

A Savage Ewe.

Last fall I bought a small flock of sheep, all ewes. One of them was quite thin; she ate well, but did not gain. At every opportunity, she would slip from the yard to where the offal from butchering was thrown, and lick the blood and gnaw the lights. After a little the offal was removed. When my early lambs began to come, I noticed a good many of them had their legs bleeding and some had a foot gone. It was quite a mystery how it happened. The dog was a fine shepherd, faithful and trusty, but he was kept confined from suspicion. About a week ago, in going into the fold about 9 o'clock at night, a pair of twin lambs had just arrived; they were strong and healthy, and the mother was fond of them. Early in the morning I went to look at them, and the poor little fellows were badly mutilated; one was hobbling around on four footless legs, and the other was so badly mangled that it could not get up. I was determined to unravel the mystery, and watched the fold through a window. Soon this blood-thirsty animal approached the prostrate victim, and commenced gnawing the bleeding body. I stopped the performance quite suddenly, you may imagine; but why a peaceable animal like a sheep should perform such an anomalous action, is past my understanding. —*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

Ammoniacal Soap for Washing Wool.

The soaps with a base of potash or soda do not produce, in washing wools, so advantageous results as a soap with a base of ammonia. The fabrication of this last is difficult and expensive. M. Robart proposes to employ for this purpose a liquid at present almost out of use, — putrid urine, that is to say, a urine in which the urea is completely transformed into carbonate of ammonia. He commences by saturating this liquid, by means of hydrochloric or sulphuric acid, which is a solution of chloride, or sulphate of ammonia. Upon this he afterwards turns a solution of potash or soda soap. He thus effects a double decomposition, and obtains, on one side, sulphate or chloride of potash, or soda, and on the other an ammoniacal soap, under the form of an insoluble coagulum. — *Annales de Chimie.*

HOW TO TELL WHEN A MARE IS WITH FOAL. — A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* gives the following method. — Take a rope, strap or string, and measure around the girth where the harness goes on the back and the belly band buckles up, then measure again, just forward of the hind legs, around the body; if larger around the latter place than in the former, you may safely conclude she is with foal.

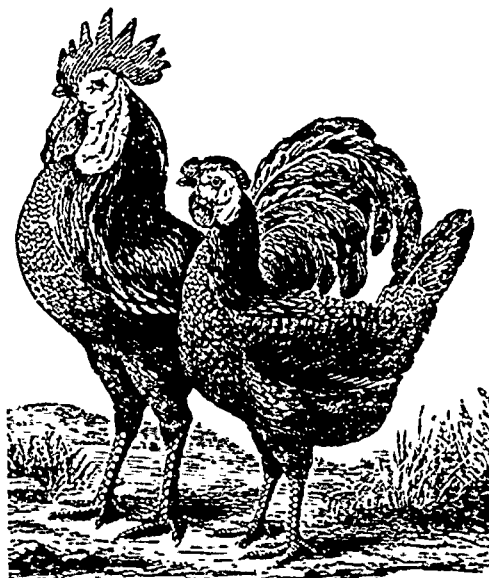
THOROUGH-BRED AND FULL-BLOOD. — An animal containing fifteen-sixteenths of thorough-bred blood is designated as full blood. To acquire this, a cold blooded animal, or one of common or indiscriminately mixed blood, must have received four infusions of thorough-bred blood. The first cross would give us a half-blood; the second a three-quarter-blood; the third a seven-eighths, and the fourth a fifteen-sixteenths-bred animal. Many breeders consider a seven-eighths-bred animal as a full blood. A thorough-bred is an animal that may be traced through the herd book, or the turf register, to a given ancestor without intermixture with impure blood. In cattle, the short-horns are called thorough-bred, the Devons pure-blood, the latter being animals that come constant in color and characteristics. They are a distinct race of cattle. The Short-horns in cattle, and racing stock in horses are descended from mixed breeds. — *Western Rural.*

PENS FOR SWINE. — The *New York Herald* says: A few days since the writer called at a neighbor's residence, who had a beautiful Chester white sow with three pigs about six weeks old. She brought forth nine, but overlaid six of them. The live pigs were worth \$5 each. Hence there was a loss of \$30, simply because his foreman did not understand how to prepare a suitable bed for a breeding sow. A large quantity of straw had been allowed to accumulate in her sleeping apartment, so that she had formed a deep hollow about the size of her body. As the young pigs could not get out of such a place, when the dam was about to lie down, they were smothered. Our own practice with brood sows has always been to remove all the long straw from a sow's bed, at least a month prior to the birth of her brood, and spread a few bushels of cut straw on the floor for her to lie on. Young pigs will never become entangled in such a bed; neither will they get cornered so that the dam will overlay them. When pigs are worth \$5 each it will pay the proprietor to prepare a suitable bed for the sow. Long straw should never be spread in a brood sow's sleeping apartment, except when no pigs are expected.

Poultry Yard.

Spanish.

Next to the Dorking comes the Spanish in popularity; no two breeds of fowls have attained so wide a celebrity as these, and none better deserving. Long before any of the Asiatic breeds were known, the Spanish were widely and extensively bred and exhibited at private shows in England, by which means they were raised to a high degree of excellence. With regard to their origin, they are said to have come from Spain, but at what particular period it would be difficult to say. The names of the sub-varieties — Andalusians, Minorcas, Anconas — all point to a Spanish origin. And Mr Tegetmeier points out that the cultivation of this breed by the Dutch followed, and was consequent upon the Spanish occupation of the Low Countries. And it is said that all about the Mediterranean a fowl decidedly of the Spanish type is indigenous to that country. Even in Algiers, Egypt, and all along the northern coast of Africa, the same type of bird extensively prevails, and points most conclusively to the "Great Sea" of the Ancients as the native home of the Spanish fowl.



White Faced Black Spanish.

The most striking characteristics of this breed is the white face, which, with size, quality and shape, are the chief points in a show bird. The quick and frequent motion of the head, the strutting gait and noble carriage of a Spanish cock renders him an object worthy the admiration of the fancier. No point in any race of poultry shows more effectually what can be done in the way of careful breeding than the face of the black Spanish fowl. In every breed of fowl there is a more or less tendency to white in the ear lobe — even in those in which it is a decided blemish — and it is by the selecting of such birds as show the greatest tendency in this way, and breeding again from the best of their progeny, that white ear lobes have been developed, as in the case of the Hamburgs as well as the Spanish. But although the white ear lobes so frequently developes itself, it is not so with whiteness in the face, which is more rare. Signs of white face are, however, observable now and then in nearly all white-eared breeds, and no doubt it was by selecting such specimens that the white-faced Spanish received its present striking development. Two kinds of faces are usually seen, one known as the smooth-faced, the other the cauliflower. The smooth face should be of a soft and delicate texture, free from black hairs or feathers, and as smooth as possible. The cauliflower-faced, though sometimes very showy in chickens, invariably

look coarse and rough when older, and not unfrequently cover up the eye so that the bird becomes perfectly blind. Mr. Tebbay, quoted in Wright's Poultry Book, thus describes the Spanish fowl: — "The face of the cock should be entirely free from coarseness, for in the very coarse, lumpet-faced birds, the white as they get older will close up the eye so as to prevent a bird from seeing. When this arises from the white under the eye getting so puffed out as to prevent the lids from opening, a piece of the white may be cut out so as to allow the eye to open freely. Cockerels with the white over the eye running to an angle towards the back part of the face, have very often the sight destroyed in the second year by the white over the eye growing down. As this part cannot be cut without disfiguring the bird, a piece of thread is put through a small portion of the white above the eye, passed close to the back of the comb over the top of the head to the other side, and through a corresponding portion of the eye there; this is then tied so as to raise the white on both sides, and leave the sight unobstructed. The Spanish cock's beak should be long and stout, and of a deep horn color. The comb should be bright red, single, firm, and well set on the head, so as not to shake about; thick at the base, and so gradually thinner to the edge; perfectly erect, straight, and free from twist either in front or any other part. It should rise from the beak between the fore part of the nostrils, and extend in an arched form over the back part of the head, the under part at the back almost touching the top of the neck. It should be deeply serrated, the serrations beginning about an inch from the beak, and being small in front, gradually increasing in size until they reach the higher part. The head should be large altogether, being both long, broad, and very deep sided; the eyes large, perfectly free and open. The face and ear-lobe should be of the purest white, and the texture soft and delicate, like the finest white kid; smooth and free from ridges or folds, the sight being perfectly free and not obstructed by the white. The white should reach well on to the beak in front, and rise over the eye close to the base of the comb in an arched form, and extend well towards the back of the head, the further over and behind the ear the better, and continuing to extend, without any break in the line, towards the back of the upper part of the neck. The ear-lobe also should be as long, broad, and open as possible, spreading out on the neck perfectly free from folds, and hanging down very low, not in any degree narrowing to a point, but preserving its width well until neatly rounded on the bottom, coming up again in front of the neck, and joining the wattles, which last should be bright red, long and thin; the inside of the upper part and the skin betwixt, white.

"The neck of the cock should be long and gracefully arched, with the hackle abundant, and reaching well on to his shoulders. The breast is prominent and most beautifully rounded, and the body neatly narrowing to the tail, with the wings close up to the body. He carries himself proudly and rather upright, giving the back a neat even slant to the tail, which is amply adorned with fine curved sickle feathers, and is carried rather upright. The thighs and legs long and neat, the latter being of a dark leaden hue. Plumage a rich glossy black, with a beautiful metallic lustre on the higher parts. In the Spanish hen the beak is also of a deep horn color, or nearly black; but the comb, though large, single, and deeply serrated, falls entirely over one side of the face. The face resembles that of the cock, but is smaller; and the wattles in the female sex are preferred small and thin. The larger the face is the better, if fine and free from ridges or coarseness, and there should be no apparent division between face and ear-lobe. The shape of the hen is very graceful and much the same as in the cock, allowing for the usual difference in the two sexes."