

market, or of chickens which mature early, is to him a matter of importance ; for such, a ready sale is always to be had, and good prices usually obtained ; a proper knowledge of the different breeds which should be crossed with each other is therefore essential. We shall enumerate a few.

The first cross of the Dark Brahma Hen with a Dorking Cock is a very excellent one, and produces truly magnificent fowls ; the largest, perhaps, that have ever been raised. Chickens thus bred have at six months old weighed over 18lbs. the couple. By crossing this mixed race again with the Houdan Cock, chickens are obtained which, though less in ultimate weight than the half-bred Dorking, attain a still earlier maturity, and may be killed at ten weeks old very good size. Both of these crosses are well worth the attention of the farmer or market-breeder, but their merits should be kept up by continually using the blood of good and pure stocks, or the result, unless great judgment is exercised, will be disappointment and deterioration. A Brahma Hen and a Crève Cœur Cock will also produce an excellent cross ; they are hardy and easily reared, and attain to great size. The flesh is of delicious flavor, and is fully equal to that of the Dorking, and is free from that very delicate constitution which often renders the latter an unprofitable fowl. Lastly, while all Brahma crosses make good layers, the cross between a Brahma Hen and a Spanish or Minorca Cock produces a fowl, generally black on the body, with dark striped hackle, which for average fecundity surpasses any and every fowl we know.

The cross-bred birds produced by mating Cochins with Crève-Cœurs, La Flèche and Houdans, are all remarkable for their rapid growth and the great size they attain. Chickens raised in March have at twelve weeks old weighed

from four to five pounds, and at six months cockerels off the run have weighed seven pounds. To fanciers and others wishing to breed large hardy birds for the table, a cross between a Cochin Hen and a Crève-Cœur or La Flèche Cock cannot be too highly recommended. The chickens produced, as already stated, will be of rapid growth, large size, and great constitutional vigour, and when cooked, will be found plump, and with skin and fat much whiter than the Cochins.

A cross between a Dorking Hen and a Cochin Cock, has been frequently resorted to by breeders for the purpose of producing a hardier fowl, and to increase the size of the former. This and all crosses of a similar kind is based upon the fact, that in cross-breeding, the pullets usually are like the mother, and the cockerels like the father. The plan pursued is generally as follows. In the beginning of the year put two or three large Dorking hens with a short legged compact Cochin Cock, either of the common buff or of the partridge variety. Of the chickens choose those pullets which possess in the highest degree the Dorking character, viz: fine bone, short white legs and compact body, square on the limbs : and in the following season mate them with a good Dorking Cock ; the result will be a three-fourths Dorking, which if care has been taken in the selection will show very little trace of Cochin descent, whilst the size and constitutional vigour of the birds will have been much improved by the infusion of new blood. But these birds must not be permitted to breed amongst themselves, else they in all probability will revert to the Cochin type ; the pullets must be again mated with a Dorking cock.

A cross between a Cochin and Spanish is not a desirable one ; the Spanish is a long-legged bird, Cochins are also in-