

and cumbersome," our friend has a faint idea that, "if an instrument were made, with an opening of suitable shape to receive the egg on its side, and of a form which could be adjusted to different sized eggs, &c., the fertility of the egg could be detected—"Precisely so; and this is just the reason why we prefer our Egg Tester to his. We have not an adjustable top to our Tester, but we have the next best thing to it that we are aware of. The top of the Tester we use is not nailed or screwed in, but moveable, and slides into a groove, in which it fits tight; the aperture in the top is of the shape of the egg when laid on its side, not endwise, which we much prefer; we have several of these tops or lids, with apertures of all sizes, from the Bantam to the Goose egg, to be used as occasion may require, and hence it is we prefer it.

"We have noticed," says the writer of this article, "in eggs set upon eight or ten days, a dark shadow, showing in the centre of the clear disk (the disk being faint), which would slowly fade away, and could be seen no more without changing the position of the egg." It is quite evident from this, our friend has yet much to learn. He seems to be unaware that this "dark shadow" is the rudiment of the young chick, undergoing a chemical change, and that the construction of the egg is such, that on whichever side it is turned, the rudimentary germ is uppermost, so as to receive the heat from the breast of the sitting hen, which we think satisfactorily accounts for its apparent "fading away." The mechanism by which this is managed is very simple; the lower side of the yolk is weighted or ballasted by two twisted heavy masses of albumen, termed the Chalazae, which, hanging down, keep the germ constantly uppermost, on whichever side the egg may be laid.

We would suggest to the writer to make a few more experiments—they are fruitful sources of information.

POLISH FOWLS.

THE SPANGLED VARIETY.

The Golden Spangled Polish differ so slightly from the Silvers, that a detailed description of their characteristics is not required; as after making due allowance for the difference in ground colour, the same remarks, with little variation, apply to both varieties.

The carriage of the Golden Cock is nearly as bumptious as that of the Bantam; the breast being very protuberant, the tail very full and flowing, and well arched upon the back.

There should not be any comb, not even a spike. The feathers of the top-knot are not simply red, for the lower part is black; the extension of the black upon the feathers differing a little in different birds, but always should be there. In a properly marked hen, the top-knot should be spangled like the rest of the body, and not black. Now, as to white feathers in the top-knots of cocks, and hens also, they are always present in birds two years old and upwards; they are commonly absent till the birds are a year old, but they will surely come, in greater or less number, with the autumnal moult. Their presence must not be considered a fault.

As to the tail of the cock, it is generally black, bordered with chesnut, as are the sickle feathers also; but the smaller side wavy feathers are like those of the body, rich chesnut, edged with iridescent black.

The tail of the hen is chesnut, tipped with black. The cock's tail is often grizzled with white, and the hen's often speckled and scratchy with black; such markings are, of course, to be regarded as imperfections.

The crest of the cock must not be flattened at the top, as in such cases the feathers are too thin and long; nor should it divide down the middle like a girl's hair. It must, as far as possible, preserve a rounded globular form, which