

lated on his splendid judgment. In the Blue or Black Cheq. Cock Class, 77 birds were penned, the largest class I think that any judge has been asked to judge in Sydney in the Homing Pigeon Class. The Novice Blue or Black Cheq. Hen Class was also a very large class. The prize money for the various classes was 1st 12/6, 2nd 7/6, 3rd 5/-; also 10/6 to Champion Cock, 10/- to Champion Hen, in addition to 15/- to Champion Cock and 15/- to Champion Hen, in all, £17/10/6. Following are the awards:—

1st Show, May 4th.

56 miles to 300 miles, Cocks: 1st, T. Host; 2nd, S. and J. Worsley; 3rd, Murphy Bros. 56 miles to 300 miles, Hen: 1st, W. Parkinson; 2nd, S. and J. Worsley; 3rd, J. Peddie, senr. Any other colour, Cock: 1st, W. J. Mitchell; 2nd, W. McLean; 3rd, W. Parkinson. Any other colour, Hen: 1st, W. McKean; 2nd, W. Johnson; 3rd, T. Russell.

2nd Show, May 11th.

300 mile to 600 mile, Cock: 1st, J. Peddie, senr.; 2nd, S. and J. Worsley; 3rd, Murphy Bros. 300 mile to 600 mile, Hen: 1st, S. and J. Worsley; 2nd, W. Parkinson; 3rd A. Ray. Red or Red Cheq. Cock: 1st, W. J. Mitchell; 2nd, J. Peddie, senr.; 3rd, J. Peddie, senr. Red or Red Cheq. Cock: 1st, J. Smith; 2nd, T. Booth; 3rd, W. Parkinson. Blue or Black Cheq. Novice Cock: 1st, T. Graham; 2nd, Murphy Bros.; 3rd, W. Stone. Blue or Black Cheq. Hen: 1st, J. Peddie, senr.; 2nd, T. Booth; 3rd, W. Dawes. Blue Bar Cock: 1st, W. Doyle; 2nd, W. Parkinson; 3rd, J. Peddie. Blue Barred Hen: 1st, A. Ray; 2nd, T. M. Palmer; 3rd, W. Freeman. Champion Cock: T. Host. Champion Hen: S. and J. Worsley.

F.R.P.A. Report.

President:

John Ward.

Hon. Vice-Presidents to F.R.P.A.

Mr. S. Hordern, Mr. F. Booth, Mr. J. Wright, Mr. J. See, Mr. C. F. Munford, Mr. McSully.

Hon. Treasurer.

H. Hoore.

Hon. Secretary.

J. O'Neill, Jersey Road, Penshurst.

In future all club secretaries will be able to know when their race baskets are returned from Race Point by ringing up Redfern 404.

Birds depart for Race Points on dates shown below for race on following Saturday:—Saturday, June 22nd, Bundanoon, Federation Race; Saturday, June 29, Bundanoon, Federation Race; Saturday, July 6, Marulan; Saturday, July 13, Marulan; Saturday, July 20, Gunning; Friday, July 26, Binalong; Saturday, August 3, Marulan; Saturday, August 10, Gunning; Friday, August 16, Binalong; Friday, August 23, Binalong; Friday, August 30, Cootamundra; Friday, September 6, Cootamundra, Combine Race; Thursday, September 12, Narrandera, Ring Race; Thursday, September 19, Narrandera; Wednesday, September 25, Hay; Wednesday, Octo-

ber 9, Hay, Ring Race; Wednesday, October 15, Mildura.

Trophies for 1918.

Mr. John See £5/5/-, Mr. McSwanell £2/2/-, Mr. S. Hordern shield, Mr. F. Booth shield.

SYDENHAM SHOW.

Sydenham Homing Society held their first Show on May 18 and 25. Mr. G. Dorr, President of the Club, declared the Show officially opened at 3 p.m. The Show proved a great success, every pen being occupied. The winners on May 18 being:—1 to 300 miles, cock, 1st, W. McLean; 2nd, A. Ray; 3rd, Murphy Bros. 1 to 300 mile hen, Murphy Bros., 1st; Sapsford and Schumann, 2nd; W. McLean, 3rd. Blue or black cheqr. cock, H. Hoore, 1st; W. Dawes, 2nd; G. McKinnon, 3rd. Blue or black cheqr. hen, A. Ray, 1st; W. McLean, 2nd; O. Manners, 3rd. Any other colour, cock, E. Schofield, 1st; W. Dawes, 2nd, H. Hoore, 3rd.

May 25.—300 to 500 mile cock: 1st, Murphy Bros.; 2nd, T. Host; 3rd, J. Peddie. 300 to 500 mile hen: 1st, Sapsford and Schumann; 2nd, H. Hoore; 3rd, W. Parkinson. Any other colour hen: 1st, H. Hoore; 2nd, Sapsford and Schumann; 3rd, W. McKean. Blue or black cheqr. cock, rung 1917: 1st, H. Jarvis; 2nd, W. Daines; 3rd, H. Hoore. Blue or black cheqr. hen, rung 1917: 1st, E. Schofield; 2nd, H. Hoore; 3rd, W. Daines. Champion cock: H. Hoore. Champion hen: Sapsford and Schumann. Champion bird of Show: H. Hoore.

"ODDMENTS."

(By "P. John.")

Our friend "Trier" seems so fond of writing about strains that I think I'll just hop into the June issue, before he gets busy with his typewriter, and say a few words on this enticing subject. It's rather like poaching, I'll admit, but he can write about wives or something else for a change.

Studying pedigrees has a fascination for most of the thinking flyers, and as a class I think pigeon fanciers can be divided into the haphazard ones and the thinkers. This study is absolutely essential to the inbreeder, or line-breeder—the man who must, above all others, know exactly how far he can go. A well-balanced pedigree, on a line-bred basis with not too many outcrosses, backed up by good performances on the part of each member as it rises to the culminating individual, is a beautiful thing to many of us, and is all too rarely seen. Weak spots, such as "kept for stock" or "trained 50 miles," appear as a bar sinister in the birth certificate of a lot of our favourites. Not that they may be any the worse for this, as it turns out, and from a physical aspect they may be considerably the better for it. At least it is certain that these members were never overflowed, but it must always be remembered that the bird which was kept for stock, or perhaps trained only

50 miles, may be mentally incompetent, and might have failed altogether at 100 miles.

On this account it is admitted that it is desirable to get at least that amount of "performance" tacked on to each individual bird in the pedigree as will prove that it is no duffer, and a decent representative of its race.

The breeding of racing pigeons has been sufficiently long in vogue out here as to make it a matter of a few generations back before the magic word "pure" appears in the pedigrees of some of our well-acclimatised homers, but, as "Trier" points out, it is no use calling the strain by the name of the local man who has worked it up. We have practically no recognised Australian strains, and there are very few men indeed whose names we would attach to a bird solely, if we wished to sell it well. Maybe this is the fault of the pioneers themselves, as they certainly chopped about a good deal in the search for talent, but it must not be overlooked that the fancy is considerably more enlightened now than it was a few years ago.

The definition of the foundation of a strain being where a man has himself bred the grandparents of three-quarters of the inmates of his loft, line-breeding for three generations only, does not satisfy me at all; for instance, if a man picked up the threads of another's line-breeding and merely carried it on, is he entitled to claim the creation of that strain? You must grant that line-breeding is a very popular theory; in fact, very many breeders are well content to breed back rather than to attempt to breed forward, the former being the surer ground, and the latter the unknown land of experiment—often the place where angels fear to tread.

Why do we breed back to a good proved strain? In such a case we are paying a compliment to the creator of that strain, and admitting that we want the benefit of his experience and experiments. We want to go on where he left off; not necessarily that we consider we can better his production, but we desire at least to keep up the quality of the output, and save ourselves as much as possible from disappointment and failure.

With the well-known strains we have the assurance that for generation after generation these birds have been in the hands of absolute masters of the pigeon game, men who would never overlook a point or the slightest opportunity of improving their racers. This, to my mind, is the reason why we look for the word "pure" in a pedigree, as we often make this the rock on which to build. We have the satisfaction of knowing, provided the pedigree is a reliable one, that at that point at least the pigeon was bred right and true to type, also that in all probability it would have a big influence on its progeny. Until proved to the contrary, I consider we are more or less wise to disregard the local breeding imposed upon the imported birds. This is where there are any pretensions at all to line-breeding, but in many cases the truly Australian production is a hopeless pro-