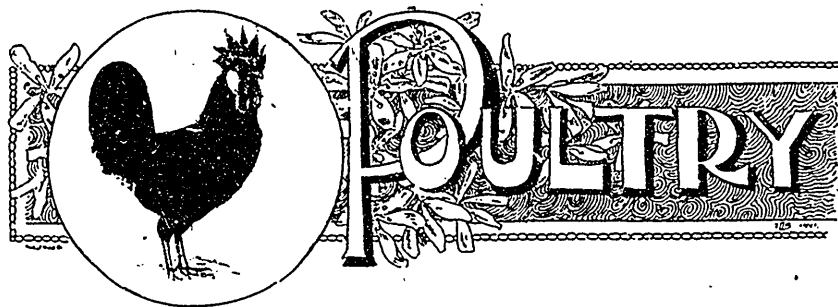




Poultry Illustrations.

We present our readers this month with two illustrations of that grand breed — White Plymouth Rocks. They represent the cock, winner of 1st prize, and pullet, also winner of 1st prize, at Washington, D.C., last winter. Both are owned by Messrs. C. W. Jerome & Co., Fabius, N.Y. The firm is one of the foremost breeders of White Plymouth Rocks and White Minorcas in America. The writer has had extensive dealings with them, and knows them to be reliable.

Toulouse Geese.

The Toulouse is the heaviest of all our varieties of purebred geese and will sometimes reach fifty pounds per pair, though forty to forty-two pounds, when in good condition, is plenty heavy enough for good breeding stock. They vary in color from dark slate on the neck and back to a light gray on breast and front part of the body, with stern and under part of body white. They are very massive in appearance.

Some of our German friends, the *Poultry Tribune* says, who are raising these geese (either purebred or crossed with the common goose) for the home market, tell that they frequently have them to weigh fifteen pounds dressed at Thanksgiving or a little later, and usually receive ten cents per pound for them, besides having the feathers left, which are worth about 75 cents per pound.

There is always a good demand for well-fatted young geese in towns of 8,000 and upward, Jewish people being especially good customers for them, as they can utilize the fat in making pastries, etc., instead of lard, which their religious belief will not allow them to use.

Goose-farming is a branch of poultry-keeping that has been much neglected, and offers good returns to those who will turn their attention to it. The popular opinion, *i.e.*, that they are a filthy, greedy, and noisy nuisance, is not a correct one, if they are properly provided for. They

should be provided with a pasture for their especial use, just as is provided by many farmers for their hogs, though both could be kept in the same lot, we believe, without any trouble, a fence three and one-half to four feet high being sufficient to confine the Toulouse. If provided with a good pasture lot and plenty of water to drink, the adult geese will require no grain food from the time the grass comes in the spring until late in the fall, and they are not excessive eaters of grain even during the winter. They seem to crave more bulky food, and will eat quantities of corn leaves and fine clover hay if allowed access to it.

Goslings require some grain food until six or eight weeks old, after which they will make rapid growth on grass alone, but will require a good grain ration for some weeks in the fall if they are to be dressed and sold.

We have had a good opportunity to observe a large flock of these geese for some years, and we firmly believe them to be the least expensive to raise and keep of any of our domestic fowls, while their product (dressed carcass and feathers) is always in good demand in the market at very good prices, which do not fluctuate like those for any other kind of fowl products.

Not a Matter of Chance.

There are a great many disputed points in poultry culture, and some people seem to distress themselves a good deal over this fact. One person will tell you that the laying qualities of hens cannot be brought to the highest development in confinement—that they must have free range to attain their best in this respect. Another says he gets the most eggs when his hens are confined in yards and fed according to a system which experience has taught him is the best that can be devised. One man will advise you to keep pullets if you want to obtain the most eggs, another is ready to prove to you that pullets will not lay any more eggs than one and two-year-old hens. It is believed by some that there is no