

gives more punctual instructions about it; he would have us fill up a vessel with hen dung, passed through a seive, then add hen's feathers to it, then lay the eggs upon it with their smallest ends upwards, then cover it entirely with the same dung. And Cardan, who has quoted that passage of Democritus in his treatise on subtilty, has commented on it, and pretends that the said dung ought to be placed in a couple of pillows, which must be kept in a warm place. The more modern authors who have spoken of the use of dung for the hatching of chickens, have told us nothing more exact or more particular than the rest, nothing, in short, that could make us certain that they had not given us a mere flight of fancy for a matter of fact. Had any one of them tried it he would not have failed assuring us of it, nor would he have omitted to mention the difficulties he must have met with in the attempt. Very likely he would have met with at least some of the obstacles on account of which I found myself unable, notwithstanding a world of experiments, repeated without interruption and with the utmost assiduity, and which almost tired out my patience, to see my very first chicken hatched in dung, till after a whole year's varied attempts. All who are fond of kitchen gardening know that beds of dung become hot a few days after they have been made, that their heat after this increases more and more every day, till it becomes so considerable that if you thrust your hand in some inches deep you soon draw it out, the pain the fingers feel soon warns one not to leave them any longer there. The heat is much stronger than that which must be employed in the warming of eggs. It almost dressed those fit for eating which I first put into a hot bed, altho' they were in a pot. It is to be observed also that the same degree of heat is not to be met with in the bed of dung at different depths; and that after each part of it has gradually increased in heat, it diminishes in the same proportion between the degree only through which it passes, whether in its increase or decrease are those which are fit to hatch eggs.

*(To be continued.)*

### Game Bantams.

As I believe that game bantam fanciers are ever on the increase, it has occurred to me that some of those beginners who have not yet learnt from experience and many dissappointments how they may successfully rear their new pets, would be glad to profit from the experience of a brother fancier. I do not in any way wish to assert that my plan is better than, or even different from, that of other people, I simply give it for what it is worth, and not for the sake of controversy. Like many others, I commenced by purchasing prize winners largely, thinking that if prize birds were put together they

must of necessity produce good offspring. How eagerly I used to put the question, when I made a new purchase, where did he win? Well, the aforesaid prize winners, often all of different strains, were mated together, and I confidently looked forward to taking my place among the foremost in the fancy, for had I not given so and so for the cockerel, and were not the pullets all prize winners? How different was the result to my anticipations. I bred a cockerel and sent him to a local show and won. I won't say how many there were in the class. Of course now he must be entered for the Palace. This was duly done. With what care I washed his head, feet and legs, and packed him up. Then there was the waiting for the catalogue, and the internal swearing (like a cat) at the secretary for the delay. At last it comes. My eager fingers tear off the wrapper. I cast my eye down the class, and opposite my entry see—nothing. What could the judge have been thinking of. That was my thought at the time. Now, it is, what must the other exhibitors have thought of my pet. Experience has taught me that he was but a sorry specimen, and I should be very much ashamed to see such a one on my run now. No, experience will teach the beginner that the prize winner alone to breed from is often a delusion and a snare. I would advise the intending purchaser first to visit a few large shows, and learn what a good bird is. Then, when he has sufficiently marked his subject, to go and see the stock of some well known exhibitor, who has birds for sale, and when he sees what is really good, not to be afraid to open his pocket, in order to make a fair start. How often have I seen letters written by persons asking for birds with all the good points that it was possible for bantams to have, and winding up with the words, "but they must not exceed a guinea each." Well, my opinion is that a bird which is not worth more than a guinea is not worth eighteen pence. I will not take up space with describing what the birds should be, but I would just advise the purchaser to look well at feet and eyes, as these points are too often neglected. Mate your birds, if possible, on January 1st, and put five or six hens with your cockerel, or five or six pullets with a cock, or pullets and cockerel together, the second arrangement for choice. Of course you will require some hens for setting purposes. If you are obliged to use large hens, though it may seem contradictory, I should strongly advise you to put very few eggs under them, not more than ten, and for this reason—by putting a small number you will find that the hen keeps the eggs in front of her under her breast, and thus avoids placing her feet on them, and so breaking them. But the best breed of fowls for hatching game bantams is undoubtedly silkies. They cover twelve eggs well, sit close-