

but in the breeding yards. Before they were inspected by competent judges with a view to admission into the *Standard*, no attention had been paid to the shape of the comb. False feathers, although tolerated, were regarded as defects, but the original breeders had considered a *single* comb sufficient, no matter what shape it might assume. The above named faults, so long ignored, had become parts and parcels of Javas—in-bred qualities which were very discouraging to one who could appreciate them, one who had fought defects and knew the result of careless breeding. Faults will always crop out in the progeny of the most careful matings, and they will always multiply in careless matings. Javas are possessed of so much vigor and stamina that perfection in any point will reproduce itself to an encouraging degree. I have noticed this particularly in combs. Crooked and otherwise ill-shaped combs are very common in the original stock, and are the worst faults that I have had to contend with, yet a vigorous male bird with a fine, straight, evenly serrated comb, well mated, will always produce a very large per cent. of good combs. In mating for other fine points the result will be the same, and we must always select for a combination of perfect points.

Mottled Javas are the result of crossing a pure Black Java cock with a white hen. The latter was selected from a yard that had been bred true to color for a number of years, but unlike any standard variety. In general characteristics the Mottles differ from the Blacks only in color, which should be broken black and white throughout, the more evenly marked the better. The color of the shanks should be broken yellow and blue, or yellow and black, but solid color of either hue will often appear. Either is tolerated, but perfection consists in the yellow and dark blotches. The bottoms of the feet are always yellow, corresponding to the color of the skin. In color of plumage I like to see, as much as possible, feathers partially black and partially white, especially the hackle, saddle, and tail feathers, yet solid white and solid black feathers are not considered faults. The markings should be distinct. Instead of the two colors running into each other, in the shading off or pepper-and-salt style, black should be clear black and white should be white. Yet mixed colors, black and white, are no evidence of bad breeding.

I always advocate a high standard, and strive to reach it, and at the same time I wish to avoid over-estimating the breed.

Black Javas have been bred in for nearly thirty years, all crossing having been made from different families of the same stock. About ten years since fifty per cent. of foreign blood was introduced, which resulted in Mottled Javas. The latter have

only been bred in one-third as long as the former, still they seem to lack hardiness. I have no trouble in rearing the chicks, but the old fowls are not as free from disease as the Blacks, and the same care bestowed on either proves far more profitable in Blacks than Mottles. This may not be sufficient evidence to pronounce against the latter, for my first experience with them was as encouraging as with the former. I shall still try to bring them up to my idea of what they should be, for they possess enough merit to justify the effort.

In selecting breeding stock, choose vigorous birds, with straight combs, evenly marked plumage and clean shanks. Crooked combs, red or brassy feathers, and pin-feathered shanks, are in-bred qualities which will sometimes appear, but birds possessing them should always be sacrificed.

J. Y. BICKNELL.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 5th, 1884.

Preparing Fowls for Exhibition.

Continued.

Feeding for exhibition is the next feature or item to be attended to.

Where birds are always fed plenty of good solid grain very little additional feeding is necessary, still I would indulge in just a little. At about six weeks before exhibition the birds may be selected, and kept by themselves. It is a good idea to select several more than is intended to be exhibited, as some may fail in preparation or not get into desirable condition. By having them separate you can give them a little extra food without treating your whole stock to the same. And they can be kept cleaner. I have found corn meal, baked, and damped with milk, one of the very best articles of food for this purpose. I have also used with satisfactory results sunflower seed and a cattle-food prepared by some firm in the west, at London, I think.

When fowls are being thus overfed a little tincture of iron in drinking water has a good effect, as has wood coals, pounded and mixed with soft feed. The latter, in my opinion, is the better. For grain I do not think good wheat can be improved upon for health. It ought to be scattered among chaff, or butter, forest leaves, as they are always free from dust and do not pack down like chaff, etc.

It is an advantage to have a feeding-shed, attached to each building or shed, having a southerly exposure. Here birds can be allowed out to scratch and eat till they are satisfied, when they will return to their pen thoroughly warmed up.

My experience is that no bird can be stuffed or over-fed with any description of food, whether "hard" or "soft," without inducing coarseness. I have had more trouble in this direction when no