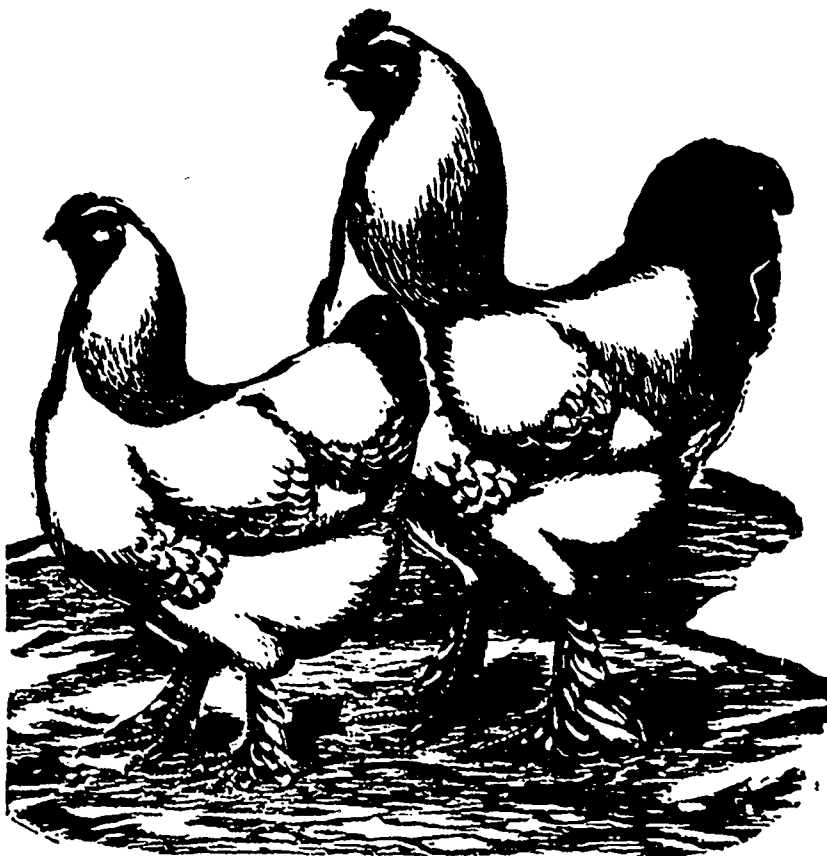




Pair Light Brahmas, American Type.

The Poultry Yard.

A MARKET POULTRY BREED.

A score of years ago the Light Brahmas were the best-known of all pure bred fowls, but in recent years they have rather lost in popularity, as compared with some of the new arrivals. No breed is better for producing a large amount of excellent quality market poultry, and none lays larger and nicer-looking eggs. For winter laying the breed has always been famous. Perhaps the only reason that has injured their popularity has been the fact that large, fine-looking eggs often bring no more in the market than those of average size and color, while it costs more to produce the Light Brahma eggs on account of the large size and vigorous appetite of the fowls. The eggs average seven to the pound, of a rich brown color and excellent in flavor.

They do not mature so early as the Rocks and Wyandots, but reach a heavier weight and are very hardy. They are good sitters and fairly good mothers, being less clumsy than the Cochins. Some growers favor the Light Brahmas as broilers, but for this purpose they must be killed when young, before they begin to get long-legged and bony. For egg laying, the medium sized strains are to be preferred, while for poultry or exhibition purposes the large, heavy-bodied strains are satisfactory. The typical American Light Brahma is of rather lighter build and less abundant leg feathering than the English type.

SAVING THE EARLY CHICKS.

The first food after the chicks have been out of the shell 24 hours may be soaked bread crusts, or a cake made purposely for them, and moistened with milk or water. This cake is made from the mixed meal fed the hens (corn, oats and fine feed). A little salt and saleratus are added and it is then wet up like a mash and thoroughly baked. The uncooked dough so often fed is not fit for small chicks, and in its raw state it is far harder to digest.

This cake should be fed certainly twice a day for six weeks, but after a few days the bill of fare may be varied thus: Moistened cake in the morning and at noon, with the addition of mashed small potatoes at dinner time. Morning and afternoon lunch, oatmeal moistened with milk or water. This is the real article bought of the grocer at 2½ or 3c per lb. It sounds very expensive and in a way it is, but it is also eco-

nomical because it is the most complete single food known for chickens. As a "well balanced ration" by itself, it promotes growth in flesh, blood and bone. After a week wheat should be fed at night and in another week the diet may be still further varied by changing the 9.30 feed to cracked corn, and after six weeks I substitute a special poultry feed for clear oatmeal. If fresh cut bone can be obtained, give this as soon as the chickens can hear it. If not, mix a little animal meal with the soft feed.

The next matter of importance after proper housing and feed is the war against lice. First powder your sitting hen liberally and powder again before she leaves her chickens. Any good insecticide will do. Powder the chicks again in a few weeks and possibly yet again before they are wholly feathered out. If your chicks look ragged and droopy or as if the moths had suddenly gone to eating feathers, look for lice. They will ruin the chicks if you do not get rid of them.

Keep their coops as clean as possible, look out for soaking rains, supply plenty of grass, fresh air, pure water and sunshine, and if, as before mentioned, your parent stock was hardy and vigorous, your percentage of loss should be small, except it be through devastation from vandals outside the poultry yard.—[A. L. Rogers, Essex Co, Mass.]

Testing Sitters—Do not place eggs under hens until they have been sitting several days. It is safe to try them first with a batch of nest eggs to see if they mean business. The best encouragement for hens to sit is to leave half a dozen nest eggs, gourds or other good imitations in the nest all the time.

Chicken Queries—F. R. K. had fowls drop dead suddenly and their livers were enlarged. These were cases of apoplexy and could not be cured, but new cases may be prevented by feeding less liberally.—C. H. S. complains that his ducks lose the use of their legs. If they have a wet place to sleep in it will cause this trouble. Give them plenty of oyster shells, feed less shorts and more corn meal.—W. R. B. has fowls with symptoms of cholera, yellowish droppings. His hens are getting some sort of moldy food or impure water. Remove the cause and if possible change to new ground.—J. S. G. has hens suffering from some mysterious disease which causes the crops to burst open. It is possible they are getting some poisonous food. Better change the location.—S. W. Berry inquires about raising fowls on shares. There

is no established rule. Sometimes one party furnishes eggs and the second party hatches and rears the chickens to a certain age for one-half. The first party furnishes the hens and should have his hens back at the end of the season and one-half of the hens and chickens at a certain age, the second party to furnish labor and feed. Some growers of pure bred poultry furnish eggs to farmers with the privilege of buying whatever chickens they wish at a fixed price.

To Break Up Sitters—Have a small lath coop about 2 ft sq inside of each large coop and as soon as a hen begins to sit, place her inside the coop with food and water. The first of the season, two days' confinement is enough, but in warm weather, a sitter will sometimes persist a week or more.

A Cholera Cure widely used in the west consists of 2 oz red pepper, 2 oz powdered asafetida, 4 oz carbonate of iron, 1 oz powdered rhubarb, 6 oz Spanis' brown, 2 oz sulphur. The mixture is made into pellets with flour and water and given three times a day. The mixed powder is added to the soft food as a preventive, giving a tablespoonful twice a week to every two dozen fowls.

A Handy Water Fountain for chicks is an old tomato can with a notch in the edge filled with water and turned upside down in a saucer.

Machines Better Than Hens—I ran an incubator in '95 and out of 169 eggs it hatched 158 strong, healthy chicks. It would take at least 13 hens to cover the same number of eggs and when a hen hatches more than 12 out of 13 she is doing more than they will average. There is no old hen that can hatch an egg that cannot be hatched by a good incubator. And you can set the eggs when you get ready and not wait a month or two for the hens to get broody.—[H. O. Allen, Vt.]

Will Hold Chicks—This is a common wire mesh poultry fence with two rows of laths worked into the apertures near the bottom. By the time chicks are large enough to climb over the laths they are too big to get through any part of the mesh. The expense is slight and the plan saves man, chicks from cats and hawks.

Cook the Food of Young Chicks—A mass of raw dough is much longer in digesting than a well-baked cake crumbled in milk or water.

Chickens which are feathering out are especially liable to colic and decline. They should be fed often and kept dry.

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