

I felt specially interested in the class for Langshans and Plymouth Rocks, and should have been glad to see a larger entry, as only six pairs were shown, of which four were killed—two of each breed. The first and fourth positions were given to Plymouth Rocks, the second and third to Langshans. The winners were 14 lbs. in weight, and the best Rocks I have ever seen in point of plumpness and color of flesh. Of late this breed has not been gaining ground on this side the water, but the table qualities, as shown at Birmingham, will give it a fresh start in public favor. The fourth pair were plump (weighing 10 lbs. 10 oz.), but showed yellow flesh, always an objectionable feature here. Both the Langshans were good pairs, and weighed respectively 11 lbs. 7 oz. and 10 lbs. 12 oz.; not such good weights as I had expected. The flesh and skin were remarkably good, and the depth and length of keel very striking. In both cases the pullets were the better of the two.

As might be expected, plumpness of breast and lightness of bone characterized the Game class, in which there were twelve pairs shown, and six pairs killed. First were Brown Reds, weighing 10 lbs. 6 oz., very good both in color of flesh and skin. Both last year's exhibition, and this, one, show that of all the Game varieties, Brown Reds come out about the best for table purposes. Another pair of Brown Reds were exhibited, but they were two months younger than the others, and only weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. They had lumps of yellow fat which militated against them. Black Reds, weighing 10 lbs. 10 oz., were chosen for second place, but they were not so nice in skin or general appearance, though the breasts were plump and good. Another pair of Black Reds were killed, and they weighed 9 lbs. 10 oz., but were not nice in color, though fairly plump. A pair of Wheaten was third, and though stated to be only 5½ months old, they weighed 9 lbs. 14 oz. These were fine breasted, and would have stood a good chance for first, in my opinion, had it not been for yellow fat, and a coarse wrinkled skin. For crossing, they seem to stand next to the Brown Reds. A pair of Whites which weighed 8 lbs 2 oz., were given fourth place, and these I liked very much, as they were plump and of nice color. For crossing, the White Game is a good variety.

A class was given for any other pure breed than the above, but it did not fill very well. To Scotch Greys were given the first and third prizes, and I was glad to see this much neglected breed obtain some slight shares of its deserts. These pairs weighed 11 lbs. 6 oz. and 13 lbs. 10 oz. respectively, but the latter were so much darker in skin and flesh that in spite of the greater weight they were thus put down. The former were extremely nice in color of flesh, and very plump. Malays were given the third place, and the pair weighed 12 lbs. 2 oz. These quite bore out the opinions I expressed respecting the pair of Malays shown at the Dairy Show, and but for the cockerel being yellow in skin, might have taken the first place. Fourth were, to my surprise, White Minorcas, as I do not regard members of the Spanish family as table fowls. They weighed 7½ lbs., and were good in flesh and skin.

Cross-breeds were shown in couples, with the sexes divided—why, I could not understand. Dorking-Brahmas or Brahma-Dorkings took off all the prizes, but it may be interesting to give the fuller particulars. First, weighed 17 lbs., and was a cross from a Dark Brahma cock and Silver Grey Dorking hens. They were good in all points, and a grand pair. Next were the same cross, but only weighing 15 lbs. 10 oz., and were not so good in color of flesh or skin. Third, weighed 15½ lbs., and were from a Dark Brahma cock and Colored Dorking hen, and fourth, weighing 17 lbs. 2 oz.—the heaviest pair in the class—were from a Colored Dorking cock and Dark Brahma hen, but these were utterly spoiled in appearance

by lumps of yellow fat. Only one other pair need be mentioned, namely, that from a La Fleche cock and Black-Red Game hen, which promise well, though this pair had not had justice. In the pairs of pullets, the prizes were better distributed, though first and second went to the progeny of a Dark Brahma cock out of a Silver Grey Dorking hen, weighing respectively 13 lbs. 8 oz. and 12 lbs. 2 oz. The La Fleche Black Red Game cross just mentioned, took third place, and weighed 11 lbs. 12 oz. But they were not well shown. Next came the produce of a Black Red Game cock and a Malay hen, weighing 9 lbs. 2 oz., and a very fine cross this is, for the birds were beautifully plump and fleshy. Among others shown were a cross from a Dark Dorking cock and Brown Red Game hen, another from a Malay cock and La Fleche hen, and yet another from a Plymouth Rock cock and Silver Grey Dorking hen, all of which were very good indeed in quality and weight. These classes indicate the breeds that will suit the American taste, and give size, so much appreciated.

PRESERVED EGGS.

The preserved eggs class was much better than that at the Dairy Show. The eggs kept for a somewhat longer period, but were decidedly better. This may be due to the cooler season of the year. From the end of August to December is a much cooler time than from the beginning of July to October. Thirty-four lots of eggs competed, and nearly all known methods were adopted. The winning lot had been preserved in lime-water and cream of tartar, and the second had been rubbed with butter, and packed in salt. Both lots were good and well preserved. Though not equal to new-laid, they were quite fit for table purposes. The former method, but without the addition of cream of tartar, is that used for the preservation of so many of the continental eggs which come to England. We have not yet found a method which is perfect for the preservation of eggs equal to new-laid.

STEPHEN BEALE.

H—, England, Dec. 10.

CHEAP FARMS

NEAR MARKETS.

The State of Michigan has more than 4,500 miles of railroad and 1,600 miles of Lake transportation, schools and churches in every county, public buildings all paid for, and no debt. Its soil and climate combine to produce large crops, and it is the best fruit State in the Northwest. Several million acres of unoccupied and fertile lands are yet in the market at low prices. The State has issued a PAMPHLET containing a map also descriptions of the soil, crops and general resources which may be had free of charge by writing to the COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION, DETROIT, MICH.

We call the attention of the readers of the *Journal of Agriculture* to the Enterprise Meat Choppers advertised in our present issue. The demand for these Choppers has attained such immense proportions that the manufacturers have been compelled to largely increase their facilities for making them, and we are assured that they are now being turned out at the rate of 2,500 per week, 150 hands being steadily employed on them.

There can be no doubt as to the excellence of the Choppers, as they have been tested by the editors of nearly 100 agricultural papers, who have given them a hearty endorsement. We cordially recommend them to all our subscribers as by far the best of the kind ever introduced to public favor.