

young chicks love to scratch in this, and it gives them exercise.

I also give my chicks an occasional feed of canary and hemp seed, of which they are very fond. Milk I give them as much as they want, and green food is always understood as a matter of course.

Now, the result of this course of feeding is that at fourteen weeks old my chicks, of the large breed, weighed $5\frac{1}{4}$ lbs., and are the picture of health; in fact, I have not had one case of chicken cholera in my yards this season.

I must warn beginners against trying to rear chickens of all ages in the same yard. I have learnt by sad experience that it can't be done with success, as the larger chicks invariably crowd the smaller ones. I have numerous yards, and as the chicks grow they are passed from one to another, thus doing away with the danger of crowding.

In conclusion I must say a word in favor of Pekin Ducks, as a great many persons, especially in the American poultry papers, are "coming down hard" upon them. I have tried them this season for the first time, and so far am delighted with them. They mature very rapidly indeed. I have ducks now three months old which weigh 7 lbs. 2 oz. Another point in their favor, as far as my experience goes, is the small percentage of unfertile eggs, 98 per cent. of the eggs I set having hatched. J. A. B. LAWLOR,

Gen. Agt. London & Lancashire Life.

Van Kleek Hill, Sept. 2, 1885.

The Brahma.

Editor Review.

That the Brahma, light and dark, unites in itself as many desirable qualities (if not more) as any other variety, is proved by its still retaining the highest place among domestic poultry after a trial of over thirty years; and though other varieties have essayed to dispute this supremacy with the Brahma, to-day it is in the hands of a greater number than any other, and shows no signs of declining in popularity. On the other hand, if any breeder is once induced to give the Brahma a trial, it seldom happens that he does not become a convert to its superior excellence.

That the Brahma had its home in the East, I think there is no doubt. Its early history seems to be shrouded in much doubt and uncertainty, and there have been some to say that it was manufactured in some back yard in New England; that is, they are what may be called a made fowl. But that a bird of the size and other peculiarities of the Brahma should make its appearance upon the scene so suddenly is a proof that it could not have been made from any of the then existing European varieties. And further, the whole of Europe being now easily accessible to travellers, no variety has since come under the notice of travellers from which the Brahma could have originated.

I must admit I have often asked myself the question: If the Brahma is an Eastern bird, from some region along the Ganges, or its tributary, the Brahmaputra, why is it that we don't hear something of the original bird, now that the country is more opened up by railways, etc.? Still, I have no doubt from the data laid down that the Brahma is of Asiatic origin, and probably from some of the least accessible fastnesses along the Himalaya mountains, probably from the north side of this range. That there were probably about three distinct importations, I think Mr. Felch shows almost to a certainty, and in the Light Brahma that the Chamberlain or Felch strain and the Autocrat were the most valuable is also shown.

That there was a distinct variety or varieties of large birds existing in the United States prior to the advent of the Brahma seems probable, and there is good grounds for believing that these were of Chinese origin, and were not only large, but inordinately inclined to sit. Burnham seems to have had control of this stock, and, as soon as the superior excellence of the Brahma was established, to have merged his stock into the Brahma, discarding the name by which his stock had been previously known, and adopting the new name. Now that his birds were bad setters still is known. I noticed that one gentleman writing disparagingly of the breed says: "They were got from that notorious man Burnham, and they set on old boots till almost worn to shreds—the boots, I mean."

To this is due to a large extent the prevailing idea among those who have not had any experience with the pure Brahma, that they are too much inclined to sit. But a short experience with the pure bird soon dissipates this notion. In six years' experience with a pure strain I have found only thirty per cent. show any inclination to sit. Some claim that they have birds which are absolutely non-setters, among the rest friend McKay, of Hamilton. I have no doubt but this can be accomplished by a careful selection of specimens for breeders which are non-setters. I deny that any strain of Brahmas were originally non-setters.

But I fail to see the expediency of this step. What is to be gained by having the Brahma a non-setter? Do those specimens which never show any disposition to sit lay any greater number of eggs than those which have been allowed to sit? I find that seven or eight weeks of a change spent in hatching and rearing a flock of chicks seems to give fresh energy to the hen, and she will lay better for the remainder of the season than the others, and that her strength has been invigorated is proved by the fact she will moult earlier and more satisfactorily than those either not permitted or not inclined to sit.

Yours fraternally,

STANLEY SPILLETT.

Nantye, Sept. 23, 1885.

To be continued.