

The Standard for males (the disputed point) calls for "a rich deep buff or *reddish orange*," (the italics are ours) "except the tail, which should be a rich dark chestnut or black, with coverlets a deeper chestnut color." We evidently interpret differently the term "reddish orange."

PROPER SHADE?

We wish every breeder of Pekins would write us what he thinks is the proper shade, likening it to some familiar object. It is only by comparison that a decision can be arrived at.

EXPERIENCE, NOT THEORY.

We may say that we can write confidently from experience in this case, having within the last few years raised over two hundred Pekin bantams.



MORTIMER'S MONTHLY MORSELS.

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No one will give you a lift if you do not try to keep yourself. Remember the Danish proverb, "He who throws himself under the bench will be left to lie there."

Guineas are not polygamous, but mate in pairs; an even number of cocks and hens should be kept in a flock, for the eggs of hens not paired will fail to hatch, and the single hen will be an object of attack from the others at times. A flock of guineas is a very attractive feature, and should be in every poultry yard. They are the very best of guardians of the poultry house, and upon the approach of chicken thieves, or ravenous birds or beasts, either night or day, sound the alarm, and they keep up the racket until the neighborhood is aroused, and the intruder leaves.

It is safe to estimate fifty cents for each hen as the cost of a poultry house, where a great many are kept; but for small flocks one dollar a head is a liberal estimate. The manure will more than pay the interest on the money thus invested, and keep the building in repair. Did you ever think of this?

The most important point to be observed when keeping fowls in confinement is to keep them industriously at work. This is the golden rule in managing poultry in large numbers and is the key to success.

The careful poultry keeper will provide boxes or bins filled with fine road dust, coal ashes, sandy loam, or pure loam, or fine clay, thoroughly dried and pulverized. It makes but little difference which is used. The principal thing is that it is clean, that is, not a highly manured soil, but a comparative unfertile one preferable. Sub soil will do very well. The next qualification is that it must be perfectly dry, and another is that it must be thoroughly pulverized. The best place to locate the dust bath is just inside the south or east windows, where the fowls may enjoy the health giving rays of the sun, and where the dust in the boxes will be more apt to be kept thoroughly dry.

In all the principal towns and cities where railways pass or terminate, responsible parties can constantly be found who are ready, with cash in hand, to take all the *good* dead poultry that is offered within striking distance of such principal places. There is never a glut in the market for *prime* stock, and the best will always command a good price and a certain sale. With facilities and these facts before them, we are inclined to think that our distant farmer friends will find it to their advantage to give more attention to the multiplying of good marketable poultry-stock,

which, when dressed in good condition, will always command the dollars promptly, as we have hinted. Farmers will consult their advantages by substituting some regular breed for the common stock.

Turkeys should not be confined to be fattened until about ten days before they are to be sold. They will gain rapidly in flesh for about ten days, but after that time they begin to lose flesh, owing to becoming restless and uneasy from confinement.

Although every farmer and cottager in this country can raise more or less ducks for his own use and for the food market, still there is not as great a demand for them as in European countries, where their facilities for keeping them are not as good as ours. We have in the United States four distinct breeds of ducks, well-known to poultry men, besides the Musk and common varieties. The Rouen is French, the Aylesbury English, the Pekin Chinese, Cayuga North American, and Musk South America.

Get ready for winter. We have said it before, but it bears repeating; make everything nice, clean, sweet and warm—warm quarters prevent roup, and dry yards promote health. Spade up the yards once more before the ground freezes; whitewash and thoroughly disinfect, mend all fences, and paste old newspapers inside the hen house.

We have seen it stated that a Kentucky farmer cures chicken cholera, by boiling a bushel of smart weed in ten gallons of water down to three gallons, and mixing the decoction with their food twice a day for three days, and then every other day for a week.

Experience teaches that small flocks of chickens pay a larger per cent. than do large flocks, barely from the fact of