

many of the attacks of diphtheria could be traced to infected fowls if it were investigated, just as many outbreaks of typhoid fever are now traced to infected water or milk. No fowl should be marketed either suffering from roup nor after the disease has disappeared for at least three months. Great care should be used to cleanse and disinfect the hands after handling birds that are infected with this disease.

No doubt others may claim the right of priority in the discovery which Dr. Stevenson has made; still, his work has all been original, and he has taken the very earliest moment when he could safely publish the results of his investigations, and that without the idea of selling any nostrums as a sure cure, but gives his investigation and discovery the widest possible publicity in the interest of poultrymen.

As anyone can buy a hypodermic syringe and also the antitoxine serum (Mulford's, Park, Davis and others) for diphtheria, and I have no doubt that some of the reliable manufacturers will put on the market a weak serum for fowls which would be of little use for human treatment, and also at a cheaper rate.

If these notes, badly put together, will be of use to the poultry fraternity, and end in the cure of this most fatal disease, the object of this paper will more than repay the writer.

#### POLANDS.

BY SAM MASON.

**I**N VIEW of the remarks on this variety by your talented contributor, Mr. Marx, in his monthly notes for November, it may perhaps seem to savor of presumption on my part to pen these notes, yet, having bred and studied the habits of these birds for some years, and hoping to see them back to their former glory, I may be excused for my audacity.

I was delighted to see Mr. Marx defending my favorites, and whenever I notice the words 'Polands' or 'Polish,' I at once leave everything else and haste to devour, mentally, all that is written about them. This accounts for my seeing in the Answers to Queries column, in a recent issue, that someone was in quest of knowledge on Polands, and the reply that nothing had as yet appeared in the 'F.W.' on this beautiful breed; therefore, I hope that the querist, if not some

others, may find something of interest in these jottings.

Well, to begin with, I think I can sum up the qualities of the Polish fowl in the words of a certain advertiser in a contemporary, who began his advertisement thus. "— are handsome birds, easy to breed, and good layers." For the breed this gentleman named kindly use Poland. This may seem rather a large order, but in the first place everyone must admit they are handsome. Perhaps, however, at first sight, to those unacquainted with fancy breeds, they may seem monstrosities, as evidenced by the remarks one often hears at shows, such as: "Look here, this one has got a bonnet on;" and again, "Poor thing, it can't see to eat;" "I wonder if they feed them with a spoon!" But the more one sees of them the more they like them.

In these days, when everyone almost seems to breed for beauty of form and color, often in utter disregard of utility points, it seems strange to me that more fanciers do not take to the Poland. Of course nearly every breeder thinks his own particular breed the most beautiful; still, it would be difficult to have a more handsome variety than Polands, be they gold, silver, white-crested, or buff. Not only have they a body of even better color and markings than a Wyandotte, but this is surmounted with a beautiful head of feathers, and when the crests in golds and silvers is nicely ticked on the end of each feather, nothing to my mind is more exquisite or attractive.

Now as to the second part of that sentence it is an acknowledged fact that like produces like, and in breeding Polands this is particularly applicable. Provided the strain is good there is not the least doubt that good birds will be bred. The breed is too well established and free from crossing to do anything else. They have never to my knowledge been crossed to gain any improvement in size, color or shape, but several writers say that they were used in the production of Sebright Bantams, no doubt to get ground color and lacing. I have often heard it remarked by well-known breeders that it would not be a bad idea to introduce Polish blood in breeding Wyandottes. It would certainly improve the ground color and the black lacing, but how long it would take to breed out the crest is quite another thing.

No fears need be entertained of any pure Polish