to have merits and peculiarities that stamp it as a distinct breed,—or if not a distinct breed, at least as widely separated from Black Cochins as the other varieties of Cochins are from each other, for it is a fact, well established, that all the large varieties, known by us as Asiatics, originally came from the north of China. All are from the same parent stock, but climate, different modes of treatment, and perhaps fashion, have caused the changes in the fowls found in the different localities. Old fanciers, who remember the early importations of Black Cochins, say they much resembled the Langshans imported by Major Croad in later days. When first introduced into England there was nothing like the distinction between the different varieties of Cochins that is now found. It took years of careful breeding and selection to establish the four varieteis as we now have them, and there is no doubt but that the line will soon be so distinctly drawn between Black Cochins and Langshans that anyone can easily discern it. The most marked points in contrast between them now are: Langshans have higher combs, larger and higher tails, with long and flowing sickle feathers in the cocks; fluff not so abundant, less leg and foot feathering, (heavy middle toe feathering is a disqualification in Langshans), legs black, (B. Cochin legs black or shading into willow or yellow), web and bottom of foot pinkish white (B. C. yellow); skin, white, (Blach Cochin, yellow). The wings are much larger, the legs longer, and the bird on the whole more active looking.

In America Langshans made rapid progress, and had it not been at the time of their first importation that Plymouth Rocks were claiming the public attention, their popularity would have been much more general. As it was the demand for fowls and eggs was much beyond the supply, and there is no doubt but many breeders of Black Cochins took advantage of this demand, and the similarity in appearance of the two varieties, to sell their stock as Langshans. The detection of this caused a feeling of suspicion, which retarded the popularity of the new breed, and gave its opponents an opportunity to ridicule the breed and its breeders, which they eagerly availed themselves of. One thing, however, is certain, the mixture of the two varieties, which this substitution caused, has done a great deal to improve the Black Cochin, in color at least, as must be plain to anyone who has given the matter any attention. Those who have given Langshans a fair trial speak very highly of them. They are credited with being good layers, giving eggs freely in winter; good setters and mothers, and their flesh as being white tender and juicy. They are very active for such a large fowl, foraging with great freedom. The eggs usually hatch well, and the chicks are easily reared. They are less subject to roup than other varieties. Their plumage is intense in its gloss and richness; on the whole, they are a real good variety, and will make their way well to the front.

Our engraving is, we believe, a copy of one made by Mr. Ludlow, of England, the celebrated artist, and correctly portrays a pair of birds imported from China by Major Croad. We are indebted for the use of this engraving to Mr. F. J. Grenny, of Brantford, who has for many years bred Langshans successfully.

The Plymouth Rock—Its Origin, and how to Breed and Mate.

BY W. F. JAMES, SHERBROOKE, P. Q.

Many works have appeared from time to time bearing upon the history of the origin of the Plymouth Rocks, but although the researches of the writers point to the same conclusions, there are hardly any of them who agree as to facts; but the whole, taken collectively, the evidence therein carefully sifted, the chaff separated from the grain, and the conclusions arrived at can but satisfy the most unbelieving whence sprung the breed of fowls which now stand preeminently at the head of our domestic poultry.

In all these works, it seems to me that the most vital points of all the scientific points (as far as the art of breeding is concerned) has been totally ignored. In order to trace for cause and effect, we must probe the mysteries of nature to the very root, and enlist the services of the science of natural history to aid us in the search.

In nature we find a race of animals, a race of birds, which reproduce themselves and their species in exact form, as to size, shape, color, feather, and habits, from one generation to another, and all without the aid of man. Man, it is true, by and with the aid of scientific research, and adhering strictly to the great principles of nature, has been enabled to produce, by a process called scientific breeding, certain type of fowl and beast, which for domestic purposes are superior to those found in a wild state. But mark the result. The handiwork of man is imperfect indeed, even with all the genius of science to aid him, as compared with that of his creator. Compare, for instance, the beautifully plumaged birds of nature, especially those of tropical climes, also the beauty of forms found in the animal kingdom, both on land and in the sea, with the imperfect work man can achieve, which after all is that which mostly tends towards solid and material advantages.

There is life on and in the land; on and in the water, and through the expanse of atmosphere. Life teems around us. Here it assumes the most gigantic forms; there the most powerful micros-