

tour of the Brahma. "Pullets should have a good fluff and a broad and ample cushion—neither of course so full as in the Cochin, the Brahma being properly a much closer feathered bird; but a good cushion there should be, broad over the tail, but rising more and more to the very last, where it merges harmoniously into the line of the nearly upright tail. Such an outline is presented in the diagrams on the opposite page, figures 1 and 2, and which represent the true shape as it exists in high class birds.

"But in looking at any Light class of pullets we shall find many birds which fail utterly to conform to this type. There are Dark birds, too, which fail in it, as I freely admit; but while I myself exceedingly object to such taking prizes, it must be remembered that whenever they do there is almost always extraordinary pencilling, which catches the Judge's eye and condones the fault in shape, while the white of the other class affords no such counterbalance. Still, the fault is at least three times more general, as I carefully noted at London and Birmingham, than in the Dark classes, and the sketches (figs. 3 and 4), were made from a Palace bird, which was a fair type of about fifty single pullets in the class. In some there is literally no cushion at all, but in others, as in my sketches, it does appear to start out well over the wings. But, alas! the early promise is not kept; as it gets towards the tail it becomes narrower and narrower, so that viewed from the top the pullet appears widest across the shoulders and gradually tapers off to the tail, giving the bird a triangular instead of that square compact shape which the other type presents.

"Looked at sideways the same fault will generally be found. In place of the rising Brahma cushion and nearly upright tail, the little cushion there is

starts up too freely, and then gradually droops, the tail itself being nearly horizontal. Of course, in some cases, the fault will show from the top and not from the sides, or *vice versa*; but the two as drawn commonly go together, and are what is meant by "duck shape," being analogous to the formation of the Aylesbury Duck.

"In the cocks the same fault will be found. The saddle may start well, but gets narrower over the tail, or does not form a nice rise to it, and the whole bird is narrow behind. Broad-saddled cocks were more numerous this season, as I was glad to observe, but are still much more rare than in the Dark classes.

"In breeding Light Brahmas, then, we want to get back generally, not exceptions merely, the neat compact shape of the true breed. We want to get back the heavy leg-feather, yet with soft hocks, which so many Dark birds now have. We want to get a distinct jet-black stripe in the hackle, and we want to get all this combined with grand size, which belongs properly to the one as to the other. I need not say how it is to be done. Breeders only need to keep the desired points carefully in mind, and they will speedily procure them, and will be fully able to compete fairly and honorably with those of us who, from want of pure country air and grass, are forced to cultivate only the no less beautiful Dark breed."

BANTAMS.

In this paper we purpose saying a few words in favor of our Bantam friends; we have overlooked them too long, but as committees, judges, and reporters always place them last on their list, so we have done likewise.

Bantams are scarcely kept so generally as they ought to be and as they could be with profit; for wherever there is a small yard or garden, or wherever there