

go-as-you-please system of keeping up his flock. The Queer Questioner, who is as much of a crank as is the most enthusiastic fancier, drops in upon us at this point with a staggering query that completely floors the Swagger Judge, who knows it all.

Where are we at?

Have you yet seen the chicken crank? Do you recognize him?

Is it he who has a sense of his own importance so developed that he thinks and endeavors to get the world to believe that he confers honor on the craft by condescending to be a chicken crank?

Is it he who forgets that the buyer has some rights that an honest chicken crank is bound to respect?

Is it he who is proud of this title of nobility, so proud of it as to induce him to persuade all men to become as himself minus conscious and possibly external and material disabilities?

Is it he who will watch an incubator hatch chicks during the hours devoted by normal humanity to wooing sleep, balmy sleep?

Is it he, who, whenever he sees you, tells you of the accurate feathers his chicks are growing according to the Standard?

Is it he who is always trying some new breed that, like St. Paul, he may win some?

Is it he who figures out the possible payment of the national debt in a decade if only everybody would become a chicken crank?

Is it he would rather doctor a sick hen than raise a well one, on the principle it may be presumed that animated the shepherd who thought more of the one sheep that was lost and is found than of the ninety-and-nine which needed nothing at his hands?

Is it he who sees souls in chicks through a psychological study of the beautiful creatures?

Or, to sum it all up, is it he who, no matter when you meet him, seizes the opportunity to compliment you upon your very own latest achievement in chicken crankdom?

Personally, I love and hail the latter as a brother. Let him recognize the brotherhood and confide in me his hopes and his fears, his experiences, and his ideas of their perfect realization, in the endeavor which animates us all in poultry culture.

ENGLISH BLACK ROSE COMB STANDARD.

A GOOD GUIDE FOR US TO FOLLOW.

Cockerel Standard of Perfection.

COMB.—Neat, long, square, and well filled in the front, and set firmly in the head, tapering off in width to the setting on of leader. **Top**.—Perfectly level and full of work, *i.e.*, crowned with little round spikes. **Leader**.—Set on with a stout base, firm, long, perfectly straight, and tapering to a point. The comb rising slightly from the front to the back, the leader rising also, and at the same angle as the comb.

BEAK.—Rather short, stout at the base, and black.

HEAD.—Broad, and short. **Face**.—Brilliant cherry red, and of fine texture. **Wattles**.—Same shade as comb and face, round, neat, and of fine texture. **Eyes**.—Hazel or brown.

LOBES.—Absolutely round, having nicely rounded edges, thick, and of uniform thickness all over, set firmly on the face, perfectly smooth, of kid like texture, and spotlessly white in colour—especially near wattles—proportioned in size to the bird, but not smaller than a sixpence or larger than a shilling.

NECK.—Rather short, and covered with wide hackle feathers, and having a well defined curve at the back—the hackle falling gracefully and plentifully over the shoulders and wingbows, and reaching out nearly to the tail.

SHOULDERS.—Broad and flat.

CHEST.—Broad, and carried well forward and upward, showing a bold curve from wingbow to wingbow.

BACK.—Short, broad and flat.

STERN.—Flat, broad, and thick, *i.e.*, not running off to nothing at the setting on of tail and covered with a profusion of long saddle feathers hanging down on either side like a fringe and extending from the tail to the middle of the back.

TAIL.—Carried well back, consisting of broad feathers, overlapping one another neatly, sound black in colour (a point of rare quality would be such feathers bearing a strong green sheen). **Sickles**.—Long, broad, from base to end, well circled round with a bold sweep (the inner tail feathers not protruding beyond the sickles). **Furnishing Feathers**.—Broad from base to end, and uniformly circled with the sickles, tips level, and hanging somewhat shorter than the sickles. **Side hangers**.—Broad and long, extra bright green in color, and, together with the saddle hackle, hanging down gracefully and filling the space between the stern and the wing-ends.

Clean, pure water, an ample supply of green food and suitable grit are essential to successful chicken raising.