

this is not the case. The beak likewise appears longer, but it is in fact a little shorter (about  $\cdot 03$  of an inch), proportionally with the size of the body, and relatively to the beak of the rock-pigeon. The Pouter, though not bulky, is a large bird; I measured one which was  $34\frac{1}{2}$  inches from tip to tip of wing, and 19 inches from tip of beak to end of tail. In a wild rock-pigeon from the Shetland Islands the same measurements gave only  $28\frac{1}{4}$  and  $14\frac{3}{4}$ . There are many sub-varieties of the Pouter of different colours, but these I pass over.

*Sub-race II. Dutch Pouter.*—This seems to be the parent-form of our improved English Pouters. I kept a pair, but I suspect that they were not pure birds. They are smaller than English pouters, and less well developed in all their characters. Neumeister<sup>7</sup> says that the wings are crossed over the tail, and do not reach to its extremity.

*Sub-race III. The Lille Pouter.*—I know this breed only from description.<sup>8</sup> It approaches in general form the Dutch Pouter, but the inflated œsophagus assumes a spherical form, as if the pigeon had swallowed a large orange, which had stuck close under the beak. This inflated ball is represented as rising to a level with the crown of the head. The middle toe alone is feathered. A variety of this sub-race, called the claquant, is described by MM. Boitard and Corbié; it pouts but little, and is characterised by the habit of violently hitting its wings together over its back,—a habit which the English Pouter has in a slight degree.

*Sub-race IV. Common German Pouter.*—I know this bird only from the figures and description given by the accurate Neumeister, one of the few writers on pigeons who, as I have found, may always be trusted. This sub-race seems considerably different. The upper part of the œsophagus is much less distended. The bird stands less upright. The feet are not feathered, and the legs and beak are shorter. In these respects there is an approach in form to the common rock-pigeon. The tail-feathers are very long, yet the tips of the closed wings extend beyond the end of the tail; and the length of the wings, from tip to tip, and of the body, is greater than in the English Pouter.

## GROUP II.

This group includes three Races, namely, Carriers, Runts, and Barbs, which are manifestly allied to each other. Indeed, certain carriers and runts pass into each other by such insensible gradations that an arbitrary line has to be drawn between them. Carriers also graduate through foreign breeds into the rock-pigeon. Yet, if well-characterised Carriers and

<sup>7</sup> 'Das Ganze der Tauben-zucht:' Weimar, 1837, pl. 11 and 12.

<sup>8</sup> Boitard and Corbié, 'Les Pigeons,' &c., p. 177, pl. 6.