

A CHEAP AND WARM POULTRY HOUSE.

BY J. H. PATON, TORONTO.

THE house was built 12 x 12 feet inside, with 2 x 4 scantling laid 4 inch way. When the outside was nailed on the whole inside was covered with newspapers, pasted on, and overlapping so as to cover broken joints. I laid the papers about two thick all over the sides and ceiling, making the pen air-tight. Then inside lining was put up with any rough stuff and covered again the same way with newspapers, and tar felt nailed on top, so as to keep the inside paper to its place in case the frost should gather inside and draw it off. I found afterwards that it would have done so, and would say, to be perfectly safe, that a few lathes nailed over the newspapers on outside wall, near corners, and a few over the large surfaces, would be a good thing, as moisture getting in might loosen the paper and it could not be got at to repair. Any light, tough paper would be better than the newspapers, as they are apt to be brittle, besides, present day newspapers are very apt to demoralize the hens! For ventilation, put in a box or pipe, running it from about four inches above the litter on the floor to one foot above the roof, with full sized opening at the bottom, and an opening with slide just inside the ceiling. Keep the upper ventilator closed, except on moist days, when, if opened, it will prevent frost gathering on inside wall. On extra cold days, when there was no sun, I sometimes found it necessary to close up the ventilator altogether. It is easier and looks better to put the ventilator between the walls, by just putting in two 4 inch strips, say 8 inches apart. I find that the best window for a hen-house is one put lengthways, say 2 feet 6 inches by 8 feet for above sized house, with lower sash coming even with top of litter or dust boxes, and made double; the door should also be double, and lower frame a foot from the floor, the outside door to open outward and inside one inward; both can be made tight by tacking strips of soft cloth or old tweed around the edges. The roof was just single board with tar-felt and gravel on the outside and tarpaper drawn tight over the rafters. Run the paper up and down with laths over the joints. Any other good roof would do, only have the house as near air-tight as possible. The sides were built 7½ x 4½, the lowest to the south, and window in south side, so as to get as much of the surface exposed to the sun as possible. Put door in east end, if possible. This house would hold a good many hens, but I find they do best with plenty of room, and are not so apt

to get into bad habits when they are kept at work. Bear in mind, no matter what shape you build your house, keep the windows near the floor. The heat that comes from them will rise and warm the upper part of the house, and at night the cold sinks to the floor and is in the best place to be warmed by the light of day. If possible, arrange your house so that there will be no dark corners on the floor, let the light get everywhere. Put your nest boxes each side of the window, with openings away from the light, and at least one foot off the floor.

THE RED PYLE GAME BANTAM.

BY H. S. BARCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R.I.



AT the last Providence show there was a strong class of red pyle Game Bantams. For second on cockerel there were three birds which tied on a score of 94 points, which goes to show, inasmuch as the Game Bantams were judged by experts on this class of birds, that the red pyle stands well up in station and color.

It is, in fact, an exceedingly interesting little bird, and illustrates an interesting fact in relation to color breeding. Its origination is due to a cross of the black-breasted red and the white, and in this cross the white obliterates the black of the black-breasted red, but the red persists. The red pyle is thus, in color, a black breasted red with all the black parts changed to white. Black is thus seen to be a less permanent color than red and much more easily obliterated. One would naturally think that it would be the most persistent of colors and that the red would be the factor most easily eliminated by a cross, but such is not the case. A little consideration will show us that red ought to be the more persistent color. We all have noticed—all at least who have bred many white fowls with yellow legs—that in white fowls, especially in the males, there is an almost ineradicable tendency to yellow in the plumage. Black specks sometimes come, but they are gotten rid of without great difficulty, but the yellow is there and cannot be got rid of. Yellow, however, is but a weaker form of red, for we find it in all buff breeds changing into red, especially on the shoulders. In the cross, then, of a bird of the black-red type with a white one, we have the tendency to red in both specimens. Black, however, as any breeder of light Brahmas, for example, knows, is a color that can be kept up