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**Squab Raising.**  
Homers can be purchased for \$1.50 to \$3 a pair, while other varieties usually cost from \$5 to \$15 per pair. The reason the Homers can be had cheaper is that they are much more common. The Runt is another favorite of the squab breeder, being the largest pigeon known. The standard of perfection adopted by the California Pigeon Club for the Runt calls for a weight of three pounds for an adult male, and two and a half pounds for adult females. The wings of the males should have a spread of 44 inches and those of the females 42 inches. This will give you some idea of the comparatively enormous size of this misnamed breed. They are too scarce and costly to be used for raising squabs, but are much used in cross breeding, mating with some smaller and cheaper bird, the result being a bird considerably larger than the smaller parent, and more prolific than the larger runt. It is generally admitted that the runt is a slow breeder, but many claim that if each pair is kept in a small building or in a small compartment in a building, away from other birds, they will produce as many young as breeds which have the reputation of being rapid breeders. The Homer or Maltese hen is usually used to cross with the runt.

The Maltese hen is a bird of good size, having very full breasts, which is a very desirable point in squab stock. In price they are rather high, as they are rather scarce, as yet. They are bound to become very popular as squab stock however, as they are very prolific and good feeders. Next in popularity comes the Carneau, they are large and rather a long bird, and are usually seen in either red or yellow. As squabbers they are hard to beat. Another large bird which is becoming popular with squab men is the Swiss Mondaine. They resemble the Carneau somewhat, but are found in other colors, and may be crested or plain. The White King is used largely in the east, and it is claimed that it is one of the best for squabs. A little larger than the Homer, and bred in white only.

The Dutchess is another variety used in the east, but seldom seen on the Pacific coast. The same may be said of the Drogoun, which resembles the Homer in some points, and the English Carrier in some. The Horneaux is a made-up breed, the Homer, Runt and Carneau

having figured in the crosses by which it was produced. There are two methods of feeding the breeders and no doubt each has its strong points. If the attendant can be with the birds often during the day, he can scatter feed where the birds can pick it up two or three times a day. But for reasons which I will explain, I favor the hopper method of feeding. When using the hoppers, they can be filled in the morning, and then the feeding for the day is over with. The grain is before the birds all the time, and it is always clean, and does not have to be picked up out of the dirt on the floor. When there are eggs in the nest, the hen sits during the night, and usually until about nine o'clock in the morning, when she is relieved by the male bird, who has eaten his fill. He sits until about four o'clock in the afternoon, when the hen, who has eaten, had her bath and a drink of water, is ready to return to the nest. Then the cock has his evening meal. The same program is carried out until the eggs hatch and the young are about two weeks old, when their growing demand for food make it necessary for both old birds to eat and carry food to the squabs. If there is food before them all the time, they will keep the squabs filled all the time, insuring rapid growth, while if they are fed twice or three times during the day, the food will be picked up clean and a part of the time there will be nothing to feed the young. The males eat what is thrown down in the morning, and there is nothing for the hens when they come off the nests. Or if anything is left, it is the cull grain, for the pigeon is very careful what it eats, and will always pick out the choicest grains first. Wheat is the principal grain fed the pigeons. It should be clean bright grain always, for smut is a poison to pigeons. The red wheat is preferred by the birds. (Concluded next week.)

**NONSENSE.**

We consecrate a great deal of nonsense because it was allowed by great men.—Emerson.

I know that dancin's nonsense, but if you stick at everything because it's nonsense you wonna go far in this life.—George Elliot.

I find nonsense singularly refreshing.—Talleyrand.

**THE NOTHINGNESS OF DEATH.**

Death, therefore, to us is nothing, concerns us not a jot, since the nature of the mind is proved to be mortal. And, as in time gone by we felt distress when the Poini from all sides came together to do battle and all things shaken by war's troublous uproar shuddered and quaked beneath high heaven and mortal men were in doubt which of the two peoples it should be to whose empire all must fall by sea and land alike, thus, when we shall be no more, when there shall have been a separation of body and soul, out of both of which we are each formed into a single being, to us, you may be sure, who then shall be no more, nothing whatever can happen to excite sensation, not if earth shall be mingled with the sea and sea with heaven. And, even supposing the nature of the mind and power of the soul do feel after they have been severed from our body, yet that is nothing to us, who by the binding tie of marriage between body and soul are formed each into one single being. And, if time should gather up our matter after our death and put it once more into the position in which it now is and the light of life be given us again, this result even would concern us not at all when the chain of our self consciousness has once been snapped asunder.—Titus Lucretius Carus.

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