

birds. Let it always be remembered that there are certain influences, certain facts to be observed, that are alike in every kind of stock breeding.

Our principal table fowls are, Dorkings, Game, Houdans, Langshans, Wyandottes and Plymouth Rocks; but Dorkings crossed with Brahmas for hardiness and size, and Houdans with Leghorns for hardiness and early maturity, are, generally speaking, most suitable for the commercial poultry keeper. Selection of stock has to be made with regard to locality and the nature of the soil; light, dry land, with chalk and grit in its composition and not in an exposed situation, being best adapted.

In order to ensure fertile eggs and vigorous, healthy chickens, breed from cockerels and young hens, not pullets. Early laying on the part of the hens is of course, essential, and, to a great extent, the effect of management. Hens intended to recommence laying early should be induced to moult early in the autumn, either by being allowed the care of a late brood, to sit several weeks, or by removal from pen to pen and judicious feeding. Well-bred, hearty birds must be chosen, be fed on plain, wholesome food, and be kept in comfortable houses, with grass runs and sheds for dusting and shelter attached. Early hatching must be chiefly accomplished artificially; buying broody hens is too expensive when profit is an object.

A number of sitting hens require strict supervision. Sets of boxes should be used to save waste of materials, and in each division a shovelful of damp earth and a little hay should be placed for their nests. The hens must be fastened in. Every day they should be taken off for ten minutes or more, according to weather, for food and a dust-bath, and then be replaced. Seven to eleven eggs are enough for one sitting in winter.

Well-lighted, commodious poultry-houses, with ventilating shutters for both winter and summer use, make the best

chicken nurseries. The floor of the house should be thoroughly dry, and of beaten earth; on this sifted earth, or sand and ashes mixed must be strewn and renewed regularly. In this, place the hen or rearer and chicks. A moderate sized, square, lidless box, with one side sparred suffices for the hen. No shutter is required, and better ventilation at night is afforded at all seasons than in the closed out-door coop. In bringing up chicks artificially heated rearers are necessary for a few days at least; during mild weather they may then be removed to "cold brooders," a description of which would be too lengthily for this article. Chickens can be reared thus, till fit for market, in the greatest perfection, with a minimum of labour. Such a plan has many advantages. The sifted earth over the floor contains grit, and is an ever handy dust-bath; there is good ventilation at night a point so much disregarded, and the house, as they grow up, answers the purpose of a roost. Inch wire netting should be tacked round the bottom of the house, and let one foot into the ground. A grass run is indispensable. Chickens should be fed upon chopped egg and stale bread-crumbs slightly moistened with milk for the first two days; then add, and finally wean off to Spratt's meal, scalded "middings," oat-meal or Sussex ground oats, and tail wheat, buckwheat, and so on as they get larger. Water should be supplied after the first day. Fine grass chaff should be mixed in their meal for several weeks, and a little meat or a substitute for it, "liverine" for instance, given daily. Feed six times daily at first, decreasing to four times. By-the-by, rice boiled in milk and mixed with "middlings" is a good and cheap food. During the winter months food must be given by lamp light. The two great essentials in chicken-rearing are absolute cleanliness in every respect, and giving sufficient food to satisfy their appetites only.

LADY AMHERST PHEASANT.

(Illustrated.)

BY W. B. HINSDALE M.D.

This fine Pheasant derives its name from Lady Amherst who brought the first living specimen to England. It resembles the golden Pheasant very closely in all respects but color. It will cross and mix with the golden Pheasant freely. It is much more timid than its near relation to which we have referred and yields very slowly to the kindness of its keeper, preferring at all times when any person is about to securely secrete itself under a bush or in tall grass to coming forth to eat delicate morsels or to be admired. This shyness detracts much from the splendor of the bird. It is always uneasy in small quarters and trying to make its escape. Amherst Pheasants to show to the best advantage and to enjoy themselves as well, should be kept in a large enclosure, say twenty feet square for a trio, and should be so located as that all their actions can be seen distinctly without alarming them. We once had a fine yard of them enclosed so that they were distinctly visible in all their positions from a sitting room window. From this pheasantry we derived a great amount of pleasure and could at any time from the window see one of the Great Creator's most beautiful creatures.

No better description of the Amherst Pheasant can be given than that of the eminent ornithologist from whom we now quote; "The general appearance of the species is strikingly beautiful. The irides are light, the naked skin of the face is light blue, the feathers of the forehead are green, but the long plumes which form the crest are crimson. The tippet which is so characteristic a feature of the bird is white, each feather being margined with a dark green band, and having a second narrow band at some distance from the tip. The front of the