The secret of the bee-master's success lies in his *determination* to accomplish his object. He "drives" in an apartment of his house, at all seasons, except during winter. If the bees have not ascended in about ten minutes, they are at least in confusion, and thoroughly intimidated: a division may then be partly made between the hives, and there must be a junction maintained at one side, towards which the bees are guided with a feather, and a puff of smoke may accelerate the tardy movement of those that lay behind. I have spent some time with the bee-master while he was driving. Some hives obeyed him at once, over others, especially those not well filled, he was working half an hour, or more. Hives drive most readily in warm weather.

If all hives were but bar hives! In these, for instance, we can have no difficulty in ascertaining if there is a queen. An ordinary hive, if queenless, will not drive well; there is no centre of unity. When a hive is fumed, almost all the bees fall, and the queen often remains sticking to the comb. If, from the appearance of the hive, and non-appearance of young bees, it is presumed to be queenless, it will be best to offer a queen, if a supernumerary can now be obtained. If placed on the entrance-board she will walk in, and if no monarch reigns, she will be adored; if the throne is occupied, she will be smothered! Her corpse will be found in a few hours, cast out of the hive. If a queen cannot be procured, a bit of brood may be given, and the sooner the remedy is applied the better, for it is getting too late to raise queens. A.

To Correspondents.

Scrutator.—We were very much obliged to our correspondent for the paper, which was very acceptable. *Lack of space*. *The Royal Agricultural Society of Dublin, &c.*—We are sorry that the small space left by the Index, &c., in this our last number, renders it quite impossible to give a report of the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of Dublin. In making choice of the contributions we were most anxious to insert, we have also omitted in their favour the market reports.

Pullets and Hens. *Amateur*.—In "Answers to Correspondents," in No. 74 we said, in answer to "Amateur," that fowls are often called pullets until

a year old, but gave it as our own opinion that pullet-hood properly ceases when the young hen begins to lay. We asked for the opinions of other connoisseurs.

T. R. P. W.—We have received the "Proposed basis for uniformity of judgment at exhibitions of poultry," and regret that, this being our concluding number, we cannot offer our columns for the discussion of its merits. We regret more than we can express that we are obliged to shut out the chapter on ducks, which we will return.

T. S.—We are very sorry to be obliged to shut out *T. S.*'s communication on "Bees." To the very last we were in hopes we should have made room for, at any rate, a portion of it. It shall be returned.

Hickmoadwick's Poultry Show—We are sorry it is impossible to insert the schedule, but we beg to inform our readers that the committee of this society offer 1st and 2nd prizes of 10s. and 5s. for the usual classes. There is not a separate class for Brahmas, but there is that class, so useful to purchasers, "cock of any breed." One shilling and sixpence is charged for each entry of poultry. The day of closing is deferred to Aug. 20.

Two—The markings of the Hamburgs will be found to have been discussed in various parts of our three volumes. It is a great fault for the comb to be plain over a portion of its surface, and we are surprised such a one should take a prize. The comb should be spiked all over, piked behind, and sufficiently raised from the head to give it distinctness.

F. W. R.—If the Polish Bantams our correspondent speaks of are not degenerate Polish fowls they must be exquisitely beautiful, and we advise him to preserve and breed them with great care.

Advertisements.

HARROWGATE POULTRY AND AGRICULTURAL SHOW. The Second Annual Exhibition of this Society will be held on Friday, Sept. 7th, 1855. Entries close August 21st. Certificates of entry, and prize lists, may be had on application to *MR. JAMES PULLAN, Jun., Low Harrowgate.*

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H. D. DAVENPORT, Secretary.
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THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POULTRY ASSOCIATION will hold its Third Annual Exhibition at Southwell on the 19th and 20th of December next. Prize Lists and any further information can be obtained on application to **RICHARD HAWKLEY, Jun., Hon. Secretary, Southwell, Notts.**

FOR SALE.—A Cock and 3 Hens of Black (white-crested) Polands, bred by Edwards, of Lynton; has taken four prizes. Cock and 2 Hens, Silver-Spangled Polands. Cock and 3 Hens, Gold-Spangled Hamburgs (Cannon's breed). Cock and 2 Hens, Silver do. Cock and 3 Hens, pure-bred Malays, weight nine to 10 lbs. each; three prizes. Cock and 2 Hens. Indian Game Malays, very handsome. Also Andalusian White-faced Spanish, Poland, and Brahma Pootra Chickens. Apply to **MR. C. COLES, Fareham.**

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