

best English greyhound, Rex, T W Jackson, Chatham; best St Bernard or Newfoundland dog, Nig, I I Grafton, Ionia; best Scotch terrier puppy, Dencon, Mrs. R Wright, Sandwich; best toy terrier, Jessie, Mrs J H Worcester, Detroit; best brace of beagles, J N Dodge, Detroit.

Adaptability of the Various Breeds to Different Places and Conditions.

Editor Canadian Poultry Review.

DEAR SIR:—

Permit me to offer a few remarks upon the adaptability of the various breeds of domestic fowls to different places and conditions, from the standpoint of general utility.

It is amusing, and confusing also, to a person who is searching for information on this point, to note the conflicting opinions expressed by correspondents in poultry papers, as to that variety which excels in general usefulness.

In a bundle composed of old and new journals before me, I am informed that nearly every variety is that happy combination of useful qualities, and am just as emphatically assured that each is totally wanting in them.

Now, sir, I am not willing to conclude or state that the majority of these writers were not conscientious, or that they were actuated by any selfish motive in writing disparagingly of some of our most beautiful and useful birds, but that some of them were mistaken is evident. They were disappointed, doubtless, in some variety; yet is it that that variety is comparatively useless, or that they did not suit the conditions under which they were kept, which was the cause of the disappointment. The testimony of hundreds of breeders affords incontestible evidence that the latter must be the case.

As an example, let us suppose that a gentleman of Toronto, altogether ignorant of farming, is advised by his friends, who are no less ignorant than himself on this subject, to buy oxen with which to till an improved farm that he has bought. Now, if he follow the advice of his friends, he will not be long in finding out his mistake, and that horses were what he needed; and from the annoyance and delay, and expense to which he has been subjected, would it be any wonder if he jumped to the conclusion that oxen were only fit for the butcher and nothing else. Yet let him take his horses upon an unimproved farm in the backwoods to log with and he will soon discover that he has made another mistake.

Therefore we may safely conclude that all the kinds are not equally suitable to the same situations and conditions, and this is, in my opinion, a matter which needs most careful consideration in the commencement. Let a beginner carefully

inform himself of the habits of the birds he purposes to keep, and consider whether they are suitable to the place and the conditions under which he means to place them. If not, he had better look for some kind that is, for in most cases it is easier to get a bird to suit the place than to make the place to suit the bird.

Poultry might be divided into classes according to the activity of their nature, and those kinds that are so tremendously active most undoubtedly require at least part of that activity to bring them to perfection, and maintain it after it has been developed.

For the same reason the red man of the prairies has never submitted to slavery, but pined away and died under that system which denied to him the free and full use of his limbs, while the negro has grown fat under it.

Therefore, to those who have unlimited range for their birds, and who wish them to pick up their own living, or a part of it, from an area of many acres, and take care of themselves at the same time, I would say, invest in any of the wide-awake kinds, Games or Leghorns, &c., but if you have previously been led to admire the magnificent proportions, and peaceful and quiet disposition of the Brahma or Cochins, and have invested in them and find they do not suit *you*, do not leap to the conclusion that they will suit no place or person.

On the other hand, where the range is limited to a small garden or yard—even a gaol yard—is it not reasonable that the fowl whose natural habits most nearly correspond to these conditions is best adapted to them. Now we see a place for “the great lazy, gawky Asiatics,” as a writer is pleased to call them. Another writer says that “they must be lifted upon their perch, and not unfrequently fall off”—only another proof that they are unable to fly over their fence into your neighbor’s garden or fields. But here again nature has not been attended to. If they did not desire to sit up on a pole by the roof of the pen, why in the name of common sense try to compel them to. I cannot understand why they would not be as well sitting on the floor. We find that our observing brother of Waterloo has also noticed this trait of character in them, and instead of setting about to revolutionize the laws of nature, quietly permits them to do as nature prompts.

Another distinctive feature in the character of Asiatics worthy of the most careful attention of those who purpose investing in them, is their tendency to sit. Yet by fair comparison they are found to lay about as many eggs as many of the more active varieties, with this difference, they must be allowed to do it in winter when eggs are 25c., instead of 8 and 10c. For this reason they must be provided with good, warm winter quarters;