

WHAT IS IT?

Editor Review :—

I am not a little interested in the specimen of plumage from Langshan cock kindly sent. The meaning of such becomes clear when we remember that hair, hoofs, nails and feathers are all developed from the one (*epiblastic*) layer of cells in the embryo. These are all modifications of one set of structures. In any bird fine hairs may be seen beneath the feathers, or when the latter are plucked. The newly hatched chick is clothed with a sort of hair rather than feathers. Silky fowls, Sebastopol geese, etc. indicate an approach to hairs, though far from it as compared with this Langshan's plumage. I am told that a breed of fowls exists in Egypt with a covering almost exactly like this. I regard the plumage as really undeveloped and embryonic in character, though the bird has matured in other respects.

Truly yours,

SCIENCE.

[Will the gentleman who wrote us regarding this bird kindly communicate with the Editor of this paper. We sent a letter to his supposed address but it has been returned. ED.]

WYANDOTTE TALK.

Editor Review :

In the last issue of REVIEW I see a letter under the above heading by "C." It is a very nice article, but I have two objections to it. The first is, I think any article worth writing should have the writers name and address signed. It would certainly be much more appreciated by those who read it.

He has made a glaring mistake where he refers to golden Wyandottes. He says the golden-laced Wyandotte is "yet very imperfect. It will be a work of years to bring them to any degree of uniformity, but time and patience will work wonders." Mr. "C" has certain

ly had very limited experience with golden's. I have had silvers for 5 years, and goldens for two years, my experience is just the reverse, I find the goldens superior in many respects to the silvers, and much more easily bred, that is, you will get more good specimens in a flock. Every breeder of silver Wyandottes knows it is very difficult to get a good dark cockerel with clean hackle and saddle, this defect is much more easily overcome in the goldens, you can get very dark cockerels with good clean hackles and saddles.

What did we find at Detroit Show last winter? There was a very large class of silvers shown and some very fine specimens, one trio cost \$50.00, yet a golden Wyandotte scored higher than any silver Wyandotte in the show. At Norfolk Union Fair held at Simcoe this fall, the Wyandottes all competed in one class, there were two pairs of goldens shown, they took first and second prizes and a pair of silvers third, this pair of silvers have never been beaten at the leading shows in Canada and won first each as cock and hen at Detroit last winter. Surely the goldens cannot be so very imperfect as Mr. "C" tells us.

I called it a mistake because I do not think any breeder would intentionally try to injure golden Wyandottes and those who are breeding them. He has evidently seen some poor specimens and formed his opinion accordingly. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for the above space, I remain

Yours respectfully,

St. Thomas, Ont.

T. H. SCOTT.

PLYMOUTH ROCK STANDARD.

Editor Review,—

As I have been a reader of your columns for a length of time I thought it might be well to make a first attempt to contribute my mite.

Firstly in looking over the *Standard*

I find in the disqualifications "white in any part of plumage or black in any part of plumage." Now it strikes me very forcibly that this is encouraging feather pulling, so much dreaded. But why are the disqualifications out of defects so easily remedied, the wide awake exhibitor pulls the eye sore out, the amateur who has not pondered over his *Standard* gets left and perhaps by bird's that had two to one in the original state. My opinion would be cut but pull not.

Next "Permanent while in ear lobes" I will merely seek for information by asking a question hoping it will be answered in next issue. How can a judge tell if the white in lobes of a P. Rock is permanent or not?

My experience with Plymouth Rocks is that they are subject to have white in ear lobes. I have passed judgment on birds in my flock for that cause and on going to bring them to the guillotine I would be surprised to find the lobes all right.

Next, I notice some breeders of Plymouth Rocks advertise something like this—"2 yards of P.R. one yard mated to produce fine cockerels and 1 yard for pullets" now my opinion is that the breeder that cannot produce both from the same yard had better quit. I also notice something like this in the same ad—"like produces like etc.," now if a breeder sells birds out of such yards what will they produce, I will tell you, that is in my experience what I call "potters" a very good kind but they never command a high price. It takes time and careful mating but it can be accomplished and like will produce like. Another observation. I have noticed at some of the winter shows, parties cleaning and fixing up their birds just before they come before the judge, now why do the directors allow the like when the breeders who are not there to see after their birds have to take pot luck and work against odds?

Hoping, Mr. Editor, that these few