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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PROFITABLE FOWLS	149
Light Brahmas (Illustrated).....	150
Bantams.....	151
LITERARY NOTICES —The Illustrated Book of Poultry, by L. Wright,—Circulars received.....	153
SPECIAL NOTICES	153
CORRESPONDENCE —Purchasing English Fowls—Forwarding Hatching Eggs by Express.....	154
POULTRY TERMS —Importations—Sales.....	154
POULTRY SOCIETY —Western Pennsylvania Poultry Society.....	156
Prize Lists —The New England Poultry Show, Western Pennsylvania Poultry Society Exhibition; Milford, Massachusetts Poultry Club Exhibition; Packing Hatching Eggs for Carriage; Dark vs. Light Brahmas.....	159
Breeding Game Fowls (continued from page 91.)	160
Management of Cage Birds in Germany—The Black Cap.....	161
PIGIONS —The Archangel.....	162
OUR LETTER BOX —Canker in Fowls—Brahma Co k, difficulty in Breathing—Moving a Broody Hen—Egg Eating Fowls—Guinea Fowl—Distinguishing the Cock from the Hen—Feather Eating Brahmas—Cure for Roup—Carrier Pigeon's Eye Sore, Pigeon Book—Fowls Roosting Places.....	163
Advertisements.....	164

LETTER POSTAGE.

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PROFITABLE FOWLS.

A very erroneous opinion prevails, respecting the age to which fowls ought to be kept with due regard to profit. In a former issue we have stated that, for the mere production of eggs, no fowls should be kept after arriving at the age of three years, and we see no cause yet to change our opinion; after that time the annual moult comes on later in the season, rendering the birds more unfit for the severity of the winter weather. Chickens, when hatched early, will begin to lay in the fall of the same year, and if properly cared for will con-

tinue to do so during the winter, except in very severe weather. The second season these birds will moult early, and before the cold weather sets in will have on their new coat, and consequently be better able to stand the severity of the winter. With proper care they will commence laying early in the spring. Next season they moult later, and as a natural consequence their laying period is prolonged till late in the following spring, and necessarily their value as laying fowls much reduced. Mr. Wright in his new book on poultry says "The chief breeds of poultry may, for economic purposes, be classified as follows, the order of naming, representing as nearly as possible their average comparative value, though this will vary somewhat according to different circumstances. As layers: Hamburgs, Minorcas or Andalusians, Houdans, Brahmas, Leghorns, Spanish, Polish, Dominiques, Game, Cochins, La Flèche. For quality of meat; Game, La Flèche, Dorkings, Crève Cœurs, Houdans, Polish, Brahmas, Dominiques. For size and weight: Brahmas, Cochins, Dorkings, Crève Cœurs, La Flèche, Malays. For hardiness: Houdans, Brahmas, Dominiques, Cochins, Minorcas or Andalusians, Leghorns, Game. As sitters and mothers, Dorkings, Game, Dumpies, Silkies, Dominiques, Brahmas, Cochins. We might, perhaps, add, that for combination of useful qualities generally, we would name Brahmas, Houdans, and Dominiques as most worthy of attention."