

DISQUALIFICATIONS.

Yellow legs, yellow at base of beak or around the eye. White or colored feathers, blue or purple sheen. Wry tail, crooked back, or slipped wing, Any plucking, trimming, or other fraudulent practice.

This standard with notes was sent by Major A. C. Croad, Manor House, Durrington, Worthington, England, to Mrs. R. W. Sargent, Kittery, York County, Maine,

Artificial Breeding of Domestic Fowls.

By WILLIAM HENRY THICK, 393 Gloucester St.,
Ottawa, Ont.

No. II.

Having several times attempted in vain to communicate to my three capons by the aforesaid methods the talents I wished them to acquire, I sent them at last to the woman who had the management of the poultry yard of the lady before mentioned, they came out of her school very well instructed, but not till ten or twelve days after they had been put under her discipline. Her method was neither to pluck the feathers off their breast or rub it with nettles, nor to make them drunk, but she kept a capon alone for a day or two in a deep but not very wide bucket, which was covered with boards, taking him several times a day out of the bucket to put him in a basket where he finds some food, soon after giving him for companions two or three of these little chickens who have already some strength, and are fledged so far as to have some feathers in their wings and even appearance in their tails; they are left with him and made to eat together. If he abuses them she parts them for a time, and the next day puts the same or some other chickens with the capon into the bucket, which lets in but very little light. By means of these operations, repeated several times a day and for some days together, the capon will contract a habit of living with two or three chickens; the number of these must be increased by degrees; he accustoms himself to the company of the last as he has done to that of the first, and when you have at length put seven or eight chickens with him, and he seems to have taken a liking to them, you may afterwards give him a greater number without any risk, he being now brought to the point of showing the greater satisfaction as the number of chickens is increased. He may then be set at liberty, and will set on them as hens do on their chickens, whenever they stand in need of being warmed; he will lead them to places where he thinks they can find any food, will cluck like the hens to call back those that stray too far away, and will redouble his clucking when he finds some dainty bits for them to come and share

with him. The first days of his education are the most difficult, they seldom pass without the death or lameness of some chick; these dismal scenes must be expected, as they are not to be repeated afterwards, they are the price of the instruction of the capon. By means of the same education you may be equally successful in causing cocks to grow as fond as capons of leading and tending young chickens. When capons and cocks have once been taught how to nurse chickens, it is a talent they keep till the end of their lives; if you leave them unemployed for several months together, you find them again endowed in the spring with the talent, or a few lessons will suffice to make them resume it.

I have some hopes that it would be possible to bring up chickens with success at all times of the year without the charge of supplying so many capons with corn. It seems to me that one might expect that the same hot-bed of dung which had served them in lieu of a mother to cause them to be hatched, might also serve towards preserving their life and make them grow, and that one might also use these baking ovens or others wherein the eggs they had been hatched from had been placed. The success answered my expectations to the full, but not without paying for the pleasure I had had to see thousands of chickens hatched, but the grief of seeing a great many of them die. But the series of my trials towards bringing up chickens either by means of the heat of dung or by means of a common fire that costs nothing, or but very little, at least taught me methods to do it with success, that were as plain and sure as I had desired them. They are in so many respects superior to the method hitherto employed that the reader will be of the opinion that there would even be a benefit to be obtained by taking from the hens the chickens they themselves have hatched, in order to tend them according to some of these new methods. I shall begin by explaining those which require the use of a hot-bed, as they will leave me but very little more to say concerning those that shall have the heat of common fire.

(To be continued)

Poultry Keeping.—For Beginners.

By A. M. HALSTED, Rye, N. Y., U. S.

The exhibition season now at hand is usually the commencement of an attack of "Hen Fever." The sight of the fine specimens brought together in the show rooms, stimulates the latent love of feathered pets in many a visitor; and with others, the rumors of five, ten, fifteen and more dollars, paid for certain specimens, arouses the financial element of his nature, and he is impressed with the idea that he can "go and do likewise" *v. e.* can