

days. Neither the scrub nor the fancy bird could possibly be benefitted by such a useless test in fact it would be no "test" at all another thing to remember is that it is totally impracticable. We should require a sworn guard to every hen, so that there would be no possibility of an egg being stolen, or broken by the hen when laid in the exhibition coop, in which case it would not be counted in the returns, and it does not require a very strong imagination to judge of the chances open to fraud of every kind in such a contest. No! we are afraid the plans proposed have too many complications to render them of use in solving the vexed questions that pertain to the qualities for and against scrubs and thoroughbreds as layers.

#### Breeds for Broilers.

**I**N choosing breeds to cross, to produce a good, meaty, quick growing chick for market as broilers, there is nothing that can beat a cross made with good Wyandotte hens, and either Light Brahma or Plymouth Rock cocks. Another good one is Rose Comb White Leghorn cock and Light Brahma hen, but the breast meat is not quite so juicy though they grow tremendously quick.

In choosing varieties to cross always get birds having the same colored skin and legs in both parents, then the bodies of the broilers when dressed will present a nice appearance. Always remember that in most markets a yellow skin and leg is preferred, and whatever the public taste is, you must provide for it or lose some percentage of profit. It is no use to say to the would-be purchaser that white skin and legs are just as good, or black ones either, if he likes yellow, yellow he will have.

To our mind there is no finer broiler than pure Wyandotte, and very few as good. The breast bone is deep and there is room on it for filling up. Their bones are small, and leave little room in the carcass for offal. The depth of the breast bone is more to be considered than many might suppose, if it is not deep you cannot have a deep breast, because the flesh never grows over the base of the bone but fills up on each side even with it. That is the weak

points in some breeds, they do not inherit the depth of body, even though the birds may be larger. The Wyandotte too, though only medium weight, has a fine meaty thigh, of fine grained flesh, and is valuable to cross with any breed. We have received very favorable notice lately of a cross with a Light Brahma male. The cross was made by a practical man for market poultry, and he is very favorably impressed with the result, the birds being remarkably quick growers. In fact he says he has "had grand results." It is always of interest to produce good market birds, and the only wonder is that so many poultry raisers neglect it entirely, but breed anything and everything on the old lines of "a hen can't be anything more than a hen nohow."

#### To Pack Down Eggs.

The following is valuable for every one who keep fowls. Even the poultry fancier is compelled to use many of his eggs for table purposes, and by packing them he can realize better prices later on. We give the following rules for doing so, as found that excellent periodical, Good Housekeeping, viz.

I.—Put one pint of salt and a pound of quicklime into one gallon of water. Stir it well and let it stand ten days before putting in the eggs. Put them in, a few at a time, and if they rise to the top add more water, as the lime-water is too strong and will cook the eggs. Eggs so treated will keep a year, but cannot be cooked in their shells as the lime seals the shell and will cause it to burst when heated.

Wash your roosts occasionally with spirits of turpentine, or kerosene. This prevents the accumulation of lice in the poultry-houses, and the fumes of this pungent oil permeates the feathers of your fowls at night and drives the vermin from their bodies. At from five to six months old separate the young cocks from the pullets, and rear each sex by themselves. When you wish to mate for breeding (in December or January) is time enough to allow them to run together.

Get a punch and mark your fowls; when you see one of them in your neighbor's yard, go over and claim it, and when they inform you that it is one of their hens that has been there for years, just catch it and show them your "brand." Evidence of that kind is better than a judge or jury, and decidedly cheaper than hunting for it in a crowded court room.