1 desired as layers, but they had other traits that did not altogether please my fancy. I found it almost impossible to keep them in any inclosure, be it ever so high, and, owing to their naturally wild nature, they were unsuited to my fancy. As brooders, too, they were very poor-many a setting of eggs was spoiled by the hens leaving their nests after sitting for a week or two. Then again the chicks that were hatched and reared were about two thirds cockerels, so that it was difficult to rear enough pullets to supply all the eggs I wanted, and for table the birds are of very poor quality and of small body. Morever, they are not extra hardy, so that, on the whole, they are not an A, No. 1 breed, and I have altogether discontinued raising and keeping them.

Black Spanish was my next venture. I found them to excel the White Leghorns in laying qualities, their eggs being equal in size and color, but more numerous. The hens, however, were almost non-sitters, and of the same wild, rest less disposition as the White Leghorns, all whose other objectionable traits they also had.

The Plymouth Rock and Light Brahmas are the breeds to which I now confine myself exclusively, having discarded the Houdans for various objections. I find either of these

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quality for table use. They can be kept in an enclosure of ordinary height. I was dilatory in getting the Brahmas, on account of rumors of their being inveterate sitters, but such a report is not well founded. I have had no trouble in breaking their disposition to brood by two of three days' confine. ment. For winter layers they cannot be excelled, and the chickens are very hardy.

The Plymouth Rock excels all other breeds for general use. Fowls of this variety have all the good qualities of the Brahmas, are most excellent layers, very pretty, and among the best fowls for table use-pullets weighing, when fall grown, from seven to eight pounds, and cockerels from nine to ten pounds. Moreover, they are very hardy, and great foragers when running at large. I am of opinion that this is the breed above all others to answer the general requirements of farmer and fancier. They are not slow to feather, mature early, and should I keep only one variety, the Plymouth Rock would be my only choice.

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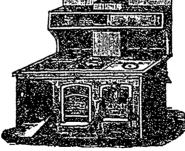
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