

Does it arise from keeping some fowls in a confined space, and letting others have an extensive range? We think not; our own experience leads to a contrary conclusion; we have never seen finer Brahma or Cochin eggs than were laid by birds of these varieties kept by us in a yard four by ten; certainly they were not exceeded in size by others having an almost unlimited range. Does it arise from too close breeding; or does it owe its origin to breeding for size and feather only? We are not prepared to give a decided answer to either of these questions, but certain we are that some breeders, well known as extensive prize takers, supply hatching eggs out of all proportion in size to those which come from the yards of other breeders, less fortunate as exhibitors. What says Mr. Burnham on this point?

We commend to our readers the letter of a correspondent on this subject.

BREEDING AND EXHIBITING BUFF COCHIN CHINA FOWLS.

Having been a breeder of Buff Cochins, now something like seventeen years, and a large and most successful exhibitor at most of our English shows, a few remarks from me as to breeding and exhibiting this most useful variety of fowls may perhaps be read with some degree of interest by the readers of your valuable journal. Poultry shows in England have now become an established fact; they are remunerative, and very few of our agricultural meetings are now considered complete without the addition of Poultry. The poultry yards of many of our great breeders are made profitable, and I could relate instances where some of our aristocratic agriculturists' "wives," who have perhaps commenced breeding a few varieties of the larger breeds of fowls for exhibition just as a mere hobby, have managed their yards so successfully as

to be able to boast of making more profit out of their poultry than what their noble lords and masters have done out of their farms. I recollect, some few years ago, being at a poultry show in a country town, some 30 miles from Birmingham. I met there a lady who had taken a great interest in breeding Cochins, and she very politely gave me an invite to go and see her stock, and I need not say how soon and with what pleasure I accepted her kind invitation. I found her residence one of those real old English halls you read of but very seldom see, that could trace its date back several centuries. I was delighted with my visit, and more so with the sight of her poultry. It pleased me to notice the interest the old lady seemed to take in it and the pleasure it was to her to read over to me the pedigree of different birds, the prizes they had won, and the large sums she had realized by different sales. She showed me a document that I can assure you she was not a little proud of. It was the particulars of a sale by auction of her surplus stock of Cochins. Years back she had an annual sale by auction in London, and this document was a statement sent to her by the auctioneers of the amount the sale realized, which was several hundred pounds, the result of one sale. She boasted of her profits; and besides being very remunerative, she said it was an amusement; it found her outdoor occupation, and I have not the least doubt would add many years to the old lady's life.

Poultry shows in England have now been established about twenty-two years, and their first origin and success may be placed to the account of Cochin China fowls. I can well recollect our first show; it was at Birmingham, in a large building used as a repository for the sale of horses and carriages. It was but a very small affair, and only pigs and poultry were exhibited, and amongst