

POULTRY IMPORTATIONS.

It is gratifying to observe the increased desire daily springing up among fanciers for a better description of fowls for breeding purposes than those which we now possess, and that it is not confined to a few amateurs, but gradually extending over the country. We have, of course, now to look to England for stock birds for this purpose, and no doubt will have to do so for some time to come; it is, therefore, a source of much satisfaction to find we have among us breeders who view the matter from this stand-point, and are determined to import the best specimens obtainable for this purpose. Since our last issue we note several other importations, among which may be mentioned that of Mr. John Forsyth, of fifteen Dark Brahmas, eighteen Buff and Partridge Cochins, and five Rouen Ducks, all of which are excellent specimens; Mr. Howard, a further importation of twelve Buff Cochins; and Mr. Phillips also imported several birds. Several orders sent are yet unfilled.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HINTS TO POULTRY AMATEURS.

SIR,—I have quite a number of friends who have become somewhat interested in Poultry, so much so as to desire to keep some, and to whom a few hints from one who has gone through the mill and gained a little experience at some expense and loss of time and patience, may not be altogether useless.

The first thing for a young beginner to do is to decide on the varieties to keep. I should advise not more than two breeds, as I believe that the fewer the varieties kept, the greater degree of excellency is the more likely to be attained. The sorts I should recommend would be Brahmas, Dark or Light, as they lay well in the winter, make good mothers, and no trouble in raising their chicks; the other should be either of the varieties of the Hamburgs, as non-sitters and great egg-producers. The eggs of the latter could be hatched under the Brahmas.

One word to him in making his selections; get the best cock of one strain, and hens of another. Having made his selection, the next thing is to provide a suitable place for them during winter and summer. The house should not be too large, say four feet square for each variety; if opening on to a covered shed with a glass front facing the south to protect from winter storms, so much the better. I would not recommend artificial heat; give them straw to nestle down in and keep their feet warm, with ashes or sand and gravel to bask in. The perches should all be of the same height, say three feet from the ground, and not too narrow, as that often causes malformation of the breast. The Brahmas do not require any perches, give them straw to sleep in, taking care to shake it up well every morning and renew it when foul. Nest boxes might be placed in such a position as to insure their being free from droppings as the hens having to pass over it get their feet dirtied and foul their nest and eggs. The house should be well lighted and ventilated and free from drafts; this is a very important point.

Poultry, if properly fed, can be kept in a small space, and however small the fancier's yard may be, it need not deter him from keeping a few favorites. If he has a small grass plot, so much the better. If his run is confined, I would recommend giving a little animal food once a week—once in the day, say the morning, they should be fed with a mixture of cornmeal, barley meal, shorts or middlings, well scalded, and in very cold weather put a little ginger or ground pepper with it as a stimulant. The evening meal should be either corn, wheat, buckwheat or barley. I find my birds prefer the three first. They should have fresh water once a day. A lump of camphor occasionally in the water will not do any harm. I think if amateurs will follow out the above