

If these hackles flow over the shoulders the birds are disqualified by the American *Standard*.

The above are some of the difficulties with which a Sebright fancier has to contend. But the great beauty of the bird, its exquisite coloring and fascinating figure, its proud and bump-tious manners, and its really valuable qualities, have served to keep it well towards the front among popular Bantams. The simple fact is that even an inferior specimen is a handsome bird, for many of its faults are hidden beneath a lovely surface, and it is able to charm the uncritical spectator while it annoys the particular fancier. In looking at such specimens, it does not pay to know too much.

"Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," and the fancier is often too wise for his own comfort.

DUCKWING LEGHORNS.

THE idea of bringing out the duckwing Leghorn suggested itself in the year 1882, whilst engaged in breeding the pyle Leghorn, which has since become so famous, and held in high estimation amongst those who seek for beauty. During this and the following year I noticed among the pullets several with good head-points, nice brown, or salmon breast, and beautiful yellow legs; but the general body-color was Andalusian or plain slate color, whilst the under parts were of an ashen grey. Seeing they carried the Leghorn properties in every way save color, I felt it was a pity to kill them, and as something approaching the duckwing color was plainly visible, I made up my mind to endeavour to improve on it, and, if possible, add another variety to the most popular family of domestic poultry in the known world, viz, the Leg-

horn, and, if successful, it should be the duckwing Leghorn.

Believing nothing impossible, and being very enthusiastic in matters appertaining to poultry-breeding, I collected the likely material and commenced with a will; but, as I expected, it was some time before the blood would nick properly—in fact, years. Still, as the pyles were settling down to color, type, and character year by year, I thought duckwings must do the same. Therefore things went hand-in-hand pretty well as they started, one breed keeping just about a generation ahead of the other till 1886, the advent of the pyles, when a few likely looking specimens appeared that bid fair to stamp the duckwings as a variety. A further improvement was made in 1887, when a valuable acquisition came to hand from an unexpected quarter. During the summer of that year, Mr. Chick, of Dorchester, hearing of my success with the pyles, very kindly sent a couple of cockerels (sports from his brown Leghorns), thinking they would help me in my labor (one of them unfortunately died a few weeks after); this gave me a change of blood which proved most beneficial. The next year I obtained a great increase in size and colour, but a loss in type. Still, I had better opportunities of selection, having a good few to choose from. But the greatest difficulty all through has been to get good breast-colouring on the pullets. The hackle and steel-grey markings will come fairly well. On the part of the cockerels the beautiful black breast has become quite a feature. This I attribute to not insisting on a pure silvery top colour. Personally, I prefer a golden tinge, as it is less affected by the sun, and, to my mind, sets the bird off better.

That they are destined to become extremely popular, is a foregone conclusion if one may judge by the numerous inquiries from abroad and at home

both for birds and eggs, but as the number of really good specimens must of necessity be comparatively few for years, we are likely to hear of good and substantial prices being offered, even more so than during the past year or two. Sums realized by individual specimens have already topped those paid for any other variety of Leghorn, and I believe the same may be said as regards eggs. This in itself is abundant proof that they have a brilliant career in the future, and are seemingly running neck and neck with the pyles, both being exquisitely beautiful, and as such, plumage must count first. Again, another point (and not a minor one either), in their favor, they will stand exhibiting longer than the other varieties, even for two or three years, they can be shown with advantage. Although I do not mention it as a challenge, yet I believe the cockerel in the illustration made as good, or perhaps a better, record than any previous Leghorn cock in one year, taking age into consideration. When about six months old he had won 2nd Poultry Club Show; 1st Windsor; 1st Dairy; 1st and Special Southampton; 1st Crystal Palace, etc. After he won at Southampton, £20 was offered for him by telegram, but the offer was declined with thanks, after which he passed into the hands of Mr. W. Hinson, St. Ives. Although the originator of this variety (which of course I am very proud of), I have no wish to extol their merits or beauty beyond that of the opinion of the public—I mean the poultry loving public, poultry breeders, and poultry judges. As good wine needs no bush, so if their position be won by themselves, by virtue of their excellence whether for laying qualities, table purposes, or beauty, it will be on a much firmer foundation, than if got by other means. The colour, generally, is one that we are already familiar with, therefore needs