

clined that way, two characters which will never fail to be produced in the offspring. The chickens of such a cross are long-legged stilty things—neither handsome to look at nor good for the table.

The offspring of Cochon hens running in a yard where Polands and Hamburgs are kept, are compact and short legged, and are useful as sitters, although the sires are of the non-incubating varieties. The cockerels serve to supply the kitchen; but they are of course useless as stock birds.

There is, it must be confessed, one great disadvantage attending the rearing of cross-bred fowls—they are quite useless for the purposes of Exhibition, and unsaleable as stock birds. This itself is really a very serious drawback, as after giving a high price for good fowls, the breeder not unfrequently looks forward to the sale of some of the chickens as a remuneration for the outlay. If however the farmer can remunerate himself by the sale of large spring chickens, it will be equally satisfactory to him, as if the birds sold were of pure breed.

### THE GOOSE.

THE DOMESTIC GOOSE is regarded as deriving its origin from the Gray Lag Goose or common Wild Goose; but all the species seem very capable of domestication, and several of them have been to some extent domesticated. The Gray Lag Goose is almost three feet in length from the tip of the bill to the extremity of the short tail. Its extent of wing is about five feet. The wings do not reach to the extremity of the tail. The weight of the largest birds is about ten pounds. The color of the plumage is gray, varying in some parts to grayish brown; the rump and belly white, the tail grayish brown and white; the bill is orange, the *naïl* at the tip of the upper mandible white. The younger are darker than the adults. The Gray Lag

Goose is common in some parts of the centre and South of Europe, also in many parts of Asia, and in the north of Africa, but is not known in America. It is a bird of temperate rather than of cold climates. In some countries, it is found at all seasons of the year, but it deserts its most northern haunts in severe weather, migrating southward; its flocks, like those of others of this genus, flying at great height, beyond the reach of shot, except of the rifle, one bird always leading the flock, the rest sometimes following in a single line; but more generally in two lines converging to the leading bird. The Gray Lag was formerly abundant in the fenny parts of England, and resided there all the year, but the drainage of the fens has made it now a rare bird, and only known as a winter visitant in the British Islands. It frequents bays of the sea and estuaries as well as inland waters, and often leaves the waters to visit moors, meadows, and cultivated fields, generally preferring an open country, or taking its place as remote as possible from danger in the middle of a field. These excursions are often made by night, and no small mischief is often done by a flock of hungry geese to a field of newly sprung wheat or other crop. At the breeding season, the winter flocks of wild geese break up into pairs; the nests are made in moors or on tussocks in marshes; the eggs vary in number from five to eight, or rarely twelve or fourteen; they are of a dull white colour, fully three inches long, and two inches diameter.

Although the common goose has long been domesticated, and it was probably among the very first of the domesticated birds, the varieties do not differ widely from each other. Embden Geese are remarkable for their perfect whiteness; Toulouse Geese, for their large size. As a domesticated bird, the goose is of great value, both for the table, and on