

tions of breeders, and place us further on the road to perfect symmetry.

Don't understand me, as attempting to make the impression that breeders of this variety have overlooked symmetry in their matings, far from it. But I am of the opinion that their breeders have not had a uniform conception of the proper symmetry for the variety, and in consequence, the shape of the birds, as we find them in the yards of the different breeders, and in the show rooms, do not present uniformity. I, myself, have an ideal shape in mind but am not able to say that it is a just and proper one. All should endeavour to arrive at a correct and uniform understanding of this matter. When this shall have been accomplished, we will see our favorites placed on a firmer footing, if not in the front rank of fine breeds.

There is another, and an important point, I would speak of. The Standard disqualifies for red, white or brassy feathers in any part of the plumage; which to interpret strictly, I suppose would mean not only entire feathers, but parts of feathers thus marked should debar a specimen that possesses them from competing in a race for honors. This is right, as regards red or brassy feathers; but was it the intention of the framers of the Standard, that such a strict interpretation be placed on it, as to debar a specimen from competing that had one or two feathers in plumage tipped with white? If such is the case, many an otherwise fine specimen will be compelled to remain at home or be disgraced (unless the owner looks it well over and extracts the offending feathers); while a bird lacking in almost every other good point, excepting plumage, is sent and possibly carries off the honors.

While I am on this point, I venture to give you a bit of my experience with this breed. I have found it not an easy matter to select any considerable number that were entirely free from white in some parts of plumage,

and I have also observed that birds entirely free from this feature, as mature chicks show the defect more or less after moulting the second year; and again that full grown chicks having feathers in some parts of plumage tipped with white, will often, after moulting the second year, be altogether free from it. You may not observe these white tipped feathers as the birds run about the yards, but upon taking them up and inspecting closely, you will find them cropping out under the wings and among the curling feathers, under or between the main tail feathers, and more certainly in the short feathers around the hock joints. I notice that a certain breeder claims to have long since gotten rid of these faults. Credulous persons may so believe, if they will. It will take stronger testimony than a mere assertion to convince breeders of them. The yards of these birds it has been my pleasure to inspect were not free from these objectionable features, and they are the progeny of birds from at least four of the most reputable Northern breeders of the variety. The chicks generally hatch out with more or less white or creamy white, I might say about equally divided between white and black; the upper parts of the body being black and the lower white. I have observed further, that chicks hatching out almost solid black, as they sometimes do, seldom develop into desirable birds, generally proving culls. Now, what inference do we derive from the foregoing? This question naturally comes up: Can this tendency to white in plumage of adult birds be bred out? It is the serious conviction of the writer, after several years of careful breeding, that it cannot. But granting that it can; will not the breed suffer from the methods used to accomplish it? Breeders will often be forced to the necessity of using inferior specimens, because they are good in color, to the exclusion of better ones, that have good plumage with the exception of a white tipped

feather here and there. Let some of the veterans speak.

Again, the Standard calls for brilliant red combs in both sexes, which is exactly to my liking. I see, however, that some breeders are advocating that females have dark, almost black combs and faces. This may do for pullets, but they should lose this (as most of them do), when mature. A few, however, retain this dark appearance of comb and face after maturity, and they are not near so pretty as those with red combs and faces, resembling crows too nearly. In conclusion, I have this to say to the committee appointed to revise the Standard again for this breed. Do not disqualify for white in plumage, but cut more or less severely as it appears in degree, so that it will be next to impossible for a specimen having much white to get a prize.

Further than this, I do not see wherein the Standard can be bettered; but I here take occasion to express my full confidence in the committee, feeling that it will do nothing that may, in the coming years, detract from the beauty or utility of this grand breed.

W. A. HODGES, M.D.

In Southern Farmer.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Editor Review:—

If you would be so kind as to let me know what is wrong with my birds tail I would be obliged to you, it has been to one side, hanging, for five or six months, when he is walking he seems to be down on one side, he is strong and hearty every other way.

Yours truly,

ISAAC PRATT.

Bradford, May 21st, 1888.

(Your bird is seemingly wry-tailed, and also appears to be afflicted either with rheumatism or corns. You don't state the variety, Asiatics are rather subject to leg weakness.—ED.)

Editor Review:—

Would you be so kind as to enquire