

ers where their combs will freeze.

There is reason and intelligence to be exercised in the treatment of winter layers as there is in the winter caring of other stock. Of the hens with the large combs, such as Leghorns, Minorcas and Andalusians, no better winter layers or hardier fowls can be had than the white Leghorns. The weight of the eggs laid by this variety will be found elsewhere. The Andalusians and Minorcas are also excellent winter layers, but require to be kept active, as do all the Spanish class. Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes are well known winter layers. Members of the Asiatic family, viz., Brahmas, buff Cochins and Langshans require to be hatched out early in the season to make early layers. They require to be skilfully handled during their close confinement of winter to prevent them becoming too fat. A farmer will not make a mistake by choosing his winter layers from the Leghorns, Plymouth Rocks or Wyandottes. The Wyandottes, perhaps, come as nearly filling the bill as possible, having little or no comb, and are good layers. The Houdans did not seem to stand the confinement to winter quarters as well as other breeds. The following classification may serve as a guide in making a choice from the best known breeds:—

Breeds with large combs.—Leghorns, Minorcas, Andalusians, black Spanish.

Breeds with small combs.—Wyandottes, Brahmas, Cochins, Houdans.

Breeds with medium-sized combs.—Plymouth Rocks, Dorkings, black Javas, Langshans.

Breeds with rose-combs.—Leghorns, Hamburgs, Red-caps, white Dorkings, &c.

(To be Continued.)

Kill off the cull cockerels, those with twisted combs or crooked breasts, having feathers on legs when they should not be there, etc.

PRACTICAL POULTRY RAISING.

WRITTEN FOR THE RURAL PRESS.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

DON'T be carried away by your own prejudices in the matter, recollect that you are catering to the public, and if you wish to win a reputation for your dressed poultry, you must supply what the public want, and the majority of those who represent the first-class buyers of any city in Canada or the United States, prefer a fowl with yellow skin and yellow beak, and clean yellow shanks, free from feathers; such fowls in this country rank as first-class table poultry, whilst birds with white skin and white, willow or black shanks are considered second class goods. In England the reverse is the case, white skin fowls ranking first, the Dorking being held in great esteem, but in America this fowl is not bred to any great extent; on the other hand Plymouth Rocks are coming rapidly into favour in England, large numbers of them being exhibited at every poultry show, the sterling merits of the breed have won for them the good opinions of English breeders. This preference for the white or yellow skin is doubtless all a matter of fancy, the probability is that not one person in fifty could tell after a fowl is roasted whether it originally possessed white skin or yellow, and as neither the shanks nor the beak appear on the table, it would seem a matter of indifference what colour they were; such, however, is not the case; the public have their whims, and if you wish to sell your poultry to the best advantage, you must humour those whims. You will find it much easier to do this than to change public opinion to your own way of thinking. If your fowls have white skins or white or blank shanks, the best thing you can do is to get rid

of them. You can never produce first class table fowls as long as you breed such stock; don't persuade yourself that they will do well enough at the present time; it is easier to change to the breed that possesses these qualifications now while your stock is small than it will be when you possess three or four hundred fowls. One of the largest market poulterers in the United States says he cannot afford to breed anything but what ranks highest in the estimation of the public, because a difference of one cent per lb. makes a difference of \$300 a year to him. Don't forget this, gentle reader, if you are cherishing visions of a mammoth poultry establishment in the near future; remember that your revenue will be very greatly affected by the class of fowls that you breed. There are over fifty different varieties and sub-varieties of thoroughbred fowls, and many of them would be about as useful to the market poulterer as Blue Jays or Robins. Many people keep such fowls for their ornamental appearance, in the same way that others keep white mice, guinea pigs, ring-tail monkeys and other lovely and charming creatures of that ilk.

But few of the ornamental varieties possess any practical and useful qualities; many of them are extremely delicate, and for market purposes are utterly useless.

Having disposed of your common scrub hens, your best plan will be to purchase one or two breeding pens of fowls of the variety you have selected as best suited to your purpose. To select the right breed is of vital importance, but it is equally as important to select the right strain of that breed; a strain or family of fowls that possesses, in an eminent degree, the valuable characteristics that you are seeking, viz., early maturity and great proficiency.

(To be Continued.)