

those breeders who have brought about this result.

Many who have not tried it imagine that the breeding of Black Spanish to a high standard is a very simple matter, but there are few varieties which require more care, patience and perseverance from the time they leave the shell till ready for the show pen. No fancier need attempt to breed them for successful competition unless he is endowed with the above named qualities.

At no time within our knowledge have Black Spanish been so popular in Canada as at present, and at no time has such a number of fine birds been in the country. We look forward to seeing, next fall and winter, the largest and finest exhibits ever made in America.

We copy part of an article from *Fanciers' Journal*, written by W. J. Nichols, on "Breeding and Preparing for Exhibition," which will be read with interest by fanciers of this variety:—

"Many poultry fanciers think it is a very easy matter to breed Spanish, for there is nothing but the face, comb and style to be considered. To those who are of this opinion, I would say try them, and then they will soon find it is no easy matter to produce a really first class bird. Face is, of course, the first point, but not a mere incongruous mass of white, hanging in numerous creases and folds which, when opened, almost sickens one from the horrible stench it emits, but a nice smooth surface, and yet we must not altogether despise those coarse-faced birds, for they are often very useful to breed from, especially when in-and-in breeding has been carried on too closely, but for show purposes they ought not to be encouraged. One of the most successful hits I ever made in breeding was in matching one of these heavy-faced birds with some small but beautifully smooth-faced pullets which had not been crossed for some years; by this means I obtained a greater size of face without the coarseness.

"In selecting birds for stock purposes, the hens should be round and smooth in face and the lobes free from tucks or folds. This is of more importance in the hens than in the cocks, for if you breed from hens with badly-shaped lobes, most of the cockerels will have very bad lobes too. The combs should be small, hanging gracefully over one side of the head. I prefer the comb always to hang on one side rather than to see them change from side to side with every motion of the head. When this is the case they are generally very large and thin at the base, and unsuitable for breeding cocks with good combs. Occasionally a hen is seen with an erect comb, but do not breed from such a bird, for the cockerels will have wretched combs. Some fanciers object to breed from pullets. My own experience is that there is very little difference whether pullets or hens are used. I rather prefer hens;

but these generally commence to lay so late that they are useless for early chickens.

"The cock should have a large face, the white reaching well towards the back of the head, for I have noticed that birds with a good breadth of face seldom have a pinched or a ribbon lobe. He should have a bold, upstanding carriage, with good length of leg; this latter point is of great importance, for however large the face may be, unless there is plenty of leg, with a long neck to give the body a commanding and graceful appearance, the face is never seen to advantage, and the bird looks over-laden in head and dumpy in the body, for he cannot move his head with that freedom and grace so characteristic of these birds. Small and petty combs are most desirable, but big combs are often the result of trying to get large faces, as I shall presently show.

"Wry tails, squirrel tails, and round backs are common in Spanish, probably owing to the close in-and-in breeding, which has been carried on for some years. However good the birds may be in other points, never breed from any with either of these malformations, as a large number of the chickens will inherit the same deformities; and here I would just mention, be very careful when purchasing birds out of a selling class to see that they are without any of these blemishes, for many otherwise very good birds are put into these classes, and the judges, being tired or too much hurried to look at the class carefully full through, frequently give a prize to Spanish only because they have a nice face.

"Then there are birds with white feathers in their bodies, and also a few totally white; but these are unsuitable for breeding, and even when a few white feathers are seen in a pullet, after two or three moults, she will become almost white.—White legs are invariably a sign of old age, and those with black legs mostly show a smutty or dark appearance in the white of the face.

"To exhibit Spanish in the best possible condition requires some amount of practice and a very great deal of patience. Trimming, or more properly speaking, plucking out the small feathers and hairs on the face to make it look whiter and rounder, is a very tedious labor; one bird often takes hours to do thoroughly, and unless done it is useless exhibiting. To prepare these birds for exhibition, it is necessary to keep them from the cold winds and out of the heat of the sun, for if exposed to either of these, the white will be flushed or pinky. The face must be thoroughly washed at least three times a week for a couple of weeks before they have to be sent away, and if half an hour is devoted to extracting small feathers out of the face with a fine pair of tweezers, the trimming will not be so troublesome. In washing, plenty of soap