

The chickens mature early and are superior as a table fowl. They are good winter layers, and the very best of mothers; the weight of a full grown cock ought to be between eight and ten pounds, and that of the hens from seven to eight. The carriage of both cock and hen is very aristocratic."

PARASITES IN A FOWL HOUSE.—(*Amateur, Nova Scotia*), writes:—"I have an item of information for your readers, and in return will ask a few questions. Owing to my absence from home this spring, my hen-house became thoroughly infested with parasites. I had the ceiling stripped off and a vigorous whitewashing of lime applied. Some salt butter, very stale, was rubbed under the wings of the fowls. In a few days, however, the pests were as numerous as ever. I then removed all the fowls to another place, and gave the room a more complete lime-washing. I had each fowl held in a tub of soap-suds for a full minute, and before taking it out gave the head one plunge under. The water was a little warm, so that the fowls rather enjoyed the bath. The result is that the flock which kept constantly picking themselves previously, are to-day clean and quiet, not a trace of lice remaining. I recommend soap suds, and if applied in the fowl-house before lime-washing all the better.—Now for my questions."

BRAHMAS BRED IN AND IN.—"I find that my Brahmans lay a small egg, smaller than others imported from the same fancier years ago. The fancier is known to have been breeding "in and in;" would this cause such degeneracy as to affect the size of the egg?"—There can be no doubt that degeneracy in size of bird, produced by any cause whatever, will produce a like result in the size of the egg, yet this latter may arise from other causes than that mentioned—for instance, fowls kept in a confined space and not properly attended to with green food and other material necessary to the formation of eggs, will have a similar tendency. Over-fed fowls will also produce small eggs.

SIZE OF BRAHMA EGG.—The size of a pure Brahma's egg—as compared with that of the common fowl—is somewhat larger, rounder and heavier; it contains less albumen and much more yolk. This may be readily observed by breaking a Brahma's egg on a plate and placing it side by side with that of a common barn-door fowl; the difference in size of yolk is considerable. We consider an egg to be of fair average size when the circumference of its longitudinal diameter is 6½ inches, and that of its transverse diameter, 5½ inches.

COLOUR OF DARK BRAHMA CHICKS.—"I have two young birds the result of six

eggs brought recently from Boston; they are warranted as Dark Brahmans. They are both, (the young birds) very sprightly and promising, but their colour is a light brown, with dark grey feathers underneath. Most of the feathers are laced very prettily. Are these birds probably pure? They have the other marks of the Brahma."—The light brown colour is no indication of impurity of breed. On this point, Mr. Wright, in his "*Brahma fowl*," says that some breeders still continue to breed to this colour, and that the brown species have the merit of breeding very true to colour with comparatively little trouble. "We confess" he adds "we do not fancy the brown tinge; but must regard it as quite legitimate to breed it."

SEABRIGHT BANTAM CHICKS DYING.—"I have lost three out of four young Seabright Bantams by the hardening of the excrement immediately over the anus. This occurred before I discovered the cause. Is this a disease common to the species?" Certainly not; all chickens are, more or less, subject to it, as are also old fowls. A change of diet in all such cases is the first thing to be attended to. A teaspoonful of a strong solution of alum water, administered daily for a few days, is an excellent astringent. When the excrement becomes hardened around the anus, it ought to be removed at once. This may readily be done with tepid water and a soft cloth. Care should be taken, however, not to produce abrasion of the skin. The down or feathers immediately about the vent, ought to be trimmed off.

POINTS OF WHITE LEGHORNS.—(*E. O. Newberry, Chicago*, not Medbury, as erroneously printed in our last issue) gives the following as the points of these fowls:—"Medium size, colour pure white, legs yellow and free from feathers, ear lobes white; cock should have a large high comb, serrated, which should stand perfectly erect; wattles very long, sickle-feathered tail, very proud carriage and quick motioned. The hens have large combs, but more delicate and drooping; persistent layers and non-sitters. The chick feather and grow rapidly, mature early, and are subject to no disease." Of this variety Mr. Newberry further says: "They are certainly a distinct breed, and are worthy the attention of Poultry Breeders, and will lay more eggs in a given time than any other variety of fowls with which I am acquainted. There are two or three other varieties of the Leghorn fowl, with the points of which I am not familiar."

ROYAL JAVA FOWLS (2) (*J. W. Acres, Paris, Ont.*), writes:—"Are Royal Javas identical with Black Cochins? Except the mere mention of the '*Gallus Bankiva*'