

long-standing friendship. So first, the Dorking:

As representing the growth most desirable in a farm-yard fowl—as possessing the best flesh with the least waste of bone and offal—as the groundwork or foundation of all our best crosses—the Dorking made a great mistake when it assumed the extra toe, though now a Dorking without the fifth toe is more than a mistake.

We will not pretend that the Dorking chick is an easy youngster to rear under adverse circumstances, any more than we will assert that a Dorking hen is one of the best machines for egg-production. We may allow also that she often proves a very clumsy mother. We know, too, that the Dorking family do not answer well in small runs. Yet knowing and allowing these weaknesses and failings, if believing in farm poultry so far as to determine to keep them, I shall as much expect to get on nicely without Dorking blood in the poultry as I should expect to economise labour by going into the straw-yard without a fork,

Dorkings are represented under four titles—"colored," "silver-grey," "white," "cuckoo." The two first are "much of a muchness" except in colour. The silver, being rather more of a "fancy" bird, are bred more carefully as regards feather. The white are quite unlike them in size, colour, and comb. The cuckoo are not patronised to any great extent, so all I will say of them, specially and distinctly, is to recommend them, when a good useful *blue* fowl is wanted.

It will not be desired that I should take up space in describing all the points of any or either breed of fowls. Therefore my remarks will be directed to the essentials only. The coloured Dorking is *the* bird. Look at his square, well-set body, representing some 8 lb. or more of real good flesh and feathers, upon short white legs. There is not much waste there. No coarse legs and

thighs to order off for a "devil," because too much of it for roast—no perplexity for the cook in deciding whether to roast or to boil—because excellent in either case. We do not eat the head or the feet; nevertheless we like the cock to have a large, perfectly upright, evenly serrated single comb, and five thoroughly divided toes. Nay, more: we insist upon the toes, as characteristic of the Dorking of any variety, and we would rather see a blue spot on the nose of a Devon bull, or we would as soon find a spot on the nose of a favorite Jersey cow, as discover dark sooty spots on the legs of a Dorking fowl.

That's my hobby, perhaps. Be it so; "Dorking fowl and white legs for ever." Now, let him go to roost, and we will fetch down another sort of fowl next time, merely reminding those who know little of poultry—and in those days there are but few—that the comb of a coloured Dorking hen must fold over, and that "double-combed" birds are admissible, though not patronised. Whilst the white Dorking must have a double comb, is a smaller bird, a better layer, and under certain circumstances, a more hardy bird than the coloured, the white is believed by many people to be the "original." If so, the coloured is an improvement, and yet a very old favourite in those days of progress.

If a good horse can be of any colour, the Dorking should enjoy a good latitude, though I always select a black-breasted cockrel.—*Fanciers' Gazette*.

#### WE BEG TO DIFFER.

The *Rural Canadian's* young man in writing up the report of the Industrial "expands" himself not a little. There is a kind of coached-by-an-exhibitor tone through the whole report, which savours not a little of partiality. We note the following remarks. Speaking of the winning black Leghorns he says they were "miserable looking." They happen to be the best blacks for style,

colour, lobe, and in fact all properties that have been seen lately.

Again:—"Plymouth Rocks a few years ago were all the rage, but are rapidly dropping out of favour. This year they made the poorest exhibit that has been seen for a long time, there being sufficient good birds to take the prizes—and that is about all that can be said of this excellent variety at Toronto Fair.

"Wyandottes seem to be supplanting the Plymouths, they being an easier variety to breed true."

Rocks "dropping out of favour"! Not much young man! Not much!

Our Wyandotte fanciers will be glad to hear that this variety is *easier* to breed than Plymouth Rocks. Probably those who have *bred* them extensively have as yet never found this out.

#### QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY STANLEY SPILLET.

I am requested to bring before the fanciers of Ontario, or indeed Canada or even America, the question, "Why are the majority of chicks, especially those of the larger breeds, cockerels?" I admit that I am not prepared to give reasons nor to account for this. I have noticed that I have always had too many cockerels for the number of pullets, but I have always had the notion that this arose from selling trios and pens, but this year I had two cockerels to one pullet and the greater part of my flock was hatched in May. I have noticed that early L. B's with me are nearly always almost all cockerels, and I have wondered if it does not arise from the male having more energy than, or, by some writers, the females. Some claim that if a cow is stabled till the inclination is on the wane that heifer calves will be a certainty. Let us have something upon this subject.

"What is the best mode of breeding