

had but four sections, shape, color, size and condition; each section figured fifteen points, and it was a very consistent Standard, for it dealt with qualities and conditions and not the result of quality. It had color, form, size and condition, in a mass, and these are the only tangible qualities of a fowl. But when the American Poultry Association raised the number of points to 100 they introduced a new factor, making five sections instead of four as at first, viz.: Product, or result of form, color, form, size, and condition. This product of form has been the result of heated discussions and has carried any amount of dissatisfaction into the show room.

Symmetry is an interloper. It does not belong in a scale which attempts to deal with the tangible qualities of the fowl. It is a fertile producer of dissension; an unjust element of the scoring of fowls; a means of concealing ignorance and fraud, and anyone who has followed exhibiting poultry for time will bear me out in the truth of this statement. An exhibitor can understand the cuts of color form, size, but for symmetry he puzzles over the cut and is none the wiser for it. The cut may be one point, or more, but is utterly without meaning to the exhibitor. We have heard it said of some judges that they marked the cuts on symmetry before leaving the secretary's office, to save time, and the only reason is that it is deemed a just cut, or as I have heard it said in other words "It is a cut as a matter of course." In a close score, a judge if he chooses, can give the advantage to an inferior bird undetected. Symmetry, as usually applied, is a double cut on the same defect, and the actual score of a bird is lowered by the amount of the cut.

There are but two ways to correct this great difficulty. One is by confining the cut for the defect in form where it is located; second, by making a nice mathematical calculation of the percentage which the total cuts for form bear to the whole number of points cut for form, and then deduct this from the number of points cut for form. This will give the number of points allowed for symmetry, but either process is scarcely ever used. So long as symmetry remains in the Standard judges must consider it and cut accordingly although it may be an injustice and be severely condemned.

Then again, we are confronted with another perplexing element, that of color. Perfection of color is just as much prized, and has just as much value, as perfection of form; a failure to reach perfection is as much marked and will so appear if the fowls are properly scored. One of the most essential qualifications of a judge is to have a thorough knowledge of colors and a good eye to distinguish them. When we stop to consider the fact that a large number of

people are color blind, and then again a large percentage of those not color blind have no knowledge of colors or differ very much in applying the standard colors to the different shades of the required color. After knowing all this we can more readily see why judges differ so much in passing on the colors of the different sections of a fowl. To illustrate: in the standard of the Indian Game the ground color of females should be walnut brown. Now walnut brown is of several shades and who is to determine the exact shade? There is one thing very evident, there must be some way provided whereby judges can get nearer together in their decisions. When a way to correct these differences of opinion as to shape and color has been found then the fanciers will have more confidence and more courage to exhibit, and the breeder will not be at sea in his breeding. The score card will have greater value and the poultry industry be increased tenfold.

#### LEGHORNS.

*By Geo. W. Osterhout.*

The Leghorn fowl holds the same position among chickens for eggs that the Jersey does among cattle for butter; they stand at the head. A Leghorn hen will lay from 150 to 175 eggs per year without special feed or care, while the general average of the larger breeds is from 75 to 100 eggs per year. Now we sometimes hear people say; "the Leghorns lay such small eggs." We will acknowledge that a Leghorn pullet only five to eight months old does lay rather small eggs. but where is the farmer's wife who along in September, October and November when eggs are worth from 15 to 18 cents per dozen and the old hens are all moulting, would not rather have from 40 to 50 small eggs from her Leghorn pullets than to be feeding a big lazy pullet that was eating her head off (as we say) just to be able to say to her neighbors "see what a big chicken that is." Why that little Leghorn pullet will pay her keeping and the keeping of the large one and even buy the large one besides, with what eggs she will lay before the large pullet has begun to think of such a thing as laying an egg. Then as to size of eggs, Mr. C. A. Emery, of Carthage, Mo., who is a noted judge of poultry and reliable, made the statement at the poultry show at Lincoln, in January, 1893, that he had kept the record of the weight of eggs of each breed of chickens that he breeds, as well as the number of eggs laid by each breed. He found that the average weight per dozen of his Leghorn eggs for a year was an half ounce heavier than the eggs from his Plymouth Rocks, besides getting a great many more eggs from the same number of Leghorns. At the beginning of the year the Plymouth Rock's eggs weigh-