

question of how to feed the increasing population of the world. To the student of poultry, especially if he is an advanced student, each new variety adds one more difficulty in the attainment of a complete mastery of his subject. He may be pardoned if he feels like the school boy who was studying the history of the United States and wishing that he had lived a hundred years ago so that he would not have so many Presidents to learn about.

New varieties of fowls are, however, necessary, if an evil which is not admitted—a necessary evil, and not altogether unmixed with good. Mr. Edward Brown, Editor of the *Fanciers' Gazette*, London, England, has so tersely stated the advantages of new varieties, that I am tempted to adopt his language as the expression of my own sentiments, "There can be no question," he says, "that the introduction of new varieties tends to the stimulation of interest in poultry keeping. The development of poultry keeping first took place at the time Cochins were brought over, and if the eras in the progress of this pursuit could be marked, we are sure each would be indicated by the introduction of some new variety. It is customary for older breeders to sneer at new varieties; and when this sneering has the effect of stimulating the notaries of the latter, we do not object to the result, though we do not approve of its cause. With this sneering we have no sympathy whatever, and we welcome new breeds as indicating new life and spirit in the pursuit. The older breeds in some cases get worn out; they do not meet the new conditions; but we are as ardent in the maintainance of the older varieties as in the support of the new ones. There is, in fact room for all. Of course there must be some check upon new breeds—that is, they must prove their right to exist and be worthy of recognition."



BLACK MINORCA COCKEREL.

This is so admirably expressed and so absolutely true that it needs no argument. If I needed any apology for describing the pea-comb white Plymouth Rock, Mr. Brown has supplied it. But I do not deem an apology is needed, for the variety will be brought to the test and will have to prove its right to exist and its worthiness of recognition. Before this public testing can be made, it will be necessary to show some reasons for supposing that it will successfully endure the trial, and these reasons will not be difficult to find. It is a *Plymouth*

*Rock*. In its veins flows only Plymouth Rock blood. A pea-combed cockerel hatched from the eggs of single combed Plymouth Rock fowls bred by a well-known Pennsylvania breeder, appeared in the yards of a neighbor of mine and was by him presented to me. This bird was mated to some of my pea-comb barred Plymouth Rock hens in order to lighten up their plumage, and barred chickens only were produced that season, the pullets of which mating were reserved for another season's breeding. The next season these pullets were mated