

eggs as large as those of the Spanish fowls; that they consume more food than any other breed of fowls, except the Cochins; that as a table fowl they are inferior to the Dorking, and their tendency to incubate is excessive. Whilst we do not deny that in some of these statements there may be some force, we by no means admit of their entire truthfulness. A thorough knowledge of their habits and breeding would do away with much of the feeling in this respect entertained against them. But in this article it is not our intention to draw distinctions between the respective breeds of fowls, nor to seek to elevate the one to the disadvantage of the other—as all have their respective merits—but merely to show wherein the Brahma is the most suitable fowl of all others for the farmer to keep.

The size of the Brahma at once renders it an object of attention. In this respect it surpasses all other breeds, not excepting the gigantic Cochin. Hens in their second year, with moderate care, will weigh from 8 lbs. to 10 lbs., and cockerels from 13 lbs. to 14 lbs. each. The quality of the meat is also good; when tolerably well fed it will be found almost, and very often quite, equal to the Dorking. There is probably a little less meat on the breast; but this is compensated by the extra quantity of that on the thighs; indeed many people think the leg of a Brahma cockerel one of the best parts of the bird. If the object of the farmer is simply to procure chickens for the table or market, then a cross between the Brahma and a Dorking cock will produce truly magnificent fowls, the largest, perhaps, that have ever been reared. Chickens thus bred have, at the age of six months, attained the weight of 18 lbs. the couple, and over—no mean matter for the farmer's consideration.

As a laying fowl the Brahma is, in our opinion, equal to any other breed

There is no doubt that the propensity to sit interferes considerably with the production of eggs. Notwithstanding this, the fecundity of the hens and pullets is very great. Brahma pullets will lay with great regularity at six to seven months old, and usually sit within two months after. They may thus be made exceedingly useful, where a regular supply of early birds for the market is desired. Indeed no breed so eminently possesses the merit of regularity and certainty in the time of incubation, without carrying it to a troublesome excess, as is the case with the Cochin. It is also remarked that the hen in her second year lays much longer than the pullets, and in this respect makes the fowl, as a layer, far superior to the Cochin, or indeed nearly any other.

After the second year the tendency to incubate becomes greater, and increases with age. We would, therefore, recommend that hens, after the third year, should be got rid of; nor indeed is there any necessity to keep them any longer, as pullets can always be had to supply their places. In connection with the production of eggs, we may mention another cross with the Brahma well worthy the attention of the farmer, that is, between a Brahma hen and a Spanish or Minorca cock. This cross produces a fowl generally black on the body, with dark striped hackle, which for average fecundity surpasses any and every fowl we know.

Altogether, then, we consider that the Brahma possesses a greater amount of usefulness and value than any other pure breed, and is also capable, in an eminent degree, of communicating its good qualities to other fowls by crossing; and for this reason we strongly recommend it to the farmer as a stock fowl.

Six and one-quarter tons of poultry were shipped from Victor, N. Y., in one day, recently.