

COLORED DORKINGS.

Editor Review.

I ALWAYS had a liking for fowls, and especially some large all round bird. I would have started colored Dorkings long ago, but I heard that they were tender, bad layers and good for nothing outside of England.

But last spring I began by getting a few settings of the best eggs I could get in Ontario, and hatched and reared them very successfully, all but a few that got killed. In all respects I found them very thrifty youngsters, with the only drawback that they had healthy appetites, and you will count that for what it is worth when I tell you that from chicks hatched on May 26th, some of the cockerels, about four months old weighed nine to nine and a half pounds, and in six months about eleven pounds. But the principle point after their eating ability is their hardiness, for although the winter was cold the Dorkings seemed not to mind it as much as a few white Leghorns that I had, and although, as I said, the Dorking is said to be a bad layer, they are laying nearly all winter as well as the other varieties of fowls of our neighbors, and I am now getting from eight to ten eggs a day from about twelve hens. This all goes to show that the colored Dorking is a first rate all round fowl. I strongly recommend the rearing of colored Dorkings by farmers or poultrymen who want a good broiler or full-sized fowl. An English lady who saw some colored Dorkings dressed for the table said they were the finest looking birds she had seen since she left England.

E. D. DICKINSON.

IN AND IN BREEDING.

Editor Review:—

I WOULD very much like to see a report in your valuable paper on the question of in-breeding of poultry. This is a most important matter, and I would like to hear the opinions of your American fanciers on this question. If you will kindly allow me I will ask one question. Suppose I send to America for a trio of birds, cock and two hens, and each bird sent me was of different strains, how long could I work on that trio and their stock without in-breeding? Will you or any of your readers kindly reply to the above question? I remain, yours, etc.,

HENRY THOMAS,

Chief Postoffice, Timaru, New Zealand.

(As we have repeatedly said, this is a question that as far as we have noticed need prove no bugbear to a breeder. Breed from none but healthiest birds and when in prime

condition, mating father to daughter and son to mother, and no evil effects will ensue, in fact our experience has proved just the opposite. It is only by the selection of related stock that fancy points are fixed. Let us hear from some of our readers. Ed.)

NOTES ON THE ONTARIO SHOW.

Editor Review:

IF the Ontario show is to be of benefit to the people of Ontario generally, I think it would be well if more attention were given to the practical side of the business; in other words, the market poultry department. It is all very well for fanciers to pay special attention to breeding for show purposes, and they are to be commended for the success they have achieved, but the great bulk of our people do not care for that feature of the business, and are looking for profit from the raising of fowls for market purposes and eggs. That being so, would it not be well for the directors of the Ontario to offer prizes for dressed turkeys, geese, ducks and fowls? Also, prizes might be offered for eggs, heaviest per dozen, etc. If this is done, I think it will add to the interest of the show as well as secure the approbation and co-operation of a large number who do not now take any interest in poultry shows. It will also show the kinds of fowls that are most popular when properly dressed.

While I am a fancier, if I properly understand that term, and would not for one moment advocate anything that would injure that department of the poultry business, still I think the time has come when the Ontario show should do something more for the poultry industry in this country than meet once a year and award prizes to the highest scoring thoroughbred fowls. If I understood the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Dryden, at New Hamburg, he also expects more from it for the money expended on it every year. I was pleased with the essays and addresses this year, and shall be glad to get a copy of the annual report when issued, and if the same is widely distributed, much good will no doubt be the result. Once more, I think the show should be held only one year in each place, so the people of every section of the province might have the privilege of visiting it every few years, without too great an expense. This is a matter over which the directors have not full control, of course. The Government grant might be made contingent on the show being held in a different place each year. That would settle that matter.

A few words in reference to the letter of Mr. Haycock, which appeared in your last issue, and I am done for this time. In my notes in the January REVIEW I stated what I