

### A Warning to Breeders.

Breeders of thoroughbred stock and dairymen generally are pursuing an unwise and difficult, as well as dangerous practice, in forcing their cows to their utmost capacity in the production of milk or butter, at the same time attempting the breeding of calves which shall be superior to their dams. Many a dairyman who has a superior cow strives first to crowd her milk and butter production up to a high mark, for the purpose of securing a wonderful record, and while accomplishing the most gratifying result in this direction, also turns his attention to the production of a calf from the same superior cow from the sale of whose progeny he expects to realize a fancy price, coming, as it does, from so noted a dam.

Looking at this subject either from a practical or scientific standpoint, has the injudicious dairyman or breeder any right to expect, under such adverse circumstances, that he will secure a calf equal to the dam? The severe draught made upon the cow's system in the increased and unnatural yield of milk furnished, the feverish and excited condition of her blood, the ill effects of the stimulating food with which she has been supplied, renders her entirely unfit to sustain the additional burden of producing a calf, and the result must lead to loss and disappointment.

Aside from all theory in this matter, the facts sustain our allegations. We seldom see the progeny from any one of the marked and superior cows, whose wonderful milk and butter records astound the agricultural world, equal in superior qualities to those possessed by the dams. The average calf from such a mother, whose record is the result of a high-pressure system of feeding, is far below the standard of the dam, after proving a disappointment in dairying purposes. In some cases even the family has ended with the unwise breeding from a dam over-worked and over-stimulated. Many intelligent breeders are becoming alarmed at the situation, and are determined to reform a questionable practice, fraught with such unfortunate consequences.

The tendency of the age is to increased speed, to quick results, to over-stimulated efforts, and even in dairying we find similar conditions, forcing the breeder to unnatural efforts to secure from his cows the last drop of milk or the last ounce of butter, regardless of the after effect upon the animal's progeny. The cow is sacrificed to the desire, first, to secure an astonishing record, and, second, to obtain a calf that shall sell for a fabulous price; agricultural progress is checked, and disappointments inevitably follow. Greater care and consideration must be given to this subject of breeding fine dairy animals in a more natural and common sense manner, or this branch of farm economy will fall into merited disrepute.

It is not so difficult to develop the beef producing qualities of those animals not intended for the dairy. The Northhorns, Herefords, the Angus cattle and the Galloways can be forced, because it is not expected that the dams of these breeds should produce a greater quantity of milk than will suffice for suckling their offspring. In many cases, in the breeding of thoroughbreds, native cows are employed as wet nurses, larger quantities of milk being deemed desirable than the dam can produce. In such cattle as are only intended for the production of beef, there are no conflicting elements, as in the case of dairy cows; in the former the efforts are all in one direction; early maturity is the point desired; the largest amount of beef in the two-year-old animal is the breeder's desire. Even in this direction barrenness and disease are often the result of over-feeding. The art of successfully breeding cattle involves the highest principles of science, and demands the highest state of health and the most vigorous constitutions in both the parents. The most dangerous tendency of the hour among our breeders, and one to which we would call their earnest attention, is the high-pressure system practised with some of the finest dairy herds the world ever saw.

I have tried our other Canadian journals on agriculture, and also some of the American, and have settled down on the ADVOCATE. To say the least, it is the right paper for Ontario farmers. I wish, sir, future success to the ADVOCATE and yourself the best compliments of the season.

J. K., Iona Station, Ont.

### Poultry.

#### Technicalities in Poultry Breeding.

BY R. A. BROWN.

There are terms used in the rearing of poultry by professionals that the average farmer and the amateur breeder do not readily understand; and a

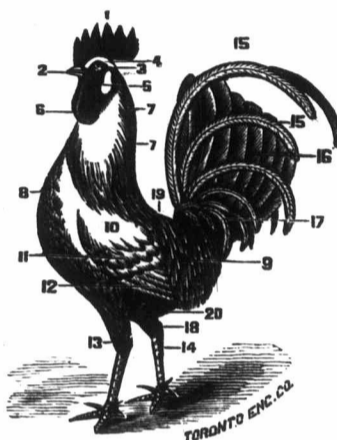


FIG. 1.

few hints on the subject I have no doubt will be readily appreciated, as they were by myself at first.

Breed—Any class of fowls that have distinct merits of their own.

Carunculated—The fleshy protuberance on the head of turkeys.

Cockerel—A young male bird not yet a year old.

Crest—A tuft of feathers on the head described as "top knots."

Cushion—A mass of feathers on the rump of hen.

Dubbing—Cutting off the comb, wattles and ear lobes, making the head smooth and clean, in the



FIG. 2.

manner that game cocks are treated when going to battle or in the pit.

Ear lobes—The bare skin below the ears, called by some "deaf ears."

Face—The bare skin around the eyes.

Fluff—Downy feathers about the thighs.

Furnished—When a bird has a full developed comb, wattles, hackle and tail, he is said to be furnished.

Hackles—Long slender feathers on the neck of the male bird.

Hock—The joint between the thigh and shank.



FIG. 3.

Mossy—Indistinct or confused marking of plumage.

Pea-comb—Three small combs compressed in one, the centre being the highest.

Poult—A young turkey.

Pullet—A young hen.

Primaries—The flight feathers of the wings, not visible when the wing is closed; great importance is attached to their color by breeders.

Secondaries—Are the quills of the wings which are seen when the wings are folded.

Shaft—The stem or hard part of a feather.

Sickles—The long curved feathers on a cock's tail.

Stag—Name used by game fanciers for cockerel.

Strain—The distinct breed of fowls as bred by one man or his successors for a number of years.

Symmetry—Well proportioned in build or frame, while "Carriage" denotes the movement or action, by some termed "style."

Tail-coverts—Soft, glossy, curved feathers at the sides of the tail.

Tail-feathers—The stiff, hard feathers only; are usually straight.

Trio—Male and two females.

Under-color—The down as seen about the roots of feathers.

Vulture-hocks—Stiff, projecting feathers on the hock joint, having the appearance of a little wing.

Wattles—The red, depending structures at each side of the beak.

Wing-bars—Any line of dark color across the middle of the wings.

Wing-bows—The upper or shoulder part of the wings.

Wing-points or wing-butts—The ends of the primaries.

Wing-coverts—The brood feathers covering the roots of the secondary quills.

Moulting—Shedding feathers or annually casting off the feathers.

Fledging or Fledged—Getting on or having on already a full suit of feathers.

Figures 2 and 3 represent striped, laced, spangled and pencilled feathers.

Figure 1 shows where to find the different points named: 1, comb; 2, beak; 3, eye; 4, face; 5, ear-lobe; 6, wattles; 7, neck-hackle; 8, breast; 9, saddle-hackle; 10, wing-bow; 11, wing-coverts; 12, secondaries; 13, thighs; 14, shank; 15, sickles; 16, main-tail; 17, tail-coverts; 18, hocks; 19, saddle; 20, fluff.

### The American Turkey.

Of all the native gallinaceous birds of North America, the turkey alone was found in a domesticated state when first visited by the Spaniards, and that only in Mexico. No game bird of this Continent has a wider range. From the Atlantic to the Rocky mountains, and from Canada to Central America, they are found still enjoying the native freedom of the primeval forests in spite of the march of civilization.

"The grand size and beauty of this fowl" says Audubon, "and its value as a delicate and justly prized article of food, render this the most interesting of the birds of America. The flesh is more delicate than that of the domestic turkey and the Western Indians so value it that they call it the 'white man's dish.'"

There are three species of the wild turkey, the North American, the Mexican and the Honduras or South American. There is but little difference between the North American and the Mexican species, and that is in the permanent color of the tips of the tail feathers and of the feathers overlying the base of the tail. In the North American, these are of the chestnut brown color, while on the Mexican, they are creamy or yellowish white.

The ocellated Turkeys of Central and South America are taller and more erect in carriage than the common turkeys, with a much more brilliant plumage marked with the iridescent "showy eyes" of the peacock, legs and beak pinkish, and the head of a peculiar soft, clear gray blue, crested with bright orange warts.

Domestication has produced six well defined varieties. The white was probably the first, at least it was known in France as early as 1630. Belgium and Holland followed France in popularizing this variety on account of plumage and delicacy of flesh. The gray is another variety that was bred at an early day in France, also a parti-colored and red variety. The black, buff and slaty blue are of a more recent date.

In this country the Mammoth Bronze heads the list of varieties, next the Narragansett. On farms, turkeys may be seen of various shades and colors. But of late years, the most sensible turkey raisers favor the Bronze variety.