

runs, and well bred, are always admired. Many of their strongest advocates will assure us that, for all purposes, no variety equals them. In considering their qualities, we believe on an average they take the lead in weight, and we have seen specimens bred large at the expense of nearly every useful quality. Monsters in weight are usually large in bone and frame, coarse in texture, with long necks and backs, stilty, knock-kneed legs, and altogether ungainly and unsymmetrical; this class are longer maturing, more than proportionately larger feeders, while the hens are clumsy as layers and mothers. Size in itself is not objectionable, except when attained at the expense of symmetry and utility. Our preference is for a Brahma with good shape and style, square in build, rather early maturing, and full of vigor and activity. Birds of this class do not often reach extreme weights, but are more uniform, and average well in size; besides they are better for all practical purposes. The new Standard of Excellence gives a very good description of this fowl. Brahmas are first-rate layers during the winter months, and in warm weather we do not think them so persistent setters as some of the Cochons. Possessing strong vitality, they feed well, hatch well, and the chicks are hardy and easy to raise, in almost any season, with decent quarters and care. In disposition, the Light Brahma excels for quietness and docility. In breeding, the most difficult thing to attain is perfection in color throughout."

For the farmer, or those who cannot give much attention to mating or breeding, Light Brahmas will be found very satisfactory, being contented under almost any circumstances, thriving with ordinary care, and giving good returns; while for the fancier, who can give them attention, the breeding of them to a high standard will always be a work of great interest.

More about In-Breeding

Editor Review :

DEAR SIR :

Permit me to say, at the commencement of this humble attempt to aid brother fanciers in their search for knowledge, that I am pleased to see in last number the somewhat familiar signature of "Thomas" to something practical and to the point as usual. It was to be feared that distance, that great destroyer of human friendship, would accomplish its fell purpose in this case, but to our friend's credit be it said, it has failed thus far, as we earnestly hope it may continue to do.

I purpose to say a few words on the subject of in-breeding, which is receiving so much attention, and is being so ably and fairly discussed by fanciers at present. In the first place, the subject is

an important one, and one which can be inspected from different stand points with different results; nothing, probably, shows its importance more clearly than that it has occupied the attention of breeders for many years and is yet an unsettled question among them; but that this subject can be reduced to the accuracy of a science there is little doubt. It needs a long and strong pull, and a pull altogether to accomplish this. One may say, I know very little about it, and the few ideas which I have are crude, and I will likely be laughed at if I give them. Well, give them and be laughed at, and try again. Do not forget that England's greatest statesman was laughed at, and said in reply, "You will cease to laugh yet." Now is the time to offer anything that can be offered; the minds of fanciers are becoming warmed to the subject, and prepared to receive. You may possess the missing link. Great things have been done in the past by concentrating forces, and launching them united against one part of the opposing force. By this system, introduced into military tactics, Bonaparte surprised and defeated Europe.

"X Roads" has put this subject fairly and squarely before the fanciers, and has not incorporated himself into it in such a manner that the subject could not be touched without touching him, but has so nicely kept the two separate that the subject can be discussed freely without discussing the writer. And indeed it is hard to understand what personalities have to do with fowl raising. Ideas, and cash accompanying orders, seem to be about what are wanted.

From very early ages it has been an established theory that close relationship should not exist between the individuals engaged in the propagation of their species; and at the present time the breeders of all domestic animals are agreed on this point, that the progeny of such matings are weaker and possess less power of endurance, and consequently are less productive. It is impossible for an animal physically deficient to perform any function as perfectly as one perfect in this respect.

But what are the most easily detected signs of physical deficiency in birds and animals? Is it not admitted generally that want of size, a deficiency in quantity and quality of feathers, which are wanting in brilliancy, and, in parti-colored birds, a fading of the darker to the ground-color, with lack of lustre in both, are. Now, may we not reasonably look for these results to attend physical weakness arising from any cause whatever, such as improper feeding or care. The only difference being in the naturally weak constitution the organs do not utilize the food given, and in the latter it is not given. Now, in mankind we find loss of color in hair, which in its nature corresponds to the feathers of birds, and is nourished in the same way