

Light Brahmas to combine standard with usefulness?

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Mate together as nearly *Standard* birds as possible, taking care that if the undercolour, which is the fluff of each feather at its base, is blue or slate colour, not white, in the male; to select females with perfectly white undercolour, and *vice versa*. This is the best mating for producing *Standard* L. B's. If a bird have a defect in shape try to have the opposite sex high or well developed in that section. Let me particularise a few points, which are prominent or important ones. Comb is the crown of a Brahu. My experience in this point is that a cock with a bad comb will produce bad combs no matter how nice the females may be in this respect. I may say further that a narrow, tight comb is not so good in my opinion as a wide, low comb, with three distinct rows. The latter will beget combs that will stand up, while the former will fall over. My attention was first called to this point by S. Butterfield, and years of experience has fortified me in its correctness.

Again, a pale hackle in a cock is going to show itself in a large percentage of the progeny.

(Continued in next issue, in which Usefulness will be taken up.)

MR. PETERS' MONTHLY.

I am pleased to note that the subject of a new poultry house for the great "Industrial" is being mooted through the columns of your journal. I am of the opinion that a house with twice the amount of accommodation afforded by the present building will be none too large in the course of two or three years. I know of a few fanciers who will not take their birds to that really great show on account of the limited space and smallness of coops; and even myself could exhibit twice as many.

How many more fanciers can say the same thing? And if the poultry interest increases for the next few years as it has in the last five the poultry-house will be a leading feature, instead of a place allowed to live by tolerance; and the prospects tend that way. The poultry industry is in its infancy. It has been a neglected child of this great Dominion; but at last its cries have been heard, and now many wonder that such a promising offspring should have been so entirely overlooked. And, as is often the case, it has gone so long uncared for that folks are trying to make out it is the best and most promising child in the whole family. Some of the stories of eggs and chickens you can hear in that building, Mr. Editor, if you are a good listener, would take a bag of salt to season them—a pinch would be quite lost. I have always maintained that poultry of all kinds, well managed, will pay, and pay well, any person that cares to make it a business or a pleasure—that likes such stock and gives it a reasonable amount of intelligent care;—but that there are fortunes in it for any and every purchaser of a few birds or a few sittings of eggs, no sensible or honest person will assert. Some individual may think that by purchasing a high-priced pen of birds he will shake the whole world of chickendom; but if he has no powers of observation or capacity for breeding the like again he will merely be a meteor flash in the sky that overlooks the poultry world. I should be sorry if this newly-awakened interest in poultry matters is killed by misrepresentation, or its sister, extravagant booming. No doubt this will come and pass, and then matters will settle down to a business level. This mighty Dominion is not at all too big to take under her wing such a bantling as the poultry interest is now. It is not an alien, who, as soon as fledged, will soar away; on the contrary, when it gains maturity it will be an ever present and reliable member of the family, whose usefulness

and influence will increase with years. I am delighted, Mr. Editor, when I see how this work is prospering, and when I look back a few years to the time when it was hard work to "scare up" a few pairs of respectable-looking fowls, to say nothing of thoroughbred, for our agricultural fairs, it appears simply wonderful that we should have had many hundreds of first-class birds in one exhibition, as I saw this year at Canada's Great Fair. Besides, on every hand, in each department of agriculture and manufacture, science and art, such evidence of skill and progress as bespeaks for our country a future only equalled by our dear Motherland. A future that has been hastened on by such excellent educative motors as our great Industrial in no small degree.

Your remarks on Wyandottes in the October number, Mr. Editor, I have noted. There was only one hen that should have had first prize, viz., my old one. As far as I could learn all the Wyandotte breeders were of the same opinion. Besides, there were two better hens there than those that took second. I omitted to take note of owner's name; my time was all too short. The judge told Mrs. P. that he gave my hen third because she was too light on legs. She is light on shanks, I allow—just the front part—but the back of shanks and the feet are yellow enough for any one to see she is not, and has not been, white legged. Although such a handsomely laced bird, with jet black lacing, there are no pencilled feathers either in back, wing, or cushion, and no white fringe to the lacing. Any Wyandotte breeder will know her worth. She scored 91 by Felch, and was cut one on weight two years ago. Some may say, "that is nothing now." It would certainly be of no value if she had not kept up the excellencies she then possessed. I have pullets from her that I will, if possible, get scored at some of the winter shows. I would not risk exhibiting