

less, indeed, it be on the theory of visionary effect, but on this point Mr. Wright is silent. The primary cause which leads to vulture hocks could in no way be affected by trimming.

If we must choose between vulture hocks and naked joints, with comparatively bare shanks below them, then we at once admit the necessity of introducing a vulture-hocked cock; but we admit of no such necessity. There is no class of our Asiatic breeds more prone to vulture hocks than White Cochins, and yet we find excellent feather-legged birds of this variety producing and re-producing finely feather-legged chickens, without the vulture hock, and without the introduction of hocked cocks to perpetuate the leg-feathering. Why then should it be different in Brahmas?—the same natural law of reproduction applies to both. The fact is, this point has not yet been properly studied by breeders, and we venture the assertion that even our best poultry writers have little better than crude ideas on the subject. Some time since, we read somewhere that the cause of vulture hock is “unusual strength and vigor in the glands which nourish the plumage.” Admitting this theory to be correct, why then confine these glands to the hock feathers alone? Are they not as likely to affect feathers in other parts of the body just as well as on the hocks? From our stand-point, the theory of introducing vulture hocks as a necessity to the reproduction of well-feathered legs, is wholly untenable, notwithstanding that it comes from an experienced breeder of Brahmas.

Vulture Hocks in Asiatic fowls, like Pleuro Pneumonia in cattle, must be stamped out. To admit it to be a necessity, is to acknowledge our inability to cope with it. By careful breeding we have materially changed the form of body, dispensed with the long ungainly legs and back, greatly improved both mark-

ing and feathering, changed the form and position of the tail, and grow sickle feathers with a neatness and precision unsurpassable,—all in this very breed of fowls, and yet forsooth we cannot get rid of a few objectionable hock feathers, except at the loss of leg feathering. Surely Mr. Wright cannot be serious.

The hock of every Cochin and Brahma ought to be well covered with soft feathers, nicely curling round and hiding the joint. This is not vulture hock, which consists of stiff and straight feathers projecting over the joint so as to form a distinct spur upon the limb. Let breeders by a careful selection of birds with hocks of this kind (not the vulture), and legs well covered with feathers standing *well out*, not having a perpendicular direction—for then they do not tell—continue to make up their breeding yards, and we have no doubt that vulture hocks will soon totally disappear. But so long as the theory is held that vulture-hocked birds are a necessity, and must be occasionally introduced for the perpetuation of feathered legs, so long will vulture-hocked chickens be found.

BLACK HAMBURGHES.

Of all the varieties of the Hamburg class, there is none to which poultry writers have devoted less attention than to the Black. Viewed by breeders of this class as an innovation on the domain of a beautifully feathered breed of fowls, possessing in its appearance nothing very attractive to the eye, its shape and outline differing somewhat from the varieties with which it claimed so near relationship, its origin decreed to be a cross with the Black Spanish, it was long and unfavorably viewed by the amateurs and judges of our poultry exhibitions. Until very recently it was not deemed worthy of a separate class at exhibitions, and had to take its place in the “any variety;” but it has risen above the difficulty, and is still fast in-