

lic support, nor would their promoters have been so anxious for their success. "Individuals there doubtless are, for whom the Fantail pigeon and the Lop-eared rabbit possess charms beyond the plumpest Dorking or the tenderest Poland; but how far are they in number when compared to those who encouraged the poultry exhibitions simply from a desire that twelve months hence eggs should prove better, chickens cheaper, and all poultry more abundant than ever."

We can see no reason why poultry should not be considered as a species of agricultural stock, and turned to as good account for both producer and consumers. More eggs, therefore, and more fowls of a better description, ought to be ultimately produceable; and this improvement ought to act on the market of the country. That there has been an improvement in the size is evident from the fact that a few years since dressed fowls brought to our markets would seldom weigh more than two and a-half to three pounds; now they will reach from four to five pounds. We speak now of the common farmers of the country; and this has been accomplished by crossing with larger varieties and better attention and care. When fowls were sold for so much a pair, it was no interest to the farmer to increase the size of his poultry, as a pair weighing only four pounds would command just as much as those of six or seven pounds. Now, since they are sold by weight, size tells the story. A fowl, without any specification of weight, is a very indefinite term, and since we cannot as yet see how fat fowls, any way deserving that appellation, can be sold at three shillings the pair, we would ask whether he will object to pay from 10 to 12 cents per pound, according to the season, for his poultry, while his butcher's meat is from 14 to 18 cents for such pieces as he would wish to see on his table.

For good poultry there is always a sale, and where there has not hitherto been, they will supply one. The very fact that they are to be had of a good quality, will cause a demand to be made for them. In all our cities there is always a demand, and, like other provisions, there are different periods for different prices, and here it is that poultry shows how we might do much good in offering premiums for early maturity. Those who have facilities for rearing chickens in March, or even February, and take them to market in May, June and July, they cannot fail to receive a remunerating price. From two to three shillings per pair is a common price for chickens four months old; and we are not sure but the profit at this age would be greater than at any other. At this season, less than two shillings the pair would be ridiculously low.

For early spring chickens such prices are necessary, when the cost of production is duly considered; and this at once indicates the main point towards which the improvements of our agricultural societies should be directed—the combination, as nearly as may be, in one bird, of early maturity, hardihood of constitution, and excellence no less than quantity of meat.

The question then naturally arises, Which is the most profitable breed to keep? The answer must be, That which fats best at an early age at the least expense, and that which possesses those properties most valued for food. Where every article of food has to be purchased, and no range can be permitted beyond limited yards and enclosures, there must be sales at fancy prices, and great skill to remunerate the outlay; but wherever poultry has been kept as a regular item in the economy of a farm yard, or even a laborer's cottage, we fully believe that the Dorking fowls, properly managed, will justify our present opinion of their merits as layers, as also for their flesh. They have heavy compact bodies, well feathered, small bones, short legs, fatten quickly, and their flesh beautifully white. C. N. BEMENT. *Springside, N. Y.*