

pullet, I cannot think how any man, who professes to be a breeder, would give his opinion to the poultry world, on such *slim* experience (and the adverse circumstances under which he placed that pullet(?)) and then presume to cry the variety is not as good as the one he has been breeding for some years. It is enough to make all the tribe of Langshans cackle and crow "Oh! save us from our friends." In the meantime I am anxiously awaiting an explanation from Mr. K. If Mr. Stinehour is correct in this matter he deserves a vote of thanks from all Wyandotte breeders, for doing the disagreeable task, of stating an unpleasant truth.

I fancy I am on the road to success Mr. S. in raising the egg-producing cockerel you mention, as one of my old Wyandotte cocks goes on the nest every morning; I always thought he went there to show the hens what a lovely place it was to lay in, he seemed to say so to them, he makes such a lot of talk about it. But may be, he has been trying to retrieve his fallen brother's character by *laying an egg*.

I see so much written about the size of the Wyandottes. Now the thing is plain enough, that if a bird has a small frame and the bones are fine, it cannot grow into a large sized fowl; but, do we want a large bony frame, *or meat*, on fowls for table? Or do we want a heavy bird, that when we kill it has an immense amount of offal, and inside the depth of meat on the *outside* (every bit of which the epicure finds enjoyable) is only equalled by the famous Dorking? I hope the Wyandotte will not be talked into being a large framed, coarse boned bird, with any amount of waste fat inside. I notice all L. Brahma's I have seen of Felch's strain show what regard has been paid to shape, they are not the largest, but I have no doubt all bear an excess of meat on the outside; that is what we want my friends, as little offal and bone as we can get and abundance of flesh on the

outside, and that must be delicate in flavor, juicy, and fine grained, to "fill the bill" completely. And that is what you get in the toothsome Wyandotte.

"Pea-comb" has some good remarks on rump &c. He believes in prevention, so do I, and I use one that serves me well viz:—as soon as the fowls are obliged to be housed closely in the fall, I fumigate with sulphur once a week, whether there is any reason or not to do so, when the house is closed, and half the time it takes to dose one bird, will suffice to use this excellent preventative for a whole flock. I should think the remedy suggested by "Pea-comb" is an excellent one, and have it in my mind in case of emergency.

The game bantam before referred to has laid an egg since, with several coils looking like a pipe stem wound round the small end but no egg attached to it.

BREEDING AND EXHIBITING HAMBURGHS.

I was pleased to see in your excellent journal the *Stock-Keeper*, from the pen of Mr. Beldon, some information on the breeding of Spangled Hamburgs. It is high time that some one did call attention to the Hamburg fowl; they have of late been badly dealt with by many shows—prizes offered only for one or two varieties, or one prize for all varieties, and in many instances ignored altogether. After keeping nearly all varieties of fowl, I have arrived at this conclusion: that, where there is convenience to give the Hamburg fowl a grass run, no fowl is anything like so profitable to keep. I am certain that my Hamburg hens, with one quarter of the food, lay a much greater weight of egg—and this is the true test—than any Cochin, Brahma, or Dorking that I ever had. No fowl is so pretty—what is grander than to look upon a richly-colored, correctly-marked, golden-spangled cock and hen when the sun is shining upon them? Nothing is more interest-

ing and pleasing than the breeding of these birds.

With most of what Mr. Beldon writes I agree; his reference to the outrageous white earlobe has my entire approval. The giving of prizes to this point has been carried to such an extent that the *best* points in a Hamburg have been altogether overlooked; birds with nothing to recommend them but this you see in the prize list. The breeding to obtain this has led to white-faced Hamburgs—a very great fault, in my opinion. To prevent this I think that our judges on no account ought to give a prize to a chicken where there is the slightest trace of blue in the face; this is certain to become white. The Hamburg fowl ought to have a bright red face; let the earlobe be as fine in quality as possible—round, of a moderate size, in harmony with the bird. To give a prize because the bird has a extraordinarily large white earlobe is, in my judgment, an error. The white earlobe is not natural to the best mooney hens, either gold or silver. Since I knew the fancy, I never saw a mooney hen with white earlobes; the Lancashire fanciers, who brought these birds to perfection, cared nothing about the white earlobe. Were we to get the earlobe white crossed with the cock strain, they would speak of ours as cotton in ground color, and theirs as silk; correctly so, for there is as much difference in the lustre of a pure mooney hen as there is between silk and cotton.

With regard to the comb—the large, long, wedge-shaped comb—this has been encouraged to such an extent by some of our judges that to take a prize it is absolutely necessary to exhibit a bird having this sort of comb. This has led to the making of combs to this false pattern. The most expert at this succeeds, whilst the fancier that has been trying to breed good combs has no chance. Many who would have been good fanciers have given it up in disgust. The encouraging of these combs leads to all sorts of contrivances to keep