



POULTRY.

The best breed of the gallinaceous fowls is the produce of the Dorking (Surrey) cock and the common dunghill fowl. This cross is larger and plumper, and more hardy than the pure Dorking, without losing delicacy of flavour or whiteness of flesh.

The characteristics of the pure Dorking are, that it is white-feathered, short-legged, and an excellent layer. The peculiarity of this established variety, which has frequently five claws perfectly articulated (with sometimes a sixth springing literally from the fifth, but always imperfect), is well known. The crossing with the Sussex fowl has however greatly diminished the monstrosity in the Surrey pentadactylus variety. But though the true Dorking which is white, is much esteemed, that colour is rare, and prized for the ornament of the poultry-yard: speckled colours are most generally seen with the higgler.

The Poland breed, which is black-feathered, with white top-knots, lays well, and is highly desirable where the production of eggs for the table is the principal object; but they seldom sit, though they cannot be considered long-legged.

The Chittagong, or Malay, which is a very large Indian variety, is generally long-legged, with yellow body and coarse yellow flesh. Fanciers used to like them for their fine appearance and their large eggs; but as their long legs incapacitate them from steady sitting, they are not general favourites. One of our practical acquaintances recommends the male produce of the Poland and Chittagong as a good cross with the common dunghill hen, as their progeny will sit.

Those who intend to rear fowls or any kind of poultry on a large scale, should have a distinct yard, perfectly sheltered, and with a warm aspect, well fenced, secure from thieves and vermin, and sufficiently inclined to be always dry, and supplied with sand or ashes for the cocks and hens to roll in, an operation necessary to disengage their feathers from vermin: running water should be especially provided; for the want of water, of which all poultry are fond, produces constipation of the bowels and inflammatory diseases; and for geese and ducks, bathing is an indispensable luxury. A contiguous field is also necessary for free exercise, as well as for the supply of grubs and grass to the geese. The fowl-house should be dry, well roofed, and fronting the east or south, and, if practicable, at the back of a stove or stables; warmth being conducive to health and laying, though extreme heat has the contrary effect. It should be furnished with two small lattice windows, that can be opened or shut at pleasure, at opposite ends, for ventilation, which is frequently necessary; and the perches should be so arranged, that one row of roosting fowls should not be directly above another.

M. Parmentier has shown by what arrangement a house twenty feet long and twelve feet wide may be made to accommodate 150 hens at roost. The plan is simply this:—the first roosting-perch (rounded a little at the upper angles only, for gallinaceous fowls cannot keep a firm hold on perfectly cylindrical supporters) should be placed lengthways, and rest on tressels in each end wall, six feet from the front wall, and at a convenient height, which must depend on the elevation of the house from the floor, which should be formed of some well consolidated material that can be easily swept. Another perch

should be fixed ladder-ways (*en échelon*) above this, but ten inches nearer to the back wall, and so on, until there are four of these perches like the steps of a ladder when properly inclined, but with a sufficient distance between the wall and the upper one to allow the poultry-maid to stand conveniently upon when she has occasion to examine the nests, which it is her duty to do every day at least once, and in the forenoon. The highest of these she can reach by standing on a stool or step-ladder. By this contrivance the hens, when desirous of reaching the nests, have no occasion to fly, but merely to pass from one stick to another. If the size and form of the house permit, a similar construction may be made on the opposite side, care being taken to leave an open space in the middle of the room, and a sufficiently wide passage for the attendant to pass along the walls. It is not at all required to have as many nests as hens, because they have not all occasion to occupy them at the same time; and besides, they are so far from having a repugnance to lay in a common receptacle, that the sight of an egg stimulates them to lay. It is however true that the most secluded and darkest nests are those which the hens prefer.

The nests, if built into the wall, are in tiers from the bottom to the top, the lowest being about three feet from the ground, and a foot square. If the laying-chambers consist of wooden boxes, they are usually furnished with a ledge, which is very convenient for the hens when rising.

But the best receptacles for the eggs are those of basket-work, as they are cool in summer, and can be easily removed and washed. They ought to be fastened not directly to the wall, as is generally the case, but to boards fixed in it by hooks, well clinched, and with a little roof to cover the rows of baskets. They will thus be isolated, to the great satisfaction of the hen, which delights in the absence of all disturbing influence when laying. All the ranges of nests should be placed cheque-wise, in order that the inmates, when coming out, may not startle those immediately under. Those designed for hatching should be near the ground (where instinct teaches the hen to choose her seat), and so arranged that the hens can easily enter them without disturbing the eggs.

Wheten or rye straw is the most approved material for the bedding, being cooler than hay; the hens are sometimes so tortured by lice as to forsake their nests altogether, in an agony of restlessness. A Dorking housewife has assured us that she once lost an entire clutch, from having, as she believes, given a bed of hay-seeds to her sitting hen. The chicks were all glued to the shells, and thus destroyed, owing, as she thinks, to the high temperature occasioned by the fermenting seeds.—

*From the Penny Cyclopædia.*

## SCRIPTURE ILLUSTRATION.

### PROPHECIES CONCERNING EDOM.

*Edom or Idumea.*—The prophecies concerning it are very remarkable. "From generation to generation, Idumea shall lie waste, none shall pass through it for ever and ever. But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also, and the raven shall dwell in it, and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness," &c. See Isa. 34. 5, 10—17; also, Jer. 49, 7—10, 12—18; Ezek. 25. 13, 35, 1, &c.; Joel 3. 19; Obad. ver 1, 2, 8, 9, 17, 18; Mal. 1. 3, 4.

Idumea was situated to the south and south-east of Judea. It was bordered on the east with Arabia Petræa, under which name it was included in the latter part of its history; and it extended southward to the eastern gulf of the Red sea. As descendants of Esau, the history of Edom should be briefly noticed. While Israel were slaves in Egypt, the Edomites appear to have been a flourishing people, Numb. 20. 17. They were subdued by David, but revolted from Jehoram, and maintained their independence, though often engaged in wars with the Jews. They incited Nebuchadnezzar to destroy Jerusalem, and were desolated by the same conqueror about five years later; but re-established themselves, and even seized part of the south of Judah. After the captivity they were subdued by the Maccabees, who compelled the survivors to become proselytes to the Jewish religion, and incorporated them into that nation. Thus the Edomites were lost, partly among the Jews, partly among the Nabathean Arabs, and the name ceased about