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THE FANTAIL.

*(Continued.)*

A SCOTCH FANTAIL is all action and motion; in this consists its highest merit. Of course the nearer its tail approaches the perfect English type the better, but anything like flatness of tail is not to be expected in it. The tail feathers are not so numerous or long, and as long as they are evenly set, with no break in the centre, some approach to the funnel-shape must be tolerated. The bird should be very small, little more than half the size of the English Fantail. A Scotch Fantail of really high and (as the fanciers call it,) "nervous" carriage, when not busy feeding or on the nest, is ever walking on tiptoe, while the motion of the throat is so great that its whole body trembles. We must confess that we do not admire what we consider an exaggeration of this carriage. Birds are not infrequently seen which walk backwards, and even fall backwards as if in proxysms when they at-

tempt to fly; their heads, instead of being thrown straight back till they touch the tail, are then twisted round in an inelegant fashion, and altogether give them an unnatural appearance. A large flight of Scotch Fantails, all playing and trembling, is indeed a quaint and pretty sight, and never fails to delight and amuse non-fanciers. Our beau ideal of a Fantail is, however, a combination of the two styles, such as is to be seen in the lofts and show pens of a few of the most successful admirers of the breed. Of course the two varieties have been greatly interbred both by those who know what they are about and by those who do not, but often to the loss of the best characteristics of both, or at least to their general confusion. It is not, however, impossible for an expert breeder to produce a strain with the smallness, elegance, and tremulous carriage of the Scotch variety, yet with tails almost as round and flat as those of the