

POULTRY ♥ WEEKLY

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EDITOR.

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Large and Small Breeds.

VERY often when visitors are looking over the poultryman's stock, we hear the remark that "those big hens must eat as much as a pig"; or as I was once told by a person looking at a pen of Plymouth Rocks "I would as soon keep that many pigs, and they wouldn't eat any more than those birds do."

It is a common error to suppose that the heavy breeds eat so much more than light breeds. A visitor remarked on the awful eating capacity of Light Brahmas. As I had a pen of mixed breeds, I took advantage of it illustrate the real facts of the case. I asked my visitor to judge for himself and when I threw down the grain to take notice of the quick way of eating the Leghorns have. He did so, and departed a wiser man, with opinions nearly reversed. For the Leghorns by their quick and eager manner got far more of the grain than the Brahmas or Rocks. While these latter would be looking at

the grain the Leghorns would "gobble up," (that is the only word that expresses it,) four or five kernels. They are so active, and will always pick up many more grains in a minute than any heavy breed.

This forces upon our notice the folly of feeding light and heavy breeds together when in confinement. The bustling busy ways of the light breeds disconcert the heavier ones, and instead of going in for their share of the spoil, they will seem as if saying "if you are so greedy, take it all," for they go about complaining and grumbling and let the smart light weights eat at will.

These latter too will push their way under the bodies of the large birds so that it is almost impossible for them to get any portion of the food till the light breeds are satisfied, and then there will be very little at their disposal.

I was once called in to attend a Langshan cock that had been fed with a pen of mixed birds of light breed. I found that they had nearly starved him by crowding and preventing him getting a sufficient quantity of feed. Of course if at liberty there is plenty of room for all to get a share, but if obliged to keep the light and heavy breeds together in confinement, it will be requisite to look after them and see that each gets enough to keep them in good condition.

Why some Ladies don't like the care of Poultry.

WE are led to make a few remarks on this subject, by a conversation we had with a visitor who belongs to the "fair and gentle" sex. We had gone through the buildings, and were coming back through the covered passage. "What do you use this place for?" asked the lady. We