

Improved Plymouth Rocks.

The very handsome breed of poultry known as "Plymouth Rock," is deservedly becoming very popular among those who keep fowls for profit. These fowls, as may be seen from our illustration

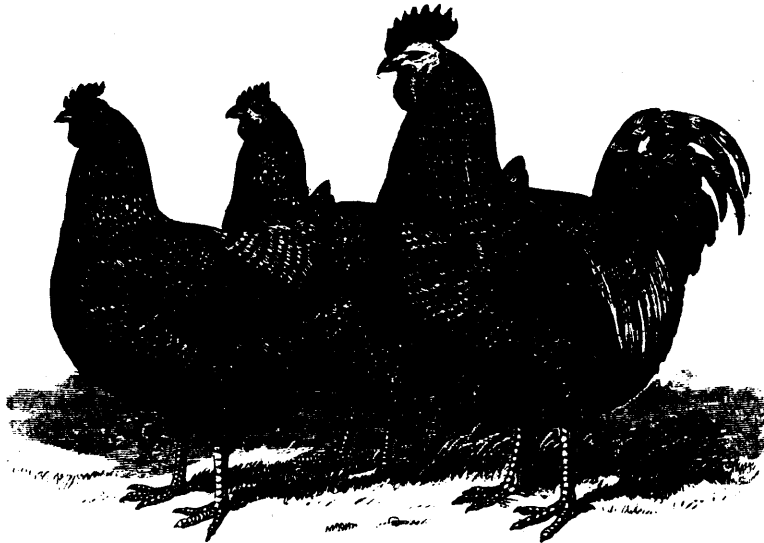
on this page, which has been carefully drawn from a trio of living birds, possess many favorable characteristics. First among the good qualities of a fowl, is size. This the Plymouth Rocks have in an unusual degree. There are many excellent breeds of poultry, which are all that can be desired except as to size, and the lack of this is fatal to their popularity; for, after all, profit is the chief object with most people in choosing a kind of fowl to keep. Hardiness of constitution and vigor; pleasing form; handsome and attractive plumage, and prolific production of eggs, are all very desirable qualities in fowls, and these all belong to this breed. It will probably be noticed that the birds pictured in our illustration, are remarkably heavy-bodied. This is a peculiarity which belongs

in an especial degree to a strain bred by Mr. F. H. Corbin, of Newington, Conn. This form of body, which is more like that of the Dorking than any other fowl, occurred accidentally, we believe, and the fowls with which this peculiarity originated, in Mr. Corbin's yards, were bred from with care, and their desirable shape has been permanently fixed. The future of the Plymouth Rocks will depend greatly upon the care or fortunate success with which they are bred. Difference of taste leads breeders to favor different styles, and thus "strains" are originated. If these styles are made

to depart too much from a rigid standard, there is danger that an important and essential point may be sacrificed for some minor fancy. To prevent this, and to induce or to enforce care and consistency in breeding, it would be well that a very close adherence to the standard be insisted upon in all exhibitions, and that a very rigid one be adopted. In the case of the birds here represented, they come fully up to the accepted Standard of Excellence of American breeders, and meet it in every respect. The points required are: the breast to be "broad, deep, and full," and the body to be "large, square, and compact." The form of these birds is therefore nearly perfect, and if all breeders of the Plymouth Rocks emulate Mr. Corbin's skill in taking advantage

of favorable accidents in breeding, and in fixing them upon his strain, or in using care in selecting birds for breeding, as any skillful breeder may readily do, the future history of this breed will be a very gratifying one. Among some of seventy breeds recognized in the American Standard of Excellence, there are only two of

American origin, viz., the old-fashioned Dominique and the Plymouth Rock. The latter originated in Connecticut, and after some years of careful breeding, has been brought to such a condition of merit, that it is now one of the most popular breeds, and promises to be one of the most suitable for farmers, and attractive to amateurs. The birds here shown



IMPROVED PLYMOUTH ROCKS, BRED BY F. H. CORBIN, NEWINGTON, CONN.

are entered in the American Poultry Record; the cock is Caesar (5,970), the hen in the foreground is Pauline (5,972), and the one in the rear is Juliet (5,971). This strain of Mr. Corbin's has been favorably noticed by the best poultry authority in the country, a compliment which it certainly deserves.

Duroc or Red Swine.

The farmers of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and parts of New York, have long been acquainted

so that, at the present time, this breed will challenge comparison with any other whatever for all the valuable points which make swine desirable or profitable. We have notified of late that these red hogs have become widely distributed, a large sale of them having occurred in Kentucky, where they were favorably received

by the very critical buyers of that well-known breeding State. When at the N. Y. State Fair, at Rochester, in September last, we saw a good specimen of these swine, which was exhibited by Wm. M. Holmes & Son, of Greenwich, Washington Co., N. Y., who make breeding them a special business. We have been favored by Mr. Holmes with a photograph of this animal, from which we have prepared the engraving here given. The picture is, therefore, no fancy one, but an exact portrait of the animal, so far as photography and careful drawing in copying can produce it. In all photographs, there are some exaggerations, the effects of which are so well known, that they have no detrimental effect on the subject, any more than the converging lines of a perspective drawing would

mislead a person into supposing they were not really parallel. Thus the central portion of the photographic picture is an exact copy of the object, while the extremities are always more or less enlarged. If proper allowances are made for these, we then get a life-like representation, more nearly exact than any artist could possibly draw one by hand. In this portrait, the head and ears are not so fine as they should have been, or are in the living animal; nevertheless, we get a very good idea of what this breed of swine really is. At the National Swine Breeders' Convention, held at Indian-



DUROC SWINE, BRED BY WM. M. HOLMES & SON, GREENWICH, N. Y.

apolis in 1871, it was decided to call this breed the Duroc, and it is now so called by those who give attention to it. The history of the breed dates back over 50 years, or to 1828, when Mr. H. Kelsey, owner of the noted horse Duroc, imported a pair of red hogs from England. A Mr. Frink, of Saratoga Co., N. Y., procured a boar pig of a litter from this pair, and named it Duroc, after the famous horse; hence the origin of the name, under which the breed has become popular in that locality. The pigs themselves are reasonably supposed to be related to the Berkshire; the old Berkshires were frequently reddish, or sandy-colored, and spotted with black, and had lopped ears. The Durocs may be properly considered to more nearly represent the old Berk-

shires, than the trim, smooth, prick-eared, blue-black and white-faced and white-footed modern Berkshire, as these points are all brought from foreign blood; while the red hogs have never lost their ancestral character, except so far as it has been improved by selection and good breeding. At least this is claimed for these hogs by their ad-