

debted to America for the earliest perfection of it, thus reversing the case of the large fowls of the same name. American breeders, like other citizens of this country, do not like to remain too long in debt to the mother country.

If we cannot yet write of this variety that it has become perfectly established, I think we can congratulate ourselves upon having the foundation well and securely laid and can reasonably anticipate the time when we can write perfected on it.

While tastes differ as to what constitutes real beauty, the verdict seems to be pretty unanimous that the dark Brahma Bantam possesses all of the elements which make for beauty in feather-legged fowls. The shape is attractive and the coloration even more attractive. When the cocks are produced with beautifully striped hackles and saddles and solid black breasts, and the hens with from three to five dark pencilings upon each feather, the ground color of which is a pure steel grey, there will be, I believe, few Bantams that can be called more beautiful.

It will be many years before the size is reduced to that of our smallest Bantams, if ever such a result is obtained. But in a few years more birds ought to be bred which are not materially larger than the Cochin Bantams, and that is a sufficient reduction in size for most purposes. All Bantams do not need to be of a size. If a Bantam is not more than one-fifth the size of the large fowl, which it represents, it is certainly entitled to be ranked as a Bantam. To go much below this is to incur the danger of the loss of other qualities, quite as desirable as smallness. At the present time the birds are probably about one-fourth of the size of the larger fowls.

If one should ask of what value it is to have Brahma Bantams the answer would be that many admire the large fowls, but are unable to keep them because of the lack of

suitable accommodations. But when the Brahmas become Bantams in size, their accommodations are sufficient, and they are no longer deterred from gratifying their tastes. Bantams of all varieties have this advantage, that they can be kept in limited quarters, and by reason of this fact the number of poultry keepers, can be greatly increased. And, as every accession to the ranks of poultry keepers, adds one more to the number of producers, the poultry products of the nation have an increased value. If one could take an accurate census of the Bantam breeders of the country and of the value of their annual productions, the sum total would probably astonish even the most extravagant estimates. Hundreds of thousands of dollars annually are probably added to the wealth of the nation through these little fowls. And the end is not yet reached, for with each new variety of Bantams, and the new varieties of Bantams, and the greater number of Bantam breeders continues to increase. Where it will end no one can predict, but so long as good alone can result, this increase can be viewed without fear. The more varieties of Bantams, and the greater the number of breeders, the better it is for them and for the country. In this good work, for it can not be regarded as anything else, because of the real beauty and the not inconsiderable utility of the fowls, the dark Brahma Bantam bids fair to be an important factor.



THE National Bantam Association held its seventh annual meeting at Madison Square Garden on Thursday evening, February 1st, during the progress of the New York Poultry and Pigeon Association's eleventh exhibition. Twenty-three members responded to the roll call. President Williams presided.

There being no changes necessary in the minutes of the last annual meeting the members voted promptly to accept them and they were ordered filed.

The annual report of the treasurer showed total assets of \$163. Out of this amount nearly \$100 were paid out in cash specials, and after paying for the special ribbons and expenses of the secretary, the Association will have a cash balance of about \$20. This statement was favorably received without the formality of a report from an auditing committee, as the Association has never doubted the sterling

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hens, which were imported direct from three leading breeders in England and average 7 pounds each pen, headed by grand large cockerel I purchased from Andrews and Santee, of Canandaigua, New York winners. This is a grand pen and should give excellent results.

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