

the shade lightens in proportion to the amount of other cross-blood in the fowl. They are heavy and rich, and well flavoured, with plenty of meat.

The hens are splendid setters and mothers; will cover from ten large eggs to fifteen small, and care for twenty or forty chicks. The chicks come hardy and true to colour, and the growing birds become very tame.

The Light Brahma is perhaps the best known to the general public of the two varieties.

WHAT IS THE COST OF HONEY?

A correspondent of *Gleanings in Bee Culture* writes: "P. H. Elwood, who is a large honey producer, once said to me that any man who could successfully manage an apiary of 100 colonies of bees, spring count, would command a salary of \$1,000 in any business he might see fit to engage in. This statement I believe to be near the truth, after a careful comparison of men and salaries obtained by different persons during the past few years, but in order not to be considered extravagant I shall reduce it one-half, and allow \$500 as the necessary amount to pay a man competent to successfully manage an apiary of 100 colonies of bees. Then we have a capital of \$600 invested in bees, calling each colony worth \$6, which would give \$36 in interest to be added to the \$500, calling the interest at 6 per cent. and \$4 as taxes, where our bees are assessed at \$5 per colony, as mine are. Then we have \$200 invested in hives and fixtures, which, in order to keep good and renew them when necessary, will require double interest at least; or 12 per cent., which gives \$24 more. Then we must buy or make 5,000 sections, equal to \$25: 200 shipping cases and glass for the same, costing \$40, and fifty pounds thin foundation for sections, amounting to \$30, at 60 cents per pound. To this we must add cartage of our honey to the nearest city or railroad, costing me \$11, and the rent of a shop and grounds for our apiary, costing \$30 more, so that we have \$700 as the total cost of the working of our apiary of 100 colonies of bees. If we own the shop and land which is required for our apiary, the cost to us will be as great to pay the interest and taxes, keeping it in repair, etc., as the rent would be were we to hire the same. Because a man owns a thing does not make it cost him any the less, even if it does make him feel more independent. Many seem to suppose that when they own a thing the use of it does not cost them anything; but often a few years will prove that the use of it would have cost them less had they rented it. Thus we have \$700 as the actual cost of what honey our 100 colonies of bees may produce us. The next thing is to ascertain how much honey we can expect year after year from them.

As the honey-production of our country has been of great interest to me, I have carefully noted all convention reports, and also all reports given by practical and successful apiarists, and I find that the average yield of honey, year after year reported by this class of individuals in the United States is not far from fifty pounds of comb honey. Into this estimate I have not taken those who keep from three to five colonies of bees, and "gush over" with a report of from 200 to 300 pounds of

honey per colony, nor, on the other hand, those who have made an entire failure of keeping the same number of colonies. Such as these do not come under the head of successful apiarists, capable of caring for 100 colonies of bees. Thus we have 5,000 pounds of comb honey as the equivalent of our \$700, taking the years as they average throughout the United States. Now, by dividing the \$700 by the 5,000 pounds, we shall have the cost of one pound, which proves to be 14 cents, so that, if the comb honey of the United States, nets the producers less than 14 cents per pound, we are keeping bees at a loss, and if more, we are making our avocation profitable.

POULTRY RAISING ON SMALL ENCLOSURES.

Those who live in the suburbs of cities, or in villages, derive quite a large profit from poultry as compared with the expense; and not only is poultry raising profitable but a pleasure to many. As the occupation may be more interesting when the desire is to keep them for ornament on lawns, or for beauty of plumage, it will be more satisfactory to keep pure breeds of some kind. If the fences are high there is no prettier breed than the White or Brown Leghorns. They do not sit, and consequently the difficulty of "breaking" the fowls from the inclination of raising a brood is avoided. If a few chicks are desired, however, and the fences are not over four feet high, such breeds as the Brahmas or Cochins will be found useful.

It is best to keep only ten hens in a flock, and one cockerel. If there are two cockerels the result will be several battles for the mastery ending in the defeated cockerel being compelled always to keep at a respectable distance from the victor, and thereby making it somewhat disagreeable to the keeper, as extra work will be required to see that the inferior cockerel is fed and watered, as the stronger one will not allow him to partake of anything thrown down for the hens. In raising chicks, little coops should be used, with small runs, which may easily be removed to new locations when desired. If this is not done the adult fowls will consume that which may be placed for the little ones. A plentiful supply of water, with cleanliness, will keep off disease, and promote thrift and prosperity to the flock.

No one can easily estimate the number of fowls annually raised in cities, towns, and villages. The value is millions of dollars. It demonstrates, however, that the aged and the young, and even those in unfortunate circumstances, find a profit and pleasure in keeping poultry. A few hens soon fill the egg basket, and with the aid of the scraps from the table, and a small allowance of extra feed, keep up the supply until the period arrives in the fall for moulting. Where the space is limited, the chicks should be used in the family, or marketed, when young, but the earlier hatched pullets should be kept to fill vacancies among the hens.

ANIMALS when confined and supplied with fattening feed always increase largely in weight during the first few weeks, after which the rate of increase diminishes to a considerable extent.

HELPFUL HINTS.

WHEAT screenings are not economical. Whole wheat, though apparently more expensive, really contains greater nutriment than double its quantity of screenings. The only advantage possessed by screenings is that such material may be more easily fed to chicks when they are just hatched, and they also contain certain seeds of weeds which are acceptable.

ALL reliable breeders keep a book for recording notices. Therefore, if you contemplate purchasing eggs send a card to the breeder, requesting him to "book" your name. No money is required until you send the order for eggs. By booking your name he will be ready to send them whenever required, as he then knows that your order is expected and prepares for it.

It is a national blessing that "fancy farmers," as they are sometimes called, are pleased to make such large investments in pure-blood stock, for by this means the supply of any breed is kept up. It would be a calamity if from any cause these carefully managed herds should be all broken up and scattered. It is through them that the whole live stock of the country is to be improved, by a gradual process of grading.

WHEN the young Langhans are first hatched they have a large proportion of white on the body, which sometimes confuses those who are not familiar with them. A great many complaints are sent to breeders by purchasers of eggs, who wonder why black fowls should produce chicks partly white. Fortunately, however, as they grow, the white disappears, and after a time they assume their true and natural black colour.

WARMTH and concentrated food is the best of all remedies for a sick fowl, but if it has no appetite keep it warm and comfortable at all events. Should roup appear bathe the head with copperas water, and add some of it to the drinking water. Castor oil is the best thing for bowel complaints, especially when accompanied by sneezing or appearance of cold. Disease is promoted by damp quarters, cracks, surplus fat, filth, and insufficient food.

A BREED or family of animals may possess much merit, yet long remain little known to fame; and a breed or family of little merit may be "boomed" into notoriety and popularity by skilful advertising. A valuable breed or family may lose reputation and popularity for a time, because of temporary notoriety of a less worthy rival; but no breed can long remain popular with large numbers of practical men unless it possesses substantial merit. A breed may do admirably well in one country or under one set of conditions, yet fail elsewhere and under different conditions. While a skilful breeder and shrewd business man may make most reputation and greatest profits with a little-known breed yet it is certain that the average farmer and breeder will be safest in choosing a well-known, long-tried and widely-disseminated breed. No good breed with which a commencement has been made should be rejected for another unless there be clear evidence of superiority. The personal preference of the breeder as to size, colour, markings, etc. may safely be consulted, so long as more important points are not rejected.—*Breeder's Gazette*.