

Bantam Department

BANTLINGS.

A BANTAM DEPARTMENT.

WE hope this department may meet with approval and support from those whom it is specially designed to benefit. We invite contributions, short and practical, and for our own part will promise each month to present some interesting feature.

LATE HATCHING.

We hear a great deal from time to time of the benefits which accrue from the late hatching of Bantams in the way of reduction in size, half of which is nonsense and the other half not much better. Bantams hatched in May and June, or indeed the latter part of April, will be strong, healthy and feather naturally. They have a chance to grow before the extreme heat comes on, with its attendant evils of vermin, slow feathering, bowel complaints, &c.

Spring is the natural time for all chicks to emerge from the shell and bantams are no exception to the rule. If you *must* have late hatched chicks we advise the last week in August and the month of September as being far more suitable than July or early in August. They will grow well as the cold of fall comes on gently, the days being bright and warm, not sultry, and the nights being cool enough to make the warmth of the hens body acceptable.

FEEDING,

or rather lack of it, is also a moot question, such advice as "don't feed more than twice a day and then very little" being given it seems to us without much thought. A bantam is *not* an underfed, dwarfed or stunted specimen of a larger variety, but has been brought into existence by judicious crossing and

scientific feeding. Feed all they will eat, while in a growing state, on food, nourishing, but which contains little bone-forming material. A bantam should be as strong constitutionally as a larger fowl, and there is no reason why it should not be so.

MORE ANIMAL FOOD

is needed by bantams than by other and larger varieties, many of the former being profuse in feather, we have also found a liberal allowance of boiled rice to be beneficial and an occasional handful of canary seed is relished as a treat. Feed enough, don't starve, and the result will be strong healthy birds.

THE NEW DEPARTMENT.

WE give below two from the many letters we have received on this subject as showing the feelings of breeders in the Eastern and Western sections of our country. It is gratifying to us to know that our endeavors are understood and appreciated, and we hope that each one interested in bantams may find it his or her duty to help the "Bantam Department" along.

Editor Review:

I think your suggestion of having a Bantam Department in the REVIEW will be received with pleasure by a large number of fanciers, and I am sure it would be well supported by them. Nearly all Ornamental Bantams are hard to raise and a beginner with no guide to help him is not likely to make much of a success until he learns from experience. The first year I kept Bantams I succeeded in raising one, the next seven and the longer I keep them the easier they are to raise. With a department as suggested the beginner could get the knowledge without going through the same experience as the older fanciers. I hope there will be

few more numbers of the REVIEW printed without this department.

Yours truly,

E. B. CALE.

Stratford, April 8th, 1890.

Editor Review:—

In your last issue you ask "How would a Bantam Department in the REVIEW suit the views of our breeders?" As one who devotes considerable time and attention to the breeding of Bantams and who agrees with you that "No paper in America gives these miniatures proper attention," the introduction of the proposed department in the REVIEW would meet with my hearty approval and support. Bantams are so easily kept and require such a small run by contrast with that necessary for large fowl that if these claimants for popular favor were brought to the notice of those residents of our cities whose limited yard room deter them from poultry breeding, I am satisfied that the number of fanciers would be greatly augmented and a healthy rivalry would spring up, the effect of which would soon manifest itself at our exhibitions. More breeders would mean more exhibitors, and increased exhibits would ensure larger attendance. Another result pretty sure to follow in the wake of the new department would be that in the matter of judging, about which so many complaints are now heard, Bantams would receive the same care and attention as other fowls. Then again contributions from experienced breeders would prove valuable to novices and tend moreover to popularize a very interesting portion of our domestic pets.

For these reasons I hope the Bantam Department will be introduced in the REVIEW and I am confident that your enterprise will make it a success.

Yours truly,

E. F. MURPHY.

Ottawa, April 16th, 1890.