

called "cuckoo" color. The plumage is a speckle of black and white. This irregular mottle makes them look very pretty. They somewhat resemble in plumage the Erminettes but look more like the Houdans without the crest and the fifth toe. They are compactly made, the body is round and well formed the legs are short, thick, and in colour yellow. The comb and wattles are not so long as those of the Minorcas, but of the same general style. The face is red the beak yellow, and the earlobes a deep cream color. Altogether the contrasts make the birds look odd. We can assure you a flock of them is an interesting sight.

The great economic claim is based upon their laying. We had received wonderful reports of them in this respect before we imported them, and we do not believe that these reports were exaggerated. Their eggs are white in color, large in size and produced in great numbers. They are veritable egg machines. It is claimed by some that they will lay better than the Minorcas. That claim, we think, may safely be questioned, but that they will lay eggs in great numbers cannot be doubted. While from our experience with them we do not think they lay better than the Minorcas when perfectly cared for, we do think that the Anconas lay the larger eggs. Their qualities are from practical experience unknown to this country, but all fanciers in England who are familiar with this breed unite in pronouncing them excellent layers. Great attention is now being paid to them in England, and this is one evidence that the claims made for them have some foundation in truth. Like all other varieties of the Spanish family they are non-setters, although they, like all hens, will set and rear a family, if you allow them to get fat, but they are such active, sprightly creatures and keep so busy at work filling the egg basket, that they do not take time to get fat. We have studied them well the past six months, find

them extremely hardy, remarkably free from disease, and easily reared. The chicks are remarkably precocious, mature very early, cockerels crow when a month old, and pullets lay when very young, sometimes at the age of sixteen weeks. We have raised all the leading varieties of standard fowls, but we think without exception the liveliest of all little chicks are the Anconas. The color of breast and body is composed of different shades of white and canary, top of head black and a distinct black stripe runs down the back. They breed perfectly true, the chicks coming nearly all alike. From our experience we know of no breed that comes so uniform. As chicks and fowls they stand confinement well, and are of a quiet disposition, and are small eaters. If given their liberty they require very little food, being good foragers. Possessing so many good qualities we predict for them a great future in this country, and would bespeak for them, as we have for the Minorcas, the attention and consideration of the fraternity of poultry men.

[Mr. Mortimer has promised us an engraving of Anconas at an early date.—Ed.]

ONCE A YEAR MR. WIXSON WRITES US

Editor Review:—

It has been a long time since I have contributed anything to the REVIEW, simply because I have had nothing to say. I have now several things to say, and with your permission here goes:

First, let me tender you my renewal for REVIEW for 1889—and right here let me say I wish every fancier in Canada would try hard to get at least one subscriber before Xmas. It would just serve you right to get such an Xmas box as this—I fancy the usually smiling face of ye editor would assume a much broader shape and possibly might develop into a hearty laugh a result not usually obtained from "a boxing." Of course, I assume that every

fancier in our country is now a subscriber. If not, they should be, and I don't see how any fancier can afford to be without the REVIEW.

I will guarantee you at least one or more subscribers to set the example.

I am proud of our REVIEW and have watched its upward tread with much interest, and wish it continued prosperity. So much for the REVIEW—now for something else.

As our shows are just coming on a few words regarding them may not be out of place. I am glad to know there will again be the usual number of shows in Ontario this year, and as the number increases annually, it proves the interest for fancy poultry is increasing. A good show, properly managed, is a great benefit to fanciers. It is an educator, teaching in more ways than one. It stimulates a friendly rivalry to excel, and each year we notice the grand results of fanciers getting nearer the 100 point goal. It is a fine thing socially, doing a great deal towards levelling prejudice, and making each esteem his opponent as a brother. I wish it were even more so in this respect. It is besides a good place to form the acquaintance of new fanciers, which generally begets confidence, the result of which is always beneficial to both, socially and financially.

I hope as many of our fanciers as possible will avail themselves of every opportunity to attend the winter shows, and take their birds. If you have good specimens at home bring them out that others may see them. If poor ones bring them out and compare them with good ones, and see the mistake you may not see without such comparison, and then govern yourself accordingly, and secure good specimens for another year.

I hope to be able to send an exhibit to several of our shows this winter, and if I cannot attend personally, to be represented by my attendant, Mr. Herbert Page. I trust the same courtesy that has been extended to myself