

creasing in public estimation as a breed whose merits demand recognition, and whose excellencies are of no mean kind.

The plumage of the Black Hamburg cock is a deep black, spangled when seen in the sunlight with dark glossy green spangles: it has a very beautiful effect upon the eye. The comb of the cock is larger than that of the Golds and Silvers; the wattles large and round; the legs of a darker hue; the tail large and erect, of the same color as the body, and crowned with beautifully-curved sickle feathers extending well over; the ear lobes a delicate white as in the other varieties, any approach to a white face deemed a great objection.

The hens are similar in plumage to the cock, and differ from the other varieties in shape, they being square and heavy, with shorter legs.

Like others of the Hamburg class, they are impatient of confinement, and love a wide range; but, if properly tended in a limited space, they do remarkably well. As layers, they are equally prolific as the other varieties, and their eggs larger. They are non-sitters. The chicks are extremely hardy and easily reared, consuming but little food; grow fast and feather rapidly, when not bred in and in too much. One great advantage the Black has over its compeers of the same breed, is the ease with which it is re-produced. It requires but little scientific knowledge in mating to breed birds equally fine as their progenitors: any mere tyro in poultry matters can do it; and it is owing to this, perhaps, that it has been looked upon by fanciers as beneath their attention. The distinctive characteristics of Black Hamburgs are thus given in the Standard of Excellence:—*Comb, face, and wattles*, rich bright red, the face perfectly free from white; *deaf ear*, pure opaque white, round and small, fitting close to the face—not pendent; *plumage*, very rich glossy green black; *legs*, blue, or dark leaden blue.

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## Literary Notices.

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TRANSACTIONS N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, 1869.—A bound copy of the above has been sent us by the Secretary of the Society, for which he will please accept our thanks.

AMERICAN POULTRY GAZETTE "is issued by the Executive Committee of the St. Louis Poultry Association as the most effectual method of giving to the public an account of the purposes and doings of the Association which they represent." The first copy has reached us, and contains the prize list of the first exhibition to be held under its auspices. We are glad to see this fresh instance of increase in poultry matters among our American friends. The Valley of the Mississippi offers a fine field for poultry breeding; and though long neglected in this State, we trust it will soon rank among the first in position in raising pure-bred poultry.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED. Official catalogue of entries Northern Ohio Poultry Exhibition. Official catalogue of entries Western N. Y. Poultry Exhibition. Official catalogue of entries and premiums awarded Michigan State Poultry Show. Official list of premiums awarded Pennsylvania Poultry Exhibition. Official list of entries New York State Poultry Show.

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## Special Notices.

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Colonel HASSARD, C. B., Royal Engineers.—Our poultry friends here will be glad to learn that this gentleman is still in the poultry world. Placed somewhat at a disadvantage by reason of his very onerous professional duties, and the rather out-of-the-way place at which he is at present temporarily residing, he has not been able to bestow as much attention on his feathered pets—poultry and pigeons—as his natural will and inclination would lead him to do. Nevertheless, he has not by any means given up the fancy, as we see by recent accounts of Irish exhibitions in the *Journal of Horticulture*, as well as by private letters received from himself.