

of a man, holds a quantity of warmth; and to keep this up it is necessary to burn an inward fire, or in other words, to eat and digest some description of the carbohydrates, of which the first and foremost is a substance with which we are all more or less acquainted—viz., *starch*. Starch is a large component part of all cereals and pulse. Rice, rye, barley, peas, millet, &c., are all very rich in starch. Arrowroot, sago, and tapioca are nearly pure starch. Many roots and leaves contain considerable amounts of starch.

"*Sugar* comes next, and differs in several ways from starch. Its sweetness is too well known to need any particular attention. Sugar is soluble in cold water, but starch is not. Sugar is commonly supposed to be a great flesh and fat-forming matter; this is erroneous; it cannot claim any position under the heading of formative matter. Several kinds of sugar are to be found, but they differ very little in reality. Sugar is present in milk, beetroot, clover, &c. Being liable to cause disease of the liver, if used to any considerable extent, it should be avoided as a regular article of diet for the rabbit.

"*Cellulose* is a substance of little use in the human frame, and we endeavor to avoid it in our manufactured foods; but cellulose is digested partly by rabbits, and therefore it need not be likewise avoided in the rabbitry; however, it is, at best, a second-rate food. Cellulose is found in most vegetarian compounds; bran, hay, straw, grass, &c., being rich in it. Bark of trees, which rabbits will eat, contains large proportions of cellulose. In this country it is a rare occurrence for rabbits to eat more of the bark of a tree than can be reached from *terra firma*. In Australia it is not at all uncommon for the rabbits to almost entirely devour a tree; they begin with those parts within easy reach, and eat up until they are forced to climb the tree, and when once they begin that then 'good-bye' to the foliage. Cellulose

being treated upon separately in most analyses, and really being of but little value, it will not be included in the carbohydrates, but under the heading of fibre. Fibre must not be confounded with fibrin.

"*Mucilage, pectose, dextrin and maltose* are minor compounds, which are classed as carbohydrates, and exist in many things given for food to rabbits. Having no special qualities they need no further comment,

"Fat is in reality one of the carbon compounds, but owing to its partly forming the fat in the body it will not be treated under the carbohydrates, in the analyses. Fat is very essential for rabbits, and other such animals, and foods rich in it should be selected. Linseed, sunflower seed, oatmeal, and maize, all contain good proportions of fat. No rabbit, or other animal or bird, could be kept alive on fat alone.

"Ash includes all the mineral matters found in most foods. Common salt, phosphate of lime, potash, soda, and iron are among the chief ingredients. They are essential in forming blood, muscles, hair, claws, &c. More will be said on the importance of ash under another heading."—*Fanciers' Gazette*.

THE SILVER-GRAY.

In writing this short treatise on the above variety I shall do my best to point out to the young beginner the several points of an exhibition Grey, the breeding, and pairing, and conditions under which the greatest amount of success will be obtained. The Silver-grey variety is divided into three shades—the light, the medium, and the dark—each distinction of shade being beautiful and grand in a good specimen. The rabbit itself is a sprightly, intelligent, and very interesting specimen of the bunny tribe. In my opinion (having kept very nearly all sorts) there is no other variety that can equal this in the amount of pleasure to be derived from its keeping. As to its origin, I shall

not treat of that, it having now become so well known. The ground-colour of a light-shade Grey should be a light steel-blue, beautifully interspersed on top with hairs of a darker tint, which, if nicely and evenly mixed, will give to the specimen that beautiful frosted which is so dazzling, and on which the fancier loves to feast his eyes. The specimen itself should be of one tint from tip of nose to tail, ears erect and short, nicely carried together, well silvered, and when laid on the back matching exactly; the chest must be of the same sound colour, the undertint being carried well to the roots and nicely silvered on the top (*white chests and black noses* must be carefully avoided); the feet must also match, care being taken that they are not too dark, this being the usual fault; the eye must be bright and sparkling, not dull or heavy-looking, and the tail must match the saddle, but it is often here that a little darker shade is apparent; the style of the rabbit must be cobby, the fur of the coat short and springing back into place if smoothed the wrong way. The above description is also applicable to the medium or dark shades, the only difference being in the ground-colour, which, in the shades mentioned, should be each darker than the other.

The young of a Silver-grey are quite black when born, and remain so for about the first two months of their existence. This, by the way, alters in different strains, some silvering much quicker than others, but at about the end of three months your little black rabbits will have become quite changed, and in place thereof you will have a silvered rabbit. These, although now silvered, will not have attained their full beauty until another moult has taken place, when their coats will be much shorter, and then the fancier is able to tell with certainty what results have been obtained from certain pairings, and whether he has been successful in breeding that "champion" which is to