

able to furnish. White poultry have, consequently, in latter years greatly increased, white Dorkings are almost as extensively kept as are their silver relations, white Leghorns and Minorcas are shown in very considerable numbers, while white Malays, Plymouth Rocks, Sultans, Game, various Bantams, and even Polands are to be met with at many exhibitions.

We take, therefore, this opportunity, being on the threshold of the show season, to give some hints on keeping and preparing white poultry for exhibition, which we believe may be interesting and we hope useful to several fanciers, merely adding that they are the result of a careful study of the subject, extending over nearly a quarter of a century. It is a recognised fact that some strains of white poultry are much more inclined to become yellow than are others. We believe any amount of shade would not prevent some birds from becoming tanned or tinged in color. In selecting birds to breed from, therefore, we should be very careful to go to a really white strain, and if possible, we prefer to see the specimens in their own homes for those that have unlimited freedom—as many do—and yet keep their colour, are much more valuable than are those that only do so by being kept in enclosed pens or sheds, where the sun can never touch them.

To begin, then, with the breeding stock. When once the birds have been selected and put together, we like them to have as much liberty as possible, and as it is most unwise to take them from the breeding pen for exhibition purposes, it matters but little what shade or protection they have. We like them to enjoy, as far as possible, a life of nature, when, if they get dirty or stained by weather, it is only the question of appearance. With white birds for exhibition however, it is the reverse, for whether they may be adults reserved for showing, or early chickens destined

for the summer and autumn exhibitions, they will need considerable care. At the last Crystal Palace Show a well-known exhibitor told us that he did not believe that a white Cochin cock could be kept pure in colour without being always being kept under cover. We know, however, of two white cocks now in one establishment which have had full liberty, and would be as white as snow were they washed to-day. This however, is the exception, not the rule, and but few fanciers have unrestricted runs where the birds can find their own shelter and shade under forest or orchard trees, or in woods and shrubberies, at their own sweet will. Where, however, they can do this, we generally find that they avoid the open ground in the hot sunny hours, and rather seek instead the shady spots.

But, supposing that shade cannot be procured naturally, then we must seek for it artificially, as undoubtedly white birds enclosed in yards and grass runs without trees should have it. We have known artichokes, sunflowers, dahlias, even stinging nettles and coarse docks, make admirable shelter from the sun, for we are convinced that whenever possible the shade should be *living* shade. Were we to keep one growing white cockerel, and a duplicate in a run of the same size, walled in, and roofed in by iron or wood, or even calico, then we should readily see in two months' time which would be the victor. When the chickens are three months old we like to have them placed in such shade as can be got, and there kept. Two runs (we are writing now for those who cannot give their birds their liberty) side by side, as large as can be spared, are very suitable for a flock of white cockerels or pullets. In the one have dahlias or artichokes, or such like (which, we need not mention, must have a certain growth before the chickens are turned in, or the plants will be trampled down and become

worthless), and let the other be one-half short grass and one-half arable, the latter being dug over once a week. The chickens can then be shifted from run to run by drawing up a slide between them, according to the state of the weather or season. When these herbaceous plants have died down the sun will have, to a great extent, lost its power, and the birds may then be left more exposed.

We have known, too, a troop of white Cochin pullets do grandly in a well earthed potato plot, getting both shade and insect food. White Dorkings or Leghorns would, however do too much damage to the tubers to allow of their being turned in.

(To be continued.)

Mr. Sharp Butterfield, Windsor, the well known judge, has been appointed Superintendent of the Poultry Department of the Detroit Fair.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS ON DISEASES, BREEDING, MANAGEMENT, ETC.

Correspondents are requested to make full use of this column. The answers to enquiries as to diseases will be answered by a well-known medical man and breeder. Please read the following rules carefully.

1. Give a concise, clear and exact statement of case, always stating age, sex, and breed.
2. Enclose 3 cents stamp for reply.
3. Report result, not necessarily for publication. *This is absolute.*
4. Acute cases requiring immediate treatment to be answered by mail in the first instance, later through POULTRY REVIEW for the benefit of our readers.
5. Write legibly and on one side of the paper only.
6. Answers to be to name in full, initials of *nom de plume*, the first preferred.