

POULTRY

INBREEDING.

III.

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AN experienced breeder can, if he chooses, and most of them do choose to do so, inbreed to a considerable extent. But the experienced breeder knows the advantage of introducing fresh blood occasionally.

He usually introduces fresh blood through the female line, if he has an established strain. And this he does more as a matter of convenience than anything else, though some believe that in fancy points the male is the more potent and they wish to introduce the weaker antagonistic tendencies and characteristics.

This is the method of procedure, one or more females, usually not to exceed three or four, are purchased. These birds are selected with great care and possess individually as near the desired characteristics as possible. To them is mated one of the inbred males and the chickens from this mating are carefully marked. Let us suppose the breeder introducing the new blood is called *A*. and the one from whose stock he has purchased the females is called *B*. The first mating gives chickens *A. B.* one half of each blood. The cockerels *A. B.* are all disposed of and the best of the pullets, that is those nearest like *A*'s strain, are saved. The *A. B.* pullets are again mated to an inbred *A* male, which gives chickens *AAA-B*, that is three-fourths *A* in blood and one-fourth *B*. From this mating both sexes are available for breeding and the *AAA-B* pullets are mated to an *A* male, and one or more of the *AAA-B* cockerels to *A* females. From these matings the chickens will be seven-eighths *A* blood, the characteristics of the *A* strain will have been preserved, and the whole flock invigorated by the new *B* blood. Experience has shown that a fowl of seven-eighths blood, even where two distinct varieties have been crossed is to all effects and purposes thoroughbred, at least, a seven-eighths grade chicken is practically indistinguishable from one of pure blood, though there is some power of reversion left to the one-eighth blood ancestor. But where the fowls are of the same breed and variety, as in the case under consideration, the one-eighth blood works no marked disadvantage. Its effects, even reversionary are so small as to be unnoticeable, save in the reinvigoration of the constitution of the fowl.

This method I cordially indorse as being an extremely useful one and one that in the hands of an experienced breeder gives admirable results. I know that it is practiced by some of the best breeders in the United States and presume that Canadian breeders are not one whit behind those of the United States in their methods. Indeed I wish to say that in certain varieties, notably Hamburgs, Polish and Dorkings, the fancier of the United States has to exhibit the very best birds he has produced to be able to be in the competition at all with some of the Canadian breeders. I think I can safely say that the finest colored Dorking female I ever saw and the finest silver bearded Polish male were bred and shown by Canadian exhibitors. And men that can breed such birds as these certainly must know how to keep up their strains and how to introduce fresh blood by the most approved method.

THE LONDON POULTRY AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

REGULAR monthly meetings of the London Poultry and Pet Stock Association, were resumed on Thursday evening last, the 16th inst., after a three months' adjournment during the sultry weather.

President McNeil was in the chair with a good attendance of members.

The minutes of our last regular meeting were read and confirmed, accounts passed, etc.

This Association will recommend to the Western Fair Board the advisability of engaging the Superintendent of the Poultry Department at least two days earlier than in former years to enable him to get the building properly decorated and everything in order before the exhibits arrive.

The Western Fair Association pride themselves on making their poultry department one of the most attractive in connection with their exhibition, the building being tastily decorated with flowers and shrubs interspread with evergreens throughout, which is much appreciated by exhibitors and the general public.

This year through the recommendations of our local Association, they have adopted the single bird show, and it is to be hoped that exhibitors will respond by making a large entry as they offer premiums on nearly all Standard varieties.

A communication from the executive of the Mid-continental Poultry Association of Kansas City, was read by Mr. McCormick, and commented on at some length, re the financial standing of the undertaking. They have a subscribed capital of \$3,000 and claim they can double that amount if necessary. They also have \$1,000 or more donated to them to be applied to special premiums, and guar-