

"Game bantams must, however, have high fencing, for they are strong in wing and may fly over, to the detriment of the garden. The cockerels, to, are pugnacious, but not so to the same degree as the large game fowls. They are fairly good layers.

"We have five varieties of game bantams, viz., black-breasted red, Brown-breasted red, duckwing, pile, and white. These should in style all be miniature game fowls, with hard feathering and lightly clipped wings. We can see no reason why, with a little pains, the other varieties of game fowl—dun, black, and brassy-winged, should not be produced of bantam size. Game bantams are exceedingly hardy. We formerly kept them ourselves in a plantation with no house at all. Nothing ever ailed them, though they were sometimes difficult to catch

"We must not omit to mention one drawback to game bantams, and, indeed, to all those varieties of bantams which have been produced with in the memory of man from fowls of ordinary size. It is extremely difficult to keep them small, a cross with an unrelated bird, or a too liberal diet, will cause a great increase of size in their produce.

"In some few particulars bantams require different treatment to most young poultry. To begin with: Though most of them when full grown are hardy birds, the chickens are not so in their early days. They develop their first feathers with great rapidity, and while this growth is going on must be kept dry and tolerably warm. We always put them in coops with wooden bottoms raised off the ground. In the earlier months the coops should be under a shed, and at all times they should have little wire runs in front, over which sacks can be thrown during rain. Many people advise rearing bantams in autumn with the object of checking their growth and so keeping down their size. We cannot appreciate the wisdom of this plan; for in the first place the major part always succumb to the early winter, and furthermore the sickles of the cocks are one of their chief ornaments. These are seldom acquired during the year by any save fairly early birds, and in all bantams are very inferior after the first year, so that late hatched cockerels do not generally ever possess them at all in perfection. We like to hatch bantams in May.

"Then as to feeding. It is most important not to stuff them and so increase their size; still the young chicks must be constantly fed for three weeks or so, or their strength fails. Where insects abound they will pick up support enough, but where premises are too small for this, a few groats or crumbs must be frequently thrown them in their earliest days. When once fully

fledged they will thrive on two meals a day. Their diet may well be more stimulating than that of the larger breeds; a little of the spiced foods which we abhor for Dorkings, Cochins, and Brahmas may be given with advantage. The development of their adult form and plumage will be hastened, and this is an advantage. There need be no trouble taken to separate the sexes as with half-grown chickens of the large breeds, only do not let your numbers increase too much for your accommodation. Bantams are the fowls for the busy, who can only spare them a few minutes of attention in the day. To such we recommend them, and are sure a little leisure time bestowed on them will not be profitless."

Ostriches at the Cape.

(Continued.)

An ostrich chicken's back is covered with down which terminates in a kind of bristle, not unlike porcupine quills, but small and sticking out irregularly, as if dry chopped grass had been sprinkled over its back; this with the grey earth-like look of their feathers enables them to hide with astonishing success even in the most grassless or bushless parts. The bristles remain for a few months, when they gradually disappear, the down also being replaced by more or less definitely shaped feathers. Scarcely any bird brings forth a more beautiful, graceful, or innocent-looking chick than the ostrich—the brown neck so graceful in shape, is marked with maroon stripes and mottles, giving it the most artistic appearance, and is surmounted by a head whose crown and beak are perfect models of beauty, while its eyes for soft lustre surpass even those of a gazelle.

The many cunning and stupid habits of the young and growing bird, cannot here be alluded to, but enough has been touched upon to show that the bird proves to be a paradox almost as singular as man himself. Mildness and savageness, cunning and senselessness, treachery and faith, acuteness and dullness are combined in strange extremes among birds on the same farm.

One farmer's reason for liking the occupation, was the delightful uncertainty of the ostrich's character. Some birds seem never to attain any domesticity of affection, but will, at the most unexpected times, attack their familiar attendants. On the other hand, some birds display all their hatred against certain individuals, whilst very docile in the hands of others. Physically, the ostrich has a large heart, and a very small brain, and this may account for what seems stupidity in its actions, but possibly is not.

The fleetness of the ostrich is well known, and this has led some artists to represent him as cleav-