



BANTLINGS.

IT has now become a necessity at our larger exhibitions that the Japanese class be divided by color. The whites have made such strides the past year that they will as a rule, being a solid color variety, outstrip their black pointed relatives. The blacks are not yet so far advanced, soundness of color being yet a long way off, and no greys as far as we know are bred in Canada, or indeed in America. Classes should properly be divided into "white" and "any other color."

There is no prettier Bantam than the Japanese and they deserve encouragement. They are also a fair, in fact, a good utility Bantam, carry a nice breast meat for their size, are good layers and excellent mothers, and stand confinement in close quarters well.

Mr. Babcock commences with this issue a series of articles on "Twelve Bantams," to run through the present year. Mr. Babcock is a practical breeder, an entertaining and instructive writer, and—well, our readers have a treat before them.

In no other paper published do we know of a similar department to this. We want your help to keep it alive and interesting.

Mr. Crowe, of Guelph, we hear, is getting out a pen of black-reds from Messrs. Ainscough, the well-known English breeders.

In even the latest-revised-up-to-date-corrected-and-recorded Standard there are some very ridiculous errors. In partridge and white Cochin Bantams the disqualifying weights read "cocks weighing thirty-four ounces; hens weighing thirty ounces; cockerels weighing thirty ounces; pullets weighing twenty-eight ounces." Thus by the omission of the little word "over" the whole sense is destroyed. Literally now a cock weighing thirty-four ounces would be disqualified, while one weighing ten pounds could compete. This is taking an extreme view of the case, but is a good illustration of the facts as they are.

BANTAMS.

BY L. C. VERREY IN ENGLISH *Fanciers' Gazette*.

BANTAMS.—The time has now arrived when we must turn our attention to the pigmies of the poultry kingdom, for they justly claim a very large share of the patronage and support of the lovers of the feathered tribe—a fact that is not to be wondered at when their beauty and economic properties are taken into consideration. Bantams can never be any other than a purely fancy race of poultry, for the smallness of their size and the diminutiveness of their eggs prevents them attaining any other place in the animal world than that of a highly interesting ornamental fancy race of fowls. Bantams have one really great advantage, and that is that they can be bred and reared in places of such limited dimensions where it would be utterly impossible to keep any of the larger varieties.

(To be Continued.)