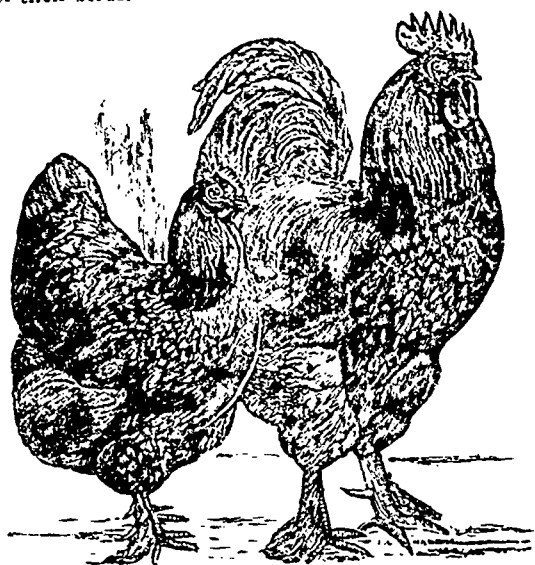


representatives of the genuine fowls they were as worthy of contempt as are inferior birds of any other breed. Whoever chooses to call this a case of Langshan conversion, is at liberty to do so. My partialities in the Asiatic class are for the Cochins, and I have been known as a "Cochin man."

Nor do I own a Langshan. I have simply this to say, that I have seen the bird himself, and am satisfied that I was wrong in applying to the true and genuine specimen the terms which are still merited by those mongrels which have, before this, been introduced to me by an honorable name. In this season's shows, where I had occasion to judge, I came across the veritable specimens. It was no more possible to mistake them, if any one had seen them, than a good Cochin could be mistaken for a good Brahma. If one chooses to contend that some Langshans are much like some Black Cochins, I shall not deny that, but that it is as poor a specimen of a Langshan, as it is of a Cochin, which he is said to resemble.

I do not like to suspect interested motives, but I know of Black Cochin breeders, who are perhaps the loudest in crying down the Langshan, while, on the sly, they have put a Langshan cock into their Black Cochin Yards to improve the size of their birds."



Langshan

From correspondence with Chas. Marland Esq. of Ballardvale, Mass. who has been breeding the bird, we quote this: "I have been breeding Fancy Poultry the last twenty (20) years, and I am free to say that I never kept a breed of fowls that I thought combined so many good points of excellence as the Langshan.

First, they are almost unsurpassed as layers. I sometimes get as many eggs in a day as I have hens; and what is better, they keep laying, and not a few days; then, stopping for days. They are of a quiet disposition, although my fowls have free range I seldom find any of them more than one hundred feet from the fowl-house.

The flesh is white in color, fine grained, making, when dressed, a fine table fowl and very palatable.

Every person who sees my yard of Langshan fowls admires them for their beauty, particularly when the sun shines upon them, bringing out the beautiful greenish lustre of the plumage."

I am importing eggs this season from Major Croad's yards, the introducer of the breed into England, and this fall shall import some fine stock, and intend that my yards of Langshan Fowls shall not be surpassed on this side of the water.

S. J. A.

Seasonable hints.

The season is upon us, when the mind as well as the hands must be more active than at any other time of the year. The heat of summer is coming upon us, it behoves the poultry breeder to beware of the worst enemies he has to contend with, lice and vermin of all kinds. If the ounce of prevention which is better than a pound of cure is not attended to and applied in time, he will find the enemy upon him in myriads of battalions, where there was at first only a skirmishing party, and he will find them harder to fight than an army of Boers, for they stick fast and tight when once they get into the breach left open for them through carelessness. Remove from the inside of the house everything that can be moved, even the supports for the roosts, whitewash the inside of the house, removing the roosts; and washing them with kerosene every week, thoroughly cleanse the nest boxes, and burn all old straw and material that has been used through the spring; renew the earthen floor with fresh dry earth, then close the house up as tight as possible; put live coals in an iron vessel, burn roll brimstone, keep closed for twelve hours, and you will pretty sure of peace for the summer. S. J. A.

Poultry Food.

There are many kinds of grain used as food for poultry, but in the main, corn seems to be the staple diet in this country. Through the influence and diffusion of poultry literature, we are taught to regard diet as a matter of real importance as it affects the health of fowls, and also their productiveness.

All kinds of grain, if sound, have certain constituent properties, but they differ in their nutritive value, which varies with their chemical composition. Some tend to promote the growth, some to promote fattening, and some to egg production.

Oats and barley, which are rich in protein compounds are best adapted to develop muscular tissue and growth in young fowls. Corn, which is specially rich in oils, is best adapted for heating and fattening, and for this purpose has no equal among grains. Wheat and buckwheat, being rich in gluten and albumen, are best adapted for egg production. Rye, although a wholesome grain, is not much relished either by young or old fowls, and if used at all, it should be ground and combined with other grains. Bran and middlings are largely used as food, but middlings alone are too sticky, and fowls do not like it. Good middlings, and wheat bran mixed, and to these, if oatmeal, or cornmeal be added and scalded with boiling water or milk, makes an excellent food, and may be profitably be given once a day, the year through, and constitute the staple morning meal of soft food.

Milk in any form, for either growing or adult fowls, is an excellent drink, and is a good substitute for insects, worms, etc.

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Chickens.

Some of our farmers complain that it is not profitable to raise and keep chickens. At which we are not very much surprised, when we see and know of the careless manner in which they are kept.

Chickens will pay if properly attended to in supplying their wants when young, and giving comfortable quarters instead of allowing them to run everywhere, and roost any where, on the farm utensils, carriages, wheel-barrow handle, and mowing machine, throwing the soft food down on the ground, where the most of it is trampled upon and spoiled instead of being eaten: under such circumstances they will not pay; but with proper food given at the right time, and kept clean, warm and dry, they will pay a greater percentage than any other animals kept on the farm.

S. J. A.