

finches and larks. The linnets and goldfinches are used very largely to breed with the canary, and produce a very fine singing bird. The bird catchers are a distinct part of the profession, and depend altogether on the bird dealers for a market for their goods. "White Chapel bird-catcher" is a name perhaps as old as London itself. They are a queer lot of fellows. They are careless and indifferent, and like their beer, but understand their business thoroughly, and can catch any thing that wears feathers, from a wren to the nobleman's rock pheasant, that roosts so near the keeper's lodge that that functionary sleeps soundly while laboring under the impression that no poucher can take one from so near his house; but wakes up in the morn to find his tally sadly diminished at feeding time.

When in a city there is no place I can spend an hour more pleasantly than in a large bird shop. I have seen them so large that the stock reminded me more of a zoological collection than a bird dealer's place of business; and to one whose inclinations lean that way, a great deal of information about animal life in other countries may be learned there. When a boy, as I said before, I spent many hours in the bird shops, and to-day I never pass one without stopping and peeping in, if time will possibly permit.

× ROADS.

Sirathroy, Nov; 23th, 1882.

Training Shepherd Dogs.

Darwin thus describes the training of shepherd dogs: "When riding it is a common thing to see a flock of sheep guarded by one or two dogs, at a distance of some miles from any house or man. I often wonder how so firm a friendship has been established. The method of education consists in separating the puppy while very young from its mother, and in accustoming it to its future companions. A ewe is held two or three times a day for the little thing to suck, and a nest of wool is made for it in the sheep pen. At no time is it allowed to associate with other dogs, or with the children of the family. From this education it has no desire to leave the flock, and just as another dog will defend his master, man, so will this dog defend sheep. It is amusing to observe, when approaching a flock, how the dog immediately advances barking and the sheep all close in his rear, as if around the oldest ram. These dogs are easily taught to bring home the sheep at a certain hour in the evening. Their most troublesome fault when young is their desire to play with the sheep, for in their sport they sometimes gallop the poor things most unmercifully. The shepherd dog comes to the house every day for his meat,

and as soon as it is given to him, skulks away, as if ashamed of himself. On these occasions the house dogs are very tyrannical and the least of them will attack and pursue the stranger. The minute, however, the latter has reached the flock he turns around and begins to bark and then all the house dogs take quickly to their heels. In a similar manner, a whole pack of hungry wild dogs will scarcely ever venture to attack a flock guarded by one of these faithful shepherds. In this case the shepherd dog seems to regard the sheep as his fellow brethren, and thus gains confidence; and the wild dogs, though knowing that sheep are not dogs but good to eat, yet when seeing them in a flock with a shepherd dog as their head, partly consent to regard them as he does."

Keeping One Hundred Fowls.

Major Ben Perley Poore, of Massachusetts, who has bred poultry for twenty-five years, says: "Fancy fowl farmers assert that any owner of land can keep a hundred fowl. From 200 birds may be obtained annually 230 dozen eggs, and, if inclined, 1500 marketable chickens before the close of August each year. The product will pay from \$450 to \$500, and leave the original stock for next year. The expenses will not be over \$200 to \$250, thus furnishing an equal sum of profit from 200 fowls. The cost of keeping them in such large quantities as alluded to would not exceed 65 cents per head, if all their food is produced at 70 cents a bushel. With the run of the farm the costs would be lessened. This leaves a handsome profit from the investment.—*Thoroughbred Stock Journal*.

The Langshan Fowl.

In the *Rural* of September 24th, 1881, appeared an inquiry of mine, thus: "Are the Langshans hardy and profitable fowls?" to which the following answer was given:—"The Langshans are only Black Cochins under another name, and as yet have done nothing to merit popularity among those who keep fowls for profit, excluding those, of course, who breed them and sell them to fanciers for \$20 to \$50 a trio."

Having learned to look upon the *Rural* as unquestioned authority upon all subjects pertaining to farm economy and rural topics, I will admit that the above answer lowered the estimate I had already placed upon the fowls, but having had a favorable opinion of the Black Cochins also, I concluded I could not be far out of the way in any event, so I procured a breeding pen of the Langshans, consisting of five hens and pullets, and a cockerel. At the same time I subscribed for the most of the Poultry Journals, and obtained many