

quite hard for first place, except in head. I do not know why it should be so, but it seems more difficult to get a long, lean head on the brown red than on the black-breasted red. Such heads are very rare in the variety under consideration. But outside of this one point, in shoulder, neck, thigh, shank and tail, there are nearly as good brown reds bred as there are black-breasted reds.

There is a good deal of very dark blood in the brown red Game. It shows in the almost or quite black beak, the very dark eyes, the gypsy face, comb and wattles, and in the principal coloring of the feathers and shanks. The head of the male is usually of an orange shade, the hackle and saddle lemon, with a narrow stripe of black in each feather, the hack lemon, the breast black, each feather margined with lemon, the tail black and the wings lemon on bow with black elsewhere. The hen is black except in hackle, which is lemon striped with black, and in breast, which is black laced with lemon. The coloring, therefore, is seen to be largely black, and in some hens is almost entirely so, for not a few of them are deficient in lemon.

It used to be quite difficult to breed good brown reds, when the earlier colors were fashionable, and probably the difficulty has not been entirely done away with by the advent of the lighter colors. Yet, I believe that these lighter colors have simplified the breeding of this variety somewhat, and that the proportion of first-class specimens to cull has been considerably increased.

Brown reds, when well colored, are really handsome birds. The feather is usually short, hard and very brilliant. In the sunlight the hens are very lustrous. The addition of the lemon simply seems to relieve the black, and by contrast to make the black appear even more brilliant than it otherwise would.

The popularity of this variety seems to be increasing. For a long time it had very little popularity, and now it is far behind the black-breasted red in public favor, but apparently it is gaining. It deserves to, for it is too handsome a variety to be forgotten and lost in obscurity.

#### BANTAMS.

BY L. C. VERREY IN ENGLISH *Fanciers' Gazette*.

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**T**HOUGH such tiny little birds, Bantam hens lay comparatively large eggs, and these in fair abundance. As I have previously stated, Bantams can be kept almost anywhere, and under all sorts of conditions; though they certainly enjoy the luxury of a good grass run,

yet they can make themselves quite happy and contented in the most confined spaces. They are certainly the most economical live hobby anyone can go in for, the cost of their keep being very little, as they eat but small quantities of either grain or soft food; therefore, with a few house scraps, three or four Bantams can be kept for as many pence per week. Of course this remark does not apply to those who breed Bantams for exhibition purposes, for then extra and more expensive foods have to be used to get and retain them in the highest state of condition; but when they are kept purely as a hobby, the facts are as I have stated above.

The Bantam family is divided into two sections, viz., the Game and the "non-Game," or "variety," and taking them in this order I will proceed to consider

**GAME BANTAMS**—There are ten varieties of Game Bantams—that is, including the Malays and Indian Games, the remaining eight being black reds, brown reds, pyles, duck-wings, wheatens, blacks, whites, and Birchen greys. The most important points requisite in all Game Bantams are style, color, hardness of feather, shortness of wing, length of leg, and very small size, all of which are more or less difficult to obtain, but without which a Game Bantam is worthless as an exhibition specimen. The following are the general characteristics of the cock: Head long and narrow, neck thin, comb (when not dubbed) thin, erect, straight, well and evenly serrated, lobes small and red, wattles round, small and thin, head snaky, long and narrow, eyes large and sparkling, beak long and slightly curved, neck gracefully arched, long and slender, furnished with long, narrow hackle feathers that fit closely around, body short, firm, broad at shoulders and tapering towards the tail, shoulders broad and square, carried well forward, back flat and short, getting narrower towards the stern, breast broad and full, thighs long and muscular, shanks long and stright, toes well spread, the hind toe should be fairly long; set low, and in a direct line with the centre front toe, wings short, fitting closely to the sides of the body, narrow and well tucked up, tail small, carried at a slight elevation, the feathers fitting closely together, sickles narrow and running off to a fine point, style very smart and alert, shape slim and tall. The weight of an adult cock should not exceed twenty four ounces, and that of a cockerel twenty ounces.

**THE HEN.**—The comb should be as small as possible, straight, thin and evenly serrated; earlobes, red, fitting close to the face; wattles, small, smooth and round; back, short, broad at shoulders, and getting rapidly narrow towards the tail; breast, round and full; wings, short, tightly tucked up; tail carried in the same manner as the cock's,