

legs. We shall be disappointed if at the forth-coming revision blue legs will not take the preference, though for the present it would be both unwise, and unfair to those breeders who have been breeding in unison with the *Standard* as it now is, to disqualify for the color it at present calls for, still we are of the opinion that in judging blue legs should have the preference.

#### "COCHINS

have long been favorites of mine, and owing to the fact that in England, at least for sometime, Cochin Bantams were a monopoly of one exhibitor, and all attempts at importing had failed, I tried my hand at reducing the full-sized Cochins, and simultaneously put in hand partridge, buff, and black Cochins, and light and dark Brahmas. These, with the Malays and Polands, filled up my time pretty fully; and three years ago I added white Cochins to my list. With the Cochins I crossed white and black-booted Bantams, and had made five years' progress with them when I was fortunate enough to import about a dozen buff Pekins, which I at once crossed with my own strains; and now, after four or five crosses with pure imported Pekins and my own, each time using the pure Pekin blood on one side, the result is a much hardier and more prolific strain of Bantams, the buffs richer and more, even in colour than the Chinese, the blacks sounder in fluff and fuller in cushion than the foreigners, and the partridges and whites almost ready to place in the show pen.

For the dark Brahmas I have used the black Pekin cross, obtaining the first cross from dark Brahma cock (of pullet breeding strain) and my own strain of black Pekin hens. The first cross of these were nearly black chickens, moulting out to be very dark grey. The second cross, from a pure imported black Pekin cock and pullets Brahma-Pekin, the pullets were all entirely green black, with Brahma combs; the cock-

erels black at first, afterwards moulting grey hackles and saddles. One of these I mated with a pure-bred dark Brahma hen of pullet strain, but very small size, and had pullets  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. at seven months old, which I bred back to a cock, brother to their father. This cross produced a pullet, very highly recommended at the Palace, 1885, as a dark Brahma, and weighing 22 ozs. and under  $2\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. at 16 months old.

In about another couple of years I hope to have established a strain of dark Brahma Bantams.

The light Brahmas I crossed with white-booted Bantams, and also with a good little Japanese hen, white with dark tail; but the best results by far were from the white-booted, these having yellow legs. I found it much more difficult to breed out the Japanese character (long tails and wings) than to breed enough black in the hackles, wings, and tail of chickens from the white-booted. After three years breeding I accidentally heard of a light Brahma, hardly larger than a Bantam, and I purchased and added her to my stock, and succeeded in breeding a cockerel from her, which bred my prize-winners of 1886.

In all these crosses I have acted upon the theory that it is of the utmost importance that the sire shows all the outward characteristics you want to perpetuate.

If you want to breed light Brahma Bantams, use a thoroughbred light Brahma cock and any small Bantam hens you think nearest in character to what you want.

If your object is to get partridge Cochins, your sire must be a good bird of that breed. Your hens may be white-booted, black-booted, buff, or black Cochin Bantams, &c., and the pullets of first cross must be bred back to their sire, or a sire of the same breed.

Spanish Bantams will not be difficult to produce, between a large rose-comb

black Bantam hen and a black Spanish cockerel as the first cross. Andalusians also would require a black Bantam hen in like manner. Leghorns would be easier still, the only cross required being white or pile-bred black-red Game Bantam hens. I am now engaged on the production of Spangled Hamburg Bantams, and have made three crosses with encouraging success. But the latest addition to my poultry yards are the Burmese Bantams, my practical acquaintance with which is only of some 12 month's standing. I received my first from an officer, who spent some years in Burmah, and is well acquainted with the breed in its native country. He informs me that the natives give the preference to the speckled or spangled, having white ground and splashes of red, buff, or black, or any two or even three of these colours, but that white ones and self-blacks are highly prized and very rare; there are also other colours, and this season I have bred black, white, pile-coloured, speckled or spangled, and dark mahogany-coloured chickens. They are very quaint little birds, with immensely long flowing tails, very abundantly sickled; they have smallish single combs, full crests, heavily feathered legs and feet, and drooping wings, very short backs, and full breasts, with the head thrown back so as to touch the tail.

Some Burmese Bantams were exhibited at the Dairy Show which were black and white spangled or speckled, without crests, and only scantily feathered on legs and feet, but as this variety is nothing if not a bird of *feather*, the crests and abundant boots are points not to be overlooked, and if beard and whisker can also be added (which I hope to do in a short time) then I think we shall find the Burmese a most interesting and attractive variety. I hear that others have recently been imported, but at the time of writing I have seen none, except those at the Dairy Show referred to, and my own. They are to be met with in the regions about