

the few pens of poultry, were some *Cochins*, and so great was the sensation caused by these monstrous fowls, that the building was thronged the whole of the days it was open; hence the great success, and I quite believe, in a great measure, the establishing of poultry shows. Buff *Cochins* since that period have become a most important breed of fowls; everything that breeders can do has been done to get them to perfection and to obtain color. We, no doubt, sacrificed quality; the first Buff *Cochins* imported into England were not good in color, and the neck hackles of the hens were dark, but they were wonderful in quality—large, broad, thick, heavy birds, very deep in feather, and short in leg; but as poultry shows became more general, many of our English judges made color such a consideration, that for some few years quality degenerated, color was made the great point to breed for, and after several years' struggle, we conquered that difficult point, and our Buff *Cochins* now, I consider, we have got to as great perfection as it is almost possible to breed them. We have now birds without a marked feather, a pure, uniform, delicate color all over, and of very great size. I have pleasure in enclosing you two photographs taken from *life*. These birds were bred by myself; the cock bird won over fifty pounds in value of silver, besides numerous money prizes, in a little over six months. I had him painted and photographed at the solicitation of several of our principal breeders, as he was considered perfection. The hen also won numerous prizes, she also was considered a true model of a *Cochin*. I furnish you with these photographs if you will kindly illustrate them in your journal, that your *Cochin* readers may be furnished with what we English consider a *Cochin* should be. The cock bird should be broad as possible, short legs (not too short), well feathered,

no falcon hock, plenty of bone, broad over shoulders, breast broad and full, head well carried up, tail small as possible, color even rich yellow buff, body feathers deep, and hind quarters as fluffy as possible. The hen should be broad as possible, short well-feathered legs, deep breast, high cushioned behind, fine head and comb, hind quarters full and fluffy in feather, color clear yellow buff, free from dark feathers in hackle. I abominate a close-feathered *Cochin*. In selecting birds for breeding purposes, too much care cannot be taken; many who wish to start breeding *Cochins* run away with the idea that if they purchase inferior birds from a noted breeder, of a good strain, they may breed as good stock as if they purchased birds with all the good points prominently developed. I do not think so, nor neither does my experience lead me to believe it; imperfections in stock birds will come out in the young. Select your birds with all the good qualities and points required in an exhibition bird. If your hens are light in color, the cock should be a rich deep Buff. I prefer hens and cock as rich a yellow buff as I can get them. The age of birds, I consider, best for stock purposes, is two-year-old hens, and cock one year. In selecting birds for exhibition, I am not in favour of some of the monstrous sized birds we see at some of our shows; I refer more particularly to the cocks; the best cock birds I have seen scarce ever weigh over 11 lbs.; when they come to 14 lbs. they are always long-legged, coarse, ugly birds, with very few good points about them. *Cochins* will increase much in weight with age, and old and heavy cock birds never show so well as birds of a fair average weight, and younger. Hens from 9 lbs. to 10 lbs. is a good average weight, but hens will bear their age much better than cocks, and some that are 3 or 4 years old will attain a great weight, 10 and 11 lbs.,