

English. We have found better results to follow from the union of a very small Scotch cock and a good English hen than from the opposite alliance. Small Scotch hens are not infrequently indifferent breeders and mothers, or at least produce weakly offspring. The Indian strain to which we have before alluded has, we fancy, been bred into some English strains, which occasionally show traces of it. Its peculiarities are a peak at the back of the head and feathers on the legs. We do not admire these additions, especially as they are generally seen combined with heavy heads and necks.

Now as to the color of Fantails. To our taste there is none so pleasing as white; it seems the natural color of the breed, for birds of other colors can very rarely, if ever, be found to come up in form to the excellence of the whites, and almost always bear traces of a cross in no remote generation. Be it observed that the white is not, like the white of fowls, liable to be tanned by the sun. Heat and sun in no way affects its purity, and pigeons if kept in a clean place with proper baths will always keep themselves clean. The nearest approach to perfect form which we have seen in other Fans is in the black, which have long been cultivated in India or on the Continent. Blues there are too, but generally too large, deficient in shape of tail, and not of a bright blue, but too ashy a color. All the reds and yellows which we have seen have been poor in tail, and not really good in color.

"Saddle-backs" are a curiosity. A small and fine strain of them is said to have been once imported, but whence nobody ever knew. They should be marked like Turbits—*i. e.*, white birds with wings, all save the flight feathers, of one color, as red, blue, or black. If very perfectly marked they would be attractive, but we cannot say that we have ever seen such; they generally have colored thighs, which just spoils what would be a sharp contrast. White birds, too, with colored tails are occasionally seen produced by German breeders. Laced Fantails have all the web of their feathers disjointed like Silky fowls, and are more peculiar than beautiful. None of the sub-varieties after all equal the real white Fantail, and we know no variety which shows to better advantage when grouped in numbers. A fine collection of white Fantails is lovely. For two years at the Crystal Palace fanciers of the breed had a rare treat in the sight of the Rev. W. Sergeantson's four pairs which won the cup for the best collection. Subsequently a ridiculous change in the conditions of this competition required the collection to consist of at least two varieties. Still at the exhibition of the Peristeronic Society and in a few private lofts may such sights be seen.

As a rule Fantails are hardy, good breeders, and

careful parents, though we have at times found Scotch birds of very high carriage neglect their young when half grown. Everything against which they are likely to break their tails should be kept out of the loft and aviary. We may prevent disappointment by informing young fanciers that though very perfect Fantails are always valuable from being few out of many, birds of mediocrity have no saleable worth, and a beginner must be content to consign all such to the kitchen.—C., in *Journal of Horticulture*.

Artificial Incubation.

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No. II.

It cannot be a matter of surprise that egg hatching should have attracted the attention of the civilized world for a long period if we bear in mind that the subject is one of considerable importance, as tending to the production of an article of food. Had it been a mere scientific amusement it would, perhaps, long ago have passed into oblivion. So far from this being the case, it is of as much consequence to society as the increased and cheapened production of any other article of daily consumption. If the old axiom that "He who makes two blades of grass to grow where one only grew before confers a benefit upon his country," it surely cannot be deemed egotistical to claim credit for placing in the hands of the public the means whereby the multiplication of not hundreds alone, but thousands of such desirable articles for the table as poultry, may be grown where, probably, by ordinary plan, none otherwise would be produced.

Increase of population creates increased demands for supplying the various and multifarious wants, and these setting the brains of the inventive in motion, their wants are catered for, and wonderful agents, such as electricity, steam &c., are called into service, and we have electric telegraphs, telephones, railroads, steam plows, reaping and mowing machines, sewing machines, and hundreds of other inventions of the present age, meeting the requirements of the times. The result of all this adding a corresponding increase to the produce must be of permanent importance to society. And after such developments will the farmer and poultry breeder waste the resources of his poultry yard by continuing to maintain only a few casual good sitting hens, confined to a few nests, when he can, by the aid of man's inventive powers, produce his most profitable "small live stock" by their thousands, aye, and hundreds of thousands, having the appliances under his very nose in the fermenting heat of the manure heap from his stables and barns,