

wheat, oats, rye, or buckwheat is best; the latter is also good for winter feeding. The hardness of feather and flesh, or what is termed "good condition," will, of course, greatly depend upon the strain of breed of birds kept. No good feeding can make soft birds hard, and good condition also greatly depends upon a good healthy country walk and cleanliness, as bad walks often spoil good birds.

SALT FOR FOWLS.—Salt is said to be injurious to fowls.

DANDELION LEAVES FOR FOWLS.—The leaves of the dandelion plant, when boiled and mixed up with barley meal, form an excellent food for fowls.

WASHING POULTRY.—All white fowls ought to have their feathers washed with soap and water before exhibition. After washing, they ought to be kept until dry in a large hamper or an enclosure, the floor of which is quite covered with clean straw. In washing, great care ought to be exercised in not ruffling the feathers, as in this way more injury to the appearance of the fowls may be done than if not washed at all.

VARIETIES OF COMBS.—There are several varieties of combs. A *rose comb* is a double one full of points, like that of the Hamburg; a *peu comb* is as it were made up of three single combs pressed into one, that in the centre being the highest, and having on each side the impression or projecting outline of the comb united to it by pressure. The *cup comb* is upright and single in front, it then divides; each side bows out in the centre and unites at the back, forming a cup. This comb is serrated all round.

ILL FLAVOURED EGGS.—The disagreeable flavour often perceived in eggs is produced frequently from plants of some sort ate by the fowls; sweepings of peas and beans mixed with buckwheat, often produces a rank flavour in eggs. In such cases calcined oyster shells have a good effect.

FLOORING FOR POULTRY HOUSE.—Bricks or pavement of any kind are the worst of all materials for the floor; they retain moisture whether atmospheric or arising from insufficient drainage; and thus the temperature is kept low where warmth is most essential, and diseases too often follow, especially rheumatic attacks of the feet and legs.

The flooring of a poultry house should be of dry gravel, and quite loose to the depth of two or three inches—nothing can then adhere to it; and it is not necessary nor right to sweep the floor of a poultry house. A broom may be drawn lightly over the surface, and everything offensive to the smell removed; but if turned with a spade twice or thrice a week, the earth deodorises the dung and becomes a good fertilizer in the course of a few months, and ought then to be removed.

JUDGING GAME FOWLS BY SHAPE.

THE PROPER SHAPE OF THE GAME HEN.

Beak the same as described for the cock, smaller of course.

Comb, face, gills or wattles, and deaf ears, same colour as the cock's in red-combed sorts (a little less red), but darker or less red in the dark-combed sorts. Shape of comb, long, low, and thin, reaching well to the back of the head, evenly serrated or lobed; lobes small and quite straight and erect. High, thick, and short combs always show bad, coarse breeding.

Head, long and sharp; eyes bright and clear; face, lean, hard, and thin. Throat the same, and never too prominent or large in the gullet (cock the same). The deaf ears and gills or wattles small, close, and neat, and either red or dark gipsy in colour in both cocks and hens, and never in the least whitish, bluish, or yellowish. Deaf ears close to the face. Feathers of throat close and neat.

Neck, long, arched, and strong; close, short, hard, and neat in feathers.

Back, short and hard, broad at the shoulders, and narrow at the tail.

Wings, very strong and well rounded, neither too long nor too short as in the cock, and carried rather higher and closer than the cock's wings; shape of wing clearly discernible against the side feathers of the body.

Tail, neither too long nor too short, the two longest upper feathers slightly curved, open, fanned, and spreading, carried well up, and never at all drooping, for spirit.

Breast, broad and hard, not too round or full, nor yet too lean or sharp.

Thighs, short, hard, and muscular, and placed exactly as in the cock.

Legs neither too long nor too short,