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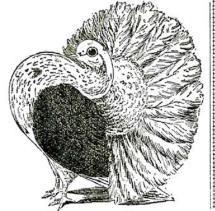
NO. 19.



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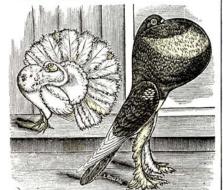
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Advertisements, with remittance for same, should reach us not later than the first mail of Wednesday preceding the day of publication, in order to insure proper classification and display.

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The trade supplied by the Baltimore News Co.

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1893.

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EDITORIALS.

The following clipping from one of our daily papers is so much to the point and contains so much that is applicable to many of our patrons that we cannot help but reproduce it:

A most effective way to relieve financial stringency is to keep money in circulation by the payment of "little bills." To "pay as you go" is always best, but some persons are occasionally compelled by circumstances to ask for credit. It is wise to pay bills at short intervals for many reasons. The creditor may have a great number of small bills outstanding and may be seriously embarassed by their non-payment. The longer a bill remains unpaid the harder it is The longer a to pay. To the man in receipt of an income which is no more than his necessary expenses require it may be easy to pay a small bill, but if he al-lows it to go unpaid other bills may be added to it and the aggregate will be a serieus burden.

A fails to pay what he owes to B and the latter is thereby unable to pay the debt he owes to C, and so on. By prompt payments a small sum of money can be made to cancel a large sum of indebtedness. A ten-dollar bill, by passing from hand to hand, probably often pays debts amounting to a hundred dollars inside a week. The most frequent excuse heard for the non-payment of bills is that they can collect no money. In most instances this excuse is probably an honest one, and a little reflection will convince any man of the wisdom of thus keeping money in circulation. The first of July, being the beginning of a new half year, is a good time to balance books and start fresh.

A CARD OF THANKS

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE N. E. P. A.

Gents. and Fellow Members-Having been re-elected secretary of our club, it is with great pleasure I return my sincere thanks to my friends and supporters. That you have confidence in me has been clearly demonstrated by my almost unanimous election, and I can only say that your

confidence shall not be misplaced.

The past year has been marked with many great improvements, and with past experience I hope to achieve even better results in the year that now lies before us. I do not claim all the credit, but desire to share it with the officials and members who have rendered me their kind support. I shall in future, as in the past, strive to perform the duties of the office in a fearless and impartial manner. Asking the hearty cooperation of all the members, I am, with kind regards, yours respectfully, C. E. TWOMBLY.

TWO WEEKS AMONG THE FANCIERS.

BY JOHN H. KUHN.

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.

Arriving at Newark, N. J., we looked up the well-known Toy breeder, Mr. William Kraft, who has thirteen lofts situated above his factory, containing short-faced Tumblers, Priests, Starlings, Moreheads, Jacobins, Archangels, Satinettes, Blondi-Oriental Turbits, Shields, nettes, Pigmy Pouters, etc. He has a very large and fine collection which he has imported and carefully bred for many years. His short-faced Tumblers and Oriental Turbits are especially grand.

Next we called at the domicile of the genial Seifert, only to find that Oscar had gone to spend a week at the World's Fair. We were sorry for this, as we had anticipated about a day's hilarity in this whole-souled genialist's company.

Our next stopping point was New York City, and we hunted up Mr. Hugh Clements, he of Carrier fame. We found at this gentleman's loft not a great many birds, but lack of quantity was atoned for by a surfeit of quality. We handled a pair of duns in this loft that are immense in Carrier properties and of sufficient age and consequent development of wattles, eye-ceres, etc. Both these specimens possess the walnut wattles so much prized by the votaries of this noble bird, the cock to a remarkable degree. Both have fine large eyewattles, circular and evenly serrated. free from being pinched behind. A pair of blues came in also for a critical inspection. The cock has grand paralel and narrow skull, appended to which is a good boxed beak of great stoutness, and surmounting which beak is a grand wattle, well arched and tilted forward, giving the and I was introduced by Mr. Abel to face appearance great length. The the very popular secretary of the hen is hardly as racy as the cock, but possesses many good Carrier traits. being well wattled and also supplied with an especially good stout and well-fitting beak, the under-mandible being as thick as the upper. A white this capable secretary. We also met cock also very favorably impressed us, and possesses rare merit for the color, really good whites being as scarce as hens' teeth. There were

make it very warm competition for any opposition he may meet at the shows the coming winter.

We next hunted up Mr. Wm. J. Stanton, the well-known and efficient judge of pigeons, whom we found at his store, on Dey street, and after forming this gentleman's acquaintance and indulging a lengthy and interesting chat, we were compelled to bid New York adieu, without the pleasure of forming the acquaintance and inspecting the stock of Mr. D. E. Newell, Messrs. Havemeyer Bros. and several others, whom we had fully intended calling on, but unavoidably were compelled to omit the visit until a more fitting opportunity presented itself.

Jumping off at Monclair, N. J., we repaired to the palatial abode of that worthy fancier, Mr. H. V. Crawford. With this gentleman we spent several hours in a pigeon chat and in viewing the justly-celebrated Jacobins confined in his lofts, which have won many a hard fought battle in the show pen. We were much pleased to renew our acquaintance with the popular New York Show secretary and experienced good entertainment at his hands; in fact, we were loth to leave so hurriedly, and our host was persistent in retaining us, but time was short and we had to make entire Boston and vicinity before our return.

From here we took the boat to Stonington, Conn., which connected at that point with train for Boston, at which latter place we arrived late Sunday morning, so late as to miss meeting Mr. C. E. Twombly, who had been wired of our coming and who had gotten up at five o'clock that station, a long, thin, racy neck, good morning, expecting us on the early train, but being disappointed had returned to his home.

Getting our bearings, it did not take us long to find the residence. New England Pigeon Association, and a fitting representative of such a progressive body, which I understand owes much of its present prestige and import to the energetic work of at this place Mr. Latimer, a member of the N. E. P. A. and a well known breeder of the long-faced Tumbler. After an introductory chat we all

is sinated in the basement of the residence and fronted with a wire aviary, a very fine collection of muffed Tumblers in all colors, some recentlyimported ones occupying the position of honor at present. Mr. Latimer has raised several extra nice young this season which give great promise of exhibition specimens with proper development.

Satisfying our curiosity, we next repaired to Mr. Ferguson's, the recognized Tumbler king of New England. After an arduous climb to the attic of the house we were introduced to the jolly proprietor, whom we found to be brimful of good humor and pigeon tumbling enthusiasm. Mr. Ferguson has six lofts devoted to the occupancy of this popular variety, and has the largest and finest collection of all colors and varieties of the Tumbler family seen in this country. He makes numerous importations annually from the secretary of the English Tumbler Club, which, I suppose, has something to do with the rare quality to be met with in these lofts. Mr. Ferguson breeds saddles, badges. rosewings, mottles, whitesides and solid-colored; has both muffed and clean-legged and the grandest colors in some of them imaginable. He not only admires the Tumbler for its exhibition qualities, but also breeds them for acrobatic merit, and repairing to the roof of the building we were treated to an aerial performance by ten of the best acrobats. got well up and performed nicely. Being dinner-time, we adjourned to Mr. Twombly's residence, where we did full justice to the elegant repast prepared under the supervision of Mrs. Twombly, our host's handsome better half.

Dinner over, we hied us to the pigeonry for an inspection of the Twombly birds. We found three lofts in the rear of the residence, the ground floor divided into two about 10x8 feet each and a smaller one above these. which is used for the youngsters. We found a fine collection of Swallows. which are well known to the fancy from having captured premier honors at several of the recent important exhibitions. There were a grand lot of blacks among them, and we also handled the noted yellow champion which caused a sensation at Nashville Exhibition last fall. Besides the several other good birds in this lot, went over to inspect the Latimer Swallows, Mr. Twombly has a good and I should say Mr. Clements will birds. We found in this loft, which collection of wing-marked Turbits.

some blues of Ingram's strain deserving of especial mention being good in head and beak properties and well put up in body formation, also good in marking. The Turbit fever seems to be a recent acquisition of Mr. Twombly's, and, content with nothing but the best, I predict he will be later on heard from in them as well as with the Swallows.

With Mr. Twombly as escort, we next repaired to the residence of the old and well-known breeder of Owls and Turbits, Mr. George Feather. We found him a conservative gentleman endowed, however, with a full fund of good sound, practical fancy logic. He showed us some good stock, which is confined in three lofts well adapted for the purpose. The main loft is two stories high and is neatly ar ranged with nesting places on each side of loft. The other is about fifteen feet away and is principally devoted to the Owls and a few Turbits. We handled the old yellow Turbit cock so well known to this fancy, having won honors at most of the principal exhibitions. The achievement of which Mr. Feather is partic ularly proud was the prize at Nashville, where he was awarded first in the strongest competition ever offered in this country in the color, defeating the first and second prize winners at Cincinnati, first-prize winner at New York and first prize winner at Louisville. This cock has as stout a head and beak as I ever saw on any Turbit, but is larger than I like them. We also saw a very nicely finished yellow hen, which was second at Louisville and second at Nashville; also some very fair blues and blacks and some particularly pleasing blue and silver English Owls, notable among which was the old silver hen first at Charleston, first at Louisville and second at Nashville. This bird has a fine skull, is short in face and about as good in gullet as any in the fancy; also very fine in frill.

Now for a long ride in the electric car, a walk over a railroad bridge, then over a fence to the highway, along which we strolled for about fifteen minutes, when we arrived at the home of the largest breeder of the largest pigeon known in and to the American fancy, Dr. W. G. Kendall. of Runt fame. Here I also formed the acquaintance of Messrs. Chas. E. Ford and Alex. Ingram. Dr. Kendall colors, of Turbits, wing marked. This has four lofts of Runts occupying collection is made up from the strains

space in a large barn. He uses Homers for feeders and has been very successful in raising some promising '93 birds. He has the Runts in all colors and of gigantic size, and undoubtedly can be accredited with the best quality, both individually and collectively, ever seen in America. Kendall can make an exhibit that will attract the attention of thousands from its uniqueness, for we are rarely treated to a Runt display at American exhibitions. Brother fanciers, whenever you visit New England don't fail to look up the Doctor, for you will say, with me, he is the jolliest, most humorous crank and royal entertainer you ever ran across. He insisted on us spending the evening, and I don't think any of the party will soon forget the convivial time we had. Pigeon topics, humorous jokes and general mirth and merriment made the fleeting moments fly, and it was with a feeling of reluctance we, at a late hour, withdrew from his congenial society and repaired to our hotel for a night's repose.

Early on the morrow finds us in company with Mr. Twombly on a visit to the Quincy Adams lofts of Mr. Alex. Ingram. We find three lofts, one of which is divided into two. Magpies, Jacobins, Nuns, Pouters, Turbits and Fairy Swallows hold fort at this place. Nothing but the best are allowed in this collection, and, being a thorough judge, Mr. Ingram knows what to retain and what to discard. We saw some very fine snaky Magpies, well marked and fine in color; also some young Nuns of great promise! An old black Nun cock and old yellow Magpie cock are very grand. Both of them won first premium at Nashville last fall. also saw a good pair of Pouters, very slender and stylish, and a good lot of wing Turbits, many of which-nota bly the blues-would compare favorably with the best. He asked \$50 for a pair of '93 bred Fairy Swallows bred from his old champions. They certainly are beauties.

From Mr. Ingram's we went to view the birds belonging to Mr. Chas. Ford. We found five lofts in the rear of dwelling. First and main loft is a very neat building and the inter ior is very nicely arranged. Here we found a very fine collection, in all

of such breeders as Tanner and Ingram and has been recently strengthened with some imported blood; there were many good ones brought to our notice in all the colors, about the best being a yellow hen recently imported and a grand bullfinch-beaked silver dun, the latter winner of medal for the best Turbit, any color or sex, in the show at Louisville last year, then owned by Mr. Charles Tanner. is the best off-colored Turbit I saw on my trip, and I think his former owner would hardly know him now, so much has he improved. He is very short and thick in beak, full in cheeks, grand profile and well-bulged frontal, fine eye well placed, good peak and mane, also good in frill. He would be better with a little more gullet, about the only fault, outside of his color, I could find with him. Mr. Ford has raised some very promising blacks out of him this season. The yellow hen is a petite gem, grand in color, shape and general Turbit finish. She should, with the grandskulled yellow cock first at Louisville, second Cincinnati, first New York and Philadelphia, etc., breed some wonders in this color. Mr. Ford is also coming along very nicely in blues and has crossed the Ingram and Tanner stock to good advantage. Some imported blacks recently received are nicely finished Turbits and will be heard from later. In the other lofts we found Turbits, Jacobins and Swallows-many good ones among them, some particularly choice black Swallows attracting more than a passing notice from their density of plumage and correctness of marking. Bidding adieu to Mr. Ford, we started for Boston and the office of the American Stock-Keeper, on Washington street, to get acquainted with the well-known scribe, W. B. Atherton. This gentleman was very glad to see us and urgently requested me to go and spend a day or two on his farm, at Newton, Lower Fall, an invitation that would have afforded me great delight to accept had I had the time at my disposal, for if Brother Atherton is not good company, then he has been misrepresented.

Acceptance being out of the question, however, we put in our best licks while together, though I should have enjoyed a couple of hours longer in the society of this entertaining scribe and logical debater. Mr. Abel and myself discoursed with

Mr. Atherton, our ever-obliging friend, Mr. Twombly, arranged for a trip to see Messrs. Blake & Johnson's stock, and after an introduction to these estimable gentlemen and ardent fanciers we proceeded with them to Wyoming, Mass. The first lofts to claim our attention were those owned by Mr. N. T. Blake; the loft is over the stable and divided into three compartments; the nesting boxes are very neatly arranged and there is a hallway from which to view the Satinettes, Blondinettes and muffed Tumblers, all varieties, hold fort here. We were shown some very promising young Satinettes, also some very fine young muffed Tumblers. A pair of '93 blues are the finest I ever saw, being good-shaped, fine colored and adorned with boots of an enormous proportion. Among the Satinettes are some particularly good headed and well laced birds.

Mr. Blake ordered his carriage and drove us over to Mr. H. Johnson's place. Here we found a new loft hardly finished, the same being built about three feet off the ground and has five large windows facing a large aviary. The occupants proved to be Satinettes, Blondinettes, Turbiteens and Oriental Turbits, and some very fine specimens of similar merit to those we had just left at Mr. Blake's. There are many fine specimens deserving of individual description in these lofts, but lack of space forbids. Suffice it to say, I feel confident that Blake & Johnson are the coming Oriental Frill men, and can today show a collection second to none in Amer-

Turning the horses' heads, we were soon speeding toward the Malden residence of Mr. Joseph Gavin, who was in his library busily engaged in slinging ink. He extended us a cordial greeting and took us to the rear of the residence, where are confined, in two large lofts, a very large collection of Turbits and Blondinettes and Satinettes, the former variety largely in the majority. As time was pressing and we had an ennagement with Mr. C. F. Haven, we could not linger as long as we would have liked. Bidding Joe good-bye, we were driven to the car for Brookline, where we also had to bid adieu to the courteous Blake and Johnson, and off for Brookline and the home of the recently-elected president of the N. E. P. A., whom we found enjoying an after supper pipe and the evening paper.

It being dusk, Mr. Haven procured | pleasure I derived from meeting so a lantern to enable us to inspect the stock. In one building we found two lofts and in another three. There were Jacobins, Owls, wing and solid white Turbits, Tumblers and Barbs. We handled some very promising youngsters in Jacobins and Turbits. An old pair of solid white Turbits and a young pair out of them are grand; in fact, the best headed ones we ever saw, and extremely short in face; what little beak they have is tremendously thick and very downfaced. It struck me as being a great pity they were not wing marked birds, for they would cause a sensation in the ranks of our Turbit breed-

After looking over Mr. Haven's fine stock of pigeons, he joined the crowd and we all went over to the N. E. P. A. meeting room, where we were pleasantly entertained by the Messrs. Haven, Twombly, Ford. Ingram, Ferguson and Pratt. This evening concluded our pleasant association with the most enthusiastic lot of fanciers, as a body, we have ever met, and it is no wonder the New England Pigeon Association is so well known for its progression and activity, embodying as it does so many good and ardent fanciers, and, though the majority of them are in humble circumstances, the quality of their stock would never betray it, for they will have nought but the best, and are always willing to pay a fair price for a good bird. I wish to extend my hearty thanks to all the New England boys for their hospitable treatment while among them, and particularly to Mr. Twombly, who left nothing undone to make our visit agreeable, and who, realizing the limited time at our disposal, hustled us around quickly to make the necessary connections in cars and trains, so as to see as many of the fanciers as possible. We regret that we did not have the time and opportunity to call on all, but expect to take another jaunt in the fall, when we will not fail to get acquainted with the balance.

The last, but by no means least, place to hunt up a pigeon crank and his birds was Centredale, R. I., a that contain intrinsic merit. We had several times been invited by Mr. E. J. Campbell to make him a visit, and would not take a good deal for the which was declined, is still open. If

amiable a gentleman and looking through his grand stock of Pouters, Jacobins and Fantails. Mr. Campbell met us at Providence station with his rig and drove us over to Centredale, where we spent the entire day in viewing his grand collection. He has about fifty lofts, which are two stories high and built with glass fronts. About one-half are devoted to his fine stock and the balance for his feeders or foster-parents. He keeps but three to four pairs of birds in a loft, which is a commendable feature and, doubtless, has much to do with the attendant success on his breeding, for he informed us he raises 90 per cent. of what hatch. Mr. Campbell being a man who pays close attention to a manufacturing business, and who recognizes pigeon cultivation as a hobby and not as a monetary speculation, does not advertise or attempt to sell stock to individual purchasers, but prefers to sell his entire season's surplus to one buyer rather than bother with the correspondence necessary for a piecemeal purchase or, rather, "sale." On this account he is not as widely known as the extent and quality of his stock would warrant, though I can testify that any straggler interested in pigeons who happens that way and looks him up is assured of a royal welcome, hospitable treatment and entertainment of a high order in inspecting the Campbell stock. have seen a great many Pouters in my day, and have and do still breed some good ones myself, but right here I want to state we are none of us in the race. Mr. E. J. Campbell, of Centredale, R. I-, is undoubtedly and without exaggeration the possessor of the best, largest and finest quality stud of Pouters in America today; in fact, I feel so confident on this score that I would be willing to stake a goodly sum that he can not only select stock in some of the colors that can win at any show in the United States, but that his reds and whites can secure the premier honors at the Dairy or Crystal Palace Shows of England; they are as near my per fect ideal of a Pouter as I have ever seen, and far better than many of lovely little village in which are lofts the ideal representations of some artists. A pair of red Pouters I saw would have been mine if \$500 would have purchased them, and the offer.

I could get together a stud of birds of such merit as this, price would not be a barrier. The cock is fully twenty inches in length with about a seven and a half-inch limb, and the most slender Pouter in girth I have ever met with; color is grand fine bib and nearly perfect crescent. He also ap proaches perfection in pinion markings, and added to all these good qualifications he blows a fine globe; the hen is a fitting mate for this royal bird.

We handled the two best white Jacobin cocks ever seen by us, in these lofts; they are wonderful in feather. Mr. Campbell, be it said to his credit, by careful matings bred this grand stock himself. The foundation of the many wonderful Jacobins he possesses came from the Glen Riddle lofts of Mr. Hoskins. Two young Jacks, a white and a red, are simply grand specimens-immense hoods, manes and chains and, for such small-bodied birds, have wonderful length of feather. Ontside of the time occupied in the consumption of the elegant dinner and supper provided by our host's estimable wife, we spent the entire day in these lofts, and could have put another in equally as pleasant had we not been pressed for time. Darkness closing in, Mr. Campbell drove us to the steamboat Connecticut, which carried us to Baltimore, where I took train for home, sorry to find my most pleasant furlough at an end. I have never enjoyed a two weeks better in my life, and am already looking forward in pleasurable anticipation to the time when I can enjoy such another.

CONCLUDED.

ALL O. K. NOW.

EDITOR THE FANCIER:

It was with great pleasure I received the membership fee from three persons before July 4th inst. who have signified their willingness to join the Owl Club. It shows that they mean business, and if the other members would send their fees as soon as possible we would soon have the club in working order.

I have printed slips and will mail one to each member as soon as he forwards his fee and address. The longer the members hold back the longer it will take to get the club to forward the membership fee of one dollar with his addres at once.

> H. T. KLUSMEYER, JR., Sec'y. Pro Tem.

THE TRUMPETER PIGEON.

The Trumpeter pigeon-here, in deed is a strange name for a pigeon! Why it was given this name it is very difficult to conjecture, unless it can be attributed to some peculiarity in the "coo" the bird makes. Diligent search has failed to enlighten me on the subject, and the only way I can attribute this strange nomenclature is as stated above, says Victor Woodfield in Feathered World. The variety used to be known as the Laughing Pigeon, and Fulton states that this name was given it on account of the abruptness of the bird's coo; but why the name should be changed to the Trumpeter it is difficult to understand. The Americans call the breed Russian or Bokhara Trumpeters, this latter name being uncommon, and rarely, if ever, used in the British Isles.

Like many other varieties of pigeons, the Trumpeter was first imported from Russia, and is undoubt edly of Russian origin, although many specimens of the breed are to be found in Germany, from whence many have been imported into this country, but Germany is certainly the country of their adoption, and not of their origin, the Germans having procured the breed from Rus sia in the first instance.

Well do I remember, some sixteen years since, when on a visit in Oxfordshire, seeing a loft of these birds. The peculiarities of the feather growth did, indeed, impress me as being most strange, and I have since been an ardent admirer of the variety, and whenever the opportunity has presented itself have always taken a lively interest in the breed. The loft in question contained birds of the three well-known colors, viz., mottles, blacks and whites, and beautiful they appeared to me as a striking instance of some of the peculiarities of the Columbarian tribe. The gentleman to whom they belonged was an ardent fancier, and doubtless would by this time have been to the front in the Trumpeter fancy, but and his loft of birds passed into other hands.

There is one peculiarity in the feather formation of the Trumpeter which cannot be found in any other breed of pigeons, and that is, the tuft of feathers which it possesses on the top of the head, and which is termed the rose. This feather formation is best likened to the crest of a Canary. It is circular in shape, diverging from the centre and covering the whole of the skull, and also extends over the eyes and nearly the whole of the beak. It is large and well formedin fact, the larger the better, as the size and shape of the rose is the principal point about a Trumpeter. Having mentioned the feature of the Trumpeter, which is certainly individual to this particular breed-viz., the rose—there is also another feather growth which is called the crest, and this characteristic is possessed by other breeds - namely, Swallows, Nuns, Frillbacks and some few others, mostly of foreign production. The crest is a semi-circle of inverted feathers rising behind the rose, halfencircling the head and extending from below the eye on one side of the head to the same position on the other side of the head. The essential quality of the crest is its length of feather and regularity of shape.

Foot-feathering is another property which belongs to the Trumpeter. Like the Swallow, muff legged Tumbler, and some few other breeds, it is endowed with a plentiful supply of this feathering. It begins at the hock, extends down the leg, and covers the whole of the toes. The longer the feather the better. feathers which commence at the hock are somewhat short, but the length increases further down the leg, while the longest feathers grow on the feet, more especially on the outsides of the feet, it being natural that they should be shorter on the insides or that part of the feet between the legs, or they would impede the bird's operation of walking. Good long feathering on the feet is necessary, but the principal points are the rose and crest, and these should on no consideration be neglected for the sake of foot feathering.

The size of the Trumpeter is very deceptive to a person unacquainted with this particular breed, as it is some years ago was called away to feathered to a greater extent than going, so it behooves every member the home from which no man returns, any other member of the Columbarian tribe, and therein lies the deception. In reality it is not larger than the Dragon, and when one takes into consideration that the Dragon is classed with the larger breeds of the pigeon world, one may safely say that the Trumpeter is a good-sized, if not a large pigeon.

To the uninitiated it is always a puzzle how the birds can see, as the rose extends over the eyes and gives one the idea that the organs of sight are altogether so obscured as to interfere with them performing their functions. Then the legs are so heavily muffed that it certainly does give one, who is unacquainted with pigeons, the idea that it is impossible to walk with the feet hampered to such an extent.

To all appearance the Trumpeter is clumsily and heavily built, and this seeming clumsiness is not only caused by the amount of feathering the bird is endowed with, but to a very great degree by its carrying its feathers so loosely. This appearance certainly seems justifiable to a person who sees the bird in its inactivity, but the dignity with which the bird walks and the stateliness of its carriage would soon convince anyone that a wrong impression had been formed. The eye is white or pearl, and when the bird turns its peculiarly-feathered head sideways it certainly is most impressive,

As regards the colors of the variety, there are three, viz., mottles, blacks, and whites. Mottles are, indeed, very difficult to breed with the correct amount of mottling in the plumage, as required by the standard; but that which breeders of mottled Tumblers have been able to achieve-perfection of mottlingsurely Trumpeter fanciers will also be able to produce. Of course this cannot be done without time and scien tific breeding, but anyone who can succeed in getting together a good loft of Trumpeters of this color will surely find it a remunerative speculation. In blacks the co or is lustrous, and not dull; in fact, the higher the lustre the better, as it adds greatly to the beauty. Whites, as the name signifies, are pure and spotless, being of a uniform color over the entire body, head, wings and tail.

The Trumpeter, unlike all other varieties of pigeons, at the approach of danger, has a very strange manner usual bill for room rent, which was of bowing its densely-feathered head ordered paid. No other business often drive pigeons away from home.

upon its breast, as in this position its vision is obscured by its rose in any but a downward direction.

A hint to those who wish to take up another variety of pigeons. I would certainly recommend any one who intends taking up a breed of pigeons to select the Trumpeter, as I emphatically believe that it is one of the coming varieties and any one who does so will find it will amply repay them for their time and trouble.

In judging Trumpeters the properties should be taken in the following order: Rose: Size, shape and regularity. Crest: Size, shape and uniformity. Foot feathering: Length and quality, size. Color; A mottle, if correctly marked, should be placed before a black or a white, providing all other points are equal. Tightness of feather, color of beak, and, lastly, color of eye.

The scale of points is as follows: Rose, 10; crest, 8; foot-feathering, 6; size, 2; color, 2; lightness of plumage, 2; beak, 1; eye, 1; total, 32.

When one comes to consider the peculiarities of nature, surely the Trumpeter pigeon may be counted among them, for what other variety possesses such a characteristic feather formation of the head, with its elegant rose, compact and regular crest and foot feathering-in fact, such combination of peculiarities in its feather construction? I venture to say none.

BALTIMORE COLUMBARIAN ASSOCIATION.

EDITOR THE FANCIER:

The Baltimore Columbarian Association met on July 3d, with the following members present: T. S. Gaddess, William Broemer, Dr. C. H. A. Meyer, G. A. Fick, F. A. Rommel. J. D. Abel, Louis G. Muller and Henry Tiemann. Mr. Louis G. Muller was elected a member unanimously.

A letter was sent by Mr. R. S. Ryan stating that he wished to withdraw his application for membership in the association. The withdrawal was accepted and the secretary instructed to return to Mr. Ryan the \$2 initiation fee. A motion was made by Mr. Rommel, seconded by Mr. Gaddess, that the letter of withdrawal from Mr. Ryan shall not be recorded on the minutes of the association. Mr. Tiemann brought in his

being before the house, it was moved to adjourn .- H. TIEMANN, Sec'y.

PIGEONS ON THE FARM.

A pigeon loft may be an adjunct to the poultry business, and a considerable profit may be obtained from it. There is generally a good demand for old pigeons and for squabs, but the latter are always the most profitable if quick returns are expected. Young squabs sell for a good price in winter, when they are used in the cities very often for partridges and quail, and none but the epicure can detect the difference. The cost of raising them is very little, for they eat very little grain or other food before they are old enough for market. The parent birds feed them and practically they "pick up" their living in the fields and woods, demanding only a very little food from the granary. The squabs are thus practically raised at no expense at all, and they frequently bring as high as fifty cents a pair.

There is a prejudice against keeping pigeons on the farm among many, but this is generally founded upon some little failure in the work which does not apply universally. Pigeons are useful on the farm in gathering and destroying countless weeds and seeds. In the summer and fall they pick up their living in the grain fields, gathering the shelled grain that would be lost, and not picking it from the pods. There is no better fertilizer than pigeon manure, and when large flocks of them are raised they produce considerable. When the hay is out of the mow they should be allowed to fly in there, and they will pick up a great deal that would be lost. They do little or no harm, while they destroy countless numbers of weeds in the gardens and fields. Of course, if corn and grain are spread out for them daily in abundance they will devour it, but if not given this they will pick up their living.

A flock can easily be started and kept at home. It is only when poorly treated or the flocks become too crowded that they leave their homes and settle elsewhere. Provide good nesting places and homes for them, scatter a little seed around inside daily and protect them from enemies and the pigeons will stay at home.

Cats, owls and night hawks will

If these animals and birds are around the doors to the pigeon lofts should be closed at night or some trap set for the marauders.

There are patent alighting boards and doors now which automatically close after the pigeon goes inside and opens again at the will of the bird. These are good devices for keeping the enemies out but the shot-gun must often be called into service. In the fall of the year there is quite a demand for old pigeons for shooting clubs, and the old stock, which may be too tough to sell for their flesh, can often be disposed of in this way. The flocks should be increased as large as possible every year, for they like company, and it gives more life and interest to a place to see pigeons flying around in flocks.

N. E. P. A. ELECTION.

MEN WHO WILL HOLD THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT.

The annual meeting of the New England Pigeon Association was called to order by President Ather ton at 8.30 P. M., the evening of July 5th. Messrs. Atherton, Middleton, Haven, Murray, Kendall, Gavin, Mc-Lean, Pratt, Latimer, Ingram, Ford, Ferguson and Twombly were the members present. The records of the previous meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved, showing a balance of \$150.08. It was voted to proceed to election of officers for the ensuing year. President Atherton declined a re-election and the ballotting

	FOR PRESIDENT-First Ballot.
Dr. Ke	Ingram
	- Taven
As	a two-third vote was required
	was no choice.
	FOR PRESIDENT—Second Ballot.
C.E.	Twombly
	avin
	Haven10
Mr	. Haven was elected.
NT -	
1077.107	xt in order was the five vice
presi	dents. Each voted for five.
	FOR VICE-PRESIDENT-First Ballot.

J. Murray...... 2

Dr. Kendall 5
P. Williams 2
H. Wagner1
J. Ferguson
W. B. Atherton
A. A. Heroux 2
Mr. Gavin was the only one elected. FOR VICE-PRESIDENT—Second Ballot.
A. M. Ingram
Dr. Kendall 6
P. Williams 9
C. E. Ford
J. Ferguson 5
O. W. Bowman 3
R. Stowell 5
T. Connors 1
A. E. Pratt 1
W, J, Middleton 7
T. Latimer 1
W. B. Atherton 6
Mr. Williams was elected.
FOR VICE-PRESIDENT-Third Ballot.
Ingram 9 Kendall 4
Ford
Ferguson 2
Stowell
Middleton 2
Atherton 10
Messrs Ingram, Stowell and Atherton were elected.
ton were elected.
For Secretary.
Middleton 1
Ford
Ingram
Twombly10
Mr. Twombly was elected.
FOR TREASURER—First Ballot.
Kendall 1
Middleton 4
Ingram 7
No choice.
FOR TREASURER- Second Ballot.
Davis 1
Middleton 3
Ingram 9
Mr. Ingram was elected.
As Mr. Ingram had already been

elected vice-president, he resigned that office, and it was voted that the secretary cast a vote for Mr. Middleton for vice president. It was then voted that the chair appoint the executive committee. Messrs. Pratt, Murray and Ferguson were named, and a vote cast by the secretary. A vote of thanks was tendered the retiring officers, and as the business of the evening was over it was voted to adjourn.-C. E. TWOMBLY, Sec'y.

Always note our new ads.: Robinson (from England), Kline, Gleichman, Mehring, Orwan and Twombly O. W. Bowman 4 this week.

THE HEAD OF THE TURBIT.

Since I took upon myself to send you a short letter on Turbits, in reply to an inquiry from one of your correspondents, I have received several letters bearing upon the same, also I have been favored by one gentleman with a sketch of the Turbit's head, the delineations of which are drawn by the artist in such a manner as to answer as nearly as possible to my verbal illustration of the head properties of the Turbit, says W. F. Lumley in Fanciers' Gazette. The sketch itself is a very good representation of my ideal, and having been asked to further explain my views, I gladly comply with that which is asked of me-for my part craving your readers' forbearance if I am considered to be continually harping on one string, to the tune of toujours des perdrix. So great is the devotion of a true fancier to his hobby that he seems sometimes to be unmindful of the tax he knowingly may be laying on others. I hope what I am about to say may not be over-burdensome to any one. In describing a Turbit I might say, as a well-known and popular votary of the Homing pigeon often exclaims when rapt in admiration of a tip-top specimen of his fancy, "Ah, a Homer is a Homer," simply altering the name of the pigeon so highly appreciated into "Ah! a Turbit is a Turbit."

But such an exclamation will not do justice to the artist who has drawn the sketch of a Turbit's head so nearly representing my own views, as to greatly assist me in explaining them more fully for the profit of any one interested. Taking the tout ensemble of the diagram, I may say as to size it is as nearly as possible that of a standard living Turbit's headpiece, the length of which should measure not less than two inches from the frontal just over the wattle to the back of the head at the meeting point of peak and mane. The depth of the head, from the middle of the crown to a point drawn at a central point from the base of the under-mandible to the back of the mane, should also be about two inches. The width of the skull, if taken at a straight line through the head from the frontal bone just over the eyes, between the one and the other, should be one inch and threeeighths in cocks and one inch and aquarter in hens. If viewed sideways the measurement from the middle of the pupil of the eye to the ridge of the frontal should be, as nearly as possible, three-fourths of an inch, giving a space of at least half an inch from the outside edge of the eye-cere to the juncture of the mandibles. I do not admire a Turbit with very little space between the eye and mouth. As a rule, such specimens have small heads and are what some term Tumbler-fronted-a very objectionable feature in a Turbit. But let it be understood that this space should be fully developed, not showing any "sink" between mouth and eye. The gape of this pigeon-that is the distance from one side of the mouth to the other-should not be less than half an inch-if wider, so much the better-stout and well-filled over, and at the sides of the wattle.

The beak should be surmounted with a full, smooth, heart-shaped wattle, showing no wrinkles and measuring three-eighths of an inch from its outer or front edge to the edge nearest the eye. The space from the juncture of the mandibles to the edge of the eye cere should in no case be less than a quarter of an inch. As to the beak, this cannot be too stout, short and broad, provided that it is in keeping with the symmetrical structure of the frontal and gape, for a wide beak with a narrow gape or shrunken face is very hideous. The beak in this diagram I speak of, if measured, would be found to compass about half an inch at its inner point-that is, where it meets the top of the wattle and the gullet, so that each mandible at its thickest point is about a-quarter of an inch. I like both mandibles to be of about the same substance; a thin undermandible spoils the best bird, while, as a rule, a stout one is, in nine cases out of ten, the base on which all other excellencies of skull structure seem to rest; also be it noted that the lip edging of the under-mandible should be perfectly straight; a curl in this feature spoils the bird.

The upper-mandible has an almost imperceptible curve, but this is rather at its tip, which should slightly overlap the under one. This is not shown as I should like in the diagram; in fact, the latter shows rather the appearance of a bird which has had

tice which, while it improves some birds, spoils others-but for convenience to the bird itself in feeding, etc., I would advise fanciers to discontinue this practice, which has become almost general, and which does not carry much weight, after all, in the eyes of a good judge. At the back part of the crown a slight fall in the outline greatly shows off a good specimen, provided the peak rises well up at the rear to a needle point, reaching to about a quarter of an inch above the level of the highest rise of the crown of the head. Peak and mane, I urge, should show no break in their blending the one into the other; the cheek plumage below the eves should be abundant, and well projecting cushionwise.

The jowl below the mandibles and beak on towards the spring point of the gullet should be very full. From this the gullet should stretch out never less than a quarter of an inch to the base of the under-mandible, from which point it should fall in a rather stiff and stretched fashion downwards about half an inch to the meeting of the upper part of the frill, which in the Turbit should be rather of the "cravat" shape, running up and down, not in the rose or pearl style, as in the Owl pigeon.

Before concluding, I shall endeavor to meet an objection some may take as to the position of the beaki. e., that it is not such as nature will sanction. To this I reply that the special distinguishing feature of the Turbit as compared with the majority, if not with all the members of the pigeon tribe, is the formation of the frontispiece of the skull, of which feature the votary speaks not as is done with other pigeons-as the frontal or muzzle, etc.-but the word used is the same as the like feature of man is described, viz., "the face," the old fancy term being "frog-faced," and where do we find a face with the mouth on the same level as the eyes? Now the Turbit is a "down-faced" pigeon, and though the mandibles should most certainly be straight in their inner edges, and be on a direct line, without any arch or curve, with the center of the pupil of the eye, this line should be not as a level plain, but as a direct downward angle.

This will be seen by noting the position occupied by the inner ridges

with the inner point of the light reflection shown in the eye. Here, I repeat, we have the base, as it were, upon which the rest of the skull structure of this pigeon depends as to proof of its genuine and natural condition. The light reflection in the center of the eye does not reach to the outer ridge of the iris, vividly illustrating the bolting shape of the eye-orb itself, which really projects from the profile when viewed frontways, the light rays reflecting only on the outer and more prominent part of the iris and pupil, the inner part being shaded by the eyelash or cere. The only objection I would take to this part is that the eye itself is scarcely large enough, but I would not quarrel over this matter, provided, as I strongly contend should be the case, that the position of the mandibles as shown be adhered to.

BREEDING PIGEONS.

The difficulty experienced in breeding pigeons to a high standard of excellence is one of the charms in keeping them. Were this ideal lowered so that even careless breeders could succeed in producing pigeons by the score that realized or nearly realized it, it is doubtful if the pigeon fancy whould have as strong a hold upon mankind. One breeder would be easily the equal of another breeder, and in this universal mediocrity the fancy itself might sink out of sight. There would be, probably, people who would keep pigeons for pets, or for profit, but the zest of the keeping would be gone. The most precious things are those that are the most difficult to obtain. Said a celebrated German: "If truth were offered me in one hand, and the search for truth in the other, I would choose the latter." It is the constant effort, the incessant struggle after perfection which makes perfection itself so desirable.

There is no better field in which to exercise one's skill in breeding and no more plastic, and at the same time uncertam material upon which to work than is found in breeding pigeons. Whether it be size, length of feather, character of wattle, fulness of crop, perfection of hood, mane and chain, shortness or length of face, exquisite markings, or any other of the many properties that is the tip of the beak filed off-a prac- of the mandibles taken in connection | sought after, the breeder finds enough to employ his highest skill in and his most extensive knowledge of mating. Under the most careful hands failures are more numerous than successes, if by success is meant absolute perfection. Indeed, it may be doubted if success is ever attained, though close approximations to it are occasionally reached. It makes but little difference which variety of the socalled high-class pigeons is selected, the result is the same-always something better to be obtained.

"Man never is but to be blest."

The shape is not right, the crop is imperfect, the eye-wattle lacks character, the beak-wattle is too large or too small, the hood is too short, the chain too wide apart, the mane not full enough, the legs undesirable in formation or clothing, foul feathers here and there, the color too dull, ever something not as the breeder would have it, and still the birds are marvelous in their beauty.

He would not have them breed true if he could have his wish by uttering it. Much as the fancier laments his failures, he sometimes wishes that they would come right, but in his sober, thoughtful moments, he knows that the gratification of his wish would be the death-blow to his happiness in breeding pigeons.

And yet, how quickly do they respond to the hands of the skillful breeder! How out of very common stock in a few years he develops, by intelligent selection and mating, a strain of pigeons wonderful in some one or more properties! The fact that they breed so rapidly, and that changes in mating, when experience has shown the undesirable character of those already made, can be so easily and quickly made, accounts for the facility with which they can moulded. Another important factor must not be lost sight of; the act that they do not breed true is the reason why they can be so easily changed in characteristics. If they always bred true there would be no variations which could be seized upon by the breeder, and mate his flock ever so wisely, the young would be but their parents reproduced. But variations are constantly appearing, and these are made use of in mating to reach results that otherwise would be impossible.

It would be interesting to point out what has been accomplished in that Kuhn, Abel & Co. But if he had the N. E. P. A. It is needless to say direction, but it may be sufficient to seen, as I did, the enthusiasm shown the elected men are good ones.

state that in probability the Carrier and the Tumbler, Dragon and the Jacobin, the Pouter and the Barb, in a word, all our varieties of fancy pigeons came from a common ancestor-the Blue Rock pigeon. There still remains the opportunity to work out still other results equally interesting, and the fancier knowing this clings to the fancy with a tenacity of purpose that obtains in the breeding of nothing else.-N.

PIGEON ITEMS AROUND BOSTON.

BY OUR BOSTON CORRESPONDENT.

It seems to me that the writer who so boldly states in another journal that Mr. Johnnie Abel's trip out West was not productive of any good to the fancy is talking through his hat, else he has not read of the many wide steps onward that can be traced directly to that famous Western trip by Mr. Abel. At the late New York Show Mr. Abel was the only man present who took the stand in favor of Mr Kuhn and the American Pigeon Club. When every A. P. C. man at the show was crying them down he still held that Mr. Kuhn would pay those Nashville premiums in due time. We all know he was correct on that point. The A. C. A. was formed to benefit the pigeon fancy, and this is still its purpose, and if every officer had performed his duty as well as Mr. Abel has things would never have been mixed as they were a short time ago. Mr. Abel was bound the American Pigeon Club should not go under if he could help it, no matter what waves she had to breast. It is evident to all well informed that since the above men tioned trip matters pertaining to the American Pigeon Club have taken a decided boom, and the "still-born babe," as one of our accomplished writers has termed the club, has taken on surprising proportions and its power will be realized when the doors of its initial show are opened on the day of November 30th, 1893. All this has been done in less than 60 days, and no one can deny it is directly due the efforts of Mr. Abel.

Another writer has styled the American Pigeon Club as Messrs.

by every fancier around Boston over the arrival of these two gentlemen to our city he would come to the conclusion very quickly that, although Mr. Kuhn is the recognized head of the American Pigeon Club, he will not want for followers from this section when the call comes, and it is very plain to be seen that such are the sentiments from one end of the country to the other.

A large majority of all the promi nent fanciers in America are with the American Pigeon Club and place confidence in its more than popular president, and it will be very hard indeed for one or two, who form the opposing contingent, to shake the faith of the masses in the above-named. With so many good men all working for the one desired end, the coming show cannot help but be a grand success and one where the fanciers of America will all feel proud to exhibit their birds.

Through advice from Lawrence, I hear that Mr. Jesse Rutter, one of our best known white Fan breeders, has succeeded in placing some thirty or forty youngsters on the floor up to the present time, some of which are quite satisfactory to their owner, which must mean considerable. recently heard Mr. Rutter spoken of as the most scientific breeder in the country, and if more fanciers would study the matings of their pets a little more they would find the results would more than pay them for their trouble.

Mr. C. I. Nash, also of Lawrence, is breeding from four pairs of white Fans and has got eleven promising youngsters up to date. He has Ru ter stock and intends to show a few pair at Brockton next fall.

Mr. A. J. McLean, of Charlestown, has added a few pair of high-class Jacks to his collection, some of which he purchased direct from Mr. Atwood B. Hoskins. He reports very fair luck so far and has a few young white Fans that he thinks will develop into good ones.

The great event of the past week in Boston pigeon circles, and an affair of the deepest interest throughout New England, was the election of

ROUNDER BY THE SEA.

BY HIMSELF.

"What are the wild waves saving." Thus do I soliloquize as I sit ponderingly on the broad veranda at Atlantic City, where I am sojourning in an endeavor to recuperate my failing health. As I listen to the rush of the waves as they roll upon the beach they seem to convey the ever-nearness of my beloved hobby even nearer to me. Every wave as it rolls upon the beach and then recedes says. plain as day, "Roo-roo-roo-rukruk-roo!" Since I have been put in this frame of mind, and feeling a great deal better than usual this morning, I have taken the liberty to pen you a few lines, Mr. Editor, concerning the recent difficulties that have risen in the ranks of the fancy during the period of my enforced silence.

THE FANCIER has reached me regularly every week, and among the many good things embraced in its bright and entertaining pages I found one matter, I am sorry to say, that was as disgusting as it was painful. The matter to which I refer is the stand taken by Mr. Levering in offering specials for a show in direct, and I believe premeditated, opposition to the one proposed by the American Pigeon Club, and asked for by the members of the Baltimore Columbarian Society. Now I wish it understood that I am not taking up arms for the American Pigeon Club simply because I have some "grudge" against the A. C. A. that must be "evenedup" in the way of retaliation. This is not the case, for I always like to give a chance to anything or anybody which or who has the semblance of trying to do the square thing and employing honest methods only. As my readers will remember, I strongly recommended that the new club be given a show, for, as I gave expression to then, it bore evidence of a club whose future workings would have a great beneficial influence on the future welfare of our fancy, that its formation was not antagonistic to any body, but rather an organization whose prime object was the advancement of our hobby, mainly by holding exclusive pigeon shows. That it has pursued the path I predicted cannot be gainsaid, and I am pleased

to see such gentlemanly tactics em ployed in dealing with some few who have from the very first maintained a ridiculous opposition. That there are some of these unfortunates it is very evident. Such an act is entirely foreign to Mr. Levering, and there is no one in this broad land who is more thoroughly aware of this fact than myself. I have been quite intimate with Mr. Levering and flatter myself on being well posted in the ways of the whole family. I believe all he has done in the matter was at the instigation of some other, whom I am inclined to think is handling the reins and whispering direful stories of A. P. C. encroachment in the ears of W. T. I am confident Mr. Levering knows as well as I do that, if he gives the matter some reflection, he has done wrong in hearkening to these malcontents, and for his own sake, as well as that of our Monumental City, I hope he will recede from his former position, employ a little policy and leave the field to those who first occupied it-the American Pigeon Club.

But much as I was pained by the stand taken by Mr. Levering I was more so upon reading the reconsideration of the invitation extended by the Baltimore Columbarian Society to the American Pigeon Club. I cannot for the life of me even surmise what such men as Dr. White, Dr. Meyer, Gaddess, Broemer, Tiemann, Fick and Rommel could have been thinking of, or where their sense of chivalry was located, when they reconsidered that invitation. Are they not aware that such an action as this tends to cast a reflection upon them that at best is far from desirable? Such actions as these surely will not bring the club any credit from thorough and well thinking fanciers, and the sooner the club returns to their former good intention the more credit it will bring down upon itself and thereby help to atone for what was to all intents a foolish action.

But the protest pretending to Club are made of very good stay-

be signed by all the members of the club capped the climax. Well I was completely knocked out and disgusted, and if such a thing had appeared in any of our dailies I should have been apt to quit Baltimore, so ashamed was I that any intelligent body of men should stoop to allow themselves to be drawn into such a measure, and there is a terribly little bit of credit in it for the author and those who abetted him by signing it.

I am entirely disinterested in the matter and only look at it in the light of one who has nothing to gain or lose by the issue. In the first place, the society invited a club to hold its show in Baltimore. Two weeks after, they reconsider their extended invitation; then they protest against such a club holding its show in Now in the name of their city. common sense will some one tell me where is any consistency in such actions? Against what did they protest? If I mistake not, Webster defines the word "protest" in the following manner: "A solemn declaration, commonly against some act." May I ask what act the American Pigeon Club performed that required the issuing of a protest? Was it because the American Pigeon Club accepted an invitation that had been extended in all good faith, and which, I have been informed, had already been virtually accepted and their hall engaged, and from which they could not recede unless at a loss of probably several hundreds of dollars? Was it done because the American Pigeon Club could not be forced to relinguish something already done through the extended invitation? It seems so. But from late issues I see that the members of the American Pigeon

ing material and won't back down on any bluffs, as evinced by their list of specials and the very good classification provided. Of course, there can be some improvements made on this, but would it pay? That is the question. I judge the promoters of the Baltimore Show have spend lots of thought upon it, and the verdict is as rendered.

In making a round the other day I ran across a young fancier, Mr. R. H. Thompson, of Baltimore, who is stopping here for the summer.

THE HOMING PIGEON.

JOSEF V. PLEYEL.

Of late years the interest in Homing pigeons has been very considerably enhanced. Belgium takes the lead, but the other countries are not far behind. The facility with which the Homing pigeon determines its course is as yet unexplained. To attribute this knowledge of direction to instinct is merely a confession of ignorance. It is much rather sight, reflection and sensation which guide the Homing pigeon on its course, and rarely guides it wrong. The same faculty is possessed by all migatory birds. To form an intelligent conception of this faculty, we must either assume a special sense or a delicate sensitiveness to atmospheric currents. Experiments by baloonists have shown that pigeons are incapable of flying at any great height. Birds thrown out at 6,000 metres fell like dead, and even at the moderate height of 300 metres pigeons liberated by the balloonist Gaston Tissandier approached the earth in a spiral course. It is evident, hence, that they are guided not by sight. To bring a point 300 miles distant within the range of vision, it would be necessary to ascend nearly 20,000 metres. The Homing pigeon, starting on such a journey, must conse quently start with faith in the unseen.

As regards the speed of flight of Homing pigeons, there is considerable divergence of opinion. The Belgian birds are admittedly the

best, and the greatest achieved speed of a Belgian bird is given as 150 kilometres (over ninety-five miles) within the hour. In favorable weather a good bird will cover thirty to thirtyfive miles in an hour. The greater the distance the smaller the probability of the prompt return of the bird. At a distance of, say a hundred miles, almost all birds return safely if the weather is favorable, but at distances of four or five hundred miles it is imimpossible to reckon confidently on the bird's return. It appears curious, but it is a well established fact, that as the bird nears its home its speed is accelerated.

The question has frequently been raised as to whether the male or female pigeon is the better for racing contests. Practically there is nothing to choose between them when both are in condition, but a laying female should never be taken for the sport.

The Homing pigen is not, as many suppose, a distinct variety. All domestic pigeons are presumably descended from the Blue-rock pigeon, and all are more or less suited to the purpose. The common pigeon is not used, for, although a rapid flyer for short distances, he has no great staying powers.

One of the best pigeons for the purpose is the Tumbler (Columba gyratise) whose sense or sensation of direction is very strongly developed, and who rarely loses his way. The Tumbler flies higher than most birds of the genus, and will continue circling in the air for hours; he has all the necessary staying power for long flight and a great love of his home. Still many of these birds leave much to be desired. In the first place, they are likely to waste time before setting out on their return; again, they are liable to fall victims to birds of prey; and, lastly, they are especially liable to diseases of the eye, which frequently result even in total loss of sight. Another bird of equal speed and endurance is the Persian "Homer."

In the first year the trainer rarely lets the test exceed from 60 to 90 miles. The following year the distance may be extended to 250 miles, and in the third year, when the bird is at the height of his powers, the limit may be extended to 350 or 400 miles.

able divergence of opinion. The In the last year of training the first Belgian birds are admittedly the flight is from 120 to 130 miles, termi-

nating in a contest which usually extends to about 300 miles. The longest contests are from 400 to 700 miles. Before entering a bird for the contest it should be carefully examined as to its fitness, and the feet cleaned, washed, dried and oiled. Some trainers start their birds with empty crops with the idea that it will make them more eager to get home. This is a great mistake. The famished bird is liable to be exhausted by long sustained effort.

COLD EGGS.

A CHAPTER ON IN-BREEDING.

A breeder's motto thould be: Nil desperandum, remarks "Druid" in Feathered World. Going into my Turbit loft a few mornings since, I saw two Turbit eggs lying on the floor, quite cold, having been kicked out of the nest pan. One of them was intact, but the other was badly cracked; some of the albumen had escaped, and from the hole dug in it I fear it was the work of a mouse. Although cold, cracked and part of the white lost, I had no thought of throwing that egg away, experience having taught me that if I did so I should, perhaps, be throwing away a living Consequently my first work was to carefully wipe the shell dry, and whilst I was doing this my attendant was fleet of foot to get some gummed slips to go round the egg to hold the same together. To replace the egg in the same nest would have been useless, and to place it advantageously with other sitting birds I had to shift the eggs of three pairs of birds, which was done whilst they were feeding. In a week's time I believe I shall have a squab from that cracked egg.

To breed successfully one must be gifted with patience, be of a sanguine disposition and not easily put out by the little worries incidental to bird culture. No doubt there exists a great deal of prejudice against inbreeding in the culture of pigeons and other feathered stock which really cannot be justified. Personally, I do not advocate it nor adopt it, so what I may add hereon is unbiased. If we study birds in their wild state we find that blood-crossing is the rule and not the exception.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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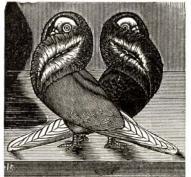
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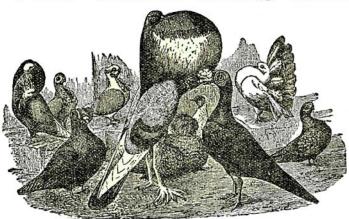
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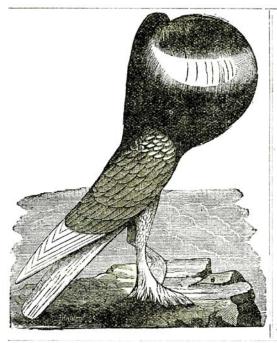
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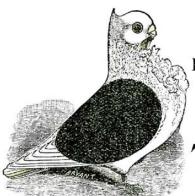
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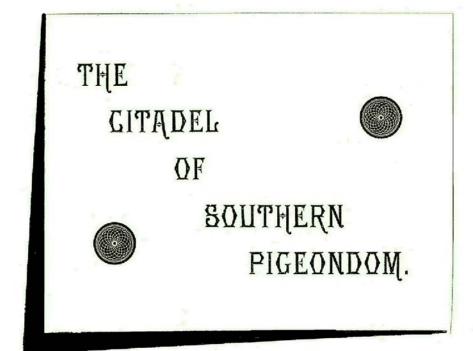
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