



OUR ILLUSTRATION.

A few years ago the only Japanese Bantam known here was the black-tailed white. Now the pure white are fairly common, and the black, though few, are not the novelty they were.

The bird depicted was sketched by Mr. Sewell for the English Feathered World, and he says of him: "The black Jap cock is the best solid black Jap we have ever seen. Fine in form and typical in carriage, with rich, greenish lustre through the entire plumage, he was a superb little Jap, with round, short body and beautifully furnished tail, which was carried continually in fashion for judging day."

Mr. Oke showed a sweet little pullet of this color at the "Ontario" with grand, lustrous color.

THE DARK BRAHMA BANTAM.

BY H. S. BABCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R.I.

TO the skill and labors of the late W. F. Entwistle, of England, the poultry fraternity owes the production of the dark Brahma Bantam. According to his own account he had a gray Ascel cock running in a yard with some small Cochins, white, buff, partridge and black, and a few white booted hens. From the cock and a white Cochins hen he reared some pullets that closely resembled the light Brahma, and from the black Cochins hen some chickens which bore some resemblance to the dark Brahma, and these two kinds, having been bred together, produced the steel gray color of the variety under consideration. By selection and careful breeding the size was

further reduced and the shape and markings further perfected. This beginning was made some fifteen years ago, as nearly as we can judge from the producer's writings, exact dates not being given.

A number of years ago, some seven or eight, the first dark Brahma Bantams were imported into this country by J. D. Nevius of Philadelphia, Pa., but the birds were then so imperfect that the results of the importation were nil. Within the last two or three years further importations have been made and birds having the shape and color of dark Brahmas are now bred and exhibited at the leading exhibitions in this country.

At the annual meeting of the

American Poultry Association, held in Boston, Mass., in January 1898, the two varieties of Brahma Bantams, light and dark, were admitted to the Standard.

While the dark Brahma Bantam has been recognised as a standard variety, much yet remains to be done for its perfection. It is still, on an average, considered too large to satisfy the exacting requirements of American fanciers of Bantams, and, so far as I have been able to learn, there is still work to be done to secure a perfection in color of both sexes, and especially in that of the males. While America is indebted to England for the first production of this variety, I predict that England may yet be in-



MR. RICHARD OKE'S (LONDON) BLACK JAPANESE COCK.