

## DOWNY FOWL. SCORE CARD.

					SHAPE AND SIZE.	COLOR.	FEATHERS DOWNY.
1st	Head.....	10	2	Beak.....	1	1	
			4	Head.....	3	1	
			2	Eyes.....		2	
			2	Face.....		2	
2nd	Comb, etc.....	10	5	Comb.....	5		
			2	Wattles.....	1	1	
			3	Earlobes.....	1	2	
3rd	Neck.....	10	3	Neck.....	3		
			5	Hackle.....		2	3
			2	Throat.....	1	1	
4th	Back.....	10	5	Back.....	2	1	2
			5	Saddle.....	2	1	2
5th	Breast.....	10	10	Breast.....	5	2	3
6th	Body.....	10	4	Body.....	3	1	
			6	Fluff.....		2	4
7th	Wings.....	10	5	Wings.....	3	1	1
			5	Primaries & Secondaries		1	4
8th	Tail.....	10	7	Tail.....	3	1	3
			3	Tail Coverts.....		1	2
			4	Thighs.....	2	1	1
9th	Legs.....	10	3	Shanks.....	2	1	
			3	Feet.....	3		
10th	Condition.....	10	6	Weight.....	10		
			4	Condition.....			
		100	100		50	25	25

Weight—Cock 8 lbs. ; cockerel 6½ lbs. ; hen 6 lbs. ; pullet 5 lbs.

### WHAT IS A GENERAL PURPOSE FOWL?

BY H. S. BABCOCK.

A GENERAL purpose fowl is by many considered to be one which unites the prolificacy of a Sicilian with the table qualities of an Indian game, an impossible though very desirable combination. In the making of such fowls it has uniformly been the aim to combine great laying and fine table qualities, but as the best mutton and best wool are not found on the same sheep, and as the best beef and the best dairy capacity are not found in the same cow, so the best laying and the best table qualities are not found in the same fowl. The

general purpose fowl is simply a compromise,—it takes from a great laying breed all the prolificacy which can be combined with the table qualities that it receives from the best table fowl. It is inferior in laying qualities to the best layers, and in table qualities to the best table fowls ; but it is superior in laying to the best table fowls and in table qualities to the best layers. It is better than either in the combination of the two qualities but inferior to each in its specialty. Who ever breeds general purpose fowls must be contented with a smaller production of eggs than can be obtained from the best laying breeds, and with poultry which is not equal to that produced by the best table breeds. But the general purpose fowl, nevertheless is a very useful fowl to have.

Take up a list of the known breeds of poultry and make a classification of them into great layers, table fowls and general purpose fowls ; then count up in any poultry publication the number of breeders of each class, and you will find that the general purpose fowl is first and a long way ahead of either of the other classes. In proof of this statement, for I like to verify my own statements, I have examined a number of this publication with the following results:—table fowls 26 ; layers 40 ; general purpose fowls 61 This shows the general purpose fowl to be far in the lead and to nearly equal those of the other two classes combined. In list of table fowls I included exhibition Games and if these were dropped out, as some might contend they ought to be, the list of general purpose would be larger than the other two added together. As a matter of fact I believe it to be true that there are more general purpose fowls bred than there are of all other classes united. It is perfectly safe to make this assertion—the general purpose fowl is the most popular fowl in America.

The reasons for this great popularity are to be found first in the fact that poultry keeping is largely carried on, not by specialists, but in connection with other branches of industry. The specialist, by which term is meant one who makes the keeping of poultry the main business of his life, may demand either great layers or great table fowls, as his object is to supply eggs or the finest of dressed poultry, but everywhere is found the man who keeps a few hens to furnish both eggs and meat for his own table, and the special purpose fowl does not fill this want so well as the general purpose fowl. The fact that it supplies a want no other fowl can, is the chief reason of its great popularity.

But this popularity is doubtless augmented by the notion that it really is