

In the case of fancy mice, the first enemy—the cat—is easily guarded against, as she cannot get through a space less than two inches in width. Rats sometimes, although not often, cause trouble, and with them a morsel of singed or “frizzled” bacon or cheese, proves a stronger temptation than grain, and consequently they are easily trapped. They also have a great antipathy to tar or carbolic acid, generally giving places strongly scented with these articles a very wide berth. Where it is not convenient to use these, wire netting of three-quarter-inch mesh is an efficient safeguard.

Wild mice are about the greatest living enemy that the fancier has to contend with, and the only plan to pursue with these is to catch all you can, and lay sheets of glass over the wired portion of the cages in which the fancy animals are kept. If the wild ones can gain access to those which are tame, they fight until one or both are killed. In country places, sometimes, though fortunately very rarely, a stoat or weasel will sometimes obtain an entrance, but, as with the wild mice, a sheet of glass is the best preventive of harm.

Insects are sometimes present in dirty cages, but frequent changes into clean cages soon gets rid of these unwelcome visitors. A drop or two of carbolic acid on the floor of the cage, or a little fine sulphur, dusted amongst the sawdust, is a very good thing where there are many insects. Cleanliness is, however, the best cure.

Roughness of coat and general debility is generally caused by overcrowding in too small cages, and the remedy is patent. Plenty of room, and not too many in a cage, is the remedy for this ailment. If however, it arises from old age, there is no cure.

Asthmatical complaints, for which there is no cure, are caused by exposing the animals to damp and cold, and where this is not done asthmatical mice are scarce. Skin diseases sometimes appear, and for these, as for the preceding, there is no cure. In all cases where a bad disease exists in any animal, and the disease is incurable, the most merciful thing for them is a sudden, and as painless a death as can be devised.

*Teaching Tricks.*—This is a question of time, and no royal road to the art exists. The first thing to be overcome is *fear*, both in the animal and teacher, and, until this is achieved, no success worth mentioning can be attained. Constant acquaintance is required for this first step, handling carefully but firmly, and, above all things, feeding the subjects immediately after they have received their lesson, which lesson should not be too prolonged. After tameness is obtained, these lessons should be commenced; and as all of them partake of the same nature, we will only describe one, and that is bringing down a flag from the top of a pole. For this purpose a round stick about eighteen inches long, and half an inch (or less) in diameter, is required, and a small paper flag or two—the stick made of a match, and the flag about half an inch square, or it may be triangular, as best suits the taste. The pole should be roughened with some coarse sandpaper, and the handle of the flag should be scented with a small drop of oil of aniseed, and then placed on the top of the pole. The mouse should be allowed to smell the flag before placing it in position, and, in nine cases out of ten, it will at once ascend to the flag and bring it down. If it does not do so, the same process should be gone through; and if not effective, a flag that has tallow on the stick should be substituted; and should this not prove attractive, the lesson should cease for the day. Each time the flag is brought down, a grain or two of canary seed should be given the animal; and if these lessons are persisted in for a week or two, that trick will be most effectually learned, and another can be taken in hand. Always give lessons before feeding, and every time the mouse is successful give a reward. Never give sugar in any form, as it causes a disease of the liver.

Short daily lessons are far preferable to long intermittent ones, as the lessons are not then forgotten.

White, lavender, and fawn mice are the easiest to train, then piebalds, and, lastly, black, but these latter are very dull in learning.

*Conclusion.*—We hope the foregoing will be found of use to mice-fanciers, being the results of our own practice, and we were very successful. The smallness and beauty of the animals render them easy to keep, and the cost of food is very small, amounting to a mere trifle in a large collection. The value of the animals is large, when good colored ones are obtained, and they are always salable. The cages may be made by anyone, and at a small cost, unless large fancy cages are used, and, as a pet, for quietness and agility, it is not to be surpassed. The great enemy—offensive smell—is not noticed to any appreciable degree, if our rules are followed; and we are sure no one will object to such a slight scent as they give off when kept clean. As the animals, as a rule, are so healthy, no expense in medicines has to be defrayed, and, as this is not the rule with the generality of other pets, it is an immense advantage. We may add that the price for ordinary colors varies from one shilling to five shillings per pair, while unusual colors fetch from five shillings to ten shillings per pair, as a rule, while it sometimes happens that a tortoise-shell will fetch double that amount.—*Bazaar.*

## YOUNG FOLKS' CORNER.

(For Fanciers' Journal.)

### ARRIVALS AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.

Arrivals ending June 26th, 1877.

1 Virginia Deer (*Cervus virginianus*). Born in Garden. 1 Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), presented. 7 Prairie Dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). Born in Garden. 4 Chequered Tortoises (*Emys picta*), presented. 2 Flying Squirrels (*Pteromys volucella*), presented. 2 Alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*), presented. 3 Gray Foxes (*Vulpes virginianus*), presented. 2 Parrakeet Cockatoos (*Calopsitta novae hollandiae*). Born in Garden. 2 Verbet Monkeys (*Cercopithecus lalaudii*), purchased. 1 Llama (*Lama peruana*). Born in Garden. 1 White-eared Parrot (*Conurus leucotis*), presented. 1 Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), presented. 1 Iguana (*Iguana tuberculata*), purchased. 2 Barred Owls (*Syrnium nebrelosum*), purchased. 1 Pennants Parrakeet (*P. pennanti*), purchased. 1 Yellow Parrot (*Conurus luteus*), purchased. 10 Common Seals (*Phoca irtulina*), 30 70, purchased. 1 Water Snake (*Nerodia fusciata*), presented. 1 Virginia Deer (*Cervus virginianus*). Born in Garden. 2 Prairie Dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). Born in Garden. 1 Bactrian Camel (*Camelus bactrianus*). Born in Garden.

ARTHUR E. BROWN, Gen'l Sup't.

(For Fanciers' Journal.)

### ZOO NOTES NO. 35.

BY HUON.

#### PETER THE RHINOCEROS.

Of the rhinocridæ the Philadelphia “Zoo” holds but a single specimen. That one, however, as he weighs over 6,000 lbs., and consumes about 100 lbs. of hay, a bushel or so of bran meal, and whatever quantity of vegetables and other goodies he can obtain, together with some thirty gallons of water per day, may be thought quite enough, and, considering him from all points, his name might appropriately be extended from the simple “Pete” of his keeper to that of

“PETER THE GREAT.”

Peter was born in India, about the year 1856. Quite young was he when he was forced away from his native home, on the marshy border of some river of India, and motherless he had to be made before his abduction could be effected. Quite small, too, he was; yet small as he was, he fought for his poor, dying parent—who loved him—the best he knew how, though, before his horn grew, he was not a very formidable antagonist. He could then only butt with his unwieldy head, or bite with his strong, young teeth. He has a long life before him, and should he meet with no accident, Peter will doubtless live out his full hundred years. Of his kind there are but two species, which, however,

branch out into several varieties, Africa possessing four, one of which is black and another white, each having two horns, the white being the largest of all the rhinoceros tribe. No specimen of his kind has ever been seen alive in America. Next to him in size stands rhinoceros Indicus, whom our friend Peter very well represents.

*Halchen*—"What an ugly beast it is, though."

*Grampy*—"I do not think any animal is ugly, save in temper; but perhaps that is what Peter thought of himself when, some few years ago, in charge of his keeper, he was passing a very large mirror, he caught sight of himself, and, it may be, thinking the mirror was casting some reflections upon his graceful person, he suddenly made a dash at it with his powerful head, and fractured it into a thousand pieces."

*Halchen*—"How do the hunters capture such huge beasts?"

*Grampy*—"They are never captured alive save when quite young, and at that time the rhinoceros is gentle, kind, obedient, and even grateful for kind treatment, though, from its infancy, it is subject to occasional fits of anger, without any apparent provocation, and at such times he performs some very strange antics. I have seen Pete here get his blood up, at nothing that I could perceive, and, for a time, make things lively for his keeper, who would have to beat a sudden retreat up the ladder you see there behind the sheet-iron fender, placed there for the purpose of allowing the keeper to escape from the infuriated animal. When in one of his tantrums, Pete's skin seems to change into a salmon-pink color, and a heavy perspiration breaks out on him which scents the pachyderma house with brimstone, as though his sweat had been passed through a sulphur mine."

*Halchen*—"How was such a terrible unwieldy fellow brought into the garden?"

*Grampy*—"Well, we will begin with his arrival at the W. P. R. R. depot, where we find him in a kind of strong wagon, built especially for him, in which he was brought from his last home on a railway truck. The wagon was none of your Jenny Lind's, or phaetons, but a good, broad-tired, solid oak construction, weighing some 4,000 lbs., which, with the three tons of rhinoceros, took the combined strength of eight strong mules to 'tote' to the garden, and, even then, there was more than one stick-in-the-mud on the road. Once or twice, on the way, Pete would take a notion to suddenly fall back on his haunches in the rear part of the wagon, which, acting like a break, would bring the eight mules up all standing, when it would be full two minutes before they could get started again. Arriving in the garden, the wagon was driven to the door of the then elephant house, where a trench had been dug to place the floor of the vehicle on a level with that of the house, that Pete might the better take possession. But now came another difficulty. The animal's head was the wrong way to make his entry in any other manner than rear foremost. There was no room for either he or the wagon to turn, and so a stout cable was placed about his neck, and a gentle hint, by a pull from all the keepers in the garden, placed at the other end of the cable, told his highness to 'move on.' Whenever Pete would move, the pullers were careful to gather up the slack, to prevent him from heaving ahead, and thus the home-bringing was accomplished."

*Halchen*—"I have heard that the rhinoceros has a natural antipathy to the elephant. Is that true?"

*Grampy*—"No, for they are found in the forests of Asia and Africa, roaming together in perfect peace, feeding side by side on herbage, leafy twigs, and shrubs; and one in the London 'Zoo' contradicted that story as long as he lived, for he would not only allow the elephant to tickle him, stroke his ears, and give his tail a sly pull with his trunk, but he, in turn, after cutting up a clumsy caper or two, would nibble at said trunk with his huge, flexible snout as though it was great fun, and would always enter the bathing tank the moment his friend, the elephant, left it. But Pete did have a deep and lasting antipathy to the Empress, the largest elephant ever shown in America and who died in the Garden in 1875. That antipathy arose from some offense the Empress gave Pete, years ago, when they were both members of the same menagerie. What the particular cause of the quarrel was, I know not, but one day Pete, suddenly, with head down, eyes flashing, and with a fearful roar, made a dash at the Empress, and would have made short work of her ladyship but that she saw him coming, and just at the nick of time she raised one of her delicate forefeet—it measured just forty eight inches in cir-

cumference—and placed it on Pete's neck in such a solid manner that the angry brute would have had the life pressed out of him in less than no time had not several of the keepers interfered and separated the gigantic belligerents. Pete never forgot, it seems, or forgave, and when he was brought into the 'Zoo,' the Empress being there before him, especial care was taken that they should not see one another, though they must stand side by side on the same floor; so a strong board partition was temporarily placed between the cages until they could get them safely housed. The supposed trouble was barely averted, for Pete, in the half turn he had to make to get into his house, brought his ponderous weight against the partition, and solid as it appeared to be, it went down like so many building blocks, or a child's house of cards; for

'He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood.'

*Halchen*—"Are'nt you drawing it rather strong, Grampy?"

*Grampy*—"That's what we read of him, or an animal much like him in the book of Job, and, Halchen Mio, if you will but cast one of your almond eyes at the strong walls, and huge iron bars, and stone floor which confine him, you will come to the conclusion that their massive strength means something, and his keeper will tell you that it is none too great to hold him. You would see a wild time here should Pete's blood be up and he break loose. A rhinoceros in the London 'Zoo,' not long ago, took umbrage at an iron railing which imprisoned him, and one day he made a raid upon it, with a determination to abolish the nuisance. With desperate wrenches he tore away sufficient bars to let himself out, but, when out, as though his anger was appeased, he did no further mischief than the performing of a 'glide' into a fine large bed of scarlet geraniums, terminating in a lay-down and general roll in the same. You may imagine, Halchen, if you can, how you would feel to have your 'little bed' of *pelargoniums* served that way, and what it would look like after such a performance!"

*Halchen*—"How much he resembles a huge, long-legged tortoise."

*Grampy*—"Yes, there is considerable of the tortoise look about Pete. You see it in the curiously-formed upper lip, in the testudineous appearance of the armor-like skin, which resembles so many iron plates, which look as though they had been cast in some iron foundry, as well as in his legs and feet, all favoring the notion of a huge, warm-blooded creature, made after the pattern of a cold-blooded tortoise, with improvements thrown in."

*Halchen*—"But he has nothing of a horn."

*Grampy*—"No. In that respect he can give no offense to any temperance society. He had a horn once, but, like some of those well meaning 'total abstinence' men, he has for some time been rubbing his nose against one hard substance or other until he has worn his horn down to its present buniony appearance. Let him have his liberty, with his foot placed upon his native heath, and you will see how quick his horn will again be exalted."

*Halchen*—"Then you do not think the rhinoceros all brute, but that he has some tender spot about him?"

*Grampy*—"No, he is not all brute, but his intellect is of a very low order. Tender spot? Yes. One in the London 'Zoo' would allow the visitors to rub his nose, tickle him about the eyes, or place their hands in the folds of his cast-iron looking coat, where, one visitor declared, the skin was as 'delicate and soft as a lady's.'"

*Halchen*—"Do you think it is of the rhinoceros or the hippopotamus Job speaks?"

*Grampy*—"Perhaps he speaks of both. The rhinoceros was well known to the ancients, and, without doubt, he is the unicorn of the Scriptures. Some of the modern ancients had the idea that its horn bore a great antipathy to poison, and that effervescence would result whenever liquid poison was poured upon it. Hence goblets were made of it, which were gorgeously mounted with gold, which formed a portion of the drinking paraphernalia of the Eastern monarchs, and by which they supposed they could detect any attempt at administering deadly drugs."

*Halchen*—"As he has no bath tub, how does he take a bath?"

*Grampy*—"He has one given him in a rather novel manner. You should be here some time when his keeper plays a full stream upon him from the largest sized hose, and with a force as though he was putting out a first-class fire. Then you behold Peter in the height of beastly enjoyment. He will lie down, roll over from side to side, in fact present all parts of his huge carcass to the stream, hardly winking when the stream strikes him full in the eyes, and he will even open his terrible jaws as wide as possible, that the full stream may be played direct in his mouth! Next to a good feed, Peter enjoys his hose-bath, and, after it, he will lie down to sleep, and he will sleep so long and so soundly that you may be sure that neither conscience or dreams ever trouble him in the least."

# FANCIERS' JOURNAL AND LAND & WATER

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## EDITORIAL

### PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

As we remarked in a previous paper, the growth in popularity of the Plymouth Rock has been something remarkable. The bird is as much sought after to-day by fanciers and amateurs as any in the catalogue. Its popularity rests on a solid foundation, the test of trial proving it to possess the good qualities claimed for it by those who first ventured to write in its favor. These good qualities have been so fully discussed that most of our readers are comparatively familiar with them; but, as with the Bantam and Leghorn, a great deal may be written without exhausting the subject. Some writers, (too many, we are sorry to say), lose their heads or their senses when their hobbies are their subject, but the majority of those who have written about the Plymouth Rock—to their credit be it said—have avoided hyperbole. To sustain this credit we will make no assertions not strictly within the limits of truthfulness and experience.

There are many qualities that go to make up a fowl or a breed. Among these are size, shape, style, feathering, and all those points usually enumerated in the *Standard* as “fancy qualities,”—or those appealing to the eye. These points are sometimes cultivated to the exclusion of other or economic qualities, as stamina, healthfulness, and productiveness. The fancier undoubtedly has rights in the matter, but not a monopoly of them. Intrinsic or economic values are quite as important as the extrinsic or fancy. They may not count for as much in the show pen, but will for more in the poultry-yard.

To develop and fix the characteristics in a breed is a slow and tedious process, but the care and effort of years may very soon be destroyed in breeding for exhibition purposes, where the requirements of the *Standard* alone are sought, and where prize-winning alone is the object. The sacrificing of the intrinsic for the extrinsic would seem too absurd to require thought or rebuke, were we not so often brought face to face with it.

We do not intend to discuss the Standard Plymouth Rock until later—but to consider now the economic qualities of the breed. With these, the *Standard* has nothing to do.

The intrinsic values of the Plymouth Rock are not numerous, but important. The first of these is stamina—this word comes

to us from the Romans—meaning strength, the foundation. We apply it to mean vigor, natural force: that which supports, and as opposed to weakness or delicacy of constitution or habit. In this quality, few birds are equal to the Plymouth Rock, and none surpass it. Its constitutional strength is quite equal to that of any other variety. It is hearty, thrifty, and strong. Where any other fowl will succeed, the Plymouth Rock will be at home. Throughout the United States and Canadas, and across the Atlantic—in all the different latitudes wherever it has been distributed, this quality has been shown in perfection. This adaptability to climatic change has been the test for other breeds. The test upon which the verdict “It is the only fowl worth keeping, either for profit or pleasure,” has been desired. Having been subjected to the severest tests, and proved itself equal to every situation, shall it not rank with the first?

### RAPIDITY AND EARLINESS OF MATURITY

come next for consideration. This is possessed by the Plymouth Rock in a marked degree. Among the larger breeds the Houdan is probably the only one that can compete with it. The Leghorn develops as fast—but it is a genus by itself, and may not be compared with other breeds ordinarily.

The Plymouth Rock chick, from the time it first sees the light, is strong, vigorous, and wide awake. It grows and thrives from the start, making rapid progress in its development. It will not gain weight faster than the Brahma or Cochin chick, but it feathers quicker, gets its growth sooner, and is ready for market, without pinfeathers, at an earlier age. A Brahma or Cochin will attain a greater weight or size at maturity, but will require more time. With many this may not seem an objection, but on the Atlantic slope and lower lake region, time is a consideration. This, for two reasons: 1st, cost of production, and, 2d, competition in market. In these sections of country, grain is comparatively scarce and high, while in the Mississippi Valley it is plentiful and cheap. With the same conditions of climate, therefore, the East can only compete with the West in point of time.

Some may think this taking too matter-of-fact a view of the case, but people are beginning to look at things in such a light, and with reason. We are not, and never will be, a nation of poultry fanciers, but we are fast becoming a nation of poultry raisers, and the main question is and will be, “Of which can I make the most money?” We are tending to the object of French breeders,