

grows so rapidly that it is a great strain upon them, and unless well fed and kept free from vermin they are apt to succumb. A careful breeder, however, is able to rear a fine proportion of the chickens, because he will give them the care they require.

Occasionally a chicken is hatched with some slight feathering upon the shanks, but as a rule this variety breeds very true. The greatest difficulty in breeding exhibition birds is in securing perfectly upright and straight combs on the males, and clean hackles on both sexes. Still there is no greater difficulty in breeding exhibition specimens than is found in almost any breed and variety of domestic fowls. No one need be deterred from adopting the Japanese Bantam because of difficulty in breeding high scoring specimens. A breeder who cannot succeed with this variety is not likely to succeed with any Bantam.

Taken all in all, the Japanese Bantam is a very desirable acquisition to the pets of the poultry yard, and the fanciers of all lands are indebted to the little Empire of Japan for a decidedly original, interesting and valuable fowl.

HOW TO BREED MALAY BANTAMS.

IN an English paper Mr. W. F. Entwisle says this question puzzled me many years ago, at a time when there were no Malay Bantams, nor anything nearer in type to the Malays than Game Bantams.

I have for years bred all colours of Game Bantams, and one day I resolved that I would breed Malay Bantams; so I tried in various ways to obtain the first cross between large Malays and my Bantams, but for a long time I met with nothing but disappointments.

At last, however, I found that one hen's eggs were all fertile, and I had them set in a house all by themselves and reared a fine brood of chickens

from them; and from that one brood all the Malay Bantams both at home and abroad have sprung.

I may here mention that the only breeds used in the production of my Malay Bantams have been pure bred Malays, Indian Game, Aseels, and Game Bantams.

That I have been fairly successful in *practically answering the question* at the head of this paper, and showing how to breed Malay Bantams I think the results in the show pen will prove, for birds of my own breeding won the cup and all the other prizes at the Crystal Palace show last year, as well as in 1886, and 1st prizes at Birmingham, the Dairy Show, the Poultry Club Show, the Zoo, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes at nearly fifty other shows. Consequently, the question can be much more easily answered now than when I first put it to myself, for then there were no Malay Bantams; now there are hundreds of them. Then I was the only breeder, now there are many, and soon there will be more, for year by year they are steadily growing into favour, both at home and on the continents of Europe and America, as people see how little trouble they give, being the hardiest of all the Bantam tribe, having as much style and character as Game Bantams, and never having to be dubbed (that is a point in their favour). Again, they are the plumpest and most meaty of all Bantams on the table; capital layers, and excellent, careful, and courageous mothers.

In answering the question. "How to breed Malay Bantams," I would say that the easiest and simplest way would be to buy the best pen that can be had (they are not so costly as some breeds of Bantams are), and give them a small run and a snug little house with a separate nest for each hen to lay in, they will then lay ten or twelve eggs each, and then want to sit and rear their own chickens.

A still less expensive plan is to buy a

sitting or two of eggs, and thus for a guinea, or a couple of guineas, a first class stock can be raised.

A little caution is necessary in purchasing, that the proper colours are mated together, *i.e.*, that if you are purchasing red Malays the cock is cinnamon bred, or you may have a very uneven lot of pullets as to colour.

And in choosing whites, too much care cannot be taken in selecting cocks perfectly free from sandy or buff feathers on the back and wing bow and shoulders, the hens free from any colour in hackle, breast, wing or back. The whites originally sprang from the reds and cinnamons, and they have a tendency to revert or throw back to their coloured progenitors. Two or three years since pure whites were exceedingly rare, but now they are more plentiful.

If your choice or preference be for reds, see that the colours be clear and well defined; the cock should be several shades darker than the fashionable colour for black-red Game, but his feathers should be bright and lustrous as well as short, close fitting, narrow, hard and wiry looking. The hen may be medium or dark cinnamon or partridge feathered, but if cinnamon remember they always moult lighter in color after the first year.

Pheasant Malays are still rare; they have only been exhibited ten or a dozen times. In colour they should be the same as the Indian Game, shown by Mr. Frayn; both the cock and hens as nearly as possible solid, dark, green-black with peacock blue reflections in the hackles and tail. The cock very dark maroon on back and wing bow and maroon and black saddle hackles, dark bay on the wing coverts, and if clearly laced with green-black all the better. If he shows black lacing on the feathers of the shoulders and wing bow, he will be all the more valuable for breeding well-laced pullets. The hen's breast, wings and back should be deep