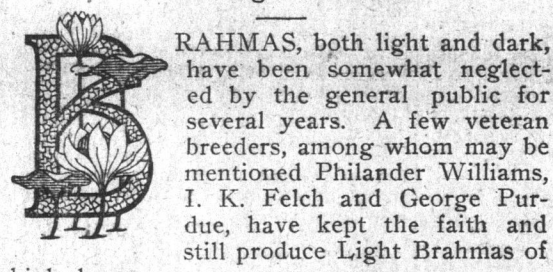


## WITH THE POULTRYMAN

### The Light Brahma



RAHMAS, both light and dark, have been somewhat neglected by the general public for several years. A few veteran breeders, among whom may be mentioned Philander Williams, I. K. Felch and George Purdie, have kept the faith and still produce Light Brahmas of high degree.

The late John L. Cost was also an enthusiastic friend of this royal old family of fowls, from the introduction of which we must date the beginning of the poultry fancy of this country.

There has been much disputing concerning the origin of the Light Brahmas. A good many authorities trace them back to the Chittagongs and some to the Gray Shanghais. The late George P. Burnham, by his own concession the greatest poultry faker this country ever knew.

As a contribution to the history of this breed it is interesting to know that I. K. Felch has a cock bird which was hatched from eggs laid by hens brought to this country by a ship sailing from an East Indian port, as long ago as 1848. This bird was named "Imperial," and after his death Mr. Felch had him mounted, and for many years he stood in the home of Mr. Felch, full proof that as long ago as 1848 there were fowls in this country with the distinctive pea comb of the Brahmas, with feathered legs and with black and white plumage. While the bird "Imperial" was not a good type of the present-day Light Brahma, it required but a casual inspection of him, in his mounted form, to see that he furnished a foundation on which this breed might have been built.

In 1855 Burnham published his book, "The Hen Fever," a copy of which is in our library. Mr. Burnham was so openly a faker that his statements cannot be taken as strictly in line with facts, but there is no doubt that he sent to Queen Victoria in the early '50's a pair of birds which he called Grey Shanghais. These birds were probably the beginning of the Light Brahma in England. Thus it is due to American enterprise that this breed was originated and disseminated.

In process of time the American type and the English type became distinctly different. The American bred for a bird with moderate leg-and-toe feathering, rather compact in body, medium height and graceful in every motion. This type is an aristocratic bird and a thing of beauty wherever seen. The English bred more toward the vulture hock, profuse leg-and-toe feathering, very long and somewhat fluffy plumage and rather short shanks.

Such birds would be rejected in any show room in America. The American fancier requires more of the Light Brahma than of almost any other breed. The white must be white and the black a clear brilliant black.

The comb must be a perfect pea comb, the skull wide, the brow overhanging giving the bird a sinister look, which belies its gentle and domestic disposition. The hackle is long and flows well over the shoulders, each feather black with a narrow edging of white. The primaries are black and white, the more black the better. The tail, beginning with the saddle feathers, is black with a distinct white lacing. The black must follow the shape of the feather and the division between the white and black perfectly clear and distinct.

In shape of body the Light Brahma is full and round in the breast, wide and flat on the back, the back rising at a gentle slope to the root of the tail. A cushion is not permissible in a Light Brahma, as this is distinctly a Cochinese feature.

Particular attention is given to the shape of the legs. Any disposition to squat down in Cochinese fashion is frowned upon, although the bird does not stand as high on its legs as is the case with Langshans. The hock must be full and round without any tendency to being vulture hocked. The leg feathering should be white and black, the feathers of the outer toes spreading fan-like away from the feet.

Some of the later specimens of Light Brahmas seem to have a tendency to heavier feathering than was the rule a few years ago. It is to be hoped that this tendency will be checked, for heavy feathering will be gained at the expense of egg-production.

As a table-fowl the Light Brahma stands high. Its flesh is short grained, melting in quality and still firm when cooked. The chicks grow rapidly and are ready for the table at an early age. For the soft roaster market no fowl is better than the Light Brahma.

There is considerable difference in the various strains in the matter of egg-production. It has been claimed that an early specimen of the family produced over 300 eggs in a year,

but if this is true there has not been another like her in modern times. Some strains, however, are good layers, the eggs being very large, with a dark, rich-colored shell.

The merits of this grand old breed are again being discussed, and they come out every year in increasing numbers at the better class of shows.

The Autocrat strain originated by Philander Williams is probably the best type of American Light Brahmas. To see some of this old stock in the yards of Mr. Williams is a sight worth a long journey. A recent letter from this old veteran informs us that he still has his Light Brahmas, and is preparing to breed them more extensively than he has for several years. It is to be hoped that more fanciers will become interested in this variety and keep it before the public more conspicuously than has been the rule for the last ten or fifteen years. The fancier who produces good ones will find a ready market for them.—Poultry.



White Wyandotte

ously than has been the rule for the last ten or fifteen years. The fancier who produces good ones will find a ready market for them.—Poultry.

### Columbian Wyandottes

The origin of the Wyandotte is veiled in more or less of obscurity. Statements regarding their early development are conflicting, but authorities agree sufficiently to warrant the statement that much of the most desirable and carefully bred material available at the period of their creation, entered into their composition. It is probable that several crosses were resorted to in their production, which explains the general tendency of all varieties of Wyandottes to revert to original types, no matter how carefully they are line-bred, naturally more so than breeds whose blood elements are not so complex.

In the Columbian Wyandottes we find this mixture of blood element again made over and others added, which means a greater tendency to reversion and difficulty in uniform production; that the variety is worthy of the extreme care and intelligence that must be exercised in their proper development and perfecting is strongly in evidence by their present popularity and the high reputation of those who have already taken up the breed, not only in their native country, but in England, Africa, Australia and the Pacific islands.

Now, let us consider the first principles of their proper mating. We have in the White Wyandotte-Light Brahma cross, which, we believe, has been responsible for the production of the best and most desirable breeding specimen to date, about seven-eighths white color. Practical demonstrations in mating have revealed the fact that there is a strong tendency to revert to the White Wyandotte, and that extreme care must be taken in mating to intensify the black in the plumage, from the fact that there is a disposition on the part of Columbian Wyandottes to lose color in the molt. Pullets that carry Standard coloring, unless from very strong matings, as hens become entirely too light, approaching gray in neck, wings and tail. For this reason mating which has proven highly successful in the production of exhibition Light Brahmas, are not found a success at the present time with the Columbian Wyandottes.

It is the writer's opinion that for the best development and perfection of the breed, the Standard should be so worded as to give the preference to those specimens carrying a deep, intense coloring, both in those sections where black is intended to correct, and also in under color all over the body. If the writer had the authority to do so, he would make a Standard which would unmistakably cause the judge to give the preference to birds (as regards color) that were two or three shades darker than a Standard Light Brahma. For a few years to come a favorable standard and judges who recognize the disposition of the breed to lose color, will prove the means of rapid and desirable advancement.

And now a word about shape. Breeders of Columbian Wyandottes repeat the follow-

ing over and over several times and then go out and look over your flock of birds: "Shape makes the breed, color the variety." If you are a good judge of Wyandotte shape, how many birds have you in your flock that are typical in shape. In your matings remember it is not all color, it is not all combs, it is not all yellow shanks, but way back of all else to make your birds worthy of the name of Wyandottes you must have the true Wyandotte shape. In Columbian Wyandottes there are a diversity of shapes, short, low, squat, specimens, tall, long-necked, long-shanked, and even narrow headed, long-backed and tailed specimens. These are not Wyandottes. They approach the bantam and the clean-legged Brahma more closely. In your ambition for color do not overlook shape.

It is the all-around breeder that is the beneficiary of the fancy, and the judge, if he is worthy of his avocation, will protect the breeder who mates for the symmetrical development of all sections of his variety. Keep plenty of color in your birds. Do not discard specimens that are even so dark as to show ticking in back and breast of pullets or striping in saddles of cockerels; they are valuable. A blue or slate undercolor all over body in both sexes is our hope for the future. If we desire birds that will hold their color until they are three and four years of age, we must breed from these deep-colored specimens for a few years to come. But be sure the black is deep green glossy black, (no snuff color), and that the undercolor is blue or slate; there must not be the least tendency to brown or red in it. Remember you cannot get black from gray, you must have color to get color.

I might enter into the special mating and line-breeding of this variety more in detail, but think, perhaps, I have said enough. If there are points of interest I have overlooked call the editor's attention to same, and with his permission, in some future article, I may be able to say something more definite regarding special matings.—Exchange.

### Feed Cut Green Bone to Get More Eggs

Other things being equal, the hen provided with food richest in protein and other egg-making materials will produce more eggs than the hen fed rations in which these food elements are deficient.

It is a well-known fact that the grains usually fed are deficient in protein. That is why poultry relishes animal life of all kinds, why a hen will chase a grasshopper clear across an acre lot. She needs the animal food. The wise poultry raiser, therefore, does the best he can to increase the proportion of protein in the feed ration. The best substitute for the worms and bugs which Nature supplies the hen, is fresh cut green bone, such as the trimmings from the butcher's block. It is rich in protein and lime and has the added advantage of costing very little more than the labor of cutting it.

We don't know of anything which occupies a higher place as an economical egg producer. It keeps hens laying the year round. But more than that, it is an excellent growth promoter and vitalizer. A flock fed fresh cut raw bone will produce a larger proportion of fertile eggs than can be secured by any other method of feeding.

The egg producer, the broiler raiser and the fancier all find green bone an economical, profitable food.

## AROUND THE FARM

### Horse Courage

COURAGE in horses. Is it congenital or is it acquired? On account of the prevalence of electric cars, automobiles, traction engines, steam road rollers, and other objects calculated to alarm horses while on the city streets or country roads, it is becoming more and more requisite—in fact, necessary—in order that there may be a reasonable degree of safety in driving, that our horses should have "courage."

The question that confronts us is, "How can we engender courage in our horses? Is courage an inherited trait or the result of environment and education?" We think it is influenced by both, but especially by the latter. The alarm or fear shown by horses the first few times they behold an object with which they are unfamiliar cannot be said to be due to a want of courage. We all remember that a few years ago, when bicycles first came into general use, that mostly all horses became excited at the sight of a man or a woman moving rapidly along without "visible means of support." Many horses under such circumstances were quite unsafe, and unless the rider dismounted from his wheel and either stood or walked along, there was every probability of an accident.

Horsemen used to grumble and often swear at these machines, and claim that they had no right on the roads or streets. Wheels became very plentiful, and many of the said horsemen were soon seen riding them, either as a convenience or pastime. In fact, they became so common that a horse had not time

to take notice of them, he met so many, and now, though they are comparatively seldom seen, is exceedingly rare to see a horse taking any notice of them.

Have we any well founded reason to claim that our horses of today have greater hereditary courage than those of a few years ago? We think not. What, then, has brought about the change? We must, I think, attribute it to environment, or the familiarity that "breeds contempt." Bicycles are seen by most colts during colthood, and by all during their first lessons in harness or saddle on the roads or streets, and they, from the first, treat them with indifference. It may reasonably be claimed that heredity has some influence in the matter. There is no doubt that colts are influenced by the habits of their ancestors, probably more particularly by those of their dam during pregnancy. Hence, if the sire is accustomed to certain sights without experiencing any particular emotion, and the dam the same, and especially if so during pregnancy, it is reasonable to suppose that the progeny will naturally have no aversion to the same. This law of breeding, we think, has an influence, but we think that education and environment have more. We may say that a bicycle is not to be compared with an electric car, automobile or traction engine, as a means of instilling fear into a horse, and there certainly appears to be reasonable grounds for the contention. At the same time the fact remains that horses which are accustomed to these sights become as indifferent to them as to the former. None of the objects named is so formidable as a locomotive engine going at good speed and blowing off steam, with a train of cars behind it. It is quite a common thing to see a horse that will stand quietly at a crossing quite close to a train while it passes, or drive quietly along a road going parallel with a railway track while a train is going either way, become practically unmanageable at the approach of an automobile or electric car. Can we call this exhibition of fear, cowardice or want of hereditary courage? We think not. It is due to want of familiarity. The horse has become accustomed to seeing and hearing locomotive engines since colthood and has learned that they will not injure him, but the other sight is that of an object to which he is not accustomed, hence his fear. It will be noticed that horses in large cities, where they meet these objects frequently, with very few exceptions, are perfectly indifferent to them, but those in small cities or rural districts, in which such sights are not frequent, continue to fear them. There certainly is a great difference in the quickness or readiness with which horses lose their fear of such sights. But even this, we think, is not altogether due to the degree of normal courage they possess. It is largely due to the manner in which their familiarity to such sights is attained. Great care should be exercised in educating horses in such matters. There are few who do not show fear at first, and if we attempt to break him, or, more properly, to educate him at once, force him to go close, and whip him if he refuses, there is great danger of spoiling him. In such cases he soon associates certain sights with abuse

etc., etc. They will treat with indifference all objects except the one, and cannot be reconciled to that. Why such animals will exhibit courage in facing everything but some particular one, and exhibit gross cowardice, or fear of that, cannot, in many cases, be understood, but must be due to some unaccountable, inherent dread of the sight, or to some injury or extreme fright caused by it on a former occasion. Again, some horses will not tolerate certain objects under certain circumstances, and are quite indifferent to the same under others. For instance, a horse may be practically indifferent to a trolley car when standing or moving slowly, but become very unsafe if it is moving fast, while others are indifferent to it at any speed, but will not go near it when standing still. Again, some become very much excited and hard to handle when a car is coming behind them, but pay no attention when they are meeting one, while others are the reverse. This may be claimed to be caused by the use of blinders on bridles, but most of them will exhibit the same peculiarities when driven with open bridles. The same, or other peculiarities exist in regard to other objects, and, as stated, cannot be satisfactorily explained. When we consider matters carefully, we cannot be surprised that we meet with such cases, and it certainly is cruel to punish an animal so afflicted. If we consider a minute we can call to mind many women, and some men, who become greatly alarmed during a thunderstorm. They cannot bear to be alone, and in some cases become hysterical, or insist upon having the blinds drawn and the gas lighted, etc. They cannot help acting in this way. They know there is little danger, that company and artificial light are no protection, but all the same they cannot act calmly. Let us, then, be charitable, and attribute to horses the same unconquerable dread that exists in some human beings. We think our arguments go to prove that "courage in horses" is engendered more by education and environment than by heredity, although the latter operates to some extent. In breeding it certainly is wise to select as parents animals of known courage when possible, but we must intensify such courage by education, and make sure of their safety in the presence of all sights and noises that they are liable to meet before we can trust our wives or children to drive or ride them, as a horse that is liable to act badly under any such circumstances or other conditions not mentioned, is unsafe for general driving except in the hands of an experienced horseman or horsewoman. We would again like to emphasize the fact that education is the main point to be considered; and that many horses are made cowardly and unsafe by cruel, timid, passionate or incompetent drivers.—J. H. Reed, in O. A. C. Review.

### Milk Hints

A simple and effective test to determine whether water is present in milk may be made with an ordinary knitting-needle, if the needle is bright and well polished. Dip the needle into the milk and quickly withdraw it in an upright position. If the milk contains only a small quantity of water, this will prevent even a drop of milk adhering to the needle.

Every one who has had occasion to heat milk knows how easily it may be scorched. When this does happen, the thing to do is to quickly remove the vessel from the fire and stand it in a bowl of cold water. Put a pinch of salt into the milk, and stir. It will then be found that the disagreeable burnt taste has almost, if not entirely, disappeared.

Milk makes a very excellent cleaner for patent-leather shoes. A sponge should be used to apply it, and the leather then be allowed to dry for a few moments. Then polish with a soft cloth.

### Farm Notes

There are two kinds of soil on most farms—busy and idle. The idle kind never pays interest on the investment, the busy kind can't be choked with weeds. Clean them up before they mature seeds.

Be sure that the hens have a good dust bath, for they cannot be expected to lay well if tormented with lice. If a supply of earth or sand was not collected early in the season and cannot be secured now, sifted coal ashes can be used.

Spring calves rarely do well on pasture the first summer. They are very sensitive to flies. Give them a yard for exercise, a cool stable and plenty of nitrogenous food. The time to make a good dairy animal is in the first two years of its life.

Use plenty of bedding, both for the horse and cow, and be sure that it is fully dried before being used a second time. Shavings and sawdust are sometimes used, but hay, straw or leaves are preferable, because they have considerable fertilizing value.



Single Comb Black Minorca

HE twelfth Defence present November Restaurant 7.30 p.m. K. T. L. members Chairman "The King" said: "Our President this after said that it had a bolt from the blue." I evening I had no idea I was and I can assure you that from the blue." Now come have had, I think two "bol in our changeable climate I merely mention this in my duties as the Chairman, er, who can talk upon an at any time, and I think I our Secretary, Mr. Johnson time to invent a few imp to business. We have r Ivesagh and Sir Gilbert asked here as our guests, cere regret that engagement tending the dinner.

We are lucky tonight read a paper for us. You Mr. Dawson is the author Message," which, no doubt He is going to read us a p in Defence," and, in view of our Secretary, Mr. Johnson I shall be obliged if gentlemen who wish to take their names. I think it is rather, that any speaker been read should be more time. I think there was s or five or ten minutes I is a very small gathering speakers won't keep us I shall have much plea Dawson and asking him hear, and applause.) Prefacing his remarks re Canada and Canadians Lord Erroll, my Lords A few months ago I v structure privilege of tra which contains within its the entire area of the Bri of patriotism is, happily, a ple of that great country; with a gift of eloquence, which to me was very a just as I was getting into train, I received an urge man who had boarded the place, to address a gather ing, in a well-known agric lect of "The Commercial P explained, while endeavor mas, that I knew very li the "Great West," towards that moment. But, with my visitor proceeded to r remark that "Oh, well, you most of the game!" Well, I am glad to be allow this excuse to lead dress on the "Commercial West," but, gentlemen, a courteous indulgence, I d the best justification I ca in addressing the disting very learned company w here tonight; just this—th occasionally have glimpse beyond the attentive experts, and the workers are nearer to the heart of I believe, gentlemen, th in which ignorance—absent that is—has its uses and ad dition. It enables a mar cated questions with fran with a seeing and a lear kind of simple daring wh helpful. Yes, I really thin thoroughly inexpert point honest good intent behind Now, when our Chairm Lord in Defence—and we thought over that questi conceive of his being face ray of highly technical co some weight and inheren high position and long st too familiar. And that is even desirable, where our cerned. But, gentlemen, is this Association has at hea with my party—with the o with the people who, in the Britain. It is useful, then, don of the Citizen's Duty I pert eye. Well, then, whe self, look at this question: you are looking at it prett do not, of course, see the which faces the expert. As well for us. Further, we pros and cons with the pr because our modern life an nothing whatever about s the bare question itself, w What is the Citizen's Dut gentlemen, that the quite the man in the street, as the how to answer that questi Our British public has simulate ideas, principles, th tom is of slow growth with is tenacious of life and hard average plain Englishman's is that he should pe laws of his country. He d that; but so far, I think it citizen as any other in the might say, does not touch What about the citizen's there? Gentlemen, he has and referring to the avera beyond a vague notion that they used to be, and that t through the nose in the ma country's defences seem fr pretty poor way.

The late Lord Salisbury country is not the business government, but the business selves." (Hear, hear.) To profoundly true remark; b had of chance the British pu had of assimilating that t No one who knows our po erally for that matter, wo Lord Salisbury's statement. I am aware, of course, that persistent elaborations of Roberts. I suspect that eva tion believes the statement where he can. But if the methods of bringing it righ woman in these islands of their own persons the full man, I believe that not eve tonight would see the end o humbly, I would venture and to say that I believe have ceased to exist before know of only one voice—o ever potent the others—wh authoritative and permanent. titude we call the British p of the sovereignty as inter ministers and judges in the The present prime min onal duty of the defence o try and homes ought to be