

chicks usually have black beaks. Wattles and ear lobes of nearly equal length. In a healthy fowl, the comb, wattles and ear lobes should be of a rich bright red color; they should also be fine in texture; a bird with coarse ear lobes and wattles will almost invariably prove coarse in flesh. The neck should be of medium length, and at its junction with the head the hackle feathers should start out sweeping and full, causing a slight depression or hollow at the junction of head and neck. The hackle should flow well down over the shoulders, and each feather having a distinct black stripe down the centre, which should terminate in a sharp point at the end of the feather. The back should be short, flat and wide, with a slight hollow or depression between the shoulders when the head is down in the act of feeding. The saddle cannot be too broad, and should commence to rise almost from the base of the hackle until it merges into the tail. In an old cock the surface color of the back and saddle should be white, but in a young bird a few black feathers near the base of the hackle are not a serious objection, as they will disappear with age. The under color of the back may either be white or bluish white. The breast should be broad, round and full, and carried well forward; body wide and deep; color of body white; wings small and tightly folded, the points well tucked up between the fluff and saddle feathers.—The wings to be white when folded; the primaries may be black or nearly so. The tail should be carried tolerably upright and open out laterally.—The tail feathers should be entirely black in a young bird, but most old cocks show more or less white in the tail. The fluff should be very abundant and soft, causing the bird to appear very broad behind: a narrow, Spanish-shaped bird is to be avoided. Thighs large and strong, nearly covered by the fluff; legs rather short and thick, of a reddish-yellow color, well feathered down to the extremity of the outer toes; the middle toe usually feathered; this, however, is a mere matter of opinion. Such a bird as I have described, when in full plumage and good health, will command the admiration of every lover of the breed.

In choosing a hen quite as much attention and care will be required as in the choice of the cock, although I believe it is generally conceded that the cock governs the fancy points or markings, and the hen the form and size, still I think it advisable to have both as nearly right as possible; but the same fault must not exist in both sire and dam, or it will be reproduced in their progeny, and frequently in a much more aggravated form. Hence if the cock's comb be large, that of the hen should be particularly small; if the cock be too light or dark in the hackle, the hen must be chosen with a view to counteract the defect. If the hen be deficient

in leg feathering, it must be avoided in the cock, otherwise the chicks will be bare shanked with but very few exceptions.

In choosing the hen look for a small, grouse-shaped head, with the slight fulness over the eye, giving the face a particularly pleasant expression, which will be at once appreciated when shown in contrast with a long, narrow, snaky head. Beak short and stout, of color similar to the beak of the cock; comb small, low, and set firmly upon the head, so as not to shake, however quickly the bird may move its head; wattles and ear lobes very small, and of a rich bright red color; any white upon the ear lobe is a decided objection, and is very apt to be perpetuated; her neck should be rather short, with full hackle, each feather having a broad black stripe down the centre, and ending in a sharp point at the end. The hackle should flow well over the shoulders. Back short, wide and flat; the cushion gradually rising until it merges into the tail. In old hens the back should be pure white in color. Pullets are usually spotted between the shoulders; this will almost always disappear with age. Pullets that are clean cut, or free from black feathers, are frequently deficient in the hackle, the feathers being very short. Under color of back may be white or bluish white. If both cock and hen are blue under color, their progeny will most likely come too dark, splashed on the wings and fluff; hence it were better if some attention were given to this matter. Breast round and full and carried well forward, but low in comparison to the cock. Body wide and deep; long, narrow hens, if mated with a short, thick-set heavy cock or cockerel, often breed very fine chicks; but if the cock be at all narrow, the hens must be broad. Wings small and short, with the points well tucked in between the cushion and fluff; the wings to appear white when folded. Tail small and carried nearly upright, and should open out somewhat like a fan; the tail feathers should be black; the two highest may have a narrow edge of white; avoid a low, horizontal Cochin tail, as it spoils the true Brahma shape. Fluff very abundant and standing out about the thighs, giving the bird a broad, deep appearance from behind. Thighs large and strong, well covered by the fluff; legs strong and wide apart, so as to afford ample room for the heart, lungs and other vital organs. Color of legs, yellow. The legs should be well feathered down the outside to the extremity of the outer toes; color of feathers white, or white mottled with black near the toes.

THE man who is neither an assignee, a defaulter, a receiver, or a beggar, is the greatest curiosity of the times.—*New York Eve. Express.*

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