

the breast, back, wings and thigh should have each feather distinctly pencilled or marked across with transverse bars of black. The more defined these are, the better, as there should be a perfect freedom from a mossy appearance, which is caused by the two colours running into one another. The legs and feet in both sexes should be of a clear leaden slaty blue. The comb in the cock is evenly set on the head, square in front, well sprigged above with small, even points, not hollowed on the upper surface, and terminating in a single flattened pike behind, which inclines slightly upwards. In the hen, the comb is the same in form, but very much smaller. The earlobes in both sexes must be a dead opaque white, free from red on the edge.

GOLDEN PENCILLED HAMBURGHES.

The same description applies generally to the characters of the golden-pencilled birds, substituting the rich, deep, reddish bay, as the ground colour, for the clear, white, silvery ground that characterizes the Silver birds. As, however, there is a slight difference in the marking of the sickle feathers and tail coverts, we quote the following from the standard of excellence. "The sickle feathers of the cock should be of a rich black down the middle of the feather, the entire length edged with bronze, each bronze edge as near one-fourth the width of the feather as possible. The more distinct the two colours, and free from running into each other, the better; and the entire plumage of the Golden-pencilled hens, with the exception of the neck-hackle, which is pure golden bay, must have a deep golden bay ground, free from either lacing or mousing, the pencilling not to follow the outline of the feather; but to go straight across on each side of the shaft; the two colours distinct, well defined, and not shading or running into each other. The chestnut patch too frequently seen on the wing of the silver-pencilled cock should

be by all means avoided. There should be a sufficient depth of colour in the markings of the wings, and in the gray down at the roots of the feathers, or he will not breed deeply marked hens; for, although the sickle feathers of a Golden cock may be bronzed all over without fear of spoiling him as a breeding bird, such an amount of silver on a cock's tail would, in the majority of cases, cause him to throw lightness. The Tail of a Silver-pencilled pullet should be neatly barred in her first full sized plumage; but they generally become waved or frizzled after the second or third moult."

Again: says Mr. Brent, "As a golden Cock will breed good hens with much less depth of under-colour than the Silvers, the argument in favour of their having bars on the wings and black inner webs to the quill feathers is not so imperative, and the sickle feathers of the Golden Cock may be bronzed all over without so much lessening his value as a stock bird."

THE BIRMINGHAM POULTRY SHOW.

Among English fanciers and breeders, the Birmingham Poultry and Pigeon Show is always looked forward to with great interest. To obtain a cup or a first at this exhibition is one of the highest objects of the fancier's ambition, and even a highly commended is much sought after, and prized when obtained. The exhibition of 1870 was held in the last week in November. The number of entries were greater than at any previous one. There were in the poultry class 2125, and in the pigeon class 453. In point of attendance and sales, says the *Journal of Horticulture*, the meeting was very successful, but greatly inferior in quality to the average of Birmingham exhibitions, although there were very many grand exceptions. From the large number of entries, the competition must