

very little care during the summer months, and if well housed and attended to in winter will give a good account of themselves. They are non-sitters.

The first account we have of Brown Leghorns being exhibited on this continent was in 1865 or 1866, by Mr. S. J. McIntosh, of Worcester, Mass. We give some extracts from the *Poultry Bulletin* bearing on their early history in America:

"The Leghorns (all varieties) came originally from the northern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, in the country round about Leghorn, Italy.—Hence the name.

"But the Leghorns, as we know them, are such an improvement, in all respects, upon the original importation, resulting from the careful breeding of American fanciers, that they are justly entitled to the appellation given them by our English friends, of "American Breeds."

"The first Brown Leghorns we ever owned were bought of Mr. McIntosh in 1867. A Mr. Wheeler, of Mystic River, Conn., claims to have received an importation of this variety some ten or more years earlier than this. Mr. Wheeler's claims are well authenticated, and there is not much doubt that he is entitled to the credit of being the first breeder of Brown Leghorns in this country. We have some letters, containing very strong evidence of the truth of Mr. Wheeler's claims, but have mislaid them, therefore cannot give them in connection with this, as we would like to have done.

The birds of this variety which we received from Italy three years ago, were very handsome in plumage, and good in ear-lobe, but the result of their breeding was conclusive proof that the birds are not carefully bred in their native home.

Visitors to that land say that all varieties, White Black, Brown and Dominique, are occasionally seen in the same yard, and all, apparently, of the same stock and parentage. By careful breeding and selection, this intermixture of blood has been purified, and the bad points pretty well weeded out."

The American *Standard of Excellence* describes Brown Leghorns as follows:—

#### DISQUALIFICATIONS.

Combs, twisted, or falling over to either side, in cocks, or pricked or duplicate in hens; red earlobes; crooked backs; wry tails; legs other than yellow; white, or partially white feathers in cockerels; black, white, or partially white feathers in hens.

#### THE COCK.

**HEAD:** Short and deep, and, in color, a dark, reddish-bay, shading into a lighter hue on the neck: **Beak,** yellow, with a dark stripe down the upper mandible:—**Eyes,** red, full and bright:—**Face,** bright red, free from wrinkles or folds.

**COMB:**—Bright red, of medium size, firmly fixed

on the head, single, straight, deeply serrated, (having but five or six points), extending well over the back of the head, and free from twists, side-sprigs or excrescences.

**EAR-LOBES AND WATTLES.**—Ear-lobes, white or creamy-white, fitting close to the head, and rather pendant, smooth and thin, and free from folds or wrinkles; **Wattles,** bright red, long, thin and pendulous.

**NECK:**—Long, well arched and well hackled, the hackles being a rich golden-bay, striped with black.

**BACK:**—Of medium length and width, very dark red, approaching black on the lower part, each feather striped with golden-bay.

**BREAST AND BODY:**—**Breast,** black, full, round and carried well forward; **Body,** rather broad, but heaviest forward, the underpart black.

**WINGS:**—Large and well folded; bows, dark red, each feather striped with golden-bay; primaries, black, each feather edged with golden brown; secondaries, black, the outside web broadly edged with brown; coverts, a metallic or greenish-black, forming a well defined bar across the wings.

**TAIL:**—Upright, large and full; sickle-feathers, large and well curved; color, metallic or greenish black; coverts, rich black, with a greenish reflection.

**LEGS:**—Thighs, of medium length, and black in color: **Shanks,** long, and, in color, bright yellow: **Feet,** yellow, with a delicate dark stripe down each toe, the smaller the better.

**CARRIAGE:**—Upright and proud.

#### THE HEN.

**HEAD:**—Of medium size, dark brown, approaching bay, the feathers shading off to yellow behind the comb, striped with black;—**Beak,** rather long and stout, in color, yellow, with a dark stripe down the centre:—**Eyes,** red, full and bright:—**Face,** red, and free from wrinkles or folds.

**COMB:** Red, of medium size, single, drooping to one side, evenly serrated, and free from side-sprigs.

**EAR-LOBES AND WATTLES:** Ear-lobes, white or creamy white, fitting close to the head, and rather pendant, smooth and thin, and free from folds or wrinkles:—**Wattles,** bright red, thin and well rounded.

**NECK:** Long and graceful; color, yellowish-brown, each feather striped with black.

**BACK:** Dark-brown, each feather penciled with a lighter brown.

**BREAST AND BODY:** **Breast,** full and round; in color, a dark salmon-brown, shading off light under the body: **Body,** deep and plump, and broader in front than in rear—color, brown.

**WINGS:** Large and well folded; primaries a dull black, the outer edge slightly penciled with light