

dersized Java of poor quality. Not as many Bantams shown here as at our shows. Early chicks are not plentiful here this season, but I have seen a few very forward at some of the shows and in some of the yards. I noticed in one of the most noted yards that the chicks had no water or drink of any kind and when I spoke of it the proprietor said that he never gave his chicks any water as he thought they were better without it. I would not advise any body in our country to try it, I can understand how they might live here where there is so much rain, but not so with us. Speaking of shows, I think they have far too many, I do not think there is one week in the whole year but what there is one or more, and the breeders often keep showing their birds from place to place until they are completely used up. Exhibitors do not usually accompany their birds or even attend the shows, unless a few who are very convenient to place of show. I have written these few lines hurriedly on my lap and I hope you will read them without much trouble. I hope to see you now before long.

### THE BLACK JAVA.

BY J. E. MEYER, KOSSUTH.

**T**HIS breed of fowls has received comparatively little notice through our Canadian poultry papers. Why a fowl of such undisputed excellence should not receive more notice, I cannot say, unless it is owing to the extreme modesty of their breeders.

The origin of the Java is wrapped in mystery. They are generally supposed to have been originally introduced into the United States from the Island of Java at some unknown time. Let their past history be what it will, they are beyond question a distinct breed of

fowls, breeding remarkably true to type and color and showing no admixture of foreign blood.

In color, they are a beautiful metallic black, with a nice greenish tinge. The comb, wattles and earlobes are red, or should be red, although the earlobes often become partly white, which, however, is no disqualification. The head is small and neat; comb single, and of medium size; legs dark, and bare of feathers, and his carriage is majestic, making altogether a bird of great beauty.

As table fowls, they are hard to surpass. They have long, deep, compact bodies very full in the breast. The chickens grow rapidly, early becoming ready to kill. They always weigh heavier than you would expect, when looking at them. Their skin is a beautiful yellow, and meat fine and juicy. They are very active and need little feed when they can roam through fields. They bear confinement well, but require to be fed carefully when confined as they quickly become too fat. They lay fine, large, yellow eggs and plenty of them both summer and winter. They make capital mothers from whom cats and dogs soon learn to keep a safe distance. When you do not wish them to hatch, you should remove them from the nest as soon as they become broody, and shut them up for a few days. Putting the broody Java under water until nearly drowned, tying her up by the leg or kicking her, will do very little towards curing her. I trust no one in this age will do such unmanly things.

The Java I always found very easily handled. They like to be petted, in fact.

In conclusion, I must say that I feel certain that the black Java has a great future before it, because it is of such great beauty with so many good qualities, counterbalanced by so few bad ones, that no fancier who becomes acquainted with them can help but like

them. As a general purpose fowl, I am bound to say, after breeding them for five years besides many other varieties, that I am convinced that they have very few equals and fewer superiors.

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### POULTRY BREEDING.

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

No. 9.

### EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENT.

**I**T is a mooted question how far environment is responsible for variation. Most scientists are inclined to allow to it some effect, but they differ in respect to the amount. By environment is meant, of course, the surrounding influences, whether of climate, situation, soil or food, a term of very broad significance even if of somewhat indefinite definition. If environment causes, in any degree, variation, then environment is a factor in breeding not to be overlooked, I think it has some effect upon variation.

Climate, for example, has an effect upon size. In very cold climates there is a tendency to dwarf living things. Breeders make use of this tendency when they hatch Bantams late in the season that they may be dwarfed by the cold of winter. Of course, skill can overcome any such result by artificial means, such as early hatching, forcing the growth during the warm months of the year and providing a temperature that is tempered by artificial heat. In warm climates there is a tendency to increase the size of combs and it is suspected that nice combs of the Mediterranean breeds are a natural product of the mild climate of the countries