

I have also had some queer freaks of nature in the birds themselves. I remember having a chicken hatched with four legs, which died, and I once had a bird with a perfect hen's body and a cock's head. This bird used to crow, but never laid.

Some fanciers may probably attribute these strange specimens to "inbreeding," upon which a great deal has been written. It is a great mistake to introduce fresh blood into your yard unless you have a very good idea as to how a bird is bred. If you have a first-rate strain of birds you can "inbreed" for a number of years, and the result, I believe, will be satisfactory. One of the best, if not the best buff pullet I ever bred, was bred from brother and sister. I reared two pullets from this pen, one was first at Birmingham, and was claimed at ten guineas. The other was h.c., and fetched a good price, four or five guineas.

In mating buff Cochins, I select the hens as large and as good in shape as possible, and get them as near the colour of the cock's breast as I can. As I said before, it is sometimes difficult to get old hens quite even in color, but I do not think this of so much importance in breeding as size and shape. The cock or cockerel which I should put with hens, must have all the good qualities of a Cochin, as we are told he is half the breeding pen, and I think, as a rule, you will find the majority of chickens follow him in style. In my opinion it is better to breed from a moderate sized male bird than one too large. You will find you will have a greater number of fertile eggs. You will of course put a cockerel with hens, and a cock with pullets. I should say about half a dozen hens or pullets in each pen. I have been told by an experienced breeder that the majority of chicks bred from a cockerel and hens will be pullets, and the majority from an old cock and pullets will be cockerels. Whether this is so, or not, I cannot say. I have never given special atten-

tion to this.

Before I say anything about the chickens I will give you my idea of what I think a Cochin house should be. Of course most of you know that one of the peculiarities of a Cochin is that they do not perch, but roost on the ground. Care must, therefore, be taken they have a dry roosting place, free from draughts. The house should be air-tight round the bottom if possible, with plenty of ventilation at the top of it, as we all know that any foul smell ascends, and if the ventilation is too low down the foul cannot get away, which is, of course, very injurious to the birds.

(To be Continued.)

**M**R. H. B. DONOVAN, Toronto, has imported during the past month fourteen cavies and two lop-ear rabbits. Three of the latter were shipped, but one doe failed to arrive, died on the way, presumably. The rest all came in excellent health and condition. The cavies are described by Mr. Wilcox, Farnham, the shipper, as follows:

PEN No. 1.—Peruvian Boar and two sows. The one with hind part of body black, is in kindle to a different boar, the other being in kindle to the boar sent you.

PEN No. 2.—Black, white and little cream, Abyssinian boar, a real good pig, won 1st Tunbridge Wells, England, Club Show, also 3rd Notts. Sow, black and white, in kindle to above boar, breeds some good Tortoiseshell pigs. Sow, agouti and cream, in kindle to a well rossetted tortoise and white boar.

PEN No. 3.—English boar, red and white, he has bred me some good pigs, just lately I have had two reds got by him, and out of sow I send you, viz., the red and agouti, with little white between ears, she is now in kindle to a red boar; so is the red and white sow, Dutch marked head. The red and agouti sow is in kindle to the red and white boar, so

that you will have youngsters unrelated.

PEN No. 4.—English boar, black. This pig you will be pleased with, and he is worth a deal more, as you will admit. He has bred me some good pigs, and as none of the sows sent you with him are in kindle to him, you can safely make them with him, and the result will be good. Sow, large splash behind left ear, bred from dark parents by myself, and in kindle to a black boar, by whom she had a black last litter. Sow, dark color, with red on rump and between eyes and on tip of nose, in kindle to a dark tortoise boar, he being bred from blacks. Sow, red face, in kindle to a boar, sire of "Black Brunswick." The pig I showed at Ealing, England, where he won special for best pig in show, beating all roughs, and doing the like at Bath, after I sold him to a lady fancier, in fact he won first and four specials. I hope the sow will produce another "Toronto Brunswick."

You will see by the above that I have sorted you up a stock that I know something about, and which, as stock pigs, are sure to do all you wish of of them. Pen No. 4, you can mate any of the youngsters from these sows as they are all different blood. I have this day got two good blacks born."

The Lops are from Mr. Booth, of Herne Bay, and are: yellow and white buck, 16 weeks old, 22¾ inch ears, sooty fawn doe, 14 weeks old, 23¼ inches.

BRAVO! LONDON.

**A**T the last regular meeting of the London Poultry Association a grant was made from the Association funds of \$31 to the St. John Relief Fund. There was no other business of importance transacted.

R. OKE,  
Secretary.