



A WANT.

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WE find many advertising something to fill a long felt want. But all the wants are not filled. There is wanting now a first-class variety of a well-known breed, and no one seems to be able or to be willing to fill it.

At the late exhibition of the Rhode Island Poultry Association the judge of this wanted variety would not award a single first prize. The second prize was as high as he would go. The exhibitor was somewhat disappointed, because under other judges these same birds had won numerous first prizes, but he was too good a judge of the breed to think that this variety came up anywhere near to the standard of other varieties of the breed.

But I declare, I am forgetting to name the variety I am talking about. However, that, perhaps, is not so material now. This variety, as bred now, is short where it should be long, is bullet-headed where it should look lean and clean, has a big, high, bushy tail, where it should have a closely folded, low-carried caudal appendage; is in fact wrong in every particular but one—color. But it is beautiful in color. Its plumage is full of iridescent hues, and in the sunlight gleams like a precious stone. It is one of the most handsome colors in the whole list of those which clothe our domestic fowl. Isn't it a pity that it is not bred right up to the highest demands for correct shape!

If someone would do this he would win the thanks and admiration of the fancier world; he would possess one of the most beautiful Bantams in existence, he could win prizes innumerable, and he could sell eggs for hatching and fowls for breeding until his purse

would look like that of the successful returner from the Klunkike regions. With so many inducements, why doesn't some enterprising breeder attempt the solution of the problem, seek to fill this long-felt want? I confess I wonder that I don't try to do it myself, but I don't. I think it can be done, but it isn't. I hope someone will do it, but will he? To stimulate the effort editors ought to keep standing an advertisement like this,

WANTED,

A first-class black Game Bantam.

White birds will need washing before exhibition. Wash well in warm water, use pure soap, rinse out in luke-warm water, and last dip in blued water a little colder than that you use to rinse in. Dry slowly before an open fire if possible, first getting all the water possible out with sponge or soft cloths. This should be done at least three days before the show, in order to give the feathers a chance to "webb out." Cochins and Japanese might well undergo this tubbing a day or two sooner even.

Strong sun will stain the lobes of rose-combs. It is as necessary to supply shade for this purpose, as it is to preserve the purity of plumage. A little zinc ointment is useful to restore color to stained lobes and if creased they should be well worked out between thumb and finger.

Confinement during winter is apt to cause the combs of Japanese cocks to turn over or lean to one side. Give all the exercise possible and supply fresh air on dry warm days. To prevent combs and wattles getting touched with frost anoint twice a week with vaseline, but do it lightly.

Game Bantams, if allowed to roost or perch on flat perches or too broad perches are liable to become duck-footed, a fatal fault in the show pen and a disqualification in all cases. A miniature Game bird, as the Game Bantam is, should stand fair and true on its feet, and this it can't do if the bird has the fault named, that is if the hind toe inclines to the front and not backwards as it should.

To avoid this supply the birds with narrow, round perches. We have cured birds with this fault by giving them half inch rods to roost on.

Why do yellow legs lose their color? Frequently because they get too dry and scaly. A run on short grass in the early morning is a splendid preventative of faded legs.