

winter as it would not freeze as quickly as water. Their plumage is as clean and glossy as if newly feathered. Now if any fancier can tell of a hardier bird and one that will lay in five months under similar circumstances I should like to hear from him, for my opinion is that the old silver grey can hold its own anywhere.

JOSEPH KINSEY.

Doon, August, 1894.

HOW TO MATE AND BREED DARK BRAHMAS.

BY THOS. GASGOINE IN ENGLISH *Fanciers' Gazette*.

IN mating dark Brahmas, it will be as well first of all to point out that to breed them successfully you must have two separate breeding pens—viz., one for show cockerels, and another for show pullets. I will first deal with the one for breeding cockerels. In selecting the cock or cockerel for this purpose, choose one which you can rely on as being bred from good stuff—a bird that has been running out all weathers, and has kept a good color for preference. He should be as good in all show points as possible. A nice head, good hackle, which should be pure black and white, his saddle hackle should be well striped, he should be of a silvery white on his upper parts, free from red on shoulders, his under parts black, and as free from white in feet as possible; his tail a glossy black, free from white and carried well up. Hens to mate with such cock should be large, good shape, plenty of feather, and one color throughout, and must not have any marking, for experience has taught me that you cannot successfully breed show cockerels from hens with any marking at all, as the cockerels will, nine out of ten, come with mottled breasts. Therefore, select hens without any marking for cock-breeding. It is as well to begin at first to breed from birds with as few faults as possible, as they are far easier to breed in than to breed out. Now, as to the number of hens to mate up for cock breeding; I should not recommend more than four with a cockerel and three with a cock. I am sure the less number you run with a cock the more males you will get, which is, of course, what you want when breeding for cockerels.

I now come to the pen for breeding show pullets. This will want a little more explaining than the above. First of all, get a cock or cockerel you can rely on as being of pure pullet blood. Be sure he is not a mottle-breasted cock breeder, as, if he should turn out to be such, your chance will be spoilt the first season; but get one you know

to be of good pullet blood, as good in all points as possible. He should be a silvery white on his upper parts, with a good hackle, full of pencilling; his saddle should be well striped. Select one which has been out all weathers, and has kept his color well; his breast and fluff should be black, with each feather edged with white, of a small-head stamp—not one of those very large, blotchy ones, with a white patch under his throat; from such a bird you will get no really good pullets. Color is a matter of fancy in pullets. Some breeders prefer the very silvery ones; others the darker stamp. I am sure the latter are the ones to breed from, as the very silvery ones will not keep their color, but eventually get what I call “washed out.”

Supposing you have got a good cock or cockerel of the right blood and of the darker stamp; to mate with him get six or seven good hens or pullets, clear in pencilling all over, well pencilled on the fluff and shank, and, above all, see they are well pencilled up to the throat; hackle should be of a dark shade and full of pencilling, and the color uniform throughout. See that their pencilling goes well into the feathers, not just on the edge and no farther. There are many changes in pullets. I have known the pencilling not to show in them until six or seven months old; but, knowing them to be from good parents, have waited. If bred right, the pencilling will be sure to come, sooner or later. Perhaps I shall not be out of place by advising those who have been fortunate enough to get a lot of early cockerels to bear in mind that, if left to take their chance, the sun will spoil them for the show-pen; therefore they must have shade of some kind. Should it be for eggs alone you want to breed dark Brahmas, select those of the pullet-breeding strain. I should like to say a little as to the feeding of dark Brahma chickens, but perhaps it would be out of place in this essay, so I will leave it till some future time.

WINNIPEG SHOW.

BY SHARP BUTTERFIELD.

I SENT you list of awards from Winnipeg, and had meant to give you a general outline of my visit, and the improvement that has been made in Winnipeg show, it is very remarkable for so short a period, and one can rest assured that probably in that new country that there is as good material as we have got in Ontario, and when Winnipeg Industrial has been in existence as long as even Toronto Industrial it will compare favorably, and when one compares the