

THE WHITE GAME BANTAM.

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

IF the writer has ever spoken disrespectfully of the white Game Bantam he desires here and now to retract the statement and humbly apologize for any offence which he may have given. He is led to say this for several reasons.

First. Because the white Game Bantam when bred to typical shape, with pure white plumage and rich yellow legs, is a strikingly beautiful bird.

Second. Because white in its purity is a color needed in Game Bantams, both for its own beauty and for its use in the production of red pyles.

Third. Because, and this is the principal reason, that there are now-a-days white Game Bantams bred to such high station and correct shape that they deserve all the praise which can be bestowed upon any variety.

Not so many years ago there were few, if any, really good white Game Bantams. The birds were short in the leg, heavy in the tail, thick in the head, and soft in the feather, everything which a Game Bantam should not be and very little of what a Game Bantam should be. They were in fact of the type of the pit Game, a type not without considerable beauty, but a type that is a *bete noir* to an admirer of the exhibition Game. But in recent years a great change has come over this Bantam. We in America can not claim the credit of this change to any great extent, although American birds have been improved, but we owe the change to the work of English fanciers, whose birds we have imported and used. The writer had an English bred cock of this variety, which had won before importation into this country first as cockerel at the Crystal Palace Show, a bird of such remarkable station and character that he put the black-breasted reds on their best behaviour to show with him. This bird, having been sold, the writer has no delicacy in characterizing him as one of the finest shaped Game Bantams, of any variety, which he ever saw. The use of such birds has changed the character of the white Game Bantam and we can now speak of it in terms of praise.

The white, as a variety, is probably the heaviest among Game Bantams. It is not surprising to find many of the birds of more than Standard weight. These birds are valuable to breed from, as they are usually of excellent station, but it is the smaller ones bred from them that take the high scores. We know of a white Game Bantam hen scoring 96

points and deserving the score, which weighed but fifteen ounces and was in good plump condition.

A flock of these white beauties make as pretty a show as ever graced a gentleman's lawn. Upon the green grass their pure white color and trim bodies show to great advantage. And now that they are of such fine station there seems to be no good reason why this should not be one of the most popular varieties in the whole list.

"HE WHO GOES A BORROWING GOES A SORROWING."

Editor Review :

SEE in your last issue an article from Mr. J. Dilworth regarding American fanciers not exhibiting. Now, what I would like to say, Mr. Editor, is what is the matter with Canadian fanciers, or local men, not exhibiting? Now, as soon as some of the members of the Toronto Poultry Association stop their hawking then, and not till then, will the Chairman see more local fanciers exhibiting their (own) stock. Now, I cannot believe Mr. Dilworth is ignorant of this phase of it. I for one cannot see the fairness of showing against a man or men who scour twenty or thirty fanciers' yards to get one good bird and then to enter it as their own bird or stock when they only pay twenty-five cents for the loan of it. I am not speaking from fancy but from experience. I have got tired of lending birds (like a good many more) for Owen Sound, Montreal, Ottawa, etc., for the reason that it does not pay to send one pair, so they (the hawkers) say, where it does to make twenty or thirty entries. I would have showed one man up last Industrial had I had the \$5 with me. Now, Mr. Dilworth, if you wish to induce more fanciers to come to your show, cry down the hawkers in the Association. And if you wish to have a good discussion next meeting night bring this matter up, but before doing so mix yourself a tonic, as you will have five or six pounce upon you. This is the only way to stop it. If you wish any names I can give them.

Todmorden, Aug. 18, '96.

GILBERT SELF.

[These indefinite charges really do little good. Lay a specific case before the Association, with ample proof, and we have no doubt but the matter will be thoroughly thrashed out. Does Mr. Self think the *lender* bears no blame in a case of this kind? Our own opinion is that borrower and lender are on about a parity, but the latter is the bigger fool as *he gains no advantage from the prizes his stock may win.*—ED.]