

exhibition they will need more attention than any other variety. If exposed too much to the sun or rough weather the face, which is their principal point, will be injured and lose its fine texture; and in winter the comb is apt to get frozen if exposed to severe cold, or lop over if their quarter are too warm. The face also requires washing occasionally to remove foreign matter which will accumulate in its folds; and to exhibit successfully the fancier must pluck from the face the hair-like feathers that grow thereon. If the beginner is prepared to take all this trouble, and feel himself amply rewarded in being the possessor of such beautiful and stately birds as good and well kept Black Spanish undoubtedly are, by all means breed them; but if not, leave them to those who have experience and patience.

Our engraving portrays a model pair of this variety, and at our Canadian shows specimens are often seen very closely approaching them in excellence. For many years Canadians have possessed the best Spanish on this continent, and they do so still. Mr. John Nunn, of Toronto, sent us a pair—to be given to the person first sending fifteen new subscribers to the Review—which would be hard to beat anywhere. They are now the property of Mr. A. McKeigan, of Strathroy, who required the necessary number of names in a few days.

Fattening Poultry.

Some attention is now being paid to the preparation of fowls for the table, and as prizes are occasionally offered for the best specimens of this class, a few words on the preparation of such fowls may perhaps interest your readers. May I describe my own method, which is very successful, and has usually resulted in the production of remarkable fine specimens?

To begin with, a separate compartment is absolutely needful for fattening fowls. They worry and weary themselves to skeletons if allowed to see other birds at liberty. My coops are placed in an old cow-house, which has had the floor levelled and sanded, doors replaced, lattice windows introduced into the wall on one side, and the interior thoroughly whitewashed. Ventilation is provided for under the eaves of an old-fashioned thatched roof.

The sides of the house are lined with coops. These are divided into compartments $24\frac{1}{2}$ by $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Each has a barred front, which turns on hinges to form a door. The wood is deal, which is thoroughly whitewashed inside and out. A hinged flap runs along the front of the coops, 4 inches deep. This lifts up, to permit the insertion of a scraper to clean the coops. On a level with this

flap there is a projecting ledge of wood which supports the zinc troughs containing the food, a thick baize curtain hangs on an iron rod before the windows, and these are protected outside by wooden shutters.

A strong table fixed under the window, and four dozen zinc troughs, with a couple of pails and a water-can, form the only furniture. A folding slate hangs on the wall, with pencil attached. The sides are numbered 1 to 70, with parallel lines drawn across. The coops are numbered in like sequence, in order that the date of arrival of every bird be duly entered, so that the duration of fattening be regulated.

Fine earth, sand, and flour of sulphur, mixed with a little lime, are sprinkled on the floor of the coops, and constantly raked and renewed. No unpleasant smell is observable, as Sanitas powder is freely used, not only in the shed, but among the birds' feathers also.

I prefer to fatten birds at from four to five months old, when the frame is nearly set, and a generous bringing up has put a good layer of flesh on the bones. When much younger, I do not find chickens thrive so well, and certainly they take longer to bring to a condition of real fatness.

Only one bird is placed in each compartment, and I never place cockerels and pullets where they can see each other.

As to the selection of breeds, La Fleche make magnificent fat birds. Pure Dorkings of the white breed I prefer to the dark variety. Houdans and Brahma-Dorkings with various crossings of the above mentioned varieties, are what may usually be found in the fattening shed.

In breeding Brahma-Dorkings, I take great care they should be Dorking-Brahmas, always selecting large white Dorking cocks and the heaviest and shortest legged light Brahma hens procurable, preferring those with scanty leg feathering. I have bred hundreds of these, and they all prove excellent for table; most of them have no appearance of feathers on the legs, which is a great advantage. When bred with the Brahma cock and Dorking hens, I observe a preponderance of leg feathering.

After being allowed to dust themselves thoroughly, the fowls are placed in their coops, and fasted for a whole day. If given food directly after their arrival, they often turn sulky, refuse to eat, and mope. On the other hand, if made really hungry, they set to work with a ravenous appetite, and, as a rule, go on well.

The first meal is usually bread, with scalding milk poured over it, and a teaspoonful of treacle added for each fowl. This is given warm in the zinc pans before referred to; these are removed after each meal. The curtain is then drawn, and the door shut. The fowls thereupon all fall asleep