

## PRACTICAL BREEDING.

ANON.

Now that the hatching business is all the go, and results are sure to follow the causes, I offer a word in season. Are we not in danger of deprecating the industry in the judgment of practical men, by aiming too much for *outwards* how? Finally, practical results tell, and not mere fancy. Eggs and meat in quality and quantity at the minimum of cost is the goal that should not be lost sight of, in the desire for feather points.

I confess that my experience with several breeds, is, that in ratio as I held up to the show standard I lost in practical profit, e.g., in spite of all efforts to the contrary, my dark hens of the P. R. breed were the—and are the—largest birds and best layers of largest eggs.

As there is a movement among cattle breeders to breed for thick lean meat and not mere fat, so poultrymen should only breed for and cultivate the strains that make for meat and eggs. These are not unimpatible with fine plumage and form.

Another hint I offer, is, let us improve the best breeds now amongst us, and perfect them, rather than experiment on new varieties. It is easy to make cross breeds and name them new, but that does not constitute them *new* breeds. A White P. Rock is *not* a new breed; it is the old bird in a new dress. Changing a man's dress does not make him a new creation or creature compared with his father. A mulatto or quadroon is only a cross,—not a distinct and new type of man—from the white and black parenthood. The law of life is reversal to original type. The types are stereotypes. Improve the types and we shall not do less with the products of cross breeding.

## CROSSING PURE BRED FOWLS.

BY STANLEY SPILLETI.

Having had some little experience in crossing pure bred fowls I accept with pleasure "Pea Combs" invitation to give my experience and conclusions arrived at.

Being desirous of testing I. K. Felch's rules upon this subject as given in his *Manuel* in which he lays down the rule "that the male effects most strongly color and shape, while size depends upon the female." To make these tests I used L. B's. and P. Cochins, being of the opinion that the effects could be most surely detected if different varieties of different colors were used. The first mating was a P. C. cock on L. B. hens. The result was large Cochin shaped pullets of a beautiful cinnamon-red color, the size was also improved, that is, compared with P. C. hens. The next mating was a L. B. cock with P. C. hens. The pullets from this mating were Brahmas in shape and almost in color.

So far, I conclude my experiments go to verify Mr. Felch's rules, still I purpose continuing these experiments and may have at a later date reason for changing my opinion.

I do not see that my experiments when stated throw much light upon the subject under discussion, as these experiments were made to gain some idea of what one could expect from the male in his progeny, and to gain knowledge in the art of breeding this variety. But after all if these few notes help some beginner to think and induce him to experiment and observe for himself, they will not have been given in vain.

So such I would say, do not accept the ideas or conclusions of any living breeder as dogmas, use them simply as foundations for your own experiments. No matter if you come to the same conclusions if you have solved the problem for yourself and in this way have become possessed of all the details.

The knowledge will be therefore, workable by you. This will make it interesting, for who can be interested in working by a set of formulas, all of which have to be examined and depended upon at every operation.

In breeding L. B's, I find that the bad or peculiar comb of a male will be found on 90 per cent of his offspring. I had a cock with a very small straight comb, indeed the comb was too small, and almost every male bird the offspring of this bird had a similar comb. Pulletts from this bird mated back to himself had scarcely any comb and yet when mated to a splendid cock with a bad twist in the centre row of his comb, the male progeny of this mating had nearly all this same defect.

In selecting a male for breeding I prefer a medium sized bird, which if mated with large boned hens will get males all larger than himself. The best L. B. hen I ever saw was useless as a breeder being a fine small boned hen, (though when in extra condition she would go 10 lbs.) her progeny were all too small, even when mated to a monster of a male.

Still I am under the impression that a cross of L. B's. on Leghorns will produce quite different results. Two years ago my brother who kept a fine flock of Leghorns was induced to cross the L. B. and Leghorn, and I recollect that the pullets from a Leghorn cock on L. B. hens were not much or any larger than Leghorns and it was difficult to pick out the cross breeds from the pure pullets.

## NOTES ON MANY SUBJECTS.

W. C. G. PETER.

*(Written for April Review.)*

Of all the good things in the March issue of your valuable journal, the remarks of Mr. J. Y. Bicknell re "Lion versus Eagle" especially commend themselves to the study of the poultry fraternity; and the day that sees all fan-