

Poultry Yard.

Standard of Excellence in Poultry.

SPANISH.

GENERAL SHAPE—COCK.

Beak—Dark horn color, rather long and stout.
Comb—Bright red, large, single, stiff, erect, straight, free from twists in front or falling over to either side at the back, deeply serrated, rising from the beak, twisting the forepart of the nostrils, and extending in an arched form over the back of the head, free from excrescences or side sprigs, and not of too great thickness at the edge.

Head—Long, broad, and deep-sided.
Eyes—Large, the sight perfectly free, and not obstructed by the white.

Face—Pure opaque white, long and deep, the greater breadth of surface the better, providing it is smooth, free from wrinkles, and the sight not obstructed, rising well over the eye towards the comb in an arched form, extending towards the back of the head, and also to the base of the beak, covering the cheeks and joining the ear-lobes and wattles.

Ear-lobes—Pure opaque white, very large and pendent, rather thin, smooth, well expanded and free from folds or wrinkles, extending well on each side of the neck, hanging down very low, not pointed, but regularly rounded to the lower part, and meeting in front, behind the wattles.

Wattles—Bright red, very long, thin, ribbon-like, and pendulous; the inside of the upper part, and skin between, white.

Neck—Long, well hackled.

Breast—Round, full, and prominent.

Back—Slanting down to the tail.

Body—Wedge-shaped, narrowing to the tail.

Wings—Large, carried well up to the body.

Tail—Large, expanded and rather upright, but not carried over the back, or squirrel-tailed.

Sickle feathers—Large and well curved.

Thighs—Long and slender.

Legs—Long, dark leaden blue, or blue.

Plumage—High glossy black, having a metallic green lustre on the back, back, wings, saddle, tail coverts, and sickle feathers.

Carriage—Upright and striking.

DISQUALIFICATIONS IN SPANISH COCKS.

Comb—Falling over to one side, or twisted in front over the nostrils.

Face—So puffy as to obstruct the sight, devoid of red mark above the eye.

Plumage—Of any other color except black, or metallic green black.

Legs—Of any other color except dark leaden blue, or blue.

GENERAL SHAPE—HEN.

Beak—Dark horn color, or g.

Comb—Dusky bright red large, single, serrated, drooping over to one side of the face, free from side sprigs or duplicature.

Head—Long and deep.

Eyes—Large.

Face—Pure opaque white, smooth and free from wrinkles, with good breadth of surface, rising well over the eye in an arched form, extending well towards the back of the head, and also to the beak, covering the cheek, and joining the ear-lobes and wattles.

Ear-lobes—Pure opaque white, large, pendent, smooth, well expanded, free from wrinkles, regularly rounded on the lower edge.

Wattles—Bright red, thin, pendent, and rounded on the lower edge.

Neck—Long and graceful.

Breast—Round and full.

Back—Slanting down to the tail.

Wings—Ample, carried close up to the body.

Tail—Large, carried rather upright, but not over the back, the two highest feathers slightly curved, especially in pullets.

Thighs—Long and slender.

Legs—Long, dark leaden blue, or blue.

Plumage—Black, with a rich metallic lustre on the back and wings.

Carriage—Upright, movement quick.

DISQUALIFICATIONS IN SPANISH HENS.

Duplicature of comb, comb small and erect (prick combed); devoid of red mark over the eye, plumage of any other color except black, or metallic black, legs of any other color except dark leaden blue, or blue; birds that are trimmed in any part whatever.

POINTS IN SPANISH FOWL.

Comb..... 25

Face..... 25

Ear-lobe..... 25

Purity of white, face and ear-lobe..... 25

Symmetry..... 25

Condition and Plumage..... 25

The French Breeds of Fowls.

THE *London Times* contains an article on the Poultry Department of the Paris Exposition. We extract the following paragraphs.

The finest fowls in the Exposition were the Crevecoeurs, the Houdans and La Fleche. The first variety, of which many very good specimens are shown, are large-bodied, short-legged fowls, black in color, and having their heads ornamented with a crest of feathers and a two-spiked comb. The Houdans have very much the same general characters, but they are black and white in color, and often possess a fifth claw. Both these breeds are obviously the result of crossing the fowl with the large-feathered crest known since the time of Aldrovandus as the Paduan breed, with a large farm-yard variety. La Fleche is a long-legged black fowl, with little or no crest, but with a spiky two-horned comb that gives a strange, weird, hob-

goblin-like expression to the face. These three breeds are alike remarkable for their whiteness of skin and fat, their early maturity, the ease with which they fatten, and, above all, the smallness of their bone. This latter is a point on which the French rearers justly pride themselves. In a good table fowl, according to their opinion, the bones should not amount to one-eighth of the weight of the flesh.

By some strange infatuation, remarkable in so practical a people as the English, we do the reverse, and a Dorking breeder expatiates on the bulk of the bone in the limbs of his birds as a point of merit, forgetting that all weight of bone beyond that requisite to support the animal is so much useless ballast, of no value as food, though having been produced at the cost of so much nourishment.

As table fowls, the only English breed that can at all compete with the French varieties is the colored Dorking, and this has the disadvantage of being rather delicate in constitution, an evil which is common to it and to La Fleche, and, though to a smaller degree, the Crevecoeur, but from which the Houdan is exempt.

In connection with the subject of French poultry-keeping may be mentioned the fictitious accounts which periodically re-appear respecting the existence of gigantic horse-fed poultry establishments in France. These accounts are entirely fabulous. It is impossible to keep very large numbers of poultry in one spot, as disease invariably breaks out as soon as the ground becomes tainted. Moreover, the fowl is a granivorous, and not a carnivorous bird, and cannot exist on flesh diet. The experiment of extensive poultry-breeding establishments has been tried repeatedly, both in Europe and in America, and in every case the result has been a disastrous pecuniary failure.

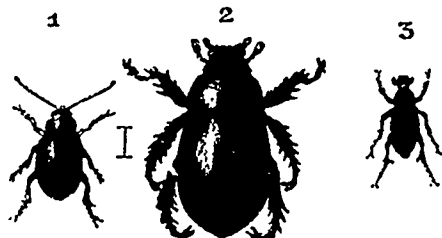
It is said that fowls will lay better by being confined a part, say the morning, of each day.

PERAMBULATING HEN-HOUSE.—A French farmer, M. Giot, has invented a sort of fowl omnibus in which he shelters and moves about a very large number of the best varieties of the French breeds, Houdan and Crevecoeur. This omnibus, as soon as spring opens, is drawn to the fields that are to be ploughed, where the poultry, being let out every morning and shut up at night, find abundant sustenance, and at the same time are eminently serviceable in ridding the fields of innumerable worms and larvae, that would otherwise do serious damage to the crop. He thus manages to derive considerable direct profit from raising the poultry, and gains better crops by the indirect service they render him in the fields.

Entomology.

Insects Injurious to the Grape.

Now that the culture of the grape is becoming so important a department of horticulture—indeed, we may say of agriculture—in the western portion of this Province of Ontario, it is fitting that we should inves-



tigate the number and nature of its insect enemies, and endeavor to discover the best mode of repelling their attacks. Hitherto we have heard but little of any trouble of this kind among Canadian grape-growers, but we doubt not that ere long, as the cultivation of the vine becomes more extended, we shall ever and anon hear a cry raised about "the bug" and "the worm," and curses loud and deep will be pronounced upon the ill-omened destroyers. We do not write this to alarm those enterprising fruit-growers who are now making such praiseworthy exertions to prove the suitability of our soil and climate for the production of the grape on a large scale; but we wish them to learn beforehand what disadvantages they are liable to encounter, and so be prepared to meet them actively and intelligently, not blindly and in-

effectually. They are aware, no doubt, that in this, as in all other human enterprises, they are not to expect continuous sunshine, or freedom from at least occasional troubles; and hence they will not be surprised to learn that, like all other plants, the vine has its various insect foes, which will give them trouble from time to time. But to know beforehand the character and mode of attack of your enemy is half the battle, and in this, as in most other things, the truth of the old proverb is apparent:—"Forewarned, forearmed."

The number of insect enemies to which the grape is exposed in its roots and branches and leaves—from before the bursting of the first bud in the spring, to the ripening of the fruit in autumn—is indeed legion, and they belong to every order and degree, but happily they are such a kind that remedies may be readily applied, and with ordinary exertion they can be kept within due bounds.

The first to make its appearance in the spring is the GRAPE-VINE FLEA-BEETLE, (*Haltica thalysia*, Illig.) This destructive little insect makes its appearance during the first warm days of April, and attacks the yet unopened buds, boring into them, and devouring the embryo leaves and blossoms. Thus, as it has been truly said, "it eats two or three bunches of grapes at a mouthful!" It is a pretty little jumping beetle, of the same genus as the well-known and dreaded turnip flea-beetle, or "fly," as it is commonly called. The grape insect is, however, rather larger, being about three-twentieths of an inch long, and is of a uniform metallic color, steel-blue, as its name implies, or sometimes shining green, violet, purple, and even brown; the under side is usually dark green. The body is oblong-oval in shape, and the thighs of the hind legs are much thickened, being formed for leaping. This insect is represented in Fig. 1 of the accompanying cut.

After the beetles have fed upon the buds and young shoots of the vine for some little time, the female generally lays her eggs in May amongst the leaves. When the young are hatched they feed on the surface of the leaf, devouring the soft green part. According to Mr. Kirkpatrick, "the color of the full-grown larva is light brown, with eight rows of black spots above, those of the two dorsal being confluent; head and feet black; antennae very short. On each side of the back there is a single hair, and from the breathing apertures there proceed two. Length, about three-eighths of an inch. There are six true legs, and a fleshy anal pro-leg; the under side of the segments is swollen, giving the appearance of short pro-legs. When in motion, it brings its body up with a jerk like that of the caterpillars of the geometrid moths. About the first of June it enters the ground and changes to a pupa, emerging in from fourteen to sixteen days as a perfect insect. There are several broods in a season."

This insect is not at all uncommon in Canada, we have taken it in various localities; one year we captured some specimens on willows as early as March; the wild grape is its natural food, but it has no objection to the cultivated varieties. As we mentioned at page 238 of this volume, Mr. Arnold has sent us specimens from Paris, Ont., where he found it very destructive. The remedies most recommended are hand-picking, or gathering in bag-nets; dusting with lime when the leaves are wet with dew or rain; and watering with strong soap-suds.

The SPOTTED CLAY-BACK BEETLE (*Pelidnota punctata*, Linn.) is the next beetle that we have found infesting grape vines in this country, chiefly in the neighborhood of Niagara and St. Catharines; it has never, so far as we are aware, been found on the north side of Lake Ontario. While the flea-beetle just noticed was very small, this is a very big fellow, being about an inch long and half an inch broad. It is, as the annexed wood cut shows, Fig 2, oval in shape, with a black spot on each side of the thorax, and three others along the outer side of each wing-cover; its color is brownish yellow, or red clay color, the thorax and head being slightly bronzed and darker, while