

BEES AND POULTRY.**DARK BRAHMAS.**

Of all the Asiatic varieties there are none superior to the Dark Brahmas. Aside from their intrinsic qualities, they are most beautiful fowls to look upon. It is a matter of taste in choosing between them and the Light breed, and as the Light ranks first among Asiatics, the Dark must rank next in merit, though fully equal in all that goes to make a handsome and profitable variety of fowls.

The Dark Brahmas are large and come to maturity perhaps a little earlier than the Lights. Their plumage does not fade, soil or show the same mussiness of feather, and holds its gloss and colour from one month to another without its growing rusty or dingy. As chicks they are remarkably quick growers and hardy, and when three or four months old they make capital broilers. As they develop they take on their adult plumage and quickly drop the awkwardness of chickens.

Pullets of this variety hatched early in spring will, with good care, commence to lay in fall or early part of winter, and if comfortably housed and judiciously fed on a varied diet of grain, green and animal food, will continue to lay during cold weather. They are good sitters and mothers, kind and affectionate to their offspring. There is no better fowl for the farmer, suburbaner or villager to breed purely, or to cross upon his common fowls. They are easily raised and restrained; those who have given them a fair trial claim for them superior qualities. As a fancy breed their fascinating beauty, quiet disposition and adaptability to confinement or restricted runs fit them eminently for general and useful purposes.

MARKETABLE HONEY.

Of late years the tendency among bee-keepers has been to neglect comb-honey, and work almost exclusively for extracted. The latter is more rapidly secured, and it requires less skill to succeed in obtaining a good return in extracted honey. The experience of practical men, however, may well induce bee-keepers to consider the advisability of working for comb-honey. This always, if properly secured, finds ready sale at the highest prices.

One man in Illinois, with 174 colonies by the spring count, and 206 in the fall, secured over 16,000 pounds of honey, which sold for \$8,000.

At present the market demands honey in sections. Even the so-called prize section, which is 5½ by 6½ inches, is found too large, and our wide-awake apiarists have used generally the one-pound section, which is 4½ inches square. This season, the experience in the Boston and Chicago markets show that even a smaller—a half-pound section—is to take the lead. It will be advisable for bee-keepers to arrange to secure this year's honey, in part at least, in sections of this size.

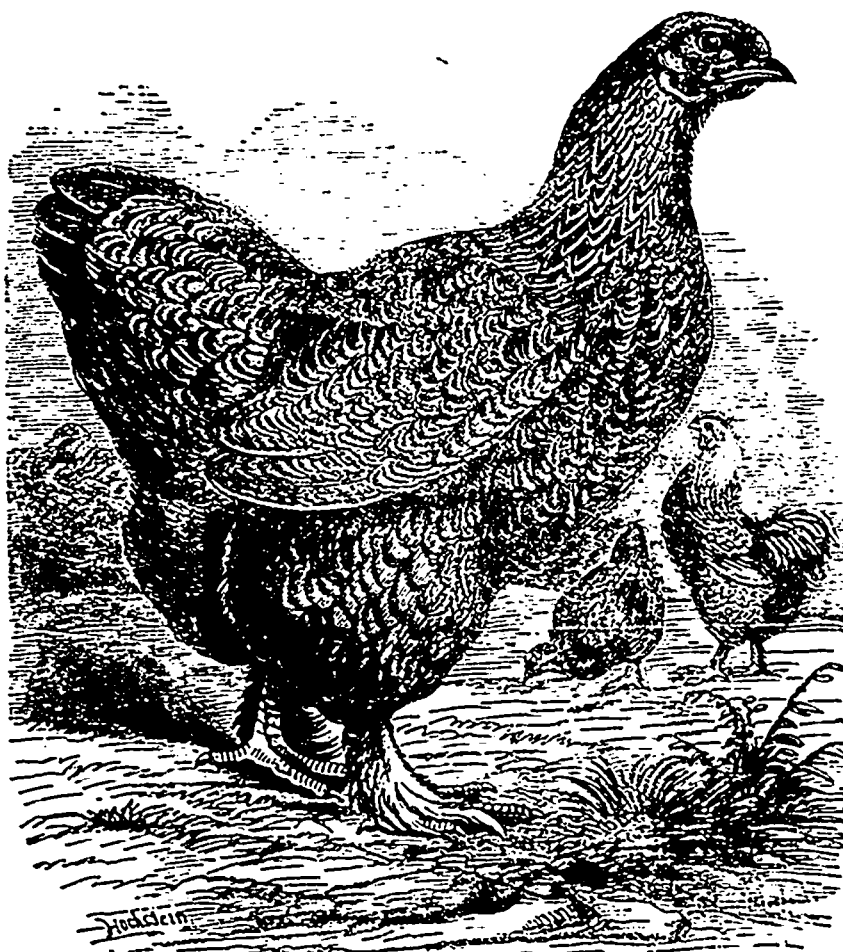
Tin or wooden separators, which have been used between the sections to secure straight combs, that could be shipped easily, are expensive. Some of our best apiarists find their use unnecessary. The secret of this seems to rest with the depth of the section. The usual depth has been two inches. By making the sections from 1½ to 1½

inch deep, so that the comb shall not be so thick, the even combs are secured without separators, especially if use is made of comb foundation.

In arranging to change the form of sections, if any thus decide, let it be remembered that the square form is not essential. Even the prize section is not square. Many contend that a rectangular section, longer up and down, is worked in better by the bees, and more quickly capped over, and filled to the edge, than is one that is square. It is worth while to think of this as we plan for the next harvest. It is hardly necessary to say that sections cannot be too neat and clean. —*American Agriculturist for February.*

TURKEY BREEDING.

It is a notably established fact among experienced cultivators of this kind of fowl, that young hen turkeys are not so good as are their elders for



DARK BRAHMA HEN.

reproduction. They will not lay a very large number of eggs in a season, but what they do yield when set will produce larger poults at hatching, and their eggs are also always more certain to be fertile.

The best place for a turkey's nest is on the bare ground, taking care to raise it above the danger of flooding during rain, and to shelter it above, locating it in some quiet place. The turkey loves privacy in these matters rather more than the common hen, and she is an excellent and very patient sitter. Indeed she sticks to her business so well that it is often recommended to hatch more than one brood by one turkey hen, removing the first brood as soon as out.

While the sitting is going on you will need to pay particular attention to see that the sitters are off their nests as often as is proper. Turkeys stay on their nests very faithfully. The process lasts a month, but if the eggs are fresh they will hatch a day or two earlier. It is not necessary, however, to be very careful about watching them. The egg yolk comes in part with them into the world and serves as nourishment for somewhat more than a day after hatching. When you come to feed them, it would seem important to

imitate this food as nearly as possible, and with this idea eggs in some form, boiled hard or made into a custard with milk, skimmed and clabbered milk, cottage cheese, and curds should form their principal food in the beginning. Bread crumbs soaked in milk, fine barley meal or oatmeal and hard boiled eggs, chopped fine with curd and onions, is an excellent diet for them until they can partake of coarser food. —*Poultry Monthly.*

HEALTHFULNESS OF HONEY.

American people are lovers of sweet, and consume an average of forty pounds or more of sugar for every man, woman and child of our population, says an exchange. To meet this demand, millions of dollars' worth of sugar is imported annually, and millions of dollars' worth of honey is allowed to go to waste from want of bees to collect it and put it in proper shape for the use of man. It is not generally known, as it should be, that honey may be employed for sweetening purposes instead of sugar for most of the purposes for which the latter is used. But could we supply it to the extent of diminishing our imports of sugar to one-half their present proportions, millions of dollars would be saved for the purposes of business in our own country. But far above all money considerations would be the use of a pure sweet upon the health of the people instead of the vile compounds now sold as sugar and syrups. The healthfulness of honey has been admitted from the earliest writers down through the centuries to the present time. Hence we have nothing to fear from the use of honey, while recent developments show that we have much to fear as to health in the use of adulterated sugars and syrups. But the price of honey in the past has had much to do in keeping it from the tables of men of limited means who did not possess the workers to collect and store it for them. Honey is a vegetable production, appearing in greater or less quantities in every flower that nods to the breeze or kisses the bright sunlight in all this heaven-

favoured land of ours. It is secreted in the flower for the purpose of attracting insects, thus securing the complete fertilization of the female blossoms. Hence it follows that all the honey we can secure in the hour of its presence in the nectaries of flowers is clear gain from the domain of nature. —*Iowa Homestead.*

A missionary in Michigan, whose salary was short of his needs, was presented by a friend with a few Brown Leghorns. He realized \$300 from them the year after, and so rejoices, not only in purse, but in fuller veins, brains, spirits and strength for his parochial duties.

SUBSCRIBER. Fowls that are constantly confined should have forty-eight square yards to each one of the flock; 100 then requires one acre. This would need a fence of 840 feet to inclose it. The cheapest fence would be one of boards, woven steel wire having a five-inch mesh and four feet four inches high, with heavy steel wire at the top and bottom, costs about ten cents a foot, or about \$80 for an acre. A very cheap fence can be made of brush poles nailed to bars or woven in a rail fence.