

ference being chiefly in the toes and comb, Houdans having ten toes and the Creve eight; the Houdan having an even-sided leaf comb, whereas the comb of the Creve is forked and its crest greatly improved.

Spanish has greatly improved; indeed, it had unfortunately been most improved off the face of the earth. Its extraordinary facial character makes it conspicuous as one of the wonders of the poultry world. The falling off of the number shown at the present time was most noticeable, as he remembered in the early years of the Bingley Hall Show, when as many as forty or fifty of either sex were exhibited. P fanciers had gone on improving the white face till it had reached almost abnormal proportions, seriously jeopardising the life, comfort, and sight of the birds. As layers they were as good now as formerly.

Minorcas were in the early days regarded as red-faced Spanish, and no doubt were originally allied to the Spanish. They are a most popular variety, and stand above all others as to numbers and uniformity of quality. As layers they stand pre-eminently above all others. As to the number of eggs laid, no doubt the Leghorn on an average would equal them, but having regard to the size and weight of the eggs Minorcas must be accorded first place. Hamburgs were also good layers, but differed in this respect from the Minorca in that their eggs were small, and though they laid daily throughout the summer, yet when they ceased laying they were fallow for a long time, whereas the Minorca, under favorable conditions, continued nearly all the year round. The almond-shaped lobe is the correct thing for the Minorca, and it had taken many years to produce, and at the same time keep white out of the face. He was at a loss to conceive where any improvement could now take place in this variety, and was of opinion that it had reached perfection as nearly as possible, and that now a turn of the wheel might be expected, though he did not believe that any of our breeds would become extinct, and gave several instances of breeds which had for a time suffered neglect, and had afterwards revived. Questioned as to Sultans, he admitted they were not numerous, but having rarely been favored with a class to itself the variety had not been cultivated. Twenty years ago, at Oxford, a class was formed and brought good results, and on that occasion a phenomenal pair was exhibited. Since then Sultans had been

relegated to the variety class or combined with Silkies and as a consequence the numbers had declined; it only needed that classes should be formed, and thus stimulus given, to bring any variety into prominence.

Andalusians in the early days were blue, and as now had white lobes, but white crept into the face, making it somewhat unsightly; altogether it was a different bird from specimens of to-day. To-day it was a bird to be proud of. The plumage should be a clear blue ground, every feather laced round with dark slatey blue, approaching black. Comb very thin, peculiar to itself, raised up well at back, lobe large and almond shaped, wattles long and pendulous, eye orange tinge, head dark, getting gradually lighter towards the shoulders, tail dark shade, breast bluish slate, legs blue. It was not so prolific in egg-producing, and the eggs were smaller than the Minorca, nevertheless, among the good layers, and especially an active forager.

Malays were almost at a standstill, and had, he considered, reached the zenith of their stature. They had been bred to such a pitch of excellence without extraneous aid, that he was afraid they were degenerating constitutionally, inasmuch as the best of these giants become paralysed by their abnormal length and growth.

Hamburgs have made a great advance. He remembered the time when black Hamburgs were scarcely worthy the name, no gloss on the plumage, large double comb, blue legs, too much color in eye tail too erect, &c., but exhibitions had done wonders for this breed. The Rev. Sergeantson had done as much in purifying and making this variety as any man. The silver and gold-spangled Hamburgs, which thirty years ago were great coarse birds, were to-day paragons of excellence, and one of the leading breeders of the silver variety (the Rev. Seymour Ashwell) prides himself that he has been able to produce his birds without trimming of any sort. Altogether a very great advance has been made on each and every sub-variety, including the lovely pencilled sorts.

A very great improvement had taken place in Game. In the early days there was only one class—viz., Old English Game. Modern Game was not known as it is now, and had in a degree been produced out of the old English Game, which for a time fell