

## THE POULTRY YARD.

(Continued from page 281.)

The Malay cock is one of those hardly to be classed among the fighters. His gait is restless and threatening. His physiognomy is cruel, impatient, fierce. He carries the head very high; his neck, straight and slender, gives an angular form to the shoulders. His body is very much raised in front and set on long legs, and finished by a slender horizontal tail, composed of short feathers straight and pointed. Somewhat fleshy and large in the body, its plumage is smooth and close.

*Plumage.*—The feathers are very long, very straight, and without any down, fitting close to the body in layers like the scales of a fish. They seem varnished and are very slippery.

There are Malays of many colours, but the principal types are—the White variety, the most esteemed for the good effect they produce when the cocks and hens are together, the pure white of the feathers, the yellow beak and feet, and the red which surrounds the head are effective.

Of the Black variety, the cock is always marked with red on the shoulders, though the rest of the plumage is black, and the hen is all black.

The Red variety is bright red on the hackle; the lancets and the large wing-feathers of a deep mahogany red to the shoulders, on the breast and thighs, of a paler red on the sides, on the abdomen and legs; coverts of the wings and the whole of the tail brilliant green. The hen of this variety is entirely red with rosy tints in patches in all the varieties. The hackle feathers are short, and make more apparent a very long neck. The tail is short and thin.

The Malay hen has the same characteristics as the cock, and has also fighting propensities. She has, like him, a conical shape, fierce look, and a dark and cruel eye. The hackle feathers are extremely short and close-fitting on the neck, giving to this part a very slender appearance, making still more than in the cock a greater prominence of the shoulders. She weighs from 6 lbs. 10 ozs. to 7½ lbs. Lays a pretty large number of eggs, having a yolk light yellow, very solid. She sits well and brings up her chickens well.

The English esteem this variety highly, using it for a cross to give weight to birds for table. I think it should be used with great circumspection, especially with Cochins or Brahmans. Malays often are sold in France under the name of "the Brazil," "the cock of Gros-Marne," sent to the Society of Acclimatisation under the name of "the Reunion cock," and an amateur member of this society wished, under pretext of a difference hardly discernible, to call "the Malacca."

The variety is useless, and its fierce habit makes it impossible to associate it with our indigenous fowls. The detestable fowls known under the fallacious names of "Ganges," "Bengal," "Russian," and American," are degenerated or mixed descendants of the real Malay.—*Cottage Gardener.*

### THE PADUA BREED.

*Dutch Crested Variety.*

In the most of these varieties the hen has much richer and more characteristic plumage than the cock, and as the principal interest attached to them is the pleasure they give to their appearance, I shall begin by describing the female first, as it is with her we find the most striking points. Though these varieties are almost entirely selected as being ornamental, they are not less good for the table. Their flesh is very fine, and they are generally excellent layers. The chickens are very precocious, but their tenderness render them very difficult to rear. But after several generations in the same country they become more hardy.

*Paduas or Polands.*

This variety is one of the strongest among the fancy varieties. The flesh is delicate, their laying very good, and they are non-sitters. It is remarkably well crested, which forms its principal ornament. Its plumage is one of the most rich as well as variegated, and wonderful in regularity. These essential characteristics are—the crest, the plumage, and the complete absence of comb, the ear-lobes and cheeks being what amateurs call "without flesh." The cheeks only appear a little with the cock. The crest, very largely developed in both sexes, is not always alike. With the cock it is composed of lance-shaped feathers like a parasol, and altogether much larger than the hen's, which is perfectly rounded and separates in two parts by a sort of cleft, which goes down the beak and disappears at the back of the head. The crest is very large, grown on a fleshy mass called "the mushroom," which covers the skull and is a little thrown back behind, so as to be off the eyes. This "mushroom" should be very much

developed in well bred birds. Each feather of the crest is in bands of colour; in the silver variety surrounded with white, then marked with black, then white in the middle. After the second and third moulting a part of the crest feathers become white, which always increases as they get older. The feathers of the hackle are like those of the crest, but less pointed.—*Journal of Horticulture.*

## PORTABLE LAWN TENTS.

On page 284, we give specimens of Lawn Tents, such as are now very much in use on almost every lawn in Europe, and form quite an ornament to garden grounds. The canvas, as represented in the engraving, is 6 feet long by 5 feet wide, forming a complete protection from the sun and rain, and is easily raised and lowered by pulling a cord attached to the roller above. It can be taken down and adjusted in any part of the lawn or garden in a few minutes. When drawn up it is entirely protected by the metal covering at the top from rain and dew. The process of raising and lowering is also most simple and effective. It is long enough to accommodate a full sized garden settee, or two or three garden chairs. Figs. 3 and 4 is an improved pattern, as it combines the lawn tent with a substantial garden seat. When shade is not needed, the upper part or covering can be easily removed.

The frame work is made of iron, and the slots of ash, but persons not having opportunities of purchasing these lawn tents might have them made entirely of ash, with some variation in the design. The cost of one such as shown in Figure 3, is about \$40.

Fig. 5 shows ornamental borders for the sides of beds, and are represented on the side of the bed on Figure 8. These borders are made of common burnt clay and are reasonable in price. Ornamental garden edgings can also be made out of pine, with two wire spikes about 4 inches long driven in the bottom to fasten them into the ground.

Fig. 6 is a rustic stump vase with openings for the insertion of plants and are very fine and appropriate decorations for any grounds, and look exceeding well if kept in good condition with leafy and healthy plants; as the evaporation from baskets and vases is very great, being exposed on all sides to air and sun, they must receive a copious supply of water every evening to keep the plants in a healthy condition.

Fig. 7 is a rock-bed, which forms beautiful and appropriate structures for ferns and for many of the wild and luxuriant flowers, grasses, mosses and other plants which grow in our native woods. The stones forming the bed should be rather rugged in shape and of irregular sizes. The soil should be rich and loomy.

Fig. 8 is an example of how a very small lot, hardly twenty-five feet in width, can be made, by taste and skill, an exhibition of neatness and rural beauty. It is wonderful what a beautiful effect is given to a row of even inferior houses, by each having an ornamental garden in front laid out in a tasteful manner, instead of the unsightly plots that disfigure the approaches to so many of our suburban residences.

**TO MAKE ARTIFICIAL FIREBALLS.**—Put 30 grains of phosphorus into a Florence flask, with three or four ounces of water. Place the vessel over a lamp, and give it a boiling heat. Balls of fire will soon be seen to issue from the water, after the manner of an artificial firework, attended with the most beautiful coruscations.