

least, so the judges will honestly think; therefore, I resolved to be independent and lay my plan and adhere to it. I started with one pen made up from two different yards in which the same type had been bred. The first year I gained form, but not color as dark as I wished. The next year I selected two cockerels from two different yards, they being different in family blood, and different in that respect from my own; also, they were both of them different in type from each other and from my own; from these I bred two distinct families, and selected for breeding two cockerels and sixteen pullets, and mated them oppositely according to blood. One of these cockerels sold for \$50—the other, money will not buy. From what I have now said, it will be seen how far my experience carries me with "X Roads." I bred from family blood, but not from brothers and sisters. I now have my type and can breed my fowls of uniform appearance, and can continue so to do.

My theory is this: the foundation of the structure in good breeding is strength, next form, next prolificness, then on these elaborate with fancy points. The first of these is the best evidence of good constitution; the second implies a balance of those pre-requisites that continues health and prolificness; and, without strength and form, fancy points will be very imperfect for wants of symmetry and healthy, glossy feathering; also, when these are wanting, constitution is generally unsound, and this fits them for death, not propagation. More hereafter.

Sherborn, Mass., U.S

JOHN FLEMING.

In-Breeding.

Editor Poultry Review:

I have read with interest the articles in your magazine in regard to in-breeding, and permit me to hold up both hands against it. We all know that the law against incest is as old as Holy Writ, and what is in-breeding but incest? Perhaps it may do for a time if a person breeds for only one particular point, as our friend in your last number speaks of, breeding for the white face in Black Spanish. "Pure Blood" says he introduced new blood, and thereby injured his flock. Now, is he prepared to tell us positively that his trouble came from the mere fact of introducing new blood and no former taint existed in the blood he introduced. I think not. We all know it is easier to perpetuate faults than to remove them, and might not some serious fault have existed in the blood he introduced? We all know that in man various kinds of hereditary disease may not show itself for two or three generations, and then crop out in full force; and why not the same in fowls? Axi-

mated nature is one and the same, be it man, beast, or bird. Let our friend get a few white birds, Cochins, for instance, breed-in for a few years, and see how soon red feathers will show, and how yellow his white birds will soon become.

I think the pleas against In-Breeding are almost without limit. For instance, go on any farm where they keep a flock of "common" hens, and every year the good housewife "trades" eggs with her next neighbour, furnish but little, if any shelter for their chicks, and when you speak to them of "roup," "gapes," "caked-crop," and a thousand and one kindred diseases, they do not even know what you mean; but let the same party get a few "fancy" chicks, breed them in, and even if they take the very best care of them, there is never a day but they have one or more ailing birds. Why is this, friend "Pure Blood"? Why, if in-breeding is all right, do you become familiar with disease so soon as you practice it? I will give you my reason:—Just as soon as you begin to breed-in for any particular point, you sacrifice the general constitution of the bird to that point; then, if at any time the harsh wind strikes them, they are like a man prone to consumption, they have no constitution to stand the attack of even a mild cold.

"K."

Saginaw City, Feb. 20, '79.

Poultry for the Farm.

To the Editor of the Poultry Review:

DEAR SIR,—

The question is frequently asked, "Is the thorough-bred fowl suitable for the farm yard? and if so, which variety is most suitable?" Now, Sir, it always seems to me that the farm-yard is just where fowls, and beautiful ones too, appear to advantage. Here, surrounded by other farm stock, they fill a space in the gradation from great to small which they alone can fill. And when our Sol returns from his long pilgrimage to the South, and warms into renewed activity the dormant energies of winter's prisoners, what music is given in return for his kindly rays, as each stimulates the other to more vigorous demonstrations of joy; and who can pass among those happy, beautiful creatures and not become a partaker of their gladness, and an admirer of their beauty? But that this spring scene be complete, a flock of thorough-bred fowls is necessary, as the great diversity in size, shape, and color of the common variety greatly detracts from its beauty. But to return to the subject under consideration. Fanciers will unanimously answer the first question in the affirmative, and farmers will generally speaking, take the opposite side. One is surprised, in conversing with farmers upon this subject, to find how many of them have tried some fancy variety