

Literary Notices.

THE BRAHMA FOWL.

A MONOGRAPH BY LEWIS WRIGHT,
AUTHOR OF "THE PRACTICAL POULTRY
KEEPER."

London: Cassell, Petter and Galpin, Ludgate
Hill; and Journal of "Horticulture and Cot-
tage Gardener." Office, 171, Fleet Street. Pp.
144, illustrated.

The author of the work before us has undertaken, not only to solve, as far as it is possible at this distant day to do, the mystery which hangs over the origin of the Brahma, as a distinct variety of fowl, but also in a plain, practical way, point out its useful and economic qualities as contrasted with other bipeds of the feathered tribe. He dwells on the characteristics which are peculiar to the Dark and Light varieties, as bred for the exhibition pen, while on the judging of Brahmas he offers several suggestions, and gives expression to his own views on the subject; concluding with an appendix containing the latest, and, we presume, the only proof now obtainable as to the origin of the Brahma, as a distinct breed, and not produced by a cross between the Cochin and the Dorking, as has been asserted by a certain class of fowl fanciers, not disposed to look upon it with an eye of favour.

To the lover of poultry literature, more especially that treating of Brahmas this addition will be a great *desideratum*. In the chapter and appendix devoted to the origin of the Brahma, the author clearly and unmistakably combats the adverse views taken by opponents of the theory that it is of separate origin to that of the Cochin; and we are free to confess, to our mind most successfully, to the contrary, notwithstanding some of the adverse opinions we have read.

But whatever obscurity may hang around the origin of the Brahma as a separate breed, of its economic value few, who have had any practical know-

ledge, will deny that in itself "it possesses a greater amount of real usefulness and value than any other pure breed." And on this point, as well as on the characteristics of the two varieties of Dark and Light, their practical breeding, rearing and management, the book now under review teems with valuable information.

As a stock bird, Mr. Wright clearly shows that it is not inferior either in table qualities, or in the production of eggs, to any other variety, the Hamburgs included. Of the table value, he says he had recently a good opportunity of testing its merits as compared with the Houdans (the Dorking of France). "The Brahma had quite as much breast meat, the quality was fully as good, and the quantity at least half as much again, a very great point this last in rearing for the market," although he admits that it "cannot equal the game fowl, and perhaps the La Flèche, in the sapidity of its flesh." He combats the very prevalent idea that Brahmas are very great eaters, and distinctly states they do not consume nearly so much as the Cochin or Crève Cœur, and scarcely so much as the Dorking; and of the chickens he says, "like all other fast growing fowls, they have considerable appetites, though they won't eat old hats."

On the characteristics of the Dark and Light varieties of the Brahma, a chapter is devoted, well worthy the perusal of the amateur and the fancier. What the colours and markings of these varieties ought to be, are very distinctly pointed out, while size and weight are not omitted to be noticed. We cannot, within our limits, attempt even a synopsis of the many points enumerated, nor indeed if we did would it convey any adequate idea of the author's meaning. The shape, carriage, markings, colour and general appearance of the birds, all come within the range of his