

POULTRY

NOTES.

BY BLACK WYANDOT.

INDIA Games (not "the Indian") are a splendid pit breed, except tionally fierce and terrific fighters. They are very scarce in this country as yet.

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The question now agitating the minds of some of our speculative poultrymen, is "which end of the egg is laid first?" This question cannot be settled too soon to relieve the grave suspense in which the fraternity is awaiting the decision.

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M. W. Cook, in *Poultry*, gives some very interesting information about crossing. His experiments have been thoroughly made and seem to prove that the product of a first cross make exceptionally hardy and good-laying hens.

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White Holland Turkeys are a most excellent breed, combining the best qualities of the dark plumaged birds with the advantage of a beautiful pure white color. White feathers are always more valuable and more in demand than dark feathers. White Hollands are as large as the average Bronze. If you are troubled by your turkeys mixing with your neighbor's flock, get the white breed and the trouble will be avoided.

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Experience will invariably teach that black fowls cannot be uniform in color and have yellow shanks. Black fowls if they have dark undercolor and solid black surface color, must have dark shanks, either pure black or black shading to dark yellow or willow.

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Considering the attraction fancy pigeon culture should have for the genuine fancier, it is surprising that they are not universally cultivated, and that

we do not hear more about them through the medium of the fanciers papers. A select loft of fancy pigeons presents a beautiful appearance and is a sight one may always be proud to show to visiting friends. There is certainly pleasure and profit to be derived from them.

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The fraternity is in need of more judges. Even the old stand-bys, who have made reputation and money out of judging the shows of the country, will acknowledge that they cannot fill near all the demands and will join in the call for more judges. A good judge must be a true fancier. He should be high-minded, impartial, and like Caesar's wife "above suspicion." For such judges there is a promising field. To be sure the duties of a judge at a show are arduous but the remuneration is generally good. It requires years of practice to develop good poultry judges, that alone is a reason why more young men should begin practice at once. A good judge cannot be made by mere knowledge of the *Standard*, he must combine with that knowledge a correct ideal (gained only by much observation and experience) of the living fowl.

SUITABLE PERCHES, AND AT WHAT AGE SHOULD THEY BE PROVIDED FOR CHICKENS.

FOWLS.

THE writer of this article has kept many varieties of fowls for forty years, and being an old breeder and exhibitor, the greatest attention has, of course, been given to the study of the best kind of perches for various breeds of chickens. With respect to the best perches and the best time to allow chicken to begin to perch, there is no fixed time, it all depends on the

variety kept. For instance, the large, heavy breeds do not, as a rule, begin to perch as soon as Game or Hamburgs. My advice to fanciers, no matter what breed is kept, is to try and induce chickens not to perch too soon, but keep them bedded down on clean straw or hay for as long as the chickens will keep to the beds. Nature will, however, show the proper time for them to perch. You will observe that at roosting-time, when they want to perch, they will seem very unsettled, and be looking up to the top of the pens, trying to find a higher place. When this is seen, then place the perches about 1 ft. 6 in. high, but do not pen the chickens in the same pen as the old hens, as the hens fight the chicks in the early morning.

The various sorts of perches should be according to the variety kept. For instance, take Game; they require a perch about 4 in. round, and if the bark is left on so much the better, as the bird can then have a firm grip. This is a very important point with Game, as, if the perches are too thick, the back claw cannot grip the perch, the consequence of which makes them more or less duck-footed. A duck-footed Game cock is of no use for the prize pen. The meaning of the duck-foot is the back claw turns in the same direction as the three other claws, this being a fatal flaw both for the pit or the show pen. Perches are made by some exhibitors of Game loose at one end and slung by a string in order to make the the bird grip by the back claw. In this way it prevents the claw becoming duck-footed, as the term is applied.

It is well to understand about the height of perch, as, if too high, the chickens, in flying down, fall heavily on the ground, which often causes bumblefoot and other ills.

If perches cannot be conveniently got with the hark on, get those without the sharp edges, and for the larger