

The Standard weights are : cock,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  pounds ; hen, 7 pounds ; cockerel, 8 pounds ; pullet, 6 pounds. Some of the male birds grow to a large size, and weigh between a 11 and 12 pounds.

*Buff Cochins.*—This is another of the Asiatic breeds with a large number of friends. Some strains lay much larger eggs than others. Like all the other breeds of this class, they require to be kept active when in close confinement. The eggs from the hens of some strains weigh  $2\frac{1}{4}$  ounces each, but all are of a rich dark colour. The chickens are hardy and grow well, showing about the same development as those of the light Brahmans. The Standard weights are : cock, 11 pounds ; hen,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  pounds ; cockerel, 9 pounds ; pullet, 7 pounds. The other varieties of this breed are white, black and partridge Cochins, the characteristics of which are about the same as the buff. The cockerels put on flesh at the rate of about 1 pound per month after first month. The pullets lay at about seven months of age. These are perhaps a little slow for farmers, but may make a good cross. They are not now kept at the Experimental Farm for the reason that they have not been profitable as layers.

*Other Breeds.*—The following breeds not yet tried at the Experimental Farm are also layers of large dark eggs. Black Cochins, partridge Cochins, and white Cochins.

#### BREEDS GOOD FOR EGGS AND MARKET.

*Barred Plymouth Rocks.*—This breed is one of the most popular on the continent as an all round fowl for the farmer, and deservedly so. The females mature quickly and lay well in winter, with moderate protection and proper feeding. The eggs are not quite so large as those of the Minorca or Brahma, although of good marketable size for home and United States markets. Some strains lay larger eggs than others. The chickens are hardy and vigorous. The cockerels have put on more flesh per month, with the same rate, than any other tried at the Central Experimental Farm in six years. After the first month or six weeks the cockerels, with proper care and pushing, ought and will put on flesh at the rate of one pound and a quarter per month. A farmer ought, with a little trouble, to be able to put on the market Plymouth Rock cockerels weighing eight pounds per pair, or four pounds each, at the end of four months. What an improvement there would be in the weight and quality of the chickens sold on the markets of the cities if the majority of farmers bred Plymouth Rocks instead of the "scrubs" usually seen about the barnyards? There are three varieties of this popular breed, viz., the barred, white and buff. The latter is a new comer.

*White Plymouth Rocks.*—This is a variety lately introduced but equally popular. All the good points of the latter are claimed for these new comers, with the addition of greater size and whiter appearance of flesh, owing to the absence of the dark pin feathers. They are hardy, rapid growers as chickens, and the pullets are excellent layers. At the Experimental Farm last summer (1893) a cockerel hatched on the 21st May weighed six pounds on the 21st September following. The pullets made large and handsome fowls by the middle of winter, and began to lay in six months. The Standard calls for the following weights, viz.: cock,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  pounds ; hen,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  pounds ; cockerel, 8 pounds ; pullet, 6 pounds.

*White Wyandottes.*—This is a very promising variety of this popular breed. They have all the good points of the silver laced, with the advantage of dressing better for market on account of the white pin feathers not showing so darkly as in the case of the silver laced or golden varieties. The chicks are hardy and grow well. The pullets begin to lay at five and a half to six months, and are good layers of a medium-sized egg. The cockerels mature early and make good market chickens. A cockerel hatched on 30th May weighed on 2nd of October following 4 lbs.

*Dorkings.*—The Dorkings are, perhaps, one of the best known and appreciated breeds extant, on account of their superior table qualities. They are a breed that should be sought for by all who wish to put fowls of superior flesh properties on the market. There are three varieties in this country, viz., the coloured, silver grey and white. These all possess the same excellent qualities for the table, and the females are fair layers of an egg of good size. Mr. Allan Bogue, the well-known poultry-breeder of London, Ont., speaks very highly of them, and says they ought to be much more extensively bred for market.

(To be Continued.)



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