

a cockerel as I could to breed from, but possessing the Malay character of head and Malay outline of neck, body and tail. I always succeeded in making two crosses each year, *i.e.*, breeding in Midsummer from my January hat-bed birds, and breeding in January from the summer and autumn hatches, and I attribute the reduction in size as much to this point (using immatured parents) as to mere selection each year of the smallest. Yet, strange to say, after 12 years these Malays appear hardier and more vigorous, and better layers than their original parents were with me a dozen years ago.

Up to a couple of years back I was comparatively indifferent as to whether the comb of my stock hens and pullets was of the pea or strawberry shape; now I can find sufficient chickens small enough, and having most excellent strawberry combs, and therefore discard the others. Though breeding each year from red cocks and cinnamon hens, I had a few whites among the chicken's year after year, and they have won as often as the red have; the greatest difficulty has been to obtain a pure white, without any sandy feathers. In a few cases I succeeded in this point, both last year and the present. The average weight of my Malays, at six months, is 24 ozs. for cockerels, and 20 ozs. for pullets, increasing one-third by the 12 months end.

I have recently introduced the pheasant Malay blood, and hope, in time, to produce this handsome marking on my Bantams.

Six or seven years ago, talking to one of our most esteemed judges on this subject, I asked what he would consider the most attractive variety to be made into Bantams. His answer was,

"POLANDS,

only you would never get rid of the Bantam combs." I set to work in the following manner, and obtained a small

gold Sebright cock and two hens and a gold Poland cock and hens, and crossed both ways, obtaining chickens from the Poland hens and Sebright cock, and from the Sebright hens and Poland cock. These last had by far the best crests and least comb and wattles, and I retained one of these cockerels to breed with the Sebright hens again; the result being that every chicken showed more or less of comb and only small crests, but three or four were only Bantams in size. These I crossed with the chickens from the Sebright cock and Polish hens; and the next cross was with their pullets and the cockerel first cross from Poland cock. After 10 crosses, in-and-in, effected in five years, I had them small enough to win two firsts and cup at the Palace Show, 1885. The present weights of those birds are under 23 ozs.; they show no comb, and their colours are as good as could be desired.

Next I turned my attention to silvers and white-crested blacks. I obtained a son of the celebrated silver Poland hen Stella, and mated him with a silver Sebright hen, and also with my smallest gold Poland hens; the results being perfect-coloured silver, with single combs and rose combs and small crests from the Sebright hen, and rich creamy or pale golds from the gold Polands. I did not use these silvers, however, for two years, and only put the creamy pullets to their silver father, reserving a cockerel and three pullets, clear silver, from the cross. Then I put this last silver cockerel, which had perfect Poland head, to the silver half-Sebrights, and produced silver Polands, some small enough to show as Bantams, most of them having small rose combs.

To reduce size still more, I obtained, at considerable expense, from New York, three pairs of white Polish Bantams. These have no beard and whisker, and breed nearly all the chickens with single combs. I mated a white cock, whose weight is 20 ozs., to three

silver Poland hens, averaging 2 lbs. each when laying; and the silver cock last spoken of with the white Bantam hens, expecting lightly marked silvers. The result was black chickens in each case, which, as they grew up, developed some grey feathers, excepting two, which are, at the present time, entirely black. The next cross of these pullets with their sire has produced some silvers (without any comb), well bearded, whiskered, and crested, and at six months not exceeding 20 ozs. weight.

In my endeavours to breed white-crested black Poland Bantams. I have mated cock of the above with the American white Poland Bantam hens, and the white cock to the white-crested black Poland hens. The results have been curious, *viz.*, cuckoos, self blacks and self whites (excepting a sprinkling of dark feathers, and these birds are blue-legged), blacks, with crests half black and half white, and I had one good blue; with white crest. I am now running the white-crested black hens with a cockerel bred from white hen and white-crested black Poland cock, and with two of his own sisters. The great difficulty will be to get an entirely white crest, for the least cross tends to develop in the crest amazingly. I hope to succeed next winter in having a few fit for show. It has been suggested to me that while I am about it I might as well breed them with black beard and whiskers—and I have promised to do so.

From the first prize Palace gold cock of 1885 and a little white American hen I have bred some pile-coloured cockerels and pullets, and some white-laced buffs also; these are quite small Bantams, and very striking."

With reference to the white Polish Bantams we may say that the English birds are bred with blue legs, a disqualification according to the American *Standard* which calls for white or pearl white—surely a mistake when we consider that the large variety have blue