

COLOUR OF DARK BRAHMA HEN.—(*Fancier*).—The brown or salmon colour is a defect in a Brahma hen. If we had others as good, lacking the colour, we should not breed from her. If she has qualities that make it desirable, we should mate her with a dark cock—that is, black and white, and, above all, one without the chestnut patch on his wing or a brown feather in any part of his plumage.

SILVER PENCILLED HAMBURGS.—(*Albany*).—Assuming that all your cockerels are of the same age, we should certainly give the preference to the perfect earlobes. If they are all of the same strain, and he of the white ear be older than the others, we should not hurry to make our selection, because age will often transfer the faulty into a perfect earlobe, just as it does the face of a Spanish pullet.

CROP BOUND FOWLS.—(*W. H. D., Toronto*), writes "I was just reading 'The Henwife' by the Hon. Mrs. Arbuthnot, and in the chapter on diseases of fowls she advises the use of the knife in cases of crop-bound. Why not do away entirely with that barbarous custom? I have found only one writer who recommends any other plan, Mr. John Bailey, of London, Eng., who says in his work entitled 'Fowls': 'pour plenty of water down the throat and loosen the food until it is soft, then give a tablespoonful of castor-oil, or as much jalap as will lie on a sixpence, make a pill and slide it into the crop; the fowl will be well in the morning.' Who will say that this is not the most humane treatment? When I have a fowl so situated I generally use warm ale with a few grains of sulphate of iron dissolved in it, and think it preferable to water."

YOUNG ROUEN DUCKS.—(*E. D. Duncan, Memphis, Tenn.*).—Asks, "Where can I get a trio of Rouen Ducks such as described in December number of THE CHRONICLE, page 85? You say young drakes only nine or ten weeks old, when killed, weigh 12 lbs. the pair. I would very much like to get a trio that would at six months old weigh so much." Our correspondent evidently appears sceptical as to what we stated in our last issue respecting weights; such is the case, however, and we refer him to a short article in the present number on the Birmingham (England) show, in which he will see the weights mentioned of ducks, geese and turkeys, which no doubt will somewhat surprise him. For obvious reasons we cannot single out the name of any one breeder of Rouen Ducks for him to apply to. Our advertising columns give the names of several who, no doubt, if applied to, will be able to supply him with the birds he asks for. Rouen Ducks, however, are not bred very freely in Canada yet, but

we trust soon will. Our correspondent will be more likely to find among our English advertisers what he requires. As to the cost of carriage, he had better apply at the express office for information.

GAME FOWLS—THE COCK'S INFLUENCE.—(*Fancier*).—"I would like to have the opinion of some of the readers of your—to us fanciers—valuable paper on the following points. I have been breeding Hamburgs, Brahmans and Game. My practice is about the beginning of the year to put all the cock birds by themselves and the hens by themselves; I cannot, however, keep two Game cocks together under any circumstances. When I wish to save eggs, say the end of February, I select my birds for breeding and put them together. I find the results are perfectly satisfactory in all outward characteristics. Now, the question I would like to have solved is this—Is the disposition of the Game affected by running with other fowls through the summer? I know that Game breeders are very much opposed to letting any but Game birds run together, and as anything that is likely to deteriorate the Game qualities is important to know, the question is, therefore, one on which I would like to have the opinion of some of the Game breeders, as I consider it can only be satisfactorily answered by those who have given it a trial."

Advertisements.

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