

business afford to buy one hundred or even fifty thoroughbred fowls to begin with? No, I don't think he can, and it is not necessary that he should. Probably the cheapest way to get a flock of improved fowls is to buy a stock of the best common ones you can get and mate them with a pure bred cock. The half bred pullets will be much superior to the common ones and by keeping the best each year and always using thoroughbred males, you can keep your flock up to a high standard for market purposes.

A veteran observer has noticed that all young men who smoke cigarettes are very thin about the legs and narrow about the heads.

FRANCIS A. MORTIMER.
Pottsville, Pa.

OUR ENGLISH PORTRAIT.

We are indebted to *Vinton's Gazette* for the portrait of White Dorkings which embellishes our frontispiece this month, also for the article by Mr. O. E. Cresswell and the *English Standard* of this old variety, which we are glad to say is now receiving considerable notoriety on this side of the pond.

HOW TO SHIP FOWLS.

Editor Review :—

I am glad, Sir, you have published something on this subject. It needs agitation. I have, in common with others, been a sufferer. Let me compare the results, as I have found them, of different ways of shipping birds.

Last spring I had 12 fowls, (Cochins) sent me from a station not very far from Toronto. The freight exceeded five (5) dollars. They were sent in an enormous box in which you might have shipped a prize boar.

Compare with this another case. Not long since I received from one of your honest and reliable Toronto breeders, with whom I have many deal-



Anconas—as Bred by F. A. Mortimer,
Pottsville, Pa.

ings, six (6) fowls of a light breed, the express charges being 60 cents. He sent his birds at my suggestion, in a common, cheap clothes-basket, covered with bag canvas. The birds arrived in perfect order. (Pigeons also may be sent excellently in smaller baskets. For Fantails, a coop with cotton walls may be better.)

Now this is really about the best and cheapest way, for besides the low charges to the purchaser, the basket may be again utilized for this or for some other purpose, while only the frame of the many kinds of coops employed is of any use, as a rule, if even that. Such a basket as the above is light, safe, airy enough, and permits of the birds being seen through the spaces for the handles; and for the customary direction, "feed and water," it is "more honored in the breach than the observance;" and for my part I would not desire such meddling unless the journey lasted longer than 24 hours. Let it be remembered too that you are apt

to lose a customer if he gets disgusted over the high rates.

Yours Truly,
COMMON SENSE.

(We have frequently shipped pigeons, rabbits and guinea pigs, in ordinary grape baskets, as follows. Procure strong factory cotton enough to cover the basket, throw it over the basket and run a soft wire round it underneath the rim and outside the cotton, then draw the cotton tight, turn it over and sew all round. For stock which does not require any great height, the cotton can be slit to allow of the handle to protrude, otherwise it is best run over the handle with two small cuts in the cotton on either side, to allow of the handle being grasped.—Ed.)

AN EXPERIMENT SUGGESTED.

Editor Review :—

I was a good deal interested in a letter in your December number from a