

into buff, but the R. I. Red Standard calls for clear red undercolor, free from slate, which is one of the points which separates the breeds.

In all the above I have not said one word about condition, but for the love of poultry, don't send a bird to a show that is not in the pink of condition, for sickness is often contracted by the healthiest birds, and the loss of a valuable show bird is something one never ceases to regret.

Our doctor's son at home always wanted chickens, but never attained his desire until he was married and settled in a home of his own. Then "Gene" bought a sitting of the best eggs he could get from a veteran Barred Rock breeder and raised a pen of beauties. He exhibited them, and won over the veteran himself. A prouder fellow I never saw, and his joy was the delight of all who knew him. Even his skeptical father enjoyed his victory, and the way he hung around that pen was a sight to see. Well, a couple of weeks after the show, his father stopped me on the street to tell me that "Gene's" cockerel had died. I tried to console him by telling him how many I had lost from show room colds, but he testily stopped me, saying, "You are an old soldier and are used to it, but this is poor 'Gene's' first birds." Verily, I thought, the Frenchman Rider Haggard tells about has lots of relatives. You know the Frenchman was dreadfully frightened when the boat shot into the side of the mountain, in the underground river, and in the darkness, amid the roaring waters of that dreadful cavern, he prayed his prayer. "O Lord save me, never mind the rest, let them drown, for they are used to it, but O! Dear Lord, do save me."

One word in parting and I am done. Don't bank too much on winning. Do the best you can, and await the outcome with patience, and remember this motto: "Blessed are they who expect nothing, for they shall not be disappointed."

#### Like Sparking.

Judge Chas. McClave, the genial and popular ex-President of the A. P. A. says: "Fitting birds for the show-room is like sprucing up to go sparking, and it is no worse to put a bird in the best condition possible than for a pretty girl to curl her hair when she expects a beau." But remember that missing feathers will count

against a bird just the same as though they were present and off-colored, perhaps more, and where birds have broken their wing-flights fighting through fences, it detracts from their chances of winning.—Mrs. Metcalf in California Cultivator.

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