

comb of the American Sebright we have supplied a long felt want, a real fanciers' and farmers' fowl. The fancier has plenty of scope to breed for greater perfection, and the farmer has a fowl that he can depend upon to give him eggs all the year round, as they are excellent producers of large brown eggs, and are not such inveterate setters as the Brahmas and Cochins. They are very easily "broken up" when inclined to broodiness. I have had them lay up till June without wanting to sit, and then when penned alone for three days all inclination for setting left them.

They are excellent fowls for the market, having very broad breasts, with nice yellow legs. They are a good weight; cocks should weigh from eight to ten pounds, cockerels from six to eight pounds, hens from six to eight pounds, and pullets from five to seven pounds. They are not high flyers; a fence five feet high being sufficient to control them. They bear confinement remarkably well, therefore are just the breed for parties having limited space. I have found them to lay equally well in confinement, with but little extra care, as when allowed their liberty.

I know there are plenty of our old fanciers who are opposed to new breeds being added to the list, and I believe myself that any new variety should be thoroughly tested. American Sebrights have stood the test for ten years and have not been found wanting. In 1880 I exhibited two pairs at the exhibition of The Ontario Poultry Association, where a number of our old and esteemed fanciers said to me that from what they had seen of the variety before they had concluded they should never cross their fence, but admitted that they were so greatly improved as to be worthy of the attention of every fancier and farmer.

Fanciers, American Sebrights have come to stay. Give them your attention and care, and you will learn to look upon them with favor.

In conclusion I will say to those who have never seen them that in color they are black, each feather having a white egg-shaped spot near the tip, giving a crescent-shaped lacing as the feathers lay over each other. The back of the cock somewhat resembles that of the Dark Brahma in color.

Yours fraternally,
C. A. GRAF.

Fisherville, July 9th, 1882.

The birds that are intended for exhibition at the fall shows should now be kept in the shade as much as possible, no matter what their color may be. No amount of washing will take tan out of the feathers. Old birds may with advantage be closed in a rather dark room, or one where the direct rays of the sun do not enter. Varieties having white ear-lobes will be much benefitted by this treatment.

A Word on Dorkings.

Is it not a fact, Mr. Editor, that in almost every department of life, both of men and things, that there is a dropping off or a total discarding of that which has served us well, or found a strong place in our thoughts or affections, for some other aspirant to favor that seeks or asks for a place or a share where others have held full sway, forced upon us oftentimes by either some favorable circumstance, or by that all powerful agent "printers' ink."

And what seems so strange about the whole thing is that we often discard or throw aside that which is good for something inferior, and which will not serve our purpose so well. Let the reader consider for a little and I think he will be able to call to mind many things good in themselves that have been laid aside just because fashion or some fortuitous circumstance thrust it forth upon the public mind. And so I think it has been with our old friends the Dorkings. They are, in this country at least, almost a thing of the past; even in their native clime they have had to give place to other favorites for the time being. Once they headed the list at the shows in England, but now other varieties have stepped in and taken the coveted place. Is it because they were more deserving or more worthy of it? I think not, but because of the desire or change. Will it not be conceded on all hands that the Dorkings stands preeminently first and foremost as a table fowl, with their large plump bodies, full breast and short legs, with comparatively small bone, while the flesh in flavor and whiteness gives to the connoisseur all that can be desired. Nor does the breed fail to present to the fancier many attractions, with the different varieties. The white with its fine sprightly appearance; the silver grey and colored with their variegated plumage—the cocks especially with their fine flowing tails and large sickle feathers, presenting to the eye of the fancier an attraction not always to be found in other kinds. And as to their laying qualities, they will compare very favorably with most of the other large breeds. I am aware that objection may be made with regard to their want of hardness of constitution to resist the rigour of our severe climate, but there are other varieties that require some extra care on the same score, which, if given to the Dorking, would bring him through in safety.

I should like to hear through the medium of the Review from some fancier who has kept the dorking, and who could post us on the good and bad qualities. Never having kept the bird I cannot speak from experience, therefore not in a position to speak positively on the subject, but from my general knowledge feel assured there is enough to warrant them a more prominent place, both in our shows and in the yards of our poultry lovers.

PURE BLOOD.

Montreal, July 14th, 1882.