

between the scales and toes showing a pink tinge. Under foot, white.

*Toe-nails.*—White.

*Plumage.*—Deep rich black throughout, glossed brilliantly with metallic green, the greener the better; purple sheen is a *great blemish*.

*Skin.*—White and thin.

COCK.

*General Description.*—Tall, upright and alert, with head carried high; deep well rounded-body, wide shoulders, prominent breast, fan shaped flowing tail with plenty of glossy side hangers and two long sickle feathers.

*Head.*—Small for the size of the bird, free from coarseness, and carried well back.

*Beak.*—Slightly curved, strong, and well proportioned.

*Comb.*—Single, upright, of medium size, fine in texture, evenly serrated, and free from sidesprigs.

*Wattles.*—Well rounded, medium size, and fine in quality.

*Deafears.*—Smooth, and well proportioned.

*Neck.*—Gracefully arched and reachy, covered with rich glossy hackle, broad at base, and tapering gradually to the head.

*Back.*—Fairly long, saddle feathers rather short and *close fitting*.

*Breast.*—Full and deep, a long breast bone with abundance of white meat.

*Wings.*—Fairly large, carried somewhat low, and with very brilliant coverts.

*Tail.*—Fan-shaped and full, carried fairly high, abundantly furnished with tail coverts, and distinct sickle feathers projecting beyond the rest several inches.

*Thighs.*—Rather short, but well developed, covered with close-fitting feathers, especially close round the hocks.

*Shanks.*—Wide apart, rather long, fine in bone, with a fringe of feathers on the outside.

*Toes.*—Long, straight, and well

spread out; the outer toe only slightly feathered.

*Plumage.*—Tight-feathered, and very little fluff.

HEN.

*General Description.*—Gracefully rounded outline, body carried well off the ground, and free from lumpy or squat appearance; smart and alert in carriage.

*Comb.*—Very neat and erect.

*Back.*—Fairly long, with scarcely any cushion.

*Tail.*—Fan-shaped and full.

(In other respects the hen is similar to the cock.)

SCALE FOR JUDGING.

*Points.*

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Richness of colour . . . . .        | 20  |
| Symmetry . . . . .                  | 15  |
| Size . . . . .                      | 15  |
| Condition . . . . .                 | 10  |
| Head and comb . . . . .             | 10  |
| Legs and feet . . . . .             | 10  |
| Thin skin and white flesh . . . . . | 10  |
| Fine bone . . . . .                 | 10  |
|                                     | 100 |

*Deductions.*

|                                         |     |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| Want of breast meat . . . . .           | 15  |
| Crooked breast . . . . .                | 15  |
| Purple sheen . . . . .                  | 15  |
| Too much fluff . . . . .                | 15  |
| Heavy-feathered legs and toes . . . . . | 15  |
| Faulty comb . . . . .                   | 10  |
| Short shanks . . . . .                  | 10  |
| Twisted toes . . . . .                  | 5   |
|                                         | 100 |

Judges are requested to pass birds with any of the following defects:—Yellow skin, shanks or feet shaded with yellow, yellow at base of beak or around the eye, vulture hocks, feathering on middle toes, clean legs, coloured feathers, wry tail, squirrel tail, permanent white in ear lobe, comb with sidesprigs or other than single.

PHEASANT REARING AND FEEDING.

BY MR. W. COOK.

SOME weeks ago I wrote on Pheasants in this paper. It was just after I had been visiting Buckinghamshire, where these birds are kept in large numbers. I remember stating at the time how the owners mismanaged them and the way the birds were fed. Naturally I was very anxious to visit the same district again and see whether matters had improved through me giving advice, and it was very gratifying to find nearly every place I visited had changed their feeding. I mention this because a correspondent in last week's issue, speaking on the maize question, seems to somewhat ridicule my statement that maize in large quantities was bad for Pheasants. I was pleased to notice when I visited Bucks this last time that many of the Pheasant breeders had gone on my system of feeding, and instead of giving principally maize they were using buckwheat and barley. The owners told me they had had less ailments and deaths already amongst their stock birds, and the young birds hatched out very strong. They have, however, yet to prove whether the youngsters will grow as fast and do better than they have done in previous years. I hope my readers will bear in mind that when any kind of stock have been fed for years on maize it takes some time to get rid of the evil effects of it. I am watching young Pheasants very carefully this season which have been bred from stock birds originally fed upon maize up to this last season and those from birds which have had no maize for three years, and I shall take particular notice which lot shows the largest number of deaths. I may say here, however, that simply trying experiments for one year in this way is