

from a practical as well as a fancy point of view.

They are excellent layers of good-sized eggs, rich in flavour as in color. By judicious selection their egg production could be still further improved, as some strains are much better layers than others, and by keeping only for breeding purposes those that have proved themselves first-rate layers a strain could be established which would hold its own with any sitting variety. As table birds they are by no means to be despised, as, though like other Cochins and Brahmas, they are rather ungainly in shape, yet when well fed they carry a lot of good-flavored meat, while their skins are pinky white (at least in some strains, and more especially in the purest colored birds), and will bear comparison with many Dorkings. As sitters they are excellent, being very quiet and tractable, and they are generally good nurses, though, as in other breeds, you sometimes come across a clumsy one.

The chickens are hardy and require no special treatment, bearing confinement, well, as do the adults. Birds intended for exhibition should be kept as much as possible under cover, as exposure to sun and rain tans the plumage and spoils that purity of color which is one of their great beauties as well as one of their chief exhibition points. This, however, can easily be done, as, owing to their contented disposition, any small shed or loose box, if well ventilated and kept clean, will suffice for a few show birds.

For breeding-pens I recommend giving as large a range as the space at liberty will allow. New breeders of this variety should not be discouraged because their chickens have a creamy tinge before their plumage is fully matured, as it may only be the sap in the feathers, and in any case is not to be confused with sunburn. There are some birds in whom this creamy tinge does not die away, while there are

others who, in all stages of moult, keep a pure snowy color, and on whose plumage the sap has no discoloring effect. I need hardly say that the latter are the most desirable of all, while the former should be ruthlessly weeded out. As the color is much a matter of strain, it is most important for beginners before buying their breeding stock to fully ascertain the characteristics of the strains they fancy, as a cross from a bad-colored one may take years to breed out again, as I know to my cost.

Two or three days before sending to a show, the birds should be carefully washed—an operation not half so difficult as many imagine, if only a little trouble is taken. Though the process has often been described, a few hints may be useful to beginners. Get a good sized tub and fill three-parts full with hot water (soft water preferable), make a good lather with white curd soap, then put the bird in and wash thoroughly with the hands. A small sponge is also useful, being careful that the feathers are washed down to the roots as well as on the surface. Then rinse the bird in another tub of clean cold water, with a little blue in it (in wint: take the chill off), taking care to get the soap well out, or the plumage will not web out smoothly. Then get the greater part of the water from the feathers with a sponge and soft towel, and put the bird before a bright fire, but not too near, or the feathers will dry too quickly, and consequently curl. The bird should be watched and turned round as required, and a little light fluffing up of the feathers will much help them to dry and web out. A good and well washed pen of white Cochins will always attract favorable notice from the public, and generally from the judges, even when they are not provided with a class to themselves.

The exhibition points have been fully set forth in the standard of excellence, and with the exception of color, are identical with those of the other varieties of Cochins.

## THAT WYANDOTTE COCKEREL.

W. C. G. PETER, ANGUS.

I read with surprise and regret the article by Mr. Stinehour, of Cowansville, in the May number of our excellent journal. I hope Mr. Stinehour is mistaken or misinformed, but he makes the statement so positively, that he at least seems to have ground for it to stand on. We of the poultry fraternity come, or should do so, into your columns as a party of friends, united by one interest and pursuit, each professing to have one object in so doing, and as there are many branches of the business, we each, with perfect liberty to act for ourselves, select that line in our work we fancy the best, and likely think, pays the best of any branch of the business, and in order to find out which of us is on the best line your valuable columns are open for discussion free to all. Now it not only hurts the man who makes these false or misleading statements, such as Mr. Kennedy is accused of, but it breaks up our confidence in the rest of the circle, and saps the foundation of the whole business, retarding its progress to an extent we can never know. Happily the poultry journals now are widely read, and not hampered and controlled by any class of advertisers, so that any supposed crookedness, or dishonesty is more likely to be thoroughly sifted, and the upright man does not suffer because he has no court of appeal, as used to be the case years ago. None of your readers will regret more than I, should this case be proved against Mr. Kennedy, at the same time, if true, it is far better to be known, as such things make others more careful, and it really is to be commended when a man has the courage to speak of facts he is acquainted with.

Although I do not breed Langshans, I am quite sure they need no such mis-statements, as a prop to their popularity. Even supposing the one Wyandotte Mr. Kennedy possessed to be a