

is a family, however few in number, there with the little bits and scraps that must always be on plates and dishes, according to size of premises and family, Bantams may be kept, and with profit too. Bantams we believe produce quite as much for their food as ordinary breeds, but their chief use is in the garden, where they eat many slugs and insects with very little damage. Therefore, on this account, they may be usefully and profitably kept where a separate poultry yard is found impracticable, nor is there any breed affords greater amusement and interest where there are children, and for a few of these birds the expense is *nil*, while many eggs are the return.

There are several varieties of Bantams at the present day, but in the last century there were only recognised two, the feather-legged and smooth-legged. The feather-legged, speckled Bantams of those days may be said to be extinct, but the feather-legged white are still to be found in considerable numbers. The smooth-legged were the Nankin Bantams, and were much the prettiest; they had their fair share in producing the beautiful Sebright and the modern Game Bantam. The old feather-legged and Nankin did very well in a moderate range, especially the former, who were less active. There were also smooth-legged white Bantams.

Next comes the Sebright Bantam, that elegant plumaged bird manufactured by the late Sir John Sebright, and known by his name. They were for a time a rage, and put all other Bantams to flight in the esteem of fanciers. Never was a greater triumph in feather culture than was achieved in the production of this bird. We are sorry to see that at the late leading English shows signs of decay in feathering were noted. The Sebright fancy is one which should not be suffered to go down, Bantams are especially ladies' pets, and

the Sebright, from its beautiful feathering, and the special skill ladies have in color and markings, should be the ladies' bird. When first hatched they are the most beautiful of all chickens.

Game Bantams may next be alluded to. They were a great gain to the fancy world, and in the best specimens they are the very similitude of the Game fowl—symmetry, color, legs, expression of countenance, and even attitudes, all Game. All other Bantams have rightly the thick Bantamy form; they are like the thick Shetland ponies; while the Game Bantams are like the slim racing ponies. Even the last introduced, the Japanese Bantams, have the thick shape, while they look over-combed, and resemble little men with too large hats.

Black Bantams, too, have come very quickly into fashion; they are a hardy, well-looking, and extremely intelligent breed of fowls. The cocks are as handsome as any bird that crows, with their bright rose combs, flowing hackles, and arched tails, and white deaf ears, and rich purple hues not unlike those of a barb pigeon.

Bantams, especially the two varieties we have just noticed, produce abundance of eggs, and the pullets, both of the Game and Black, are excellent winter layers. Some people object to the small size of Bantam eggs that foolish though oft-repeated objection, because it is not quite easy to eat two, three, or four, if you like. The Game Bantam ought to be dubbed like the Game Cock; the bird not being in the least degree daunted or depressed by it, shows that it does not suffer much. Cut close with stable scissors, and have the kitchen dredge-box at hand, and dust the place well with flour, and henceforth the bird cannot be taken at a disadvantage by any chance adversary. All Bantams sit well, and are good mothers.

Bantams ought never to be hatched earlier than June; if they are they will