

very good Black breed, from a Blue cock and hen; but the Blue cock was from a Black pair that evidently had thrown back to a Blue strain. I had purchased the blue. If the Pedigree had been kept as I suggest, this could have been traced; I have had some very superior Blues, almost as good as their Black brothers, but it will take me some time to get them up again, although I have some very fair ones now. I trust I have made myself clear thus far, as to color, &c. I could explain verbally better than transcribe, so trust your readers will look mercifully upon my attempt.

There is a word of caution I should have given to beginners. Do not buy advertised Carriers because they are cheap; as a rule, they are rubbish. See the bird on approval; you may get a good bird by chance at an auction, or at a fair price from an over-stocked amateur's loft, or from one selling off, but when you see a stranger offering a splendid pair of Carriers for £2 or £3 they are either rubbishy non-breeders, or their owner is an ignoramus, which is not generally the case. Any bird to take a first prize in these days is worth from £10 to £20 Stg. How then can a decent pair be sold for *one fourth* that price? They may be Horsemen, Dragons, but not Carriers. It is not because a bird has beak and eye nottle that he is a Carrier. You must have thorough-bred stock to begin.

Literary Notices.

The ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF POULTRY. By L. Wright, Author of the "Practical Poultry Keeper," &c. Illustrated with Fifty Coloured Plates of celebrated Prize Birds of every Breed, &c. London, Paris and New York: Cassel, Petter, & Galpin.

Part III. of the above work has reached us, which still continues to be at-

tractive, interesting and useful. The illustrations which accompany this part are like the preceding ones exceedingly well executed and life-like. Mr. Wright's Dark Brahma pullet "Psyche" is a model of perfection and beauty, and shows the high state to which fowls may be bred in the hands of practical men such as Mr. Wright. This plate is of itself well worth the whole price of the part. Plate 6 is an illustration of a pair of Mr. Henry Beldon's Silver Spangled Hamburgs, well worthy the study of the fancier and amateur. They were the cup birds at Allerton, 1871. Hen first at Birmingham, 1871, and cup at Bristol, 1872. Mr. Wright's "Psyche" was first prize at Birmingham, 1871.—Chapter V. on Artificial Hatching occupies the greater portion of Part III. and enters very fully into explanations of the different kinds of Incubators constructed both in England and America. Among those noticed are Mr. Brindly's, Mr. Schröder's, and Colonel Stuart Wortley's of England, and those of Mr. Halsted, and the Messrs. Graves, of America. Chapter VI. is devoted to the management of chickens, a subject as yet but very imperfectly understood even by poultry breeders. The following extract will be interesting and useful to many:

"This leads us to the one great secret of success in rearing fine chickens, which we may sum up thus:—Give food so as to *fully satisfy* their appetites and no more. This rule, it will be seen, is quite different and far more liberal than that we have laid down for adult fowls. It is broken if the chickens are left so long as to be really *hungry* for their food; it is equally broken if so much is given as to be left after the brood is satisfied. Just so much is to be thrown down as will be fully cleared away, leaving none to be trodden into the ground. In the first week every two hours will do, then for a month every three hours, and after that four times daily, for the times of supply; but something will depend upon the season, and in early spring they will need to be fed more frequently during the earlier stages of