

Red-eyed Black-breasted Reds, and Red-eyed Gingers.

3rd. That all yellow or daw-eyed breeds and strains are closely allied in blood of whatever color, they are all springing from the Yellow-eyed Gingers originally.

The colors of the eyes are not sufficiently looked to by most breeders, who do not seem to be aware that this is the very best criterion of the difference in blood of all. No good cross can result from breeding different colors of eyes together, too much difference existing for the blood to amalgamate properly, as may be seen on trial for experiment.—  
NEWMARKET, in *Journal of Horticulture*.

## WHICH IS THE BEST BREED?

### No. 1.

I receive so many inquiries as to which is the best breed of fowls to keep, and I see so many inquiries of the same kind in "our Journal," that I have thought a few remarks on this very practical subject may not come amiss to many readers. I call it a very practical subject, because I have known cases where the few fowls kept involved a loss, entirely owing to a bad choice in this particular, and where a more judicious selection put an entirely new face on affairs.

Any man who affirms that some one particular breed is the best, not only for himself, but for everybody else, is simply carried away by enthusiasm for his own pet hobby. It may be the best for him, and at the same time the very worst for the friend to whom he recommends it. It is not for nothing that fowls have been bred, differing not only in every point of appearance, but even in habits and instincts. These peculiarities fit each fowl for some particular set of circumstances, and are in themselves an evidence of the superiority of pure breeds over any ordinary mongrels that can be procured. To these latter there is always one objection; they are generally hardy, and with proper judgment they may often be selected so as to prove really good layers, but they can never be depended upon not to sit, and this makes them unsuitable for the large number of cases where only one small yard or run can be given to the fowls, and where chickens cannot, therefore, be raised to any advantage. Their "broodiness" in this case gives infinite

trouble, which, by the choice of a non-sitting breed, would be entirely avoided. Even where one or two broods of chickens can be reared the objection still holds good, as it is impossible to set all the hens, and it is always easy, if a non-sitting breed be kept, to buy or hire one or two hens for sitting each season.—When these beat off their chickens and begin to lay they can be turned down with the others; and as soon as their batch of eggs is finished, and they show any inclination to sit again, they may be killed for table.

The objection often made to the price of pure breeds is not nearly so great as many suppose, though I certainly cannot understand what Mr. Kinnard B. Edwards means when he contrasts the prices of really "first-class" birds and eggs now with those a "year or so" ago. First-class birds will always be rare, and therefore costly; and if he means to say that birds of such quality, from a show point of view, or eggs from such, can now be bought cheap, all I can say is he knows little about the matter, for there never was a time when birds good enough to win would realize better prices than now, except in the brief months of the poultry mania. If, on the other hand, he means what the great breeders call their "wasters"—that is, birds which have all the useful qualities of the breed, but from faults of feather are disabled from being shown, then I would say that I have never known the time when such could not be obtained at the price he mentions of 7s. 6d. to 10s. each, and most breeders are glad to clear out their condemned chickens at that figure. This brings me to the point I was upon, that good stock at 10s. per bird will nearly always pay better than mongrels at 2s. 6d. I would advise always that a cock be provided as well as hens; for while he is not needed where eggs only are required, I have always found the family seem more contented, and I think, as a rule, thrive better. In that case, also, the first expense of the stock need be the only one, for a brood or two may either be hatched, or a sitting or two can be given to a neighbour, on condition of so many chickens being allowed from the produce. In this way the stock may be kept up, and the needful change of blood kept up either by exchange or the occasional purchase of a strange bird. I do not advise by any means breeding to exhi-