

age; the wings full, tail large, and sickles heavy, extending well over the main tail feathers, and having no inclination to curl over the back; legs and beak yellow, and the eye clear and lustrous, together with the back and middle of a brilliant red, and tail green-black, making in itself a picture of beauty.

The female is not far behind the male in external beauty. The beautiful salmon-colored breast, shading lighter under the body; the small and evenly corrugated comb, similar to that of the males; pure white ear lobes, fitting close to the head, it being small and well-proportioned; the feathers on the neck having a beautiful and fascinating golden hue, each feather having a metallic black centre. These things, combined with a neat and compact body, make a form in itself that is not easily forgotten. I observe vast changes taking place in the Leghorn of to-day from those of ten years ago; breeders have made extensive strides towards perfection in shape and coloring. However, there are a few obstacles to overcome yet. One is, how to obtain the long-sought-for black metallic stripe in the saddle and hackle; more especially in the saddle. This it is hard to accomplish, but the true fancier is a persistent fellow, and will labor long to obtain what he desires. Lovers of the Leghorn will see in a few years a perfect hackle, free from any mottling, and having a deep slate undercolor extending to the skin. The most difficult problem is how to obtain the above on males and females of a rich brown color, pencilled with darker brown, without too large a percentage of brick coloring in the wings and a fading of the salmon coloring of the breast. As near as I can learn, the first importation of Leghorns was in 1853. They were of the single comb variety. Since that date they have been bred and improved, till to-day we have the world's famous egg-machines' Rose Comb Brown Leghorns. No fanner will err in breeding them, for in cold climates they are not susceptible to frost. If they do not come up to my praises, there must be something wrong with their management, for in my own estimation there is no class of improved fowls to-day that will give the yield of eggs that Rose Comb Brown Leghorns will. They will lay eggs the year round, even when Jack Frost is forcing the mercury down to eight and ten below zero. They are lively birds, and are always on the alert; good foragers, and when at liberty they will find sufficient grain, seeds, grubs, and worms to supply their needs. They also stand confinement well, are not subject to disease, and are rapid growers from the time they leave the shell till they reach maturity. Pullets often lay at four months old. I speak

from experience, having several pens of the purest blood obtainable. I have one pen of which I kept a record for eighty-four days, beginning on December 1st, 1895, and ending February 22nd, 1896. This pen consisted of ten pullets and three yearling hens, which were kept in a pen 14 x 16 feet, and they never touched mother earth for ninety-two days. The number of eggs gathered was 781, and the temperature of the outdoor weather registered ten to twelve degrees below zero. I did not have a sick hen, or one troubled in any way, or a bird with feathers pulled out by others. I think this record hard to beat, considering the conditions.

S. CHAMPION,

Proprietor Tuscola Poultry Yards.

Cass City, Mich.

FOR FARMING.

Notes on Poultry Raising.

In making a choice of fowls, it is well to remember that some breeds are harder to keep within bounds than others, which are not so fond of a wide range. A quiet sort of a hen one usually finds very deep astern, with a large eye, large comb, power to eat, digest, and assimilate a large amount of food.

After careful consideration choose the breed which you like best and can manage to the best advantage, and keep it until you can improve on it. A large part of the profit in the poultry business is in the early egg; and if one provides a snug, well-built house, where neither water nor eggs will freeze, with windows both south and west, fitted with outside storm windows for the winter, and gives plenty of egg-making food, which means meat, milk, clover, bran, and vegetables, along with corn and other grain, winter eggs will be the rule.

A well-built and well-lighted hen house is much better than one which requires artificial heat. If it is not well built, colds, roup, and hosts of other ills come in through the cracks. Good food and plenty of exercise will keep the fowls sufficiently warm. Then there is no danger of their taking cold when exposed to outside air. Give them a covered run, if possible, for wet weather, and a good range for fine weather. A piece of ground that can be plowed up occasionally is excellent. Plum or other trees might be grown in it to advantage.

Keep a plentiful supply of fresh drinking water in clean vessels always at hand. The automatic fountains, having small drinking cups, are best, especially for long-wattled fowls. Water enters largely into the composition of eggs. Conse-