BEES AND POULTRY.

THE GAMES.

These are about the most widely cultivated of all varieties of fowls, not alone for fighting qualities, but for their grace and beauty and spirited action, and their excellent meat and eggs. We cannot describe all the varieties, there are so many but will the leading ones:

They are hardy, the hens are good mothers and setters, and, if allowed wide range, these fowls are profitable as they eat little but yield the most delicious meat and eggs of all fowls. Although Brown Reds head the group for perfect shape yet they are all much alike. The body is short and hard, and the carriage erect and fierce, and the plumage is short, close, hard and glossy. Back short, wide at shoulders, narrow at tail, and rounded at sides, broad breast, narrow rump, short wings, medium length carried close, tail medium and erect, and spreading, sickles curved, short, and muscular thighs, well apart, legs of medium length and also wide, spurs sharp and long, low and curving up a little but not much in. The feet are thin and spread, claws straight and strong, head sharp and long, throat and face thin and lean, neck arched and long and strong, ear-lobes red and small, single comb, red, thin, erect and small, and evenly cut. The same points apply to the hen in proportion, hard body, (all over) and plumage being the chief points. The exhibition for cocks is four and a half to five and a half pounds, and for hens three to three and a half, pit birds not over four and a half pounds. The most popular (or at least the most successful prize winners) brown-red black, breasted red, silver duck-wing greys, and piles. The first is dark blooded, the cock's breast red brown, wings dark red, butts dark brown, legs, claws, beak and eyes dark brown, hackle dark striped, thighs red brown, tail green black. The hen is dark brown, lighter pencilled, golden red neck hackle, (darker striped), face and comb darker than the cocks. The hens of games are often spurred, and they throw the best chickens, and the bright red comb varieties are the best layers, the dark are the best fighters, and of course, games are judged chiefly for their fighting properties.

Black brown reds are bright red plumage, red eyes, the cock's wings red in upper, chestnut in lower part, with blue bar, blue black breast, and thighs, green black tails, comb and wattles bright red, best birds have yellowish legs. The hen rich red brown fawn colour breast, red golden hackle dark striped.

Silver duck wing greys, cocks silver gray colour, hackle striped black beneath, clear above, wing has blue bar, and is yellow white below, tail green black, skin white. Hens bluish grey, dusted with silver shade, yellow red breast, legs white, blue or yellow, combs and faces (of both sexes) bright red. The cocks of the piles have the red colour "piled" on a white ground, red hackles striped white, back red, breast white, may be (red marked) tail white. The hen's colour, white ground red streaked, and in both sexes the dark grey and black varieties should have black legs and eyes, the white, bright red eyes and white legs.

All our varieties of games spring from three wild varieties of India where they are still found, and have been bred from very early times. They are black brown red, brown breasted reds, and

In games black eyes show dark blood and their eggs are white, red eyes red blood (eggs pinkish), yellow eyes, and yellowish eggs. The best fighting sorts have red or black eyes, these commonly used being brown-breasted reds, black-breasted reds, and dark greys, the last being the hardiest and strongest, game cock chicks become "stags the first Christmas after hatching when their combs and wattles are closely clipped with sharp scissors. Separate varieties should not be crossed, and not more than six hens should be put with each cock, with a lot of good "Stags" under him; never breed from pullets, but the hens can be bred from as long as they are strong, as the old birds breed the best chicks. Mate your breeders very carefully, and the more cock chicks there are the better the whole brood is, and hatch your chicks between mid March and end of May.

OPERATIONS.

Beginners will find the movable frame hives the easiest to learn by, but they can also take the old box hive, study the bees closely, learn and read all possible, about the dainty little pets, and then, getting some good standard hive, do their own transferring and continue their investigations.

A good breed of bees and one of the best hives however, will not ensure success, even among good "pasture," for intelligent watchful care, at the right time, is necessary for good results.

SWARMING.

There is a great difference of opinion among bee keepers upon this subject, some saying that natural swarming is the only right way, while others claim that it is better to control it by artificial means. Some days before this event takes place, the queen matures less eggs, and reduces her size so as to be able to fly with the swarm, and the worker bees do not work as hard as before.

The causes of swarming are crowded combs, (with bees) a large brood comb maturing, and a good supply of honey coming in. In the middle of the day examine your hives, and look for queen cells, and if these have eggs or larvæ ready to seal, or sealed, swarming is at hand, (if sealed), most likely the next day. Swarming will likely commence in this country any time in June, and end about middle of July, the second swarm (under the natural process) coming out eight or nine days after the first and the 3rd about three days after that. If not hived soon after swarming and clustering they generally fly off to the woods. Early swarms often swarm out but do not cluster, and others often cluster without swarming.

All ages come out, together, and the old queen goes out with the first swarm, and they usually come out from ten to three cloock, if the day is fine and not too windy. It is a very interesting time, and rather anxious for the beginners but keep cool, and knowing what to do, having all things ready, you are all right. You will first notice a larger number of bees about the hive entrance, than is usual from a minute or two to an hour before the time of starting, great confusion exists and bees are running about in all directions. Upon rising from the hive they first fly in small circles, but gradually spread over quite a large space, and move slowly, in thousands. In say five or ten minutes after leaving, they usually select a branch of a tree or a bush, and in less than a minute are all gathered there and "cluster" on it. They must be now put into the hive at once, as they get impatient, especially if a hot day, and, if another swarm from another hive, should come out at that time, they would surely join. In any way you like to get them all in the hive, but they must all go in, or nearly so.

Put your hive on the ground and lay a wide board before it, and if it is possible cut the branch off and shake the bees down in front of the hive, some soon see it and call the others on. If they block up the hole, gently stir them with a small stick, and if that won't start them, sprinkle a little water over them, or the smoker, if you have one. If you can't get at the branch, or they settle on some solid substance shake or dip them (with a tin dipper) into a box and empty them in front of the hive, or a large pan will do as well as the box. As soon as you get the queen in all the rest will come in also, but if she is not in those that may already be in the hive, will come out again and cluster. As soon as the queen and nearly all the others are in remove the hive to its permanent stand and shelter from the sun.

POULTRY NESTS.

Cleanliness is very desirable in all of the varied management of poultry, but in no special department more than with the nests and nesting boxes. To secure ease in cleaning, it is necessary to have the style and arrangement of the nesting boxes conform to some well defined plan, and not have a mere collection of non script soap or candle packages, of all sizes and shapes, and put just anywhere, where there is room enough to hang or place them. Those who "can not make poultry pay" are the ones who economise (?) in this peculiar way. The boxes in which the nests are made should be of a uniform size and shape, and should be arranged with some degree of taste and order in the poultry house. A very convenient-sized box is about fourteen inches long, by about a foot wide and six or eight inches deep. The ends should be of inch stuff, while the sides and bottom can be made of half-inch boards. The entire material should be unplaned lumber, so as to take white-wash well. We must condemn the practice of nailing the boxes fast in the poultry-house, as it prevents the breeder from giving the house or the boxes a thorough cleaning whenever necessary, and the lice and other fowl parasites find a secure retreat behind the boxes, where it is practically impossible to dislodge them.

The very best material for nests is well broken and fresh rye-straw, clean and bright. It can soon be twisted and broken by hand, to relieve it of its harshness, and then neatly made into a nest, which should be well sprinkled with flowers of sulphur when made. If tobacco stems are plentiful, put a good handful of them in each box before the nests are made. This will act as a very good vermin preventative. Never make the nests of any material which will pack down solidly, as it not merely affords a snug retreat for vermin, but is apt to endanger the safety of the eggs whether they be under a setting hen or a layer, and in every case make new nests each month, if they be constantly used, invariably burning the old ones.—*American Poultry Yard.*

One half of the diseases of fowls arise from their being exposed to dampness, not only in the houses but in the yards. A yard should not only be well drained, but should be raised in the centre in order to allow the water to flow into the drains. Leaks in the roof are very dangerous, and when north-east storms occur, that portion of the coop should be very tight.

Water strongly impregnated with sulphurous (not sulphuric) acid, is said to be an excellent remedy for chicken cholera. To prepare it take a tight box with close fitting lid. In this put a basin of water. Melt some sulphur and draw strips of cotton cloth through it. Set fire to the strip of sulphur rag and lay it on a brick in the box with the water and put on the lid. Let stand fifteen minutes. Repeat this a few times until the water has absobed enough of the sulphur fumes to taste slightly acid. Give a teaspoonful every two hours until there are signs of improvement, then three times a day This is harmless to the fowls but sure death to the cholera germs. Let some of our readers try it.