

Rocks are not hardy. His experience is entirely off-set by that of a prominent Western breeder, who lost his Cochins and common fowls from cholera, while none of his Rocks died. After the impartial testimony of hundreds of Plymouth Rock breeders, who consider the Rocks the hardiest variety of fowl that we have, it seems hardly worth while for me to occupy much space in arguing that point. I do not consider the Rocks proof against disease by any means, but they come about as near it as any variety that I know of. Somebody else who is not posted on the subject exclaims, "Well, at any rate, in market a pound of chicken meat is a pound, black legs, yellow, or white. I don't see how you can get around that." If you have ever studied market reports, and use your eyes, ears and tongue around markets and commission houses as well as I have, you would not assert so positively that "a pound is a pound." Did you ever happen to see in market reports the words "prime stock" and "poor unsalable lots?" Do you know what they mean? I do. The first means quick sale at the top market price, and the last means slow sale at any price the purchaser offers. Commission men think themselves lucky to get these "poor, unsalable lots" off their hands at any price. No longer ago than last winter, I was in a big commission house talking to a member of the firm and keeping an eye on the dealers who came in to buy. "There," said Mr. E. as a keen eyed man came in, "is one of the best judges of dressed poultry that I ever saw. Come and see what he buys." I went and I saw two boxes—one containing 178 pounds, and the other 200 pounds of dressed poultry—all Plymouth Rocks, dressed in a good shape and neatly packed. "I buy to sell again," said the keen-eyed man, "and I have some of the best customers in the city. I aim to please them, and I find that these plump, yellow-skinned birds suit them to a T. I couldn't give away such a lot as that," touching a box close by. I examined "that lot," and found it made up of all sorts, sizes and colors; some had white skins, some yellow, but the greater part were dark-legged and the skin was of that blueish tint that reminds one of boarding-house chicken. There was some good poultry in the package, but it was mixed in with so much that was poor that, taken altogether, it made a "poor, unsalable lot." And I have noticed in market, that people who were buying chickens for broilers would willingly pay more for a small chicken well feathered up than for one a third larger that was covered with pin feathers and had that scraggy, awkward look peculiar to chickens who are still in their "short clothes." This early feathering and quick growth are two of the chief things which make the Plymouth Rocks so desirable for early market chicks.

#### Technical Terms.

There are very many persons who are familiar with poultry, their general appearance and common habits, and yet wholly unacquainted with the recently introduced terms as applied to fowls; words and meaning of which thus used is Greek even to those well informed on general subjects. For the benefit of those who may desire to obtain the knowledge, I subjoin a glossary of technical terms, derived from the best authorities:

**Beard**—A bunch of feathers under the throat of some breeds of chickens, such as Houdans or Polish. There are many phrases, such as breed, brood, brooding, carriage, etc., that even the least unlearned will understand. We often hear of a "litter of chickens," or similar expressions. Litter as applied to chickens, is inelegant and in bad taste. We hear of a litter of pigs, a litter of kittens, etc., but a litter of chicks is entirely out of keeping. **Carunculated**—covered with small fleshy protuberances, as on the head and neck of a turkey cock. **Chick**—A newly-hatched fowl. **Chick**—This word applies indefinitely to any age under one year old.

**Clutch**—This term is applied both to the batch of eggs sat upon by a fowl, and to the brood of chickens hatched therefrom.

**Cockerel**—A young cock. A cockerel does not truly become a cock until eighteen months of age, although he is generally thus termed at the age of one year. Not until a year and a half old does he get his final moult, and attain to the full glory of plumage and size. Cockerels have many deficiencies that disappear when they emerge into full-grown, full-plumed cocks. Then they become exhibition birds with some trimming, and yet may be poor birds to breed from. It does not always follow that a bird is suitable for breeding purposes simply because he or she has won a prize. Many imperfections that presented themselves in the chicken may grow out, but the offspring of such birds generally repeats the discrepancy. Imperfect plumage may grow out or be plucked, and other points be concealed by a covering of flesh. Exhibition birds do not always become so without aid. Nature is often assisted by art in this respect as well as others.

**Comb**—The fleshy protuberance growing on the top of the fowl's head. **Condition**—The state of the fowl as regards health and beauty of plumage. **Crest**—A crown or tuft of feathers on the head, of the same significance as top-knot. **Crop**—The receptacle in which the fowl's food is stored before passing into the gizzard for digestion. **Cushion**—The mass of feathers over the rump of a hen, covering the tail—chiefly developed in Cochins. **Dubbing**—Cutting off the comb, wattles, and ear-lobes, so as to leave the head smooth and clean. **Ear-lobes**—The folds of bare skin hanging just below the skin, by many called deaf ears. They vary in color, being red, white, blue and cream-colored. **Face**—The bare skin around the eye. **Flights**—Primary feathers of the wing used in flying, but tucked under the wings out of sight when at rest. **Fluff**—Soft, downy feathers about the thighs, chiefly developed in Asiatics.

**Furnished**—when a cockerel has obtained his full tail, comb, hackles, etc., he is said to be furnished. **Gills**—This term is often applied to the wattles. **Hackles**—The peculiar, narrow, long feathers on the necks of fowls. **Henny**, or **Hen-feathers**—Resembling a hen, from the absence of hackles and sickle feathers, and in plumage generally. **Hook**—The joint between the thigh and shank. **Keel**—A word sometimes used to denote the breast-bone. **Leg**—In a living fowl, this is the scaly part, usually denominated the shank. In a dressed bird, the term refers to the joint above. **Leg-feathers**—Feathers growing on the outer sides of the shanks in many of the Asiatics. **Mossy**—Confused or indistinct markings in the plumage.

**Pea Comb**—a triple comb resembling three small combs in one, the middle being the highest. **Penciling**—small markings or stripes over the feather. These may run straight across, as in the Hamburgs, or in a crescent form, as in Partridge Cochins. **Poult**—a young turkey. **Primaries**—the flight feathers of the wings, hidden when the wing is closed, being tucked under the visible wing, which is composed of the "secondary" feathers. Usually the primaries contain the deepest color belonging to the fowl, except the tail, and great importance is attached to their color by breeders. A cockerel, or a pullet of some breeds, should never show a white quill, or a white shaft to a quill, to become perfect breeding birds.

**Pullet**—a young hen. The term is not properly applicable after a bird is a year old. **Saddle**—the posterior part of the back, reaching to the tail in a cockerel, and answering to the cushion in a hen; cushion, however, being restricted to a very considerable development, as in Cochins, while saddle may be applied to any breed. **Secondaries**—the quill feathers of the wings which are visible when the wings are folded.