

## In the Poultry Yard

### Turkeys and Turkey Raising\*

#### WHITE HOLLAND TURKEYS

The origin of this variety is supposed to have been the selecting of extra light colored Narragansetts in years gone by. It is generally conceded that the name is not a correct index to the locality of their origin. There is no doubt that if selections of the lightest colored birds in the flocks each season were mated together for a number of years a race of fowl could be obtained to breed fairly true to white color. Extra size has been attained in this variety the past dozen years, and it is stated, was caused by careful introduction of Bronze blood, some say from a white "sport" of the Bronze.

It is a fact that the white turkeys are easily kept from rambling when not raised in large flocks, and many favor them on this account. When their plumage is kept clean they are also a handsome bird, but it is almost impossible to do this. Carefully mated and given proper attention when young, they will be found as hardy as any of the other varieties.

The body of the White Holland is not so long as in the Bronze, nor yet so deep. The back also lacks the gradual curve of the latter, being flatter upon the shoulder. Plumage should be a pure white throughout, except for the black beard in males. Beak, legs and toes are white or pinkish-white in color. A common defect is a "tickling" of small black spots on the feathers. Standard weight for adult male, 26 pounds; adult female, 16 pounds; young male, 18 pounds; young female, 12 pounds.

#### NARRAGANSETT TURKEYS

The name of this variety is derived from the Narragansett Bay, R. I. This State years ago had a world-wide reputation for producing fine turkeys, and this was the variety they bred extensively at that time. The writer cannot understand why the Narragansett turkey has not become more popular. Almost as large as the Bronze, beautifully marked feathers and a splendid opening for some breed to rival the latter, all will combine some day to fill the pocket of some progressive breeder. From a rough glance, one would say their color was similar to a Silver Wyandotte hen, and if one has never seen this variety it will give some idea of their appearance running in the yard. The wings and tail in color are somewhat similar to these sections in the Bronze, but with this exception the plumage is a metallic black, each feather ending in a broad steel-gray band edged with black. Legs and feet are brown. In shape the Narragansetts have thick set, plump bodies and moderately short legs. Buff or slate-colored feathers in any part of the plumage disqualifies. Standard weights are: Adult male, 30 pounds; adult female, 18 pounds; young male, 20 pounds; young female, 12 pounds.

#### BLACK TURKEYS

This is a very old established variety, and if it was not originated in Norfolk, England, undoubtedly was brought to its greatest perfection there. They were the first turkeys bred on the writer's farm, over twenty-five years ago, but they were very small. In recent years breeders have

crossed them with Bronze, but it seems impossible to get the Bronze markings entirely eliminated from the offspring. I think it would be a difficult matter—in this country at least—to get pure black breeding stock, as all who exhibit them admit they are more or less crossed with Bronze. Plumage is a lustrous black throughout. Standard weights are: Adult male, 27 pounds; adult female, 18 pounds; young male, 18 pounds; young female, 12 pounds.

#### BUFF TURKEYS

Mr. Babcock, a leading U. S. turkey writer, says of this breed: "The Buff was produced by crossing the Bronze and White Hollands, many Buff turkeys showing plainly the marks of such ancestry." The Buff is the only variety of turkeys admitted to the



WHITE HOLLAND, Female.

standard which is allowed full latitude as to color of feathers. You can show a turkey of any color in the Buff class and it is impossible for the judge to disqualify it for color. The fact is, however, that they resemble Buff varieties of other breeds so signally that the committee in charge of arranging the description in the standard almost decided to exclude them at the last revision. They gave the impression that this would happen at the next revision unless better specimens were met with upon exhibition. In addition to being a poor buff color in general, their wings are invariably a dull white, sometimes pure white. Standard weights are: Adult male, 27 pounds; adult female, 18 pounds; young male, 18 pounds; young female, 12 pounds.

#### SLATE TURKEYS

Slate or Blue turkeys are of recent origin and do not breed very true to color, off-colored feathers being common even in exhibition specimens. They are good market birds and handsome when not "speckled" too much with foreign color. Feathers other than slaty or ashy blue, disqualifies. Standard weights are:

Adult male, 27 pounds; adult female, 18 pounds; young male, 18 pounds; young female, 12 pounds. In addition to the disqualifications I have mentioned, a wry tail or crooked back disqualifies in all these varieties, but is seldom met with.

I might say in closing this brief description of the different varieties that no one who is trying to breed any of them pure should be without a copy of the "Standard of Perfection."

In buying stock it is impossible for you to tell whether you are getting good quality or not unless you have the "Standard" and see what the color and shape of each section should be. I have met old exhibitors of turkeys—men who have been shipping breeding stock all over the country—who could not tell the wing primaries from the wing secondaries. He prepared for dealing with this class by getting a "Standard."

### Second Annual Poultry Institute

(Specially reported for THE FARMING WORLD)

The second annual Poultry Institute was held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, on the 3th, 6th, 7th and 8th instants. These meetings immediately followed the regular short course for poultry at the college. The students attending the course remained over to take advantage of the opportunity for hearing some of the leading experts in poultry work. Their number was augmented by a number of prominent poultry men and women from Ontario, Quebec and the United States.

The great need there is for such meetings grows more apparent every year, and we believe the Government would do well to make the Poultry Institute a permanent annual affair. The wonder is that more interested in the poultry industry have not taken advantage of being present at this year's session.

The aim and purpose of the poultry institute can not be so well known as it should be, or undoubtedly the lecture room would be crowded beyond its capacity and a growing and far wider interest will be shown in its work. The proceedings, we understand, will be published as a Government bulletin for general distribution; but the most careful perusal of its contents can never equal the advantage of being present to witness the practical demonstration with charts and blackboard. The very life, too, of an institute meeting is the opportunity to closely question the speakers, and every opportunity is taken to draw out what he does not know.

The opening session began promptly at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Mr. L. H. Baldwin, of Deer Park, Ont., was asked to take the chair. He defined the purpose of the institute and urged



## SMITH'S OVARY TONIC

### MAKES HENS LAY

When eggs are 40c. and 50c. a dozen, there is good money in them. This is the time YOU! will have plenty of EGGS TO SELL, if you give your hens Smith's Ovary Tonic regularly once a week.

It makes hens lay, Winter and Summer. Of course, if you want eggs all the year round, you have to give your hens Smith's Ovary Tonic all the year round. Start NOW.

25c. and 50c. a bottle. At dealers.

NATIONAL DRUG & CHEMICAL CO., LIMITED, MONTREAL

\*This is the second in a series of articles on turkey raising, by Mr. W. J. Bell. The first one appeared in February 1st issue. The third article will appear in next number.