

will always lay small eggs, which can only produce small and weakly chickens. Absolute size in eggs is, therefore, of but little importance. Round short eggs are usually the best to select; *very* long eggs, especially if much pointed at the small end, almost always breed birds with some awkwardness in style or carriage. Neither should rough shelled eggs be chosen: they usually show some derangement of the organs, and are often sterile. Smooth shelled eggs alone are proper for hatching. It is a farce to suppose that the sex of the bird can be determined by the shape of the egg.

SEX OF BRAHMA CHICKENS.—In nine cases out of ten the sex of Brahma chickens can be easily distinguished at about a fortnight old. The wings of the little cockerels are narrow and pointed, while in the pullets they are broad and rounded at the end. The cockerels also show much dark color in the wing feathers, while the pullets are nearly white in the light breed, and pencilled in the dark; also pullets fledge more freely than the cockerels; not unfrequently will be seen in the same brood the pullets well fledged, and the body of the cockerels nearly bare.

LEG WEAKNESS IN FOWLS.—Of this disease there are two kinds; one, bone weakness from deficiency of bony matter, the other muscular debility. Muscular debility we find generally in very heavy birds, and is shown by the unsteady gait and the frequent squatting down plump on the ground. To cure this disease the following is given as a valuable recipe. Sulphate of Iron, one grain; Sulphate of Strchnia, $\frac{1}{16}$ of a grain; Phosphate of Lime five grains, to be given three times a day for about six weeks. In the cases caused by deficiency of bone, the breast bone gives some indication, but the disposition is more to be "knock-kneed" than actually weak on the legs. This is a very great fault; the cocks having once thoroughly assumed the inward position, there is not much good to be done. Plenty of Phosphate of Lime would be the best remedy for this form of the affection.

HOW TO COOK OLD FOWLS.—A Correspondent in an Exchange says; "Prepare

as for roasting, then boil three hours in a covered pot, with one quart of water, to which add two tablespoonfuls of vinegar, after which put in a pan in a hot oven for about one hour to brown. The liquor in the pot to be prepared for gravy. Should the water boil away too much, more should be added. The result is meat as tender as young chicken, and some think richer and better."

THE DRAGON PIGEON.

ITS HISTORY AND PROPERTIES.

On page 43 we published a description of the Dragon Pigeon given by a member of the Birmingham Columbarian Society. We now subjoin another, abstracted from a paper read by Mr. Tegemeier before the National Peristeronic Society.

HISTORY.—The first notice of the Dragon appeared in Moore's "Columbarian," published in 1735. The author states: "This pigeon is absolutely and without dispute a bastard strain, being bred originally from a Horseman to a Tumbler; and by matching their breed often to the Horseman they will obtain a tolerable degree of stoutness." Moore gives no standard of properties, or any description whatever, but merely states they are good breeders and expeditions homing birds for ten or twenty miles. The "Treatise on Pigeons," published in 1763, in this, as in all other matters, reprints Moore's statement, and adds merely an anecdote of a bird flying from Edmundsbury to London (seventy-two miles) in two hours and a-half. The work known as "Ginton's Complete Pigeon Fancier," published about 1800, merely reprints the account of the Dragon from the "Treatise" of 1763. The next book published on pigeons was "The Dovecote and the Aviary," by the Revd. E. S. Dixon, in 1851. This author does not even mention the Dragon. In Eaton's "Treatise," published in 1852, the old accounts from Moore and Ginton are reprinted, with some very characteristic anecdotes; but nothing is added respecting the properties of the breed. In Brent's work on pigeons there is no description whatever of the breed. He merely states that no prizes should be given to Dragons, as it is impossible to define when they cease to be Dragons and become Carriers. The