

The Wyandotte.

Editor Review.

It would appear to be a fact, established beyond doubt, that we are to have another family added to our already numerous poultry tribes, to contest with them for a place in the hearts and affections of the fancier. Since the admission of the above variety to a place in the *Standard* they have taken a wonderful stride forward, and are already strongly contesting the ground with some of those that have long held undivided sway with the most prominent breeders—not even afraid to cross swords with the greatest and most prominent favorite of all, viz., the Plymouth Rock. And from all that I can learn this does not appear to be a mere fanciful wave passing over the poultry fraternity, or at least those of their admirers, but from something more real and lasting than the whim of a day, viz., merit, without which no breed will long hold a place in the yards of the fraternity. This, it is claimed for them by their admirers they possess in a very remarkable degree, being of a square, compact body, inherited from their early ancestors the Buff Cochins and Hamburgs, and still more improved in later years by the introduction of Silver Spangled Hamburg and Dark Brahma blood, from which last crossing comes the perfected plumage which adorns their whole body to day, and no doubt as the days and years go by this will still be greatly improved.

Another excellent quality which they possess is their hardiness, fitting them to stand our severe winters quite as well as any other of our hardiest kinds. It is also claimed for them by those who have kept them for a number of years, that they are equal in egg production to the best, the pullets maturing early, and often commencing to lay at five months, making good mothers and not too much addicted to setting.

On the whole there seems to be opening up before them a great field, in which they will play a very prominent part, possessing as they do so many good qualities, presenting to the eye a very pleasing exterior, having excellent table qualities, almost rivaling the Dorking in that respect, great egg production, hardiness, and early maturing, all combined making them a very valuable acquisition to the poultry yard.

PURE BLOOD.

Montreal, Jan. 5th, 1885.

The engraving of Wyandottes on the first page is the work of Mr. Philo J. Keller, of Buffalo, N. Y., and faithfully portrays a pair of standard birds of this new and popular breed.

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Transportation Coops, and Care of Fowls after the Shows.

Editor Review.

I presume any further letters on "Preparation at present would be considered "out of order," something like a sermon at a political meeting, out of place, as by the time this letter is read most of this kind of work for the season will be over, or so nearly so that any further advice would not be of any service to the novice. Therefore I shall leave the beginner to get ready for the show and offer a few notions relating to his work immediately and for some time after the exhibitions. But before doing so I shall offer a few hints about shipping birds to shows. In the first place have your coops roomy and light—light because the express charges will be high even after every possible reduction has been secured and every precaution taken by yourself to make these charges as light as possible. I admit that the wicker hamper is the best thing for this purpose, but they are hard to get, and it is not every one who can afford their cost even if they could get them. The next best coop in my opinion is not a dry-goods box, nor a box made of such lumber, but one made by having four corner pieces one and a half inches square and about 18 or 20 inches long, or 14 inches for hens. Now get out 8 strips 4 or 5 or even 6 inches wide of half inch basswood, or better cedar, as it is lighter, and nail these to your uprights—of course you can have these strips any length according to the size you need your coops; for a single male I have them 20 inches long by 13 wide; still 11 inches wide will do. Now nail on the bottom, having one board wide enough if possible, or not more than two in width at any rate. Don't fit it to the inside, but let the bottom cover the ends of the posts, and come flush to the strips. You can put this bottom on either end you see fit. Now wind a strip of cheap cotton the right width around the middle, tacking it to the edges of the strips, and you have a cheap and light coop. For cold weather paper can be pasted on inside of the cotton, old newspapers will answer very well. I am now getting up a few of cedar, and shall try pasting the cotton to felt paper before putting it on. In this case each side will have to be cut to the size before putting on, while with the cotton alone it can just be wound around. Now for lid. As your coops are to be opened upon the arrival of your birds at the show, and again closed when they are cooped for returning, it is well to have this part as handy and easily fastened as possible. After trying various methods, all of which were partial failures, or proved to have some weak points, I have decided upon the following: for the tops of coops, cover one half of top as you did the bottom, nailing it