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poultry would be chronicled as one of the rare events of the day. This state of things now no longer exists. Hundreds of dozens of hatching eggs have this year been imported into Canada from England and elsewhere by parties desirous either of procuring fresh blood for their already formed yards, or to commence the business of poultry-keeping for themselves; and the frequent mention made of large importations of live birds by our more advanced breeders bear still further testimony of the increasing interest taken in this branch of domestic economy.

In this article, however, it is not our intention to endeavor to trace to what particular source or origin this desirable state of things is attributable; for our present purpose it is sufficient to know that a larger, finer and much better class of fowls are now to be found in this Province than at any former time; and with this fact steadily kept in view, to offer a few remarks on judging at our poultry shows, having reference more particularly to our Provincial Exhibition now so close at hand.

The judging of poultry till of recent date was conducted on similar principles to those which govern judges in the other departments of live stock. No specific rules for their guidance in making awards were known or recognized. General rules there were but of a very elastic nature—and judges experienced

RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR obtaining first class poultry. Through the liberality of a few amateurs we are in a position to make the following offer to our friends who will procure subscribers to this journal. For 10 subscribers, one pair of Gold Spangled Hamburgs, or one pair Gold Pencilled Hamburgs, or one pair Blue Andalusians. For 15 subscribers, one pair of Dark Brahmas. All of the above are guaranteed to be first class birds in every respect. Address Box 25 P. O., Toronto.

JUDGING AT POULTRY SHOWS.

It is with much satisfaction that Poultry fanciers and breeders view the steady onward progress that is being made of late years in this country in the improvement of fowls of all kinds. Only a few years since, and the importation of eggs for hatching purposes would be looked upon as a piece of sheer folly, while the importation of live

little difficulty in so stretching them as to award to their own particular favorite breeds of fowls a lion's share of the prizes offered. This fact had become so well known among breeders, that the keenest interest was taken by exhibitors at well established poultry shows in the appointing of judges—and as soon as the names of the judges were announced the awarding of prizes was a foregone conclusion. Many a good pen of fowl entered, were never exhibited, because it was well known one or more of the judges had adverse views respecting that particular breed of fowls.

On the adoption by the Poultry Club of the "Standard of Excellence," this awarding of prizes to favorite breeds of fowls was done away with. By it certain rules for the guidance of judges were made arbitrary—a scale of points of known value was established, by which the excellence of the specimen shown could in the hands of a fancier be easily ascertained; and with the adoption of the "Standard of Excellence" commenced a new era in judging at poultry shows.

We have every reason to believe that the class of fowls which will be shown at our Provincial Exhibition this year will be far superior, both in number and excellence, to those shown at any former one. The increased fancy, the large importation of choice fowls, the general desire recently shown to become possessed of rare breeds—warrant us in drawing this conclusion. We trust therefore that none but persons well educated in poultry matters will be permitted to act as judges—that they will take the "Standard of Excellence" as their guide in awarding prizes—and that all specimens not coming up to the rules there laid down, will be either disqualified or passed by without mention. The time has arrived when poultry at our exhibitions must be judged by the excellence of the specimens shown, and not because

their exhibitor has for years past been known to be possessed of good fowls, and has always been a prize-taker; or that such and such localities were heretofore famous for the excellence of their breeds, consequently an exhibitor from there must be awarded a prize.

A very unfair practice, too, has crept in which we would desire to see done away with, and that is the rule of appointing judges from different localities. The continuance of such a practice justifies the conclusion, that the nominators of judges are of opinion awards of prizes ought to be made to exhibitors, and not to the excellency of the specimens shown. Surely, the best man for judge should be chosen, no matter where his private residence may be. Judges, too, ought to be well acquainted with the rules laid down for their guidance; they should be imprinted on the memory as well as carried in the pocket—but which we are sorry to say is not always the case.

Another and a very disreputable practice obtains among exhibitors at poultry shows, to remedy which stringent rules ought to be adopted; namely, crowding around the judges during the time they are endeavouring to discharge their duties, and not unfrequently making remarks and observations, the object of which is to bias the minds of the judges as much as possible—if indeed such a thing can be done.

There is nothing which tends so much to the improvement of poultry as good wholesome competition, but the exhibitor who uses unfair or unjust means to raise his fowls to a rank which they are not entitled to, to the manifest disadvantage of others, is of all poultry fanciers the meanest and most despicable—his object is self—his end self-glory.

In making these remarks we do not wish to be misunderstood. We make no personal reference to any. At the time we write, we know not who the poultry

judges at our Provincial Exhibition may be, nor have we heard the name of even one exhibitor mentioned. We write with the knowledge of past exhibitions fresh in our memory, and of the abuses which existed thereat, to remedy which is our only object; and if even partial success attend our efforts, we shall be glad to know that we have not labored in vain.

SELECTING FOWLS FOR EXHIBITION.

In view of our approaching Exhibitions we purpose offering a few remarks on the selection of fowls for the show pen, and endeavour to point out some of the more important things to be observed by all intending Exhibitors.

The first care of an exhibitor should be the properly matching in colour of his birds for the show-pen. The want of attention to this point causes the frequent loss of a first prize to many otherwise well-deserving pairs of fowls. They may be all that the most fastidious amateur can desire, if taken singly and examined by the scale of points, but yet matched as they frequently are, judges are compelled to pass them by without recognition, much to the chagrin and disappointment of the exhibitor, who, in ignorance of the real cause, not unfrequently attributes to them incapacity or perhaps something worse. Exhibitors should never forget that birds "not matching" in the show-pen are invariably disqualified by all judges who know anything of the principles laid down for their guidance in such matters, no matter how perfect they may be in all the other points. Size, too, beauty of plumage, markings, symmetry, condition, &c., ought also, all in their turn, to be carefully considered, and each point of the bird carefully scrutinized before being selected for the show-pen.

Poultry-breeders are indebted to the

London (England) Poultry Club for the "Standard of Excellence" for the guidance of judges in making their awards, a knowledge of which is equally essential to the exhibitor as the judge; without it, he is unable to make his selections with any degree of certainty of obtaining a prize; with it, he is sure of his birds not being disqualified, even supposing he may not be so successful in the much sought-for honor of prize-taking.

The "Standard" places a separate value in numbers on each point of excellence, which, when summed up, make a total of fifteen for each bird. The value attached to these points are not alike in all breeds of fowls. In some they are calculated on a different scale to that of others, a thorough knowledge of which makes the successful exhibitor and good judge.

In the Cochon breed, the varieties known as "Buff," "Lemon," "Silver-Buff," "Silver-Cinnamon," and "Cinnamon," "Size" and "Colour" are highly estimated; to these two points a value of seven is assigned out of a total of fifteen, the former having three, and the latter four given to it; while to the six remaining points, viz.: "Head and Comb," "Carriage of Wings," "Legs," "Fluff," "General Symmetry," and "Condition," a value of eight is attached. In the Grouse and Partridge varieties of this breed, instead of a general value of four being given to colour, it is divided into sub-values of two each, on account of the more specific markings of the feathers of these birds, and which exhibitors would do well to note. The value of points in "White" and "Black" Cochons are the same as the Buff and Cinnamon, the difference in colour only considered, and the same remark holds good as to "Dark" or "Pencilled" Brahmans, and "Light" Brahmans, as to the values of points.

To breed to size as well as feather,

has long been the chief feature of the Dorking breeders. That this should be so is not to be wondered at, seeing the prominent place assigned to it in England as a table fowl. Special value is therefore given to size in the Dorking class beyond that of any other class or breed of fowls, except to La Flèche turkeys and one variety of ducks. In the "Coloured Dorking" "size" counts five; "Symmetry" four; while "Head and Comb," "Legs, Feet and Toes," and "Condition" count but two each.

To the "White" variety a point of excellence is given not recognized in the "Coloured," "Purity of Plumage"—on which a numerical value of two is fixed. To make up this a deduction of one is made from each of the two points "size" and "symmetry," reducing their value to four and three respectively—instead of five and four as in the Coloured.

A still further deduction from "size" is made in the "Silver-Grey variety," and added to "colour," thus we have in the "Silver Greys" the points "size," "colour," and "symmetry" all ranked of the same numerical value,—three—while the other three points rank as in the coloured, two each.

The Spanish breed of fowls has only one recognized variety, although there are several sub-varieties, known as the "Minorca," "White," "Andalusian," and "Aconas." "Face," "Ear-lobe," and "Symmetry" are of equal rank, each point counting three—"Comb," "Condition of Plumage," and "Purity of White Face and Earlobe," count two each. Of the six points to which the numerical value of fifteen is assigned, the face and earlobe count eight, over one-half. It will be seen, therefore, of how much importance it is to select fowls of this breed with face and earlobe free from those red blotches which are so frequently met with in birds of this variety.

The points of the numerous varieties

of Game fowls, usually known as the "Black-breasted," "Brown," and "Ginger" Reds, "Yellow," and "Silver Duckwing," "Birchen Yellow," "Pile," "White," and "Black," are seven in number. "Colour of Plumage" ranks the highest, and has a value of three given to it, while "Shape of Head and Neck," "Body and Wings," "Tail," "Thighs, Legs, and Toes," "Symmetry, Handling," "Condition," and "Hardness of Plumage," have each a numerical value of two.

Of the many breeds of fowls which are to be met with at an Exhibition, there is perhaps none which attracts the attention of the visitor more than that of the *Hamburgh Class*. The beautiful markings of the feathers of the different varieties known as the "Gold" and "Silver" Pencilled, "Gold" and "Silver" Spangled and "Black" *Hamburghs*, call forth his admiration, and ought to be an increased incentive to Exhibitors in the exercise of great care in the selection and breeding of these fowls. In the "Gold" and "Silver" Pencilled *Hamburghs* there are in cock birds six points of excellence, three of which, "Comb," "Colour of Plumage, except Tail, Sickle Feathers, and Tail Coverts" and "Colour of Tail, Sickle Feathers, and Tail Coverts" count each three; the "Deaf Ear," "Symmetry" and "Condition" numbering two each. The Hens have a similar number of points, but vary in name and numerical value. "Comb," "Deaf-Ear," "Symmetry" and "Condition" numbering two each—while "Purity of Colour in Head and Neck," "Purity of Ground Colour, and accurate and distinct Pencilling, in every part, except head and neck," count three and four respectively. The difference in markings between the Spangled and Pencilled varieties call for a separate classification of points. In the Gold and Silver Spangled Ham-

burghs, then, the "Comb," "Deaf-Ear," "Breast," "Underparts of Body and Thighs," "Wings and Bars," "Symmetry" and "Condition," of the cocks should each number two, and "Colours and Marking of Head, Hackle, Back, Saddle and Tail" three;—while in the Hen "Combs," "Deaf-Ear" "Bars," "Symmetry" and "Condition" count two. "Neck most distinctly and evenly striped," one. "Remainder of plumage (except tail in Golden) clearness of ground colour, evenness and distinctness of spangling, with rich, large, round spangles," four. In the Black Hamburgs "Plumage" and "Shape" each count four. "Comb, Head and Face," three. "Deaf-Ear" and "Condition" each two.

The "Polish" variety are not of recent days nearly so numerous as they at one time were. A really excellent specimen we have not for some time seen. The Exhibitors of this breed will not therefore have so many competitors to contend against; they ought not, however, on that account, to be the less careful in the selection of their Exhibition birds. There are three acknowledged varieties, "White Crested Black," and "Gold" and "Silver" Spangled. In each of the three varieties, "Size of Crest," and "Shape of Crest," each count three. "Symmetry" and "Condition," each, two. The other points, however, differ. In the "White Crested Black" "Richest Black Plumage," two,— "Deaf Ear," one, and "Crest of the Purest White, and most free from black," two. The remaining points in the other two varieties are—"Colour of Crest," one—"Plumage accurately marked according to the "Standard Rules," two—"Purity of Ground Colour," one—"Bars," one.

We are glad to see the French breeds of fowls increasing in popular esteem, and that an additional class has been assigned them this year at our Provin-

cial Fair. There are of this class of fowls three recognized breeds. "Houdans," "Crève Cœur," and "La Flèche." To the Houdans are allotted six points, which count as follows:—"Size" four, "Crest," four, "Symmetry," "Plumage," and "Condition," each, two.— "Five Claws," one. The Crève Cœur have also six points of excellence, viz.: "Size," four. "Crest," and "Colour," three each. "Shape and Symmetry" and "Condition," two each. "Comb," one.

The "La Flèche" have five points given them—"Size," five—"Comb," "Shape," and "Condition," each, three. "Deaf Ear," one.

Game Bantams are seldom exhibited at our Shows. Their points are seven. "Smallness of Size," "Shape of Head and Neck," "of Body and Wings," "of Tail," "of Thighs, Legs and Toes," and "Condition," each two—"Colour," three. Sebright Bantams "Gold" and "Silver" Laced, "Plumage most evenly and distinctly laced throughout," counts four. Purity of Ground Colour in Silver, and richness and clearness of Ground Colour in Golden, "Comb," "Smallness," Symmetry," "Condition and General appearance," each, two. "Tail," one. "Black" and "White" Bantams are judged by one Standard, "Purity of White," or "Richness of Black," "Smallness," and "Symmetry," each, count three; while "Comb," "Deaf Ear," "Condition," and "General Appearance," count two, each.

In Turkeys, "Size," "Symmetry," and "Colour," are the leading characteristics of birds for a Show pen; while the same may be said of Ducks and Geese, with the exception of "Black East Indian," and "Call Ducks," in which smallness of size is the chief feature.

Exhibitors should also bear in mind that to each distinctive breed are attached certain disqualifications, which birds selected for Exhibition ought to be free from.

AUCTION SALE OF POULTRY.

Messrs. HENDERSON & WALLACE, Auctioneers, have advertised that they will hold their first Annual Auction Sale of Poultry, Pigeons, &c., under the auspices of the Ontario Poultry Association, in Toronto, on Thursday, the 6th day of October next, and succeeding days.

A large number of breeders have intimated that they will send in birds for sale, and intending purchasers may therefore look forward to a lot of fowls from which excellent selections may be made,—and at the same time sellers will, it is to be hoped, realize fair prices for their birds. The time is a very auspicious one both for buyers and sellers, and we trust both will be satisfied with the results. The rooms in which the sale will take place are large and commodious, and a fair opportunity will be afforded the audience of inspecting the specimens well before the bidding commences.

Parties desirous of sending birds for sale, would do well to communicate at once with the Auctioneers, who will give them all the information required.

EXHIBITION PENS.

The question is frequently asked us, what kind of Coop is the best and most suitable for exhibition purposes? In this article we propose giving a reply, accompanied by well executed wood cuts illustrating our explanations. We are indebted to Col. Hassard for the drawings.

A single pen consists of three wired frames, each being 3 feet wide by 2 feet 6 inches high; these form the front, back and top; and two solid wood sides 2 ft. 7 in. high and 2 ft. 6 in. deep. The frames (Fig. I.) are $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide by 1 in. deep, with about seventeen iron wire bars, the three centre bars being shorter, and fitted into pieces of inch stuff, which turn, when required, on a single bar,

SINGLE FRAME

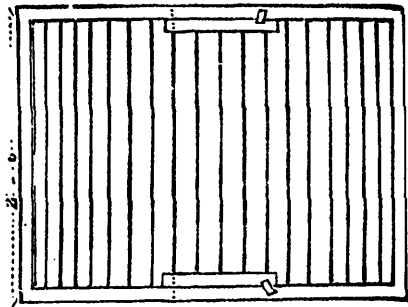


FIG. I. SINGLE WIRE FRAME.

acting as a hinge, thus forming a door, which is secured at the top and bottom by buttons. It should be borne in mind that the bars should be sufficiently close

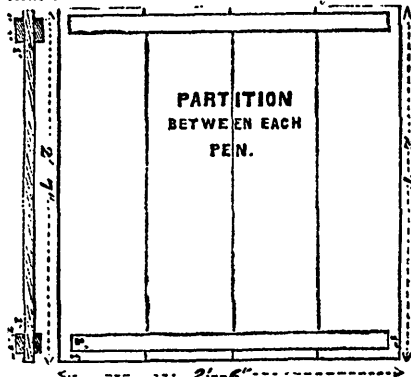


FIG. II. SIDE OF PEN.

to prevent the specimens from getting through, and at the sides of each frame they should in all cases be so close as to prevent the cocks from reaching round

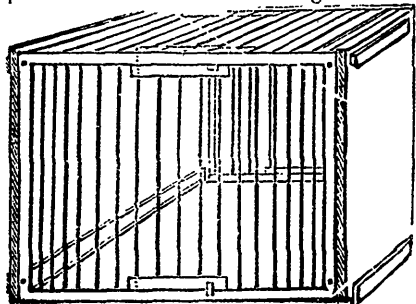


FIG. III. COMPLETE PEN.

at one another to fight. The solid sides (Fig. II.) are of inch or three-quarter stuff, and have battens 1 in. from the top and bottom, which come to within an inch of the back and front. Into the ends of these battens the screws which fasten the back and front of the pens are screwed. Thus the front, back and top are of open wire, and plenty of light and air are afforded. By making use of the front and top frames, and taking advantage of a wall for the back, one frame is saved in every pen, and, if required, loose boards may be used for the top; these will also form the bottom for an upper tier of pens at an exhibition. These pens have the advantage of being easily removed and packed away when not in use.

LARGE IMPORTATION OF FOWLS.

Mr. A. McLean Howard, of this city, recently imported from England a large number of very excellent specimens of fowls, numbering in all about fifty birds. They comprise the Dark and Light varieties of the Brahma and Partridge and Buff Cochins. The birds bore evident signs of having been well attended to during their journey, both by land and water, and arrived in Toronto in good condition. They were carried by the Express Company.

Poultry breeders and fanciers generally are much indebted to Mr. Howard for his exertions in introducing into Canada some of the choicest and best breeds of fowls to be had in England, and we trust his exertions in encouraging the fancy in this country will meet that reception they are so well entitled to.

We have also much pleasure in mentioning the fact, that lately several large orders have been sent from here by other fanciers to English breeders, who have advertised in our columns birds for sale—and we look forward with interest to

their arrival, and the benefits to poultry breeders which must accrue by the many wholesale importations of fowls we from time to time are informed of.

BRAHMAS.

NO. I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

Of the many varieties of fowls which claim the attention of the breeder and fancier, there is none which has grown more in favor and esteem, since its introduction to public notice, than the Brahma. And deservedly so; for whether we take into consideration size, hardiness, laying qualities or general usefulness, it has but few equals, and none to excel. It is matter of but little consequence now where the Brahma first originated, whether it came from the banks of the *Burham pootur river* in India, or was the production of a cross between the Malay and Cochin, or Chittagong and Dorking, as some so strongly affirm,—the variety is now so well established, and its economic merits so well known and appreciated, that it is universally admitted by all writers on poultry as possessed of superior qualities, and classed among the best varieties of its species.

The Brahma breed of fowls consist of two separate varieties, known as the "Light" and "Dark," each of which is possessed of its own peculiar markings and colours as well as distinctive qualities. In shape, style and carriage, according to Mr. Wright, the Dark and Light should be precisely similar. The head of the cock in both breeds cannot be too small in proportion to the body, a point which all breeders should never lose sight of. The top of the head should be rather wide, causing a slight fullness over the eye, which in the pullets causes that peculiarly arch expression for which they are remarkable, and which the cock should partake of to as great a degree as possible. The eyebrows must on no

account, however, be so prominent as to cause a cruel or Malay expression. The whole head should be rather short, a long head looking bad, and disfiguring some otherwise very fine birds. The comb should be that known as the pea-comb, simply described as resembling three small combs joined into one, the centre one being higher than the two outside, and should be handsomely set above neat and cleanly cut nostrils; the beak being rather short, thick at the base, and with a rather decided curve. Just below the head, the neck hackle should start well out with a full sweep, making the point of junction between the head and neck very distinct by an apparent hollow or depression. The hackle, in our opinion, can hardly be too full, and should descend low enough to flow well over the back and shoulders. The neck should be well arched, and neither too short nor too long. The back should be wide, and flat across, with scarcely any apparent length, the saddle appearing to rise almost from the base of the hackle. The saddle cannot be too broad, and ought to rise well towards the tail. The tail ought to be nearly horizontal, yet slightly elevated, the sickle feathers opening out into a fan. The breast deep, full and broad; if rather projecting so much the better. The breastbone or keel deep and well down between the thighs; wings of medium size, well tucked up under the saddle feathers, their points pressing tightly into the fluff on the thighs. The thighs should be furnished with an ample supply of feathers, so well described as "fluff," the lower feathers covering the hock joint, and curling well round it. Shanks proportionately short and well feathered, including both the outer and middle toe, shank feathers standing out as much as possible.

The shape and carriage of the hen should correspond with that of the cock, allowing for the difference of sex. Her

head should in particular be as small as possible, with the same slight fulness over the eye, giving to the face an expression we can only describe as "arch," but at the same time peculiarly sweet and gentle, the head short and well arched, the beak, also, rather short and curved, but not too much so. The neck in her case short, and with the hackle spreading out very full at the base, and flowing well over the back and shoulders. The back flat, wide and short, as in the cock, with a very broad and ample cushion, resembling somewhat that of the Cochin. The shoulders should not be too sharp, but very neat, the wings tightly held to the body, and well tucked into and nearly buried in the cushion above and the fluff of the thighs below. The fluff ought to be very abundant and stand well out, covering the hock precisely as in the cock. A Brahma hen *must* be short on the leg; legginess may occasionally be tolerated in an otherwise good cockerel; but a leggy hen is of little value either for show or for the breeding yard. In both sexes the shanks should stand as wide apart as possible, any approach to knock-knees being instantly disqualified; and the feet should be rather large, with straight, well spread toes.

In concluding this description of the general points of all Brahmas, it only remains to add that size is a very important matter. We should not call any cock first-rate which, when full grown and in show condition, did not weigh 12 lbs., and hens 8 or 9 lbs., while pullets ought to weigh 1 lb. per month up to seven months, and if well fed are often more. If a cockerel does not weigh 8 lbs. at six months old he will rarely make a good bird.

In our next article we will describe the distinctive markings of the separate varieties of this breed, and point out the good qualities of each, adding a few hints on the subject of crossing.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HAMBURGH FOWLS.

SIR:—In your last issue appears a letter, signed "A Lover of Hamburgs," in which he advocates the enlargement of that class of fowls, so as to include two other varieties therein, "White Hamburgs," and "Dominique Hamburgs," so called, and in support of his proposition contents himself by merely stating that these birds breed true to feather, thereby leaving the general impression that in that consists the whole requirements necessary to the introduction into the Hamburg class of these two new varieties.

I am also a "Hamburg lover," and for that, if no other reason, would be sorry to see the varieties alluded to introduced into that beautiful class of fowls as of equal merit. Apart from the beautiful feather markings, which are so characteristic of these Hamburgs, there are other points peculiarly their own. Their carriage is upright and strutting, their action graceful and quick, and their motion restless,—they are of the non-sitting class, and are very remarkable for the beauty and shape of their legs, which are always in true-bred sorts, of a slaty blue colour. Now I want to know in what particulars do these so-called "White" and "Dominique" Hamburgs agree with the real Hamburg; true the White, in its carriage and bearing has a close resemblance to the Hamburg, but I fear that "A Lover of Hamburgs" will find some trouble in putting a pair of slaty blue legs under it.

Then, as to the "Dominique" Hamburgs, surely your correspondent is not in earnest when he seeks the classification of this variety with the Hamburgs—their size, shape, carriage and general characteristics are so diverse to that of the Hamburg and bear such close resemblance to the Dorking breed,

that had he advocated their introduction as a variety of that breed, I should have thought him much nearer the mark—the adding of a fifth toe would not be difficult. Are they non-sitters? an essential point in the Hamburg variety. Hear what *Bennet* says:—"They are good feeders, good sitters, good mothers," &c. Are these the characteristics of the Hamburg? The same author in describing their colour says, "The iris, bright orange; feet and legs light flesh colour—some, however, are of a bright yellow or buff colour; bill of the same colour of the legs." I think "A Lover of Hamburgs" will find some difficulty in making this description correspond with that laid down for the Hamburg class. There are other points, too, which might be alluded to, but I fear I have already trespassed too much on your space.

A REAL LOVER OF HAMBURGHS.

Sept. 15th 1870.

FECUNDATION OF TURKEY EGGS.

SIR:—The importance of the subject of Fecundation of Turkey Eggs, discussed in the last number of the "POULTRY CHRONICLE," cannot be too highly estimated, and I trust that we shall hear from other breeders on the same subject.

I have frequently known in Ireland the wives of cottiers carrying their turkey hens for several miles to a neighbor's gobbler, but cannot now say whether more than once for the season or not, certainly they did not carry them often,—and very fine broods of turkeys may always be seen around the small farmers' houses there.

Besides the durability of the gobbler's influence, another point, also, seems established by the information contained in the article, and that is the number of eggs laid after the gobbler's caresses, which appears to be only two

before they were rendered fertile—would not this go far to prove the durability of the “cock’s” influence also, a subject now being discussed by American breeders.

I have never been a breeder of turkeys myself, so that I am individually unable to add anything further for the benefit of my poultry brethren, but would gladly listen to the experience which other turkey breeders may have to impart. There are few farmers but raise turkeys, and all of them have not gobblers; will not some of them let us have their experience?

FANCIER.

PRACTICAL HINTS.

CANKER IN PIGEONS.—Diseases of the throat are of frequent occurrence in Pigeons; the following remedy is strongly recommended: A strong solution of alum, applied with a feather twice a day, with a variation of food, giving peas occasionally. Pigeon lofts should be free from draughts. They can bear almost any amount of heat in their loft; but no draught.

LEG WEAKNESS IN CHICKENS.—Brahmas and Cochins are particularly subject to this disease, which, in almost every instance, arises from over-feeding and damp or cold roosting places. Patience and good feeding will, however, soon remedy it. Feed the birds on chopped oats or meal; give them bread and ale; and also, once a day, a couple of camphor pills, the size of garden peas, which may be discontinued as strength returns. If chickens, subject to this disease, persist in roosting on the ground, it is well to put a little straw for them in one corner of the house, otherwise they may suffer from a round troublesome sore on the hocks.

CRAMPS IN DUCKLINGS.—Young ducks are subject to cramps, induced sometimes by insufficient or improper feeding, but more frequently arising from their roosting-place. They should always be allowed to choose their own roosting-place; and, recollect, in a state of nature, they often roost on the water. They never suffer

from any damp that arises from water; but they do from boards, stones, or bricks.

FEEDING YOUNG RABBITS.—A great point in making good rabbits is to allow a doe to rear but four young ones. If well fed she will almost fatten them on her milk; but they will not be large. If it is desired to rear as many as possible, and to make them large, they should be fed on oats and bran moderately, with green food, but with the greatest variety of roots. They may have milk to drink, and if not milk they should always have water.

KEEPING GEESE.—Not more than three geese to one gander ought to be kept for breeding, and they require a wide range, affording plenty of grass and still water. A goose-house for four should not be less than 8 feet long by 6 feet wide, and high enough for a man to stand in upright. A smooth floor and good ventilation is necessary. Over the floor a little clean straw should be spread every second day, after removing that previously used. A compartment about 2½ feet square should be assigned to each goose for laying and sitting, and when one is hatching the gander and other geese must be shut out from her. Wherever a Toulouse goose lays her first egg she is very pertinacious in there depositing the remainder. The Toulouse goose is a very good layer, but rarely requires to sit; and if she does, is a very bad mother. Where laying geese are kept together, and they are liable to interrupt each other, remove the eggs daily, and mark on each the day it was laid. They will continue good for three weeks, but the freshest eggs should be set upon. If geese keep well to their separate nests let the eggs remain.

INFLAMED EGG ORGANS is generally caused by over-feeding. Eating the seeds of grapes, or grain affected with ergot, is said to produce inflamed egg organs. Symptoms—The hen going on to the nest without laying; having a straddling gait; laying shell-less eggs; dropping eggs from the perch or elsewhere. Treatment—One grain of calomel and one-twelfth of a grain of tartar-emetic, given in oat or barley meal. If necessary a second dose may be given.

RABBITS—LOP-EARED, SPANISH, ANDALUSIAN AND PATAGONIAN.—The lop-eared rabbit is the variety, the point of which is length of ears, and the longer the better. The Andalusian is a native of Spain, of large size, weighing from 12 to 18 lbs., colour grey, hair glossy and smooth. The ears are generally long and dangling, as if inclined to be half-lop—at least, longer than in all other varieties, lop-eared excepted. This is at times also designated the Ram-Rabbit. The Patagonian is another large variety, more frequently found in France, and the sort seeming to be the greatest favourite is of a light yellow, or almost cream shade, so-called; weight, about from 12 to 15 lbs; ears shorter and more erect than those of the Andalusian. The last two varieties are scarce, but they are valuable for the table.

PERCHES FOR CHICKENS.—Chickens, especially of the larger breeds, should never be allowed to perch until they are fully six months old, as the breast bone will become crooked. There is no cure for it, and it is a disqualification everywhere. After chickens are deserted by their mother they should be allowed to roost in their rip or pen for some weeks; they huddle together and keep themselves warm, and it is better for them while their bones are forming; whereas, if they perch they will have cartilage instead of bone, their legs cannot support them, and their breasts rest on the perch. The bone is soft, and takes the impress of it.

DUBBING GAME CHICKENS.—Game chickens may be dubbed at six or seven months old, but care must be taken not to perform the operation while feathers are forming. They are then, in cockers' parlance, in "bloody stub," and cannot bear the operation. Scissors used by grooms in clipping horses are good for dubbing; they are curved. The gills are taken off close, and the deaf ears. The cuts are black the next day, and they soon cicatrise. The birds suffer so little, that if all that is removed be chopped up, they will eat it directly. It takes two persons to perform the operation.

BREEDING TURKEYS.—Most breeders

prefer breeding from early-hatched young hen turkeys, and seldom keep them after the second or third year. Young cock turkeys are preferable, especially if the hens are old ones, but there is little objection to using a three-year old bird.

GAME FOWLS—No. 1.

CUP AND PRIZE SORTS AND COLOURS.

1. BROWN REDS.—These are essentially the Dark Reds, and are often so termed.

Cock.—General colour a rich dark brown red. Beak dark; upper mandible darkest. Comb, face, wattles, and deaf-ears all of a darkish gipsy-red colour. Eyes large, bold, full, and of a very dark blackish brown; the pupil not visible in the eye. Neck-hackle, or mane, rich dark brownish red, thickly striped with dark stripes under the outside feathers. "cut-out" dark. Shoulders generally of a dark brown maroon red, but often of a rich orange red. Back a rich dark brown red, darker than the other parts of the plumage. Upper wing dark brownish purple red, or of a rich orange red in the lighter birds. Lower wing invariably of a dusky, smoky, very dark brown. Breast and thighs either red brown, streaked with darker brown, or of a clear red brown: any black streaks or markings objectionable. Tail dark greenish black, with dark fluff or down at the roots. Legs, feet, and talons, or nails, of a dark brown red iron—brown or blackish bronze.

The wing often has a greenish bar, but the hardest birds are without this as a rule.

Hen.—General Colour dark blackish brown, streaked, grained, and pencilled with a lighter brown on the dark ground. Comb, face, gills, and deaf-ears of a dark grey gipsy colour, never red. Eyes large, bold and full, as the cock's. Neck-hackle a golden coppery dark red, thickly striped with very dark stripes. Breast and thighs dark; the former streaked with lighter brown on the dark ground. Legs, feet, and claws, talons, or nails as in the cock.

Light nails or talons are very objectionable in this breed, as is a light beak or eye.

2. BLACK-BREASTED REDS.—These should be essentially the bright reds,

neither too light or pale, nor dark or dull.

Cock.—General Colour a rich bright red. Comb, face, gills, and deaf-ears, bright red. Eyes always red, either bright red or dark red. All other colours of eyes, as yellow, bay, or light brown, are inferior. Neck-hackle or mane, rich bright red, lighter towards the shoulders, and striped underneath with dark blue stripes. Back, shoulders and upper part of wings a bright full red, rather deeper in colour than the hackle or mane. The wings with a bright steel blue bar across them. Lower part of wings a rich reddish bay, or rich reddish chestnut colour, darker underneath. Wing-butts very dark brown. Tail dark greenish black, with not too much fluff at the roots, and that scanty and of a whitish or yellowish grey dun colour. Breast and thighs of a dark blueish black. Legs, feet, and claws willow or dark willow colour.

Willow legs are the favourites, but there are good birds with all colours of legs. Good red eyes and a bright red colour are the true requisites for Black-breasted Reds.

PARTRIDGE RED HEN.—General Colour a rich reddish Partridge coloured brown, often with yellow shafts to the feathers. Beak as legs in both cock and hen. Comb, face, gills and deaf-ears as the cock, but scarcely so red, though quite red. Neck-hackle a rich reddish golden colour, striped with dark stripes. Breast and thighs a reddish fawn colour, or reddish bay colour, tinged with salmon colour. Tail dark blackish brown. Legs, feet, &c., willow preferred for cup-birds. The nails should be dark with willow legs.

For courage willow-legged birds are not the best of this colour as a rule; the blackish carp-brown, and the white-legged birds, when red-eyed, being of the highest courage.—*Newmarket, in Journal of Horticulture.*

THE ENGLISH CARRIER PIGEON.

Whatever doubt there may be as to which variety of fowls should head the prize catalogue (and committees appear to take different views), yet no doubt exists in any Pigeon-Fancier's mind that the kingly Carrier must always be placed first. Apart from the different points there is the Carrier look which

marks the first-class bird. He looks not a creature of feathers, but like a piece of black marble. We will now give the points in their order.

1. **WATTLE.**—Broad across the base of the beak, settling and tapering from the head towards the point of the bill. It should not press on the cere of the eye, as with age it brings coarseness. The wattle and cere should be of distinct formation.

2. **THE EYE.**—Iris bright orange red; cere, or eye wattle, a complete circle round the eye, broad, and equal in width.

3. **HEAD.**—Long, narrow, flat at the top; the narrower the space occupied by feathers along the top of the head between the eyes the better. In a very superior specimen it will be less than half an inch wide.

4. **BEAK.**—Long, straight, thick, fitting closely throughout its length when closed; it is then called "a box-bill." If the upper mandible arches, the failing becomes even more and more developed as age increases; so much so, that not infrequently the upper bill curves over, and the Pigeon becomes what is generally known as "Parrot-beaked." This defect is by some fanciers thought to be brought on by the birds being fed in troughs, by which no free action of the bill in picking up its food is called forth. Mr. Ord, however, doubts this, and believes it to be hereditary.

5. **FORM.**—Neck long, thin, and very slightly curved; shoulders wide. Wings strong and pinions long. Back rather hollow. Legs large and stout. Attitude, erect and graceful.

6. **COLOUR.**—If black, the feathers should be jet colour, as a slaty tinge is a great fault; and in Duns, a clear colour is most important, as the feathers should not be at all freckled with lighter colours at the edges or chequered in the least. Mr. Ord believes that the freckling in Duns is caused by exposure to the sun and weather. His prize birds are kept constantly in the locker, and have not a pale feather; but others which are allowed to fly about out of doors, are chequered with paler feathers. To this excellent summary of the points, clear and full, yet not tedious, little more needs be added. But as a guide for size, we may observe that good judges consider that a cock bird

should measure 16 inches from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail, and a hen half an inch less.—*Extract, Journal of Horticulture.*

THE BIGGEST PIE ON RECORD was made at Lowther Castle, in Westmoreland (England), in the year 1762, and was sent up as a present to the King. It contained 2 geese, 4 ducks, 2 turkeys, 1 wild fowl, 1 wild goose, 6 wild ducks, 3 teal, 2 starlings, 12 partridges, 15 woodcocks, 2 guinea fowls, 3 snipes, 6 plovers, 3 water-hens, 6 widgeons, 1 curlew, 46 yellow-hammers, 15 sparrows, 2 chaffinches, 2 larks, 3 thrushes, 1 field-fare, 6 pigeons, 4 blackbirds, 20 rabbits, 1 leg of veal, half a ham, 3 bushels of flour, and 2 stone of butter. The whole pie weighed 22 stone. This must have been the original pie commemorated in the nursery rhyme—

“When the pie was opened
The guests began to sing:
‘Is not this a dainty dish
To set before the King?’”

THE POINTER DOG.

The breed of Pointers, says a writer on the canine species, as now generally to be met with, is called “the English,” distinguished by lightness of limb, fineness of coat, and rattishness of tail. Fifteen or twenty years ago this style of dog was seldom seen; but, in place of it, you had a much heavier animal—heavy limbs, heavy head, deep-flew jaws, long falling ears. Which of these breeds was the best ’tis hard to say, but for America I certainly should prefer the old, heavy English Pointer. Too much, I think, has been sacrificed to lightness, rendering him too fine for long and continued exertion, too susceptible to cold and wet, too tender-skinned to bear contact with briars and thorns, in fact, too highly bred. Not that for a moment I am going to admit that American Pointers are too highly bred; far from it; for there is hardly one that, if his or her pedigree be carefully traced up, will not be found to have some admixture of blood very far from the Pointer in its veins. Now this mongrel breeding will not end well, no matter how an odd cross may succeed, and the plan to be adopted is never to breed except from the most perfect and best bitches, always having in view the mak-

ing of strong, well-formed, tractable dogs, bearing in mind that the bitches take after the dog, and the dog pups after the dam, that temper, ill-condition, and most bad qualities are just as inherent in some breeds as good qualities are in others. Here, then, to begin with, you have a difficult problem to solve; for, in addition to the defects of your own animal, you have to make yourself acquainted with those of the one you purpose putting to it. The characteristics of a well-bred Pointer may be summed up as follows: The head should be broad at top, long and tapering, the poll rising to a point; his nose open and large; his ears tolerably long, slightly erect, and falling between the neck and jaw-bone, slightly pointed at the tip; eyes clear and bright; neck and head set on straight; his chest should be broad and deep—the contrary clearly shows want of speed and stamina; legs and arms strong, muscular and straight; elbows well in; feet small and hard; body not over long, and well ribbed up—if not, he will be weak, and incapable of doing a day’s work; loins broad at top, but thin downwards; hind-quarters broad at top, but thin downwards; hind legs strong and large; tail long, fine and tapering; hair short, sleek, and close. Here you have the pure English Pointer, and as this is the best type of the dog we shall not attempt to describe the Spanish one, which is not by any means equal to the English; and is, moreover, so quarrelsome that he cannot be kennelled with other dogs. Good dogs are of any colours, but the most favourite ones are liver and white, white and fawn, pure black, and pure liver. The two first, however, are better adapted for this country, being more easily seen.

OUR LETTER BOX.

ROYAL JAVA FOWLS.—(*C. W. Ford, Auburn, N. Y.*), says:—“In reply to an enquiry in your journal about the origin of these fowl, I may say that they came from the Isle of Java, and hence their name. I have bred them for the last ten years, and consider them one of the best and handsomest breed of fowls of their variety. They breed true to colour and feather. They are of a metallic green lustre, single combed. Breast bright red and prominent, neck carried well over the body, legs short, of a yellow tinge and slightly feathered, flesh bright yellow.

The chickens mature early and are superior as a table fowl. They are good winter layers, and the very best of mothers; the weight of a full grown cock ought to be between eight and ten pounds, and that of the hens from seven to eight. The carriage of both cock and hen is very aristocratic."

PARASITES IN A FOWL HOUSE.—(*Amateur, Nova Scotia*), writes:—"I have an item of information for your readers, and in return will ask a few questions. Owing to my absence from home this spring, my hen-house became thoroughly infested with parasites. I had the ceiling stripped off and a vigorous whitewashing of lime applied. Some salt butter, very stale, was rubbed under the wings of the fowls. In a few days, however, the pests were as numerous as ever. I then removed all the fowls to another place, and gave the room a more complete lime-washing. I had each fowl held in a tub of soap-suds for a full minute, and before taking it out gave the head one plunge under. The water was a little warm, so that the fowls rather enjoyed the bath. The result is that the flock which kept constantly picking themselves previously, are to-day clean and quiet, not a trace of lice remaining. I recommend soap suds, and if applied in the fowl-house before lime-washing all the better.—Now for my questions."

BRAHMAS BRED IN AND IN.—"I find that my Brahmans lay a small egg, smaller than others imported from the same fancier years ago. The fancier is known to have been breeding "in and in;" would this cause such degeneracy as to affect the size of the egg?"—There can be no doubt that degeneracy in size of bird, produced by any cause whatever, will produce a like result in the size of the egg, yet this latter may arise from other causes than that mentioned—for instance, fowls kept in a confined space and not properly attended to with green food and other material necessary to the formation of eggs, will have a similar tendency. Over-fed fowls will also produce small eggs.

SIZE OF BRAHMA EGG.—The size of a pure Brahma's egg—as compared with that of the common fowl—is somewhat larger, rounder and heavier; it contains less albumen and much more yolk. This may be readily observed by breaking a Brahma's egg on a plate and placing it side by side with that of a common barn-door fowl; the difference in size of yolk is considerable. We consider an egg to be of fair average size when the circumference of its longitudinal diameter is 6½ inches, and that of its transverse diameter, 5½ inches.

COLOUR OF DARK BRAHMA CHICKS.—"I have two young birds the result of six

eggs brought recently from Boston; they are warranted as Dark Brahmans. They are both, (the young birds) very sprightly and promising, but their colour is a light brown, with dark grey feathers underneath. Most of the feathers are laced very prettily. Are these birds probably pure? They have the other marks of the Brahma."—The light brown colour is no indication of impurity of breed. On this point, Mr. Wright, in his "*Brahma fowl*," says that some breeders still continue to breed to this colour, and that the brown species have the merit of breeding very true to colour with comparatively little trouble. "We confess" he adds "we do not fancy the brown tinge; but must regard it as quite legitimate to breed it."

SEABRIGHT BANTAM CHICKS DYING.—"I have lost three out of four young Seabright Bantams by the hardening of the excrement immediately over the anus. This occurred before I discovered the cause. Is this a disease common to the species?" Certainly not; all chickens are, more or less, subject to it, as are also old fowls. A change of diet in all such cases is the first thing to be attended to. A teaspoonful of a strong solution of alum water, administered daily for a few days, is an excellent astringent. When the excrement becomes hardened around the anus, it ought to be removed at once. This may readily be done with tepid water and a soft cloth. Care should be taken, however, not to produce abrasion of the skin. The down or feathers immediately about the vent, ought to be trimmed off.

POINTS OF WHITE LEGHORNS.—(*E. O. Newberry, Chicago*, not Medbury, as erroneously printed in our last issue) gives the following as the points of these fowls:—"Medium size, colour pure white, legs yellow and free from feathers, ear lobes white; cock should have a large high comb, serrated, which should stand perfectly erect; wattles very long, sickle-feathered tail, very proud carriage and quick motioned. The hens have large combs, but more delicate and drooping; persistent layers and non-sitters. The chick feather and grow rapidly, mature early, and are subject to no disease." Of this variety Mr. Newberry further says: "They are certainly a distinct breed, and are worthy the attention of Poultry Breeders, and will lay more eggs in a given time than any other variety of fowls with which I am acquainted. There are two or three other varieties of the Leghorn fowl, with the points of which I am not familiar."

ROYAL JAVA FOWLS (2) (*J. W. Acres, Paris, Ont.*), writes:—"Are Royal Javas identical with Black Cochins? Except the mere mention of the '*Gallus Bankiva*'

in Tegetmeier's Work, I can find no mention of them in the numerous Works on Poultry I have consulted" Chapter xxiv of Tegetmeier's Work is devoted exclusively to the origin, &c., of "The Jungle Fowls,"—in which he largely quotes from a writer in *The Field*, whose views he evidently adopts. In treating of these fowls, *Gallus Bankiva* included, he says:—"This process of selection has been carried on for generation after generation. Where great size has been required, the largest specimens have been selected for brood stock, and our Cochins and Brahmans have been the result, &c." The inference to be drawn is, that from the Jungle fowls of India all our large Asiatic breeds of fowls have been derived—Black Cochins, of course, included. Rev. Mr. Dixon in his Work on Poultry—published over fifteen years since, says of the Cochins:—"A gentleman living in Monmouthshire, informs me that nearly thirty years ago a friend sent him a cock and hen of the true Java breed. The cock was so fine, large and handsome, that he was immediately made "cock of the walk!" The present stock on the farm, which I have seen, are entirely descendants, and are true Cochins; so that in this case, Java and Cochins are synonymous."

ROUP IN FOWLS.—(*W. B. B., Toronto*). A writer in the *Poultry Bulletin* gives the following recipe:—"Balsam Copaiba, 1 ounce; Piperine, 1 drachm; made into 60 Pills, and give two or three every day. Wash—a teaspoonful of Sugar of Lead, mixed with a pint of water, for bathing the eyes two or three times a day." He adds, "I consider the mode of preparation of the pills as important; it should be put into a gelatine capsule, otherwise it is very difficult to administer. In speaking of this cure the Poultry Editor of *The Field* says:—"We have long been in the habit of administering for Roup, Capsules of copaiba, and can speak confidently of their efficacy. Of the addition of piperine we can say nothing, but believe that it may be useful."

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