

PIGEONS AND PIGEON WORLD



Lovely aren't they? If you are not an expert pigeon breeder can you name them? To what group do they belong? Can they feed their own young? For the answer please turn to page 172.

OPEN THE DOOR AND LET THE NOVICE IN

By J. Nelmes

AFTER 50 years' experience as a pigeon-lover and keeper, I fail to know of any sure and certain way by which a person who does not love pigeons can be converted into a pigeon fancier, because beauty is in the eye and not in the object we behold, and all the good and beautiful things of this life cannot be handed down from father to son. Pigeon-lovers, therefore, are born and not made.

I have read that "Man in his earnest desire to preserve the thing he loves, by his own selfish acts destroys it," and I think this applies to some extent to the pigeon fancy. We live in a democratic age, therefore the fancy pigeon body must be democratic to survive.

There are several methods practised by pigeon fanciers which should be abolished, as they are detrimental to the well-being and growth of the fancy, as many a beginner has left the fancy, disgusted with the treatment and raw deals he has received.

I suggest a few "Don'ts" which, if adopted, will help to clear the atmosphere which surrounds our hobby.

Don't commercialise our hobby, but sell birds at a reasonable price to anyone who applies for them, independent of their social position. Don't advertise your throw-outs in glowing terms, but rather, when sending them on approval, send also particulars of their faults and failings.

Don't exhibit birds under a judge who bred them, as this places him in a difficult position, because he is bound to have a tendency to lean towards the type of bird he breeds and there is no honour in these wins.

This is a case for the N.P.A. Don't allow judges officiating at shows to exhibit at the same show under different judges. If this rule was in force it would dispel the suspicion which exists. Suspicion is an evil spirit which causes trouble even when there is no wrong.

We want to abolish these things and open the door and let the novice in; it is useless crying out for recruits when there are so many barriers in the way.

YORKSHIRE COLUMBARIAN SOCIETY

A COMMITTEE meeting of the Yorkshire Columbarian Society was held on April 2nd, Mr. E. P. Morton in the chair, members present, including W. Watmough, R. Baldwin, A. Bebb, E. Bottomley, T. J. D. Fawcett, F. Turpin, T. K. Child, T. H. Singleton and J. W. Walker.

It was decided to affiliate the club to the National Pigeon Association and that Mr. George E. Holroyd be the representative.

The club intends to hold a show at the end of the year for adults and youngsters. The following shows will be supported with specials and Diplomas: Leeds ch. show, Otley, Hebden Bridge, Batley, Mirfield, Halifax, Stokesley, Bradford agric., Ilkley, Silsden, Penistone, Bingley and York agric. show.

It was suggested that the club should have diplomas and these were left in the hands of Mr. Watmough. Diplomas will be awarded to shows where two or more specials are given.

Since the meeting one of the vice-presidents has consented to give a 5/- special for best Racing pigeon at all the above shows with the exception of Leeds show (12 shows in all).

The first two shows to be held with our support are Otley and Hebden Bridge and particulars of our specials will not be in their schedule but will be in the catalogue. Schedules will be sent to all fully paid-up members.

We look forward to all these shows being well supported by members.

A few weeks ago I had a letter from Mr. Martin, H.M. Coastguard, Filey, who is interested in Tipplers, and he would like show secretaries to consider putting a Tippler class or two on at their coming shows.

Membership to the society is open to all pigeon fanciers. Subscriptions are: Patrons £1 is., members 5/-. Any fancier wishing to join and compete for these specials should send his subscription along to me.

Any member competing for specials must mark his entry form Y.C.S. Specials are confined to paid-up members.

JOSEPH W. WALKER, hon. sec.
Kerlaw, 21 Rowlands Avenue, Dalton, Huddersfield

ORIENTAL FRILL CLUB

THIS is to remind Frill fanciers that efforts have been made to get good shows to put on a satisfactory classification for the breed, and to suggest judges and offer specials.

The following shows at present will have full classes and judges: Otley, Blackpool,

Altrincham, Bingley, Ilkley, Leeds, Dairy, Birmingham, and there will probably be others not yet arranged.

The best birds are now in many hands, and probably the entries will be smaller from some studs owing to this. It is, therefore, up to members to enter all they possibly can at these shows otherwise some of these classes will be dropped next season.

Frills are in a very good position at present and it is entirely up to fanciers to keep them so. As one who has helped to keep them going through the war years I hope this chance of good classes with specialist judges at good shows will be able to be continued.

Printed lists of club members will be sent to all show secretaries, where there are classes for Frills.

GILBERT BENTLEY, Hon. Sec.

EXHIBITION HOMER SOCIETY

THE officers of the Exhibition Homer Society elected for 1947 are: Committee (8): W. Lillford 17, E. A. Mintoft 16, E. Taylor 16, J. W. Denham 14, H. F. Fox 12, R. G. Tomley 12 (ex-officio), P. Taylor 12 (ex-officio), W. Woodhouse 11, R. W. Allison 8, H. Crookes 8, Judges (8): P. Taylor 19, R. G. Tomley 18, W. Lillford 17, J. W. Denham 16, J. J. Mackay 14, E. Taylor

HOW TO BEGIN IN EXHIBITION CAVY KEEPING

By C. V. B. TAYLOR.

MR. J. R. DUNCOMBE writes: "Since being 'demobbed' I have read much about cavy in FUR AND FEATHER. (I first got to know about this interesting weekly while with H.M.F.) As far as I know, there are no local cavy fanciers in my district (Marston), so I am turning to you for advice. I want to keep cavy as a hobby on a small scale, with the exhibiting side in view more than anything else, and I want to know if it is necessary to purchase show stock for a start, in order to breed winners?"

No, it is not essential to start with winning cavy, although I do not depreciate the use of exhibition specimens for the breeding pen. Some fanciers I am afraid, rely too much on the face value of stock. My advice is, start with good class breeding cavy from a reliable source, but don't expect good cavy at about 5/- each. Just because a cavy has not the essential points of a show specimen, it does not follow that it is useless for producing exhibition stock, providing it is bred correctly.

While building up a stud one is sure to breed a number of cavy that are not up to show standard, but the possibilities are there. Some characteristics are latent, but these will assert themselves at some time. I say this especially to the novice if you are disappointed with your first mating results, do not adopt a "fed up" attitude and give up in disgust. Stick it, and you will probably find you have not been "led up the garden path" and left there, as you previously thought. Keep on trying, instead, and use your head when balancing up your cavy for the breeding pen, making a note of exactly how each animal is bred.

The road to success even in guinea pig breeding, it is not an easy one, and I have not yet found any really short cuts, and on the journey there have been a few bumpy patches and concealed turnings!

By obtaining initial stock from one source or strain, and working on sensible lines, you will stand a much better chance of breeding winners than by using cavy of different strains from here, there, and everywhere, without any knowledge of their previous make-up.

When purchasing cavy, do not forget to ask their previous owners how they have been fed, and try to follow with a similar diet, especially when buying winners, for many winning cavy in fresh hands fail to get the red cards for lack of condition, owing in most cases to different feeding methods.

AROUND THE CAVY CLUBS

ENGLISH SELF CAVY CLUB

I HAVE received a letter from Mr. W. Dinning of Consett, on the question that has haunted our hobby ever since its birth: "Over age in young classes."

He says: "I have been victimised by three judges at different shows with genuine youngsters. At one show in particular, I sent three youngsters. I won first and third, and the other was passed as over age. It was the youngest of the three."

The term over age, or too developed, will still keep turning up in judges' reports until

13, E. Waller 12, F. A. Duke 8, W. Woodhouse 8, R. C. Tomley and P. Taylor are ex-officio members of the committee; F. A. Duke and W. Woodhouse tied for eighth place on the judges' list. 24 papers were returned.
H. S. WHITEHEAD.

DEATH OF MR. HERBERT DRIVER

ANOTHER very old pigeon fancier has passed away. Herbert Driver, Keighley, died on Friday last at the age of 76. He had been suffering from bronchitis and heart trouble.

Herbert Driver was the oldest living devotee of the Antwerp, a variety to which his devotion has never wavered. He was recognised as being a good breeder and an excellent judge of this old breed, for which in the years gone by Keighley was famous. Although the popularity of the Antwerp waned, Mr. Driver never lost his affection for it, and always hoped to see a revival in the Antwerp's fortunes.

In my opinion he was never the same man physically after the death of his wife in the winter of 1945, followed by the tragic death of his daughter in Canada a fortnight after her arrival in that country following her marriage to a Canadian.

Readers will join me in expressing sincere sympathy to Miss Driver in the great loss which she has sustained.

W. WATMOUGH.

HARRY FIELD MOVES TO HULL

WE understand that Mr. Harry Field has moved his birds to Hull. This will please him. The lofts were held up by the Town Planning Committee, but were eventually approved. These lofts are a credit to Hull and especially to our Show Homer enthusiast. We wonder what Harry will do with his places at Beverley. They should be very useful to some good fancier who is going to repair or, better still, replace his lofts. Harry will have to part with them, for he cannot erect them in Hull. These lofts are in three lots, with special single places to house 14 single pairs, and a good pen room with a loft attached to house about 18 hens. The buildings are all sectional and practically new. If any of our readers are interested they should get busy!

THE Fantail Club has recently issued its year book for 1947, and this is a good sign of the progressiveness and activity of the club. The book, though only a slim volume, has much that will be of interest to members. It contains the rules of the club, the Fantail standards, lists of trophies and club judges, honours list, and a complete list of members.

someone comes along with a solution. Several methods have been tried but without success.

The following prefixes have been registered with the club: Myrtle, Mr. B. Waterhouse, and Pennine Stud, Mr. M. Coates. Shows are becoming more plentiful now, and as the English Self Cavy Club gives support to all who put in a Self Classification, I would advise all "Self" fanciers to join the club. The subscriptions are 5/- single, same for partnership and 3/- juveniles.—Charles J. Wilson, hon. sec. and treasurer, 50, Roschill Rd., Rawmarsh, near Rotherham.

PERUVIAN CAVY CLUB

THE membership of the Peruvian Cavy Club now stands at 22. I have had one resignation.

I have been in touch with a few show secretaries and I have guaranteed classes. At one show I have guaranteed classes in conjunction with Mr. Cheshire. I appeal to every member to give Peruvian classes their support; one entry per member will do nicely.

One very pleasing feature of the 1947 ballot for officers is the fact that 21 papers out of 22 were returned. This was splendid; it denotes interest in the club. The subs. in future will be 5/- per year, and will become due on Jan. 1st. I shall be pleased to enrol any Peruvian fancier who is not yet a member. Watch FUR AND FEATHER show advert. columns for classes.

Officers elected for 1947 were: President, Mrs. E. M. Perry (unopposed); vice-president, T. P. Perry 10, Miss Batholomew 4, R. P. Woods 2, hon. sec. and treas., Percy Ashley (unopposed); committee (4): G. Cheshire 13, Miss Bartholomew 9, Allan Bishop 9, C. V. B. Taylor 6 (elected on president's casting vote); Not elected: T. Surtees 6, N. Orange 6, T. P. Perry 6, A. Tipper 5, R. P. Woods 2. Judges (4): Percy Ashley 15, Allan Bishop 10, T. P. Perry 9, T. Surtees 9 (elected on president's casting vote), N. Orange 9, A. Tipper 8, R. P. Woods 3; scrutineer, R. Wilson (unopposed). In favour of subscriptions being 5/- per year: Yes 16, No none. 21 papers were received and 3 were spoilt.

In the near future I hope to publish a Year Book. Will anyone willing to subscribe to it or have an advert. in it please let me know? A Year Book costs money, and small clubs cannot stand the expense. Nevertheless, we will have a Year Book, and I do not think it will cost the club anything.—PERCY ASHLEY, 102, Great Jackson St., Hulme, Manchester 15.

WEST OF ENGLAND CAVY CLUB

THE WESTON cavy show was held on Easter Monday. There were over 100 entries with Agoutis and Whites outstanding. The secretarial arrangements were in the hands of Mr. H. Chilcote, backed up by a hard-working committee. All stock was well fed during the day. The chief winners were: Brazil, Bullen, Trigger, Westcott, Ware, Morrell, Hicks, Rooke, Bowhay, Owen, Disney, Knowles, Hind.

The West of England Cavy Club held its first meeting and a good muster of members was present, with Mr. Bruford Kelly at its (Continued on following page, col. 3).

Better and Brighter Mouseries

BY C. H. JOHNSON

IN the course of my travels I have visited many mouseries and at times I have been astounded at the utter lack of system, tidiness and cleanliness; slips of paper or card roughly stuck on the boxes, dirt and refuse on the floor, boxes of odd shapes and sizes piled one on top of the other in any old style, creating a highly-pigged appearance and a sense of desolation. It is agreed that many good mice have been bred under these conditions, but how much better to the eye if a system of cleanliness and tidiness is introduced.

Get or make your boxes all alike and of one shape—the design matters little so long as they are well ventilated.

Before putting into use, give the boxes a liberal dose of creosote on the inside for it is a fine preservative and prevents, to some extent, the moisture soaking into the wood.

I favour the painting of the outside of the boxes—mid brunswick green is my colour—for it improves the appearance and again assisits wear and tear.

Place the boxes on shelves or racks for this facilitates feeding, cleaning and easy reference.

When recording particulars of the mice on the boxes, don't stick the card in an odd position. Cut the cards of one shape and design—I favour a card of approximately 2 in. square—and then affix it to the box in a central position with a drawing pin.

Clean the nest box at least once a week and the runs twice a week for by so doing much of the mousey smell will evaporate.

Have a hand brush, sweeping brush and shovel handy and keep the shelves and floor of your mousery free from dirt and grime.

Keep a bottle of disinfectant for boxes, shelves and floor and don't be afraid to use it.

If you follow these elementary rules, the result will be a sense of satisfaction, a source of pride and most emphatically a better advertisement, should you have visitors, for our long-tailed friends.

NAT. MOUSE CLUB NOTES

By R. WARD, 57, Chantrey Rd., Sheffield 8.

Coming Events:—

May 17th—Sheffield Spring Cup Show.
May 31st—Hebden Bridge.
June 24th—London.

THAT Jack Wormald's recent articles for notices were appreciated is proved by the letters I still keep receiving, which ask for further information on various points.

One thing which should be made clear is that it is impossible to lay down absolutely hard and fast rules on cages, etc. Each fancier has his own ideas and if they give him satisfaction and keep his stock sound and healthy there is nothing more to be said.

Mr. Blackett, Tipton, tells me he enjoyed the articles and makes a suggestion which I consider well worth passing on. He says: "The partitions in boxes I find are much better left unnailed. If they are cut to the right width a matchstick used as a wedge will hold them securely. When cleaning out all dirt is removed and the size of the nest compartment can be adjusted easily to the size of the litter. Holes cut halfway up the partition keep the youngsters in the nest longer than holes cut at the bottom."

"All my stock survived the cold spell and I put it down mainly to increasing the nest accommodation and using plenty of dry hay."

"I think novices should be warned that while creosote will certainly be effective in stopping mice gnawing it is detrimental to the coats of white mice used for show purposes."

"Mr. Wormald's illustration of a rack for cages shows the shelves all covered with boards. This, I have found, does not give proper ventilation. I prefer two light batens, placed lengthways and covered crossways with thin strips of box wood, three inches wide and two inches apart. This helps considerably to prevent condensation."

"I noticed at shows last year an increasing number of Maxey show cages, which were not painted according to the standard, the wire door being red instead of green."

To take Mr. Blackett's points in order. I think his idea of a movable nest partition an excellent one, which I shall try myself, but I am not so sure about the idea of the open work shelves. In my own mousery I have both kinds and while the open ones are certainly better for ventilation it is a bit awkward when a valuable mouse gnaws a hole in the bottom of the box.

It does happen sometimes and if there is just an open space beneath, it is all up with the roamer, especially if, as in my case, the cat is usually in the hut first.

With regard to the colour of the Maxey show cage it is a question I am not going to argue about. The definition in the rule book states, "coloured outside green and inside red," but I know that it is usual to see more cages with the wire door all red. Views from our older fanciers on this topic would be of interest.

A letter from a new member brings up a matter which has often been discussed between fanciers. This is the size of the biggest litter known.

This gentleman tells me that he was for some time in charge of a large number of mice in a laboratory and did a certain amount of experimenting to find if this capacity for breeding big litters was transmitted. He goes on to say, "I think if you breed with a buck from a large litter and a similar doe you stand a 3 to 1 chance of getting big litters. I had one tribe of mice that never produced less than fifteen."

The record figure which this gentleman gave me as his biggest litter amazed me and I should like to hear from other fanciers what their record litter is.