

and cold without, the fowls were busy dusting themselves and scratching and seemed quite lively.

One wing of poultry building No. 1 is fitted up with cock pens and they contained some fine specimens. In the brooding room, which is heated with hot water radiators, Mr. Jarvis had quite a nice lot of chicks, which seemed to be thriving well. We were much pleased with the whole department, and it is easy to be seen that Mr. Jarvis thoroughly understands the management entrusted to his care.

While in the poultry department we had the pleasure of meeting the President of the College, Prof. Mills, who takes quite a deep interest in the poultry, judging from the conversation we had. We also had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Thomas Gowdy, President of Ontario Poultry Association, and Messrs. Colson and Webber, of Quelfh, Clemo, of Galt, and many others, who were to all appearances on the same mission as ourselves, taking in the poultry department.

London, April 20th, 1896.

RICHARD OKE.

### THE HOUDAN AS A PRACTICAL FOWL.

BY S. WISE, WINNIPEG.

THE Houdan is one of the French varieties, and I may say, it occupies the front rank as a general good all round bird with them. I would like to see it more generally bred than it is, for it is a bird with many very genuine merits both as a pure breed and for the purpose of crossing. It is a large, massive, deep-breasted bird, similar to the Dorking, and it also resembles this breed in being furnished with the fifth toe. Its head is decorated with a large crest and also a beard. But what I wish to advocate in this paper, is its more general use for grading up farmers' stock, for which purpose it is admirably adapted, for while it may be surpassed in size by such breeds as the Plymouth Rock and Wyandotte, it is better than either of these for crossing purposes, for it possesses the unique property of imparting its good qualities to its offspring. For quality of flesh the Houdan cannot be beaten, its laying powers are equal to the Minorca or Leghorn, and the chicks grow very fast and feather quickly. They are also extremely hardy, and can stand any climate. Such a fowl is emphatically a farmer's breed either pure or graded. There are men here who have used the Houdan for crossing purposes both on pure-breds and on mongrels and the results were surprising, the progeny being large very heavily meated birds, and not only this, but extremely fine layers and seldom wishing to

incubate. This non-sitting trait is one which the Houdan possesses in a marked degree, few instances being known, where a Houdan became broody. This is very rare in a good table fowl—for such it undoubtedly is. Alive, the Houdan is equal to the Minorca or Leghorn, as a layer, while dead it is superior to either, competing very successfully with the Rock or Wyandotte. Thus the Houdan possesses the unique distinction of being a fine layer and table fowl and also a non-sitter, qualities which it hardly fails to impart in its progeny when used on common stock. From a fancier's standpoint, it is a great favorite being very handsome, with its nice evenly-mottled black and white plumage, large crest and beard and finely shaped body. Once a man starts keeping Houdans he will stick to them to the exclusion of others.

### THE BIRCHIN GAME BANTAM.

BY H. S. BABCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R.I.

THE BIRCHIN is not a new variety, though comparatively new to this country and quite new to the American Standard. It has existed for many years abroad, though it made but little headway there. It seems to have taken a strong hold in this country and bids fair to gain considerable popularity.

In origin it is a cross of the brown-red and the silver duckwing. The first cross of this kind will give many well marked cockerels, but few well marked pullets. But in both cockerels and pullets there will be considerable tendency towards an excess of lacing, which needs correction by a future cross with the brown red.

In color and markings it is a brown red, with the lemon changed to white. This slight change really makes quite a difference in the appearance, about the same as there is between the silver and golden duckwings. The contrast of black and white is marked and the effect is very pleasing. The Birchin is a really handsome variety.

Birchins as a class are of very good station and style, but they will depend for these qualities upon the character of the stock from which they are made. If they are made from low stationed stock they will be low in station; if from high they will be high. It seems scarcely necessary to add that a Game Bantam to be saleable at all needs to be a high stationed bird, and nothing is gained by producing a new variety unless the new variety has the necessary style and station.

Good Birchins have a use in breeding brown reds. The latter variety is apt to be too deep in its lemon—in fact