

There is no question that raising eggs is a paying business. The few fowls that the farmer keeps in his barn-yard, and on which he expends but little, pay best of all his live stock; but when attention is specially paid to fowls, when they are housed and fed and properly attended, after deducting the cost of keeping, care, interest, &c., from the amount for which their eggs sell, there is always a large, and in nine cases out of ten, a larger balance on the credit side of the ledger than is found in connection with any single department of farm industry.

HAMBURGHS.

The name of Hamburg, as now applied and understood by fowl fanciers, includes five separate varieties of fowls, all possessing the same general characteristics of rather small size, brilliant rose combs, ending in a spike behind, projecting upwards, blue legs, and beautifully pencilled or spangled plumage, and black. The nomenclature of these birds has given rise to considerable discussion, as well as their origin. Some writers trace their origin to the East; others do not travel quite so far, and with much truth assert that some of the varieties have been imported into England from Holland, under the name of pencilled Dutch and Dutch every-day layers, and that the spangled birds are exclusively an English fowl, and are, from the others, essentially distinct varieties. Be this as it may, we shall not now follow up the discussion, but shall proceed to give a short description of the

PENCILLED HAMBURGHS,

the general characteristics of which may be stated thus: "They are birds small of size, compact and neat in form, sprightly and cheerful in carriage. In the plumage on the body of the hens, each feather (with the exception of those of the neck-hackle, which should be perfectly free from dark marks,) is pen-

cilled with several transverse bars of black on a clear ground, which is white in the silver, and a rich bay in the golden. These pencillings have given rise to the name of the variety. In the cocks, however, there is a general absence of these markings, the birds being either white or bay. In both sexes the legs are blue, with fine bone. The comb is a rose, square in front, and well peaked behind; the ear-lobe a well-defined white; the face scarlet." Mr. Brent, quoted in the Poultry Book, says the

SILVER PENCILLED HAMBURGHS

are, in weight and size, considerably below the general standard. The carriage of the cock is very erect; the tail is well borne up, and the head occasionally thrown back so far that the neck often touches the tail; the general form is exceedingly neat and elegant. In the hen, the carriage is sprightly and active, but not so impudent as that of the cock. Both sexes are alike noisy and restless in their habits, and neat and pretty in their form. The neck-hackle in both sexes should be pure white, pencilling with black—a very frequent fault in the hackle of the hens—being very objectionable. The saddle of the cock must be pure mealy white. The cock's tail is black, the sickle and side-sickle feathers being glossed with green, and having a narrow white edging. In the hens, the tail must be distinctly barred or pencilled with black.

The breast and thighs of the cock are white, as are the upper wing-coverts or shoulder; but the lower wing-coverts are marked with black on the inner web, showing a line of dots across the wing, forming a bar. The secondary quills, or those flight-feathers which are alone visible when the wing is closed, are white on the outer web and have a rich green glossed black spot at the end of each feather. In the hens, the entire plumage of the body, namely, that of