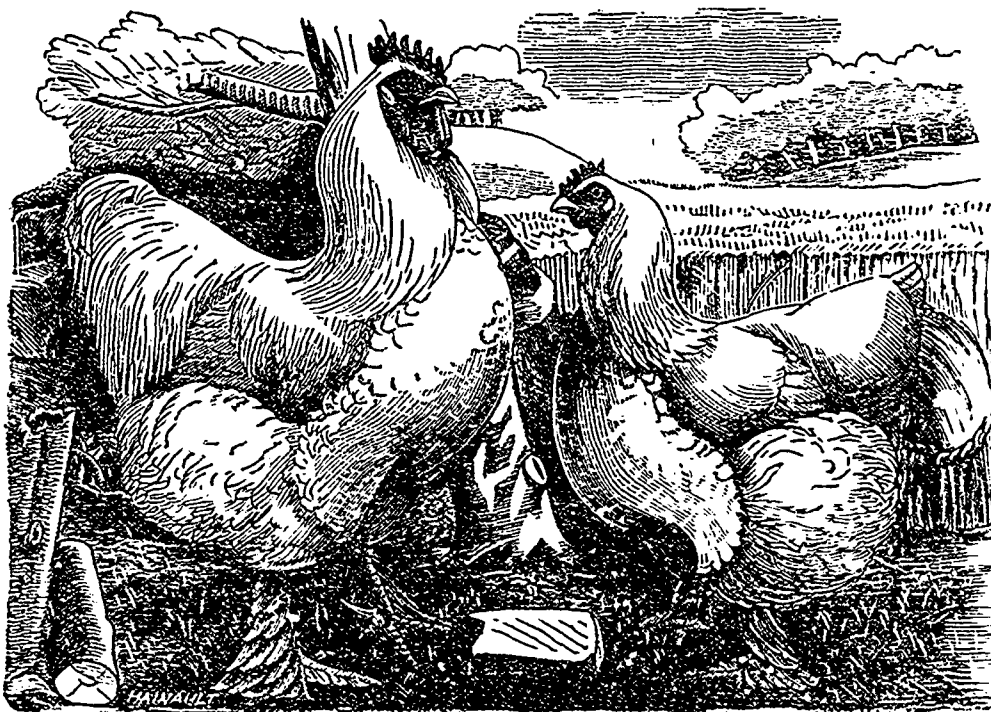


produced merely for show purposes. This is notoriously the case with certain dogs, and we have seen fowls which were stated and admitted to us to be bred from Dark Brahma cocks and White Cochins, which baffled every test we could bring to bear upon them to distinguish from pure-bred Light Brahmans. At the utmost, we might have a faint suspicion, but no more. Yet these again, as almost everyone can readily see, would produce the veriest trash.

Almost everyone, we say, can see so far as this, and even a step beyond, for on further consideration it is readily comprehended that the reason why one set of parents is so much more valuable than another, is simply that one is more or less likely to produce young as good or better than themselves, while the other is not. But few, except practical breeders, have perhaps any clear idea of *why* this is, beyond the fact that the one lot is "from Mr. A.'s yard," or of "Mr. B.'s strain." Observe, not a "prize" strain merely,

but "Mr. B.'s strain." We accentuate the difference purposely, because it is the working out of it that furnishes the clue to the mystery. There is no charm in Mr. B.'s name, it is something he has *done* that makes his stock thus valuable. What is it? We will look a little into this question on the next occasion.

DUCKLINGS.—Whether ducklings be brought out under ducks or hens, the young birds should be kept away from the water until they are from three to five weeks old. This looks as if the advice were unnatural, but three-fourths of the young ducks that are lost in early infancy are killed by cramps and chills from allowing them to rush into cold water before the down upon their skins is thick enough to resist these ill-effects. Ducks are aquatics, but are not marines! Most persons suppose that they belong to the water as fish do. The wild waterfowl have an oily coat that helps to preserve them, while domesticated ducks lose this under home cultivation.—*Fancier's Gazette.*



White Cochins.

White Cochins.

THE COCK.

Head: Rather short and small for the size of the bird; plumage white.—**Eyes:** Pearl, or bright red, and mild in expression.—**Beak,** well curved, stout at the base, rather short; and rich, bright yellow in color.

Comb: Brilliant red, single, firm, rather small, perfectly straight and upright, with well defined serrations, and free from side sprigs.

Wattles and Ear lobes: Wattles; rich red, of medium length, well rounded and fine in texture.—**Ear lobes;** rich red, large, pendant, and fine in texture.

Neck: Short, and neatly curved: hackle; full, flowing well over the shoulders, and, in color, pure white.

Back: Broad, with a gentle rise from the middle thereof to tail, and with saddle feathers very abundant; color, white, and as free as possible from a yellowish tinge.

Breast and Body: Breast; deep, broad and full.—**Body;** deep and round, and, in plumage, clear white, free from any yellowish tinge.

Wings: Small, the primaries well folded under the secondaries, so as to be entirely covered when the wings are closed; the general plumage white, and as free as possible from yellowish tinge.

Tail: Broad, short, soft and full, with the covers numerous, and carried more horizontally than upright; plumage, clear white.

Fluff: Very abundant and soft, covering the posterior portions of the fowl and standing out about the thighs and, in color, white.

Legs: Thighs; very large and strong, and plentifully covered with perfectly soft feathers, which on the lower part, should curve inward round the hock, so as nearly to hide the joint.—**Shanks,** yellow, short, stout, and wide apart, and heavily feathered down the outsides with white feathers:—