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BLACK COCHINS.

We are indebted to Mr. W. H. Todd, of Vermilion, Ohio, for the use of the above excellent representation of a trio of exhibition birds. He writes of this variety:—"Black Cochins are special favorites with me; they are so extremely hardy, less inclined to sit, and better layers than any of the Cochins, if not Asiatic family, of which, as a breed, they are the smallest. A flock on a grassy range,

with their rich, glossy, black plumage, presents a handsome sight. Being good rangers, they make a splendid fowl for the farm or town. I have a strain that breeds well, and my birds have seldom failed to win when exhibited. When first hatched, chicks show more or less white under throat and body, but become black, and remain so."

During the past few years Black Cochins have