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# THHE ĆANADIAN <br> lonltry $\mathfrak{C h r o m i c t e}$. 

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LUBS! CLUDS! CLUBS:- For a Club of tes subscribers, we ofter one dozen Hatehing Egys of any of the following varic-ties:-BuIf, Partridge and White Cochins, aml and Brahmas; for a Club of six subscribers, ose dozen Silver-Pencilled Hamburghs: for a Club of your subscrivers, one dozen light liralimas. Cash to accompany the names of the aubecribers-Canada Fusds. Aldress-

Ed. Canadian Poultry Chronicle,
Box 25, P.O., Toronto.

## EGG TESTERS.

No housekeeper should be without an Egg-tester; it is an article as exsential in the kitchen as the sand-glass, nay more so, because it is unerring. By the application of an Eyg-tester the quality of the egg, whether fresh, stale or addled, can ve ascertained instantaneously, and its fate decided upon-no need therefore to cook for breakfast stale or addled eggs.

But if useful to the housckeeper as a test of the egsss for domestic purposes, how much more so to the breeder in ascertaining whether eggs are sterile or fertile, and in preventing the time of hatching hens been wasted by setting on unproductive eggs, and it is to its applicability in this way we wish more particularly to direct attention in this article.

Egg-testers are not difficult of construction, and may be made by an ordinary carpenter, or indeed a handy man. The most simple is that known as "Schaefers," which consists of a small box, say tive inches each way, formed on the principle of a cancera obscura, with a reflector of 43 degrees. There are two funnels; one of them concentrates the light passing through and froin the cgg on to the reflector, and should be the smaller of the two-the other is for the reception of the eggs. The reflector is a piece of mirror cut to the size required for the box and placed at the angle above mentioned. The aperture in which the esgy is placed is in the top of the box; that which concentrates the light on the reflector, and which the eye looks through, is in one of its sides.
By this simple yet ingenious contrivance the light is made to pass through the esg, reflect on to the mirror inside the box, and its relative clearness or opacity rendered evident to the ege placed in the position above described: The tester can ibe usel either by daylight or gas-light.

There are certain things which no Egg-tester can tell. Thus it is impossible to ascertain before an egg has been set upon whether it is fertile or not, and it is equally impossible to ascertain which egg will produce male or female birds; but after a few days' incubation it can be ascertained with the greatest certanty whether there is or is not a living embryo in the egg. To the uninitiated this may seem strange, and persons who have never performed the operation may receive our statement with credulity; the fact is none the less; however. A fresh egg placed in the position which we have described, and examined, will appear leautifully trauslucent, the pores of the shell will be visible, and the air channel at the larger end distinctly seem. After having been setona fer daysancpraque cloudseems to spread gradually over the interior. This is caused by the extension of the hlood vessels through the memluranes under the shell. At the expiration of a week, the egg is prefectly opaque if it contains a chicken, otherwise it remains clear and translucent.
On the eighth day aiter setting, all hatching eggs should le examined by the Egg-tester, and the clear ones removed, and those that are opayue and fertile replaced under the hen. If two hens are set on the same day, the fertile ones can be given to one, and a fresh batch placed under the other. In large breeding yards this plan should always be pursued; it saves much time in needless incubation.

The Egg-tester we have described is sufficient for all orlinary purposes, but if closer inspection is desired a lens may be fitted on to the cye funnel, then with the aid of a more powerful reflector and an ordinary railway lamp or candle placed over the funnel containing the egg, the interior of the egg with all its details will become more distinctly visible. .

## REARING TURKEYS.

The rearing of Turkeys is almittent to be a very difficult thing. For the finst six weeks or two months the turkey chicks are excessively delicate and require during that time more than the ordinary amount of care bestowed on fowls generally. When about two months old, however, the "shooting of the red" takes place, after which they are as hardy as any other kind of fowls, and can have way weather with impunity.

Turkeys should never be hed from near relations. If possible, the cockand the hens should be from different places. The number of hens allowed to a cock may be unlimited, as one risit to the cock is sufficient to render all the eggs of that laying fertile.
Turkey cocks should not he used fin. breeding before they are two years ohl, but the hen may at a year old. Size in the hens is of much greater importance than in thescocks, in whom good shape, strength aml spirit are of more value.
The thrkey hen is a good sitter, amd while kept in the coop, a careful mother. She must never be let out carly in the morning with her brood, otherwise shewill drag them through the wet grass and tire and exhanst then. The coop, should be kept in a sheltered situation with its back to the wind, and be removed every day. The ground on which coops ate placed will soon become tainted.

Mr. Trotter, whove experience in t:ar-key-raising is admitted by all to be very extensive, suys:-"The turkey chicks should not have fool forced on them, at least not in the manner some do, by forcing them to swallow it. A drop of milk or water is of great service to them, and should be given by dipping. the finger in the liquid and then putting the drop on the beak; this is better than dipping the beak into the milk or water, as it prevents the chick from
getting wet, a thing to be scrupulonsly avoided.
"The turkey chick is much more stupid than that of the fowl; the latter soon pecks with facility. On this account it is very recommendable to have two or three of them in every lrooll of the former, so that they, hy force of example, learn to peck much somer. This is accomplished by placing two or three fowl's egges loeneath the turkey at the end of the seventh day of incubation. The food I have found answer best consists of equal portions of oatmeal and the erumbs of white loread, mixed with a considerable quantity of the leaves of the dandelion, choppred small. This mixture shouli be given very frecuently in small quantities, on a clean flow."
The free use of oatmeal is mot good, as youns turkeys have a tendency to diarrhea, which the vatmeal rather increases; it should therefore be fell sparingly: For the fist week hard boiled ceggs, chopped small mixed with mincel dandelion, is the very hest food for turkey chicks, and we may auld occisionally bread erumbs soaked with water; this latter we have found by experience they are very fond of. Bread crumbs and barley meal should be added to the egg until they are three weeks old, when the latter may be discontinued. Curds are also an excellent portion of the dietary; but must le suluerzal very dry before they are given.
Great care is necessary in keeping young turkeys from cold and rlamp. One heavy shower of rain is sometimes fatal to the whole brood. ('old and windy weather is also injurious; in such weather turkey chicks should he kept untirely under cover, and never allowed their liberty.
During "the shooting of the red," that is, putting forth of the red protuberances of the head and neck, stimulating food is necessary: Breal minced with onions and nettles or passley is very good. This once over, they may be allowed to shift for themselves; they are then as robust as they were previously declicate, and can stand all kinds of weather.
As previously stated, all young turkeys are more orlless subject to diarrhœa.

When this is noticed, strong alum water may be mixed with the food with good effect; the alum water is an excellent. astingent. Animal food should also be supplied to young turkeys not allowed their libent:

## (ExTcsyomocucs.

Elitor Canaman Potltay Cunonache.
(intrston Bingaley, Jonksinime ExGiand. A 1 nil, 1 sä.
Sir,-- 1 notice in vour advertisements from England one from Mr. H. Pickles, jum., wherein be states that he is the most stecessful exhibitor of Hamburghs in England, in 1870, and also that he has won 100 first prizes for Silver Pencilled Hamburgs alone, in 1870. Both statements I beg to deny, and if Mr. Pickles will stand the test, will det yon, Mr. Editor, decide the attair from the colume of the Fistld and Journal of Incticultur, those not inserted in the above not to be taken into account as not being of sutticient importance.
1st. 1 will take my seore of prizes against Mr. Pickles' for Hamburghs in 1870, or any other year, every show to be reckoned, whether we competed together or mot; the loser to give Five Gerneas to some show (to be named hereafter) in Canada.
ind. My score of prizes for Hamburghs in 1870, at the shows where we have competed toyether; the loser Five Gcineas, as above.
3rd. The most value won in prizes: and cups; the loser a Fine Gunea Cep as before.
With respect to the $1(0)$ first prizes for Silver Pencilleal Hamburghs alone, in 1870-this is simply a mis-statement or a mis-print.

I would not hare troubled you had it been in England, wheie the statement. would have told its own tale, and could easily have been disproved; but being so far distant, the advertisement is likely to mislead your readers.

> Yours truly, HENRY BELDON.

Note.-Mr. Pickles' statement that
he had won over " 100 first prizes with his Silver Pencilled Hamburghs alone, in 1870," is not a mis-print. We hold his letter in his own handwriting and over his own sigunture, containing
this statement. We shall be glad to hear from Mr. Pickles in reply, and offer him the same coutesy we have extended to Mr. Beldon.-ED.

PIGFON BOX-f-inceit by 1 foot.


ELEVATION.


PLAN OF PIGEON BOX.
The sketch herewith shows an arraugement for pigeons, similar to that adrocated by me when in Canada. It
is constructed for large lirds, but the fancier can alter the dimensions to suit the space at his disposal and size of his lirds. He might have it only three
feet wide; it can also be made portable by any handy carpenter, if so required, and by putting an false pitched roof to the top, it would do against a wall as well as inside a loft. You will say, "We know all this, you have told us so before." Admitted, but an ounce of experience is worth pounds of theory, certainly in pigeon keeping, so I nn going to give my reasons for sending it.
I used to construct them all as in the top or centre rows, whichever place suited best, one over the other, so that except in the distance from the floor, they would be exactly alike, whichever arrangement you followed, top or centre. The consequence of this was, that a bird making a mistake in flight, found itself in the wrong box, and being somewhat dull of persuasion of that fact, caused fights, smashed eggs, etc. I know this to my loss, lately, and to obviate it I have placed the nesting places alternately, thus causing a difference in appearance, so that they are not so likely to go wrong. Besides, it is easier to construct it on this plan, as the cross partitions can be nailed in better.

The bar across each nest is for the birds to roost on at night, and to fasten a door on to, as shown in bottom compartments. I do not approve of any shelf running along the front outside; it forms a neutral ground for fights; and to prevent this, on top flat on plan the centre partition projects a little.

This is by far the best plan of box I have tried or seen. If others have a better plan I shculd be glad to have it. F. C. HASSARD.

Curragh Camp, Ireland, $\}$ 7th March, 1871.
"Vulture hocks" is the name given to stiff feathers that project below the knees of the fowl. They occar in all the Asiatic breeds, and are unsightly and objectionable.

## POULTRY IMPORTATIONS.

Malay Fowls. - Mr. A. McLean Howard, of this city, has just imported a very superior pair of these fowls, the first of their variety, we believe, ever brought into Canada. They were purchased for him by Col. Hassard, from the Hon. Mr. Massey, in Ireland. The cock took a highly commended at the last Birmingham Poultry Show, and the hen a prize at the Torquay Exhibition. They are both young birds, and have not yet nearly attained their full size. They arrived in excellent condition, and apparentiy uninjured by the voyage.

It may not be uninteresting to some of our readers to give a short description of this variety of fowl.

Malays,like all others of our domestic poultry, are of unknown origin, but are supposed to be descended from the Kulm fow or Gallus giganteus. A full-grown cock will weigh from nine to eleren pounds, and stand from two feet nine inches to three feet high, and be able to peck off an ordinary table with ease. The hens should weigh seven and seven and a half pounds each, and good speciments even more. The neck and legs of the cock are exceedingly long, the carriage particularly upright, the back being alnost at an angle of $45^{\circ}$ except when they are eating; the wings are carried very high and firmly closed, they are very bulky across the shoulders, but narrow rapidly towards the tail, which is very small, and droops in the cock so as nearly to form a straight line with the hack; plumage short and close, but exceedingly brilliant and glossy, and lies as closely as do scales on one another; the head long and snaky, the brow projecting over the eye, whichgives a peculiarly hard expression to the face; eyes bright and red, beak strong and hooked, comb very small, low and flat, closely attached to the head.

In colour Malays vary considerally; those usually exhibited partake of the colour of the black and brown-breasted red Game. Malays are unusually hardy fowis, and the quality of their eggs is very superior, but sniall in comparison to the size of the bird itself. Malay chickens are very long in attaining their first feathers, from which cause they are somewhat easily chilled, and consequently are apt to become stunted and deformed, more particulary in the feet and legs.

Cochin Fowls.-Mr. John Forsyth still continues to import new strains; this time several coops of White and Partridge Cochins, all of them very rare birds. We notice particulnry one trio of White Cochins from Col. Hassardthe pick of the lot purchased ly the Colonel from Mr: Zurhorst, and noted at the time in this Journal-we have no hesitation in saying these birds are far superior to any of that variety ever hefore imported into Canada, and are perfect giants of their kind. Also a pair of very fine

Dark Brahmas from Mis. Varley, of the 13th Hussars, Edinburgh, formerly of this city. The cock is a really fine bird, and took a prize at the last Birmingham (England) Exhibition.
Hatching Eges. - We are glad to notice the large numbers of hatching eggs brought out weekly ly the steamers which arrive from Great Britain, many of which are from well-known breeders in England, and whose names appear in this Journal. Among the many late arrivals we notice packages labeled from the yards of Mr. Henry Beldon, John Douglas, John Bailey \& Son, Mr. Quibel, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Wm. Massey and several others. And while on this sub)ject, we take pleasure in noticing the improved manner in packing adopted by Mr. Beldon this season as compared with the last. This is satisfactory alike to ourselves and the importers.

## 解

Ground Cork for Packing Eges. -We direct attention to the advertisement of Mr. Ira B. Sampson, Springfield, Massachusetts, who offers for sale ground Cork to be used in packing valuable eggs for shipment. He has sent us a sanple which appears to be all that is claimed for it, and we have no doubt when its merits are once tested by shippers of eggs, it will be largely patronizer. The price at which it is offered, considering the large number of egus which it will pack, is a mere triffe.
Chanticlaer will please accept our thanks for the several newspapers from time to time forwarded us, all of which contain very interesting items of poultry information.

## 7 7 rutical $\%$ ints.

Chemistry of an Eig.--An ordinary good sized hen's egg weighs about 1000 grains, of which the white constitutes 600 grains, the yolk 300 , and the shell 100. The white or glaire of the egg is; a strong solution of albumen in water, and whilst readly mixable with water in its ordinary state, it becomes insoluble when subjected to heat, as in boiling an egg. In 100 yarts, the white or glaire of egg consists of: water, 80 ; dry albumen, 15 ? ; salts, de., 4 d . The yolk or yelk of the egg is composed of a strong solution of albumen, through which multitudes of minute globules of oil are suspended, which render it essentially an emulsion. In 100 parts it consists of: water, 53? ; dry albumen, 172 ; oil with small portions of salts, 28 .

Fectinatred Eisis.-Brak into a basin a number of egrss, and if fecundated, : small cireular speck on cach yolk will br apparent. This speck is the rudiment of the young chick, and the construction of the egg is such that on whichever side it is turned the rudimentary germ is always uppermost, so as to teceive the heat from the breast of the sitting hen. The mechanism by which this is managed is very simple; the lower side of the yolk is weighted or ballasted by two twisted heavy masses of very firmalbumen, termed the chalaze, which hanging down, keep the germ constantly uppermost, on whichever side the eger may be laid.

Damping Hatcming Eicos.-After the first week, hatching eggs ought to be spriukled lightly with tepid water every second day. This is best performed by dip. ping a brush into the water and then striking lightly on the hand, causing the water to fall evenly on the eggs. The object is to keep moist the membrane or skin which envelopes the white of the egg, and render it easily broken by the chick at maturity. Many chicks are unable to break this skin, and hence it is that so many are found "dead in the shell." If the eggs are stale when set, the operation of damping be-
romes still more necessary. Another method we have adopted, and one which we have found to work well, is to damp the feathers of the underpart of the hen, slightly, after feeding, before letting her on the nest; by this means the moisture is equally applied to each egg.

Young Chickers require neither food wor drink on the day on which they are hatched; in fact, both are injurious, as they interfere with the natural digestion of the yolk, which is absorbed into the bowels at the period of hatching, and constitutes the first food. Neither should hens be disturbed when the chickens are coming out of the shell, or the latter assisted, unless indeed by an experienced hand. More chickens are destroyed by the struggles of the hen when thus disturbed, and by the untimoly assistance of the over-anxious owner, than are saved by any aid that can be rendered at the period of hatching.

Coopin: Yot:n; Chickens.-Cooping, which is so frequently employed to restrain the wandering of hens with chickens, has objectionable points as well as good ones. The advantages gainel are said to be the preventing hens from roaming so far that the chickens become fagged, and oftentimes they are left behind by the hen and lost. This is, no doubt, true; but let it be borne in mind that a cooped hen has no power of scratching for insects and woms, which are the best of all possible food for young chicks, and that unless supplied artificially, they will not thrive nearly so well as those which are free to roam. Indeed, no artificial food is equal to that obtained by the hen when allowed her liberty, unless that of a properly constructed rerminere. Fresh air, fresh grass, and fresh ground for the hens to scratch in, far more than counterbalance the advantage of expensive diet and superior lodging.

East Inmas Decess camot be bred too suall. The colowr should be pure black covered with bright green metallic lustre. The bill of the duck should be dead black; of the drake as nearly so as possible, but it has always a greenish tinge. The legs klack, with a yellowish tinge, seen as it were through the black.

Gerse and Turkeys should always be set as early as possible; the earlier the better. If they are out in May it saves trouble and expense; it also insures success. Both Geese and Turkeys have often second hatches which make good table birds, but they are not good for breeders. It may be laid down as a rule, table birds may be hatched at any time, but breeders should be those which are hatched carly and have everything in their favour.

## HOUDAN FOWLS.

Houdans are large, leary, shortlegged, five-toed fowls, with small light bone, a remarkable absence of offal, and with irregularly speckled or mottled plumage, excellent layers of good-sized eggs, remarkable for being almost invariably fertile. As a table fowl, their merits are of the highest excellence. No pure-bred chickens mature with greater rapidity; are extremely hardy, feather early, and are consequently easily reared.
"This is one of the finest races of fowls," says Mr. Geyelin, "but its qualities surpass even its beauty; besides the smallness of their bones, the fineness of their flesh, they are of an extraordinary precocity and fecundity. They lay large white eggs, and the chickens are fit for the table at four months old. It is, however, observalle that they are indifferent for hatching. The weight of the adult is from seven to eight pounds, in which the lones figure for one-eighth. The chickens, when four months old, weigh, without the intestines, about four and q-half pounds."

We copy the following description cf the Houdan fowl from a well known French writer on poultry.

Proportions and General Char-acteristics.-Body slightly rounded, of ordinary proportions, tolerably near to the ground, standing firmly on large feet. Breast high, legs and wings well developed, large head, half top-knot; whiskers and beard, triple transversal coml, five toes on each foot. Plumage splashed or spotted white, black, or straw colour; in chickèns black and white only.

An adult cock should weigh from 6 to 7 lbs., made up principally of. flesh, the bones weighing only an eighth. He should be put up to fatten at sixteen, and be killed at eighteen weeks old.

His comb should be triple and transversal to the direction of the beak, composed of two lengthened rectangular and flattened spirals, opening from the right to left like the leaves of a book. They should be thick and fleshy, and notched or uneven at the sides. The third spiral should grow from the middle of the other two, be about the size of a lengthened nut, and shaped like an irregular strawberry. A fourth, independent of these, and about the size of a tare, grows above the beak and between the nostrils. Deaf Ears, small and hidden by the whiskers, half crest, inclining backwards and to the sides. Beard begins between the wattles under the beak, and should be larger at bottom than at top. Plysiognomy of the head differing from that of other breeds in many remarkable particulars. The head forms with the neck a very close angle, so that the beak takes the appearance of a nose. The square and flattened comb looks like a fleshy forehead, the cheeks are surrounded with curling feathers that look like whiskers, the drooping corners of the beak like a mouth, the feathering cravat joined to the gills simulates a beard, the topknot looks like a luxuriant head of hair, and the whole face immediately gives the idea of that of a man. In the adult the legs should be of a leaden grey, in the chicken bluish grey and white, with rose-coloured spots.

The plumage of both sexes should be entirely composed of black, white and straw colour; those that show any red should be piteously got rid of. The plumage of the Houdan should be either spotted or splashed, irregularly made up of alternate black and white feathers, sometimes of black tipped with white, sometimes of white tipped with black. The adult hen should weigh from 5 to 6 lhs. Both sexes must have five toes on each foot. The hen is an abundant and early layer of large eggs.

This is truly a hardy fowl, and is reared more easily than other French fowl. They are also more domesticated and less destructive to gardens and crops than any other.

See that the main colour or ground colour of your Houdans is either black or white. Shades of other colours should be avoided.

## ROUP IN FOWLS.

A correspondent in the Country Gentleman, writing on this subject, gives the following as an effectual cure for this dreaded disease of the poultry yard. "' Hydrasti Canadensis (Golden Seal) 2 oz.; boiling water, 1 quart. Make an infusion, and add to this infusion Sulphate tinct., 12 grains to use as wash and injection. Dilute one-half before using.'
"To doctor any fowl requires patience: and regular attendauce, and the patient should be firmly held or fastened white: applying remedies. II use a board three feet long, resting on a barrel, attaching straps ly which I fasten wings and legs, thus holding the bird on its side while 1 can work with both hands and alone. Waslı the face and head, mouth and swollen parts with the solution, removing as much of the caky substance from the mouth as finger nails will pull off, and also the scabs from comb and face; apply and wash freely for a few moments, then dry with soft towel the inside of mouth and other parts. Apply glycerine to the scabs and sprinkle powdered alum in the mouth. Take a small glass syringe and inject up each nostril and in the corner of the eyes some of the solution; repeat this morning and evening for five or six days. If at the end of this time the fowls seem to be worse, do not use the syringe, but continue the wash, glycerine and alum."

CROSSING GAME FOWLS TO PRODUCE DIFFERENT COLOURS.
To produce Brown Reds: Puta Blackbreast 1 Rel or Ginger-red Cock to Dark-grey or Dark Birchan Hens. Pile Cocks and Red Dun Cocks will also produce them with theabove-named Hens; this cross also throws Duckwings.

To produce Black-breasted Reds: Put Brown Red or Ginger Red, Pile or Red Dun Cocks to Duckwing Hens. Brown Reds put to Duckwings also make Dark Birchens and Greys.

To Produce Duckwings: Put Dark Grey, Dark Birchen, Mealy Grey or Ycllow Birchen Cocks to the Partridge Hens. The first-ramed will also throw Brown Reds as well.

To produce Piles: Put White Cocks to Red Dun or Ginger Red or Partridge or Cinnamon Hens.

To produce Dark Greys and Dark Birchens: Put a Duckwing Cock or Mealy Grey or Yellow Birchen Cock to the Brown Red He 1 s , which will produce them best.

To produce Red Duns: Put a Blue Dun or Dun Cock to the Whentencoloured orCinnamon Hens of the Blackbreasted Reds of that colour. Blue Dun Cocks with Duckwing Hens make the Birchen Duns.

To produce Brassy-winged Blacks: Put the Dark Birchen, Yellow Duckwing or Yellow Birchen Cocks to the pure-bred Black Hens, or the reverse of this.

To produce Yellow Birchens: The Yellow Duckwing Cock put to GingerRed Hens or Cinnanion does this.

To produce Ginger Reds: Put Pile Cocks to the lightest coloured Partridge Hens of Black-breasted Reds.

To produce Mealy Greys: Put the White Cocks to Dark Grey Hens. The lightest Dark Grey Hens are the best.
To produce Red Furnaces or Red Mullingars: Put White Cocks to the reddest Red Dun or reddest of the Cinnamon Hens. These make Spangled Piles.
To produce Spangles: Use Whites, Blacks and Cinnamon. A White or Cinnamon Cock is best.
To produce Polecats: Use Partridge Hens put to White and Black Cocks. All three colours are required.

Bythis it will be seen that the three original wild colours are easily producible by crossing white Whites, Blue Duns or Duns. Cuckoos and Blacks can only be produced by occasional or accidental throws, as the result of domestication.
"Whites, Duns and Duckwing Greys," mixed, will sometimes throw Cuckoos. Crossing will not make Whites, Duns or Blacks; but this does not at all prove these colours to be original. All these crosses are, however, certain to produce much inferior birds to the true made or original breeds for a iength of time, and are therefore undesirable and even foolish, except for the sake of experiment.

Piles are called the most mixed blood of all, by some breeders, but this is not always the case, and not so much so as is generally thought.

In breeding and crossing, it must be observed that though the Grey breeds are almost always harder and stronger than their respective Red originals,

Dark Gireys harder than Brown Reds, and Duckwing Greys than Blackbreasted Reds: yet in breeding crosses the red colour is much more powerful than the Grey colour, though Red birds are less strong and hard than Greys, and all the Greys incline wonderfully to breed back to the Reds they spring from, especially in the Cocks. I have known Pile Cocks (red eyes and white legs), when put to Dark Grey Hens, throw good silver Duckwing Grey Cocks (white legs and yellow-pearl eyes). I also know two breeders who both had Black-brensted Red Cocks mated with Duckwing Hens, both willow-legged, and neither of them could ever obtain a single Duckwing Cock chicken, though Duckwing Grey pullets were freely thrown, as were Partridge pullets, but all their cock chickens were Blackbreasted Reds. This does not agree with those who assert that Duckwing Cocks are easiest thrown from the Blackbreasted Red Cocks. I have always found that if you want good Duckwings, Cocks especially, you must breed from both Duckwing Cocks and Hens, and not from mixed colours. Duckwing Cocks are no more liable to spotted breasts than the Black-breasted Reds are to brown spotted breasts.

I should have mentioned in the former papers, that good, solid corn and peas are far preferable to all sloppy, pulpy made nixtures as food for Game fowls, as hard corn and peas hardens both flesh and feather.-Newmarket, in Jour. of Hor.

## 

## THE ALMOND TUMBLER.

The head of the Almond Tumbler should be round, broad and high. The forehead especially should be broad and prominent, the feathers rising perpendicularly from the nostril, and the more they give the appearance to the bird of the forehead overhanging the beak the greater will be its value. This is, of course, when looking at a bird in its natural position, but the actual skull of the bird denuded of its feathers, or when they are pressed down with the finger, should form the half of a circle, that is drawing a line from the centre of thenose wattle to the back of the head. A head
such as we have described possesses what is termed by the fancy a good "stop," and is the very opposite to the term "mousey," which means a low, narrow scull, tapering gradually, and in a point to the lill. This latter is, in our opinion, the greatest defect a bird can have. The feathers rumning from the lower jaw round to and covering the ears should be full, prominent, and slightly curving upwards. This feature adds very much to the appearance of the bird, and its technical term is "muffy." In speaking of the beak, we shall not attempt to describe the points of difference between what are termed the Goldfinch, Canary or c :ier beaks, or instance half an oat or barley corn as a simile. Such guides are, at best, merely ambiguous ones, and point out nothing definite to the young fancier. We shall simply say the beak should be as short, straight and fine as possible, and the smaller the nose wattle is the hetter. It has been said that it should be so fine as merely to resemble a white thread drawn across the roots of the feathers; but we do not wish to cut the matter so fine as this, because, for various natural reasons, we do not think it is to be obtained. On the other hand, we would deprecate anything in the way of a large and coarse wattle. It has also been urgel that the beak should be white; but this, again, cannot be depended upon, as it is alwaysaffected very mueh by the colour and age of the bird.

The cye should he a clear pearl, large, bright and prominent, and should be in the centre of the head. If possible, no cere or lash should be perceptible, and the feathers should grow close up to the edge.

The shape and carriage of the Almond are generaly taken as one property, and as such is one of the greatest recommendations a bird can have in the eyes of a true fancier, especially for purposes of loreeding. Such property at once indicates a well-bred bird. The smaller a bird is the better, the beauty of the other properties being therely greatly enhanced. It shouid be short in body, flights, and tail ; the legs short and the feet small. The neck should also be short and thin immediately around the throat, curving gracefully and imperceptibly into the chest, which should be full, broad and prominent. In posi-
tion, the bird should stand erect, with the head thrown back, so as to be in a direct perpendicular line above the feet, the chest held well up, showing its greatest prominence letween the butts of the wings. A low chest is a great disfigurement to the proper carriage, and is what is termed "goosebreasted." The tip of the tail should just touch the ground. The flight feathers should be carried drooping below the tail, showing their colous to greater advantage, and clearly developing the rump, which should be well covered with feathers, and nicely curved. A bird in the above position should stand entirely on its toes, the ball of the foot being slightly raised from the ground. Of cousse an Almond Tumbler is not always to be seen in this position, any more than the Carrier or Pouter are constantly in the positions in which they are invariably pourtrayed, but if a bird has any pretensions at all to a good shape or carriage, whether cock or hen, it will be seen in all its beauty during the time the cock is driving to nest.
In speaking of colour, we must confess we are troubled by the difticulty with which all writers on this subject have had to contend, that is, the want of a suitable term adequately to express what the proper ground colour of the lind should be. The term most in use and which seems to be the best for the purpose, is to call it a bright "Almond Yellow," that is, that it should, as nearly as possible, resemble the colour on the: inside of the shell of the almond nut. Having this ats the groumd colour, the whole of the body should he neatly and evenly pencilled, not splached or spangled, with a clear black. This should be the case particularly on the neek and rump. Each feather in the flights and tail shotuld be evenly and distinctly broken with the three colours, black, white, and the yellow or ground colour. The feathers should be tight and compact, and a bright, glossy hue overspread the whole of the body, the beantiful effect of which, when the birdstandsin a ray of sumlight, can readily be imagined. We have omitted to state that any tinge of blue about the tail, or, in fact, on any part of the birl, is very detrimental, at once showing that it is not well bred. The hen should be similar to the cock in every respect, due allowance, of course, leing mad $\cdot$ for the sex;
the hen, in every variety, being never so bold in appearance, and always more delicate in structure than the cock hird. The great insurmonutable difficulty, however, with the Almond Tumbler hen is to get the proper gromml colom sufficiently broken. A hen up to the standard in all points would realiee a small fortune.

Whilst upon the subject of feather, it will be, perhaps, as well to notice the great variety in colour that is produced ly these birds, such as Kites, Duns, Red aud Ielluw Whole-feather, Splashes and Agates, the latter term being applied to all binds which have the red or yellow feather more or less intermingled with white, after the manner of what are known as Gay-Mottles. Kites are black lirds, with a brilliant metallic lustre pervading tine feather, and the flight and tail feathers are tinged with red or yellow, which is termed "Fiery:" These birds generally rum better in head and loak than the Almonds, and are most useful for breeding purposes. In fact. it is totaily impossible without them to maintain strungth of feather. Splashes senerally run very light in the ground colour, with the black very considerably and uncrenly intermixed. These birds, expecially the hens, are als, most valuable for obtaining a sowsl loreak of feather: lionds of heanly all the alove varicties of colour now inake their appearance with success in the "Shortficed, any variety" class of our. large exhibitions.

For the information of would-be fanciers, we will give a simple plan in regand to breeding, which has heen found not only effective, but remarkably successful. The first and most important matter in Almond breeding is properly matching the liirds, and on the fancier: knowledge of this much of his success will depend. No precise rule can be laid down, nevertheless a few practical suggestions may be given. A Kite may he matched with almost anything hut a Kite, such as an Almond, light Splash, (that is, a bird with not ton much black) Red or Yellow Agate or Whole-feather, but of all, the best in our opinion, is the match of a Splash and a Red or Yellow Agate, the Red preferred. It is well not to match the lirds too rich in feather, especially if close bred, or white and purblind birds will be the result. Experience and a knowledge of
how the birds are bred are everything in this mattor, and even then no certainty as to the colour of the offispring can loe dependel upon. It is a fact that binds which one year have thrown the most beatiful Almonds, have the next season produced nothing but Kites. A neat advantage in this variety is the extent to which they can be bred in, not onls improving them in character, but avoiding that muisance to all breeders of other lirds, especially the Carrier and the Pouter, of the necessity of finding and purchasing suitable crosses. Almonds, as a rule, are very prolific, and to insure a fair amount of success all that is required is a little attention at the right moment.-Tournal of Horticultur.

## gabbits.

## SIDVER GREY OR CHINCHIDLA.

Respecting this lively little creature much may he said in its favour, its glossy silky hair being so prized by the furrier. In Siam, (lude China) this: animal is found in the greatest numbers and state of perfection. A variety of shades are now found in this country as the result of our colder temperature, and the experiments of re-crossing with larker or almost black specimens, and 1 know of few, if any kinds, where a greater variety of shade may be produced. I have long experimented in prolucing this variety, and lave arrived at the conclusion that the more silverlike the specimen is marked all over, the more perfect. Black feet, ears and faces, generally are oljectionable, and as a hint to all brecelers I would say, pair two that are prerfectly silvered all over, and rou need not fear the result.

This amimal is not generaliy large; if of the true kind it is about the weight of the Himalayan. A strong, $i=x$ rge animal, called the "Lincolushire Silver Grey," or "Miller" by furriess, with only a small sprinkling of the silvery hair, and at times also designated the "Silver Spris," may be seen, and I have known them weigh ten lbs. or more, but they are very dark in shade coutpared to the Chinchilla, which the real Silver-Greg Rablit resembles, hence the term as applied to this mercurial little fellow. Of all the cute creatures
of the rablit family, this is one, and generally not so docile nor so easy to tame as other varieties, as the burch or Angora, which, if treated kindly, are always ready to be petted. Yet with kindness it is wonderful what may be done, and the law of kindness should be strictly enforced in every rabbitry, if your stock is to afford pleasure.

I think the active manner and cheerful temperament of this ralbit always render it a favourite. All breeders know the young are horn quite black, and when about six weeks old they present a grevish shate under the boily, and this change extends over from five to seven months, according to the temperature of the liutcin; if warm, the process of silvering is sooner completed, the ears, neck and head generally retaining the black shade longest. I have noticed the more jet black the young are at a month old, the more perfectly silvered they become at say eight months, so that I would not have young fanciers be afraid lest the jet black appearance be too great, and to lose hopes of the true silver shade appearing, but, in the words of a once popular song, I would say, "Wait a little longer."

Warmith for all hutch rablits is of great importance, and this variety is by no means an exception; yet a hardy rabbit generally, and with the recpuisite care, by no means difficult to rear with success. I have generally had from fifty to seventy of this varicty alone in my rabbitry every year, and I suppose that during the last three years and a half, from eleven to twelve limndred have been bom of the seven varieties I keep.

The doe is rather shy, especially when about to have young, and seems very much afraid, where the nest is male, that it may be interfered with. She watches with an anxions eye every motion of the hand when placed inside the hutch, to see if her private domain is to be intruded upon, and I have known any such intrusion punished by the total neglect of the litter. The doe seems to prefer, when abou, to litter, a rather dark, but clean corner of the hutch, and should have plenty of fresh hay and water, or if milk and bread, all the better to quench the intense thist experienced at the time. In fact, milk and bread are no oljectionable breakfast at all times for the first two or
three weeks, if to be had. The Belgian Hare Rahbit is rather an exception to some of the other varieties, especially the one in question, for I have known does make their nests quite opposite the wire door, as though not the least ashamed for the lookers-on to see what an inportant event has happened since the last visit.

The Silver-Grey doe generally brings forth from five to wight at each litter, but should not be allowed to pair until nine months old at the carliest, if fine and strong specimens are required for exhilition, the litters should be at intervals of not less than ten or twelve weeks, to keep up the strength of the doc.

## MANSACHUSETTS POLLTRE ASSOCIATION.

A large number of gentlemen interested in the breeding of Poultry, assembled at the Parker House, Boston, on Wednesday, 22nd March,for the purpose of forming a Poultry Society.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Philander Williams, of Taunton. and fomally organized by the choice of Mr. William J. Underwood, of Belmont, Chairman, and Mr. Etwin N. Rice, of Clinton, Secretary, when it was voted to form an association under the name of the "Massachusetts Poultry Association," with the following officers:-

President.-Mr. Philander Williams, of Taunton.

Vice-Presidents:-William J. Unclerwood, Belmont; Atherton T. Brown. Boston; Elbridge C. Comey, Quincy; Moses Ellis, Framingham; Henry F. Felch, Natick; Edmund Rodman, New Bedford; G. Morgan Smith, So. Hadley; Gcorge B. Durfee, Fall River; C. Carroll Loring, Boston; John B. Moore, Conconl.

Corresponding: Secretary. - J. Newton Cady, of Boston.

Recording Secretary.-William E. sitkinson, of Newluryport.

Auditor.-Elwin N. Rice, of Clinton.
Trfasurer.-Nathaniel Foster, jr., of Belmont.

Execctive Coymittee_-John P. Buzzell, of Clinton; Jacol Graves, Reading; Mark Pitman,Salem; William H. Brackett, Boston; Col. George A. Meacham, Somerville; George F. Champney, Taunton; Joseph K. Pierce,

Holliston; Charles E. Tuttle, Boston; Julius K. Bamnister, Boston; Charles L. Copeland, Milton.

Rbsident Honomary Secretaries.Great Britain, Lewis Wright, Bristol, England; Canada, S. Sheldon Stephens, Miontreal; New York, William Simpson, jr., West Farms; Pensylvania, David W. Herstine, Philadelphia; Illinois, L. L. Greenleaf, Evanston; Ohio, N. B. Sherwin, Cleveland; Connecticut, Sam. J. Bestor, Hartford; Rhode Island, Nathaniel S. Collyer, Pawtucket; New Jersey, C. S. Haines, Toms River; Delaware, W. W. Churchman, Wilmington; New Hampshire, N. A. Shute, Exeter; North Carolina, Alston B. Eister, Townsville; Texas, William R. Evans, Galveston; Missouri, J. C. Hatch, St. Louis; Lowa, D. D. Wilbur, Boonsboro'; Louisiana, O. E. Hall, New Orleans; California, George B. Bayley, San Francisco.

The next meeting of the Association will be held at the Horticultural Hall, Boston, on Wednesday A pril 19th, at 2 oclock, p.m., when all interested are invited to be present.
i'resemving Eigs.-We recommend the following to the attention of our readers, for we have reason to believe tiat oiling egers is the best mode of preserving eages from the summer until the frllowing spring, without their becominis tainkel. The following trial seems to have been judiciously conducted. Flax seced oil is commonly known as linseed oil. Continued immersion in lime-water gives the ega a peculiar taste not agrecable; some advise sult water, but it penctrates the egs. Ashes, bran and saw-dust do not preserve it. Varnishing has been practised, but abandoned on account of the odourand taste which it communicates. The following experiments with pure oil will show their value:-Ten eggs were rubbed with the finger dipped in tlax seed oil, just lightly covered with the oil. which Aricd in a few days; ten other eggs werc oiled in the same manner with the oil of the French Poppy, to ascertain the comparative effect of the two oils; ten extgs were not oiled, and received no preparation; the thirty eygs were placed side ly side, but not in contact, in a vessel, the bottom of which was covered with sand enough to keep them standing upright, three-fourths of each egg
leing exposed ; they remained thus for six months; they were weighed when first put into the tub, and weighed in six months after. The following will show the result :-First, the eggs not prepared lost 18 per cent. of the primitive weight, were half empty, and exhaled an odour of corruption ; the egre rubled with oil of poppy lost 4 per cent., were full, without odour or had taste; the egss rubbed witli flax seed oil lost three per cent. of primitive weight when they were full, and had the odour and taste of eggs perfectly fresh. Hence flax seed oil may be deemed preferable for preserving eggs.--(English Mcchanic and World of Science.)

Statistics of the Cristal Palace Show, Exgland.-A writer in The Field says: "I have arranged the following statistics relative to the show of poultry and pigeons first held at the Crystal Palace, which may prove interesting to some of your readers. There were: exhibitons, ill ; total number of pens entered, 20 an ; number of poultry pens, 1236, containing individual birds, 1932; number of piseon pens, 814, containing 1539 lirds: total number of specimens, 3471. Many of the birds were of great, some of lesser value; but it may well lee assumed that the real aggregate value of the entire collection would approach $\boldsymbol{f} 10,(0 M)$. This estimate is wholly irrespective of the prohibitory prices placed on many of the pens to prevent their sale. The pens in which lirels were shown, if placed in line, would have extended to within 250 yards of one mile. During the week they were in the show the following quantities of food were consumed : Barley meal, 10 cwt ; middlings, 3 cwt ; wheat, 1 sack; hemp seed, 1 sack; barley, 4 yns; maize, 2 (uns; beans 1 sack; tares, 3 sacks; and for salad 60 large market lunches of greeus. Besides the two secretaries and clerks and nine members of working committee, one superintendent and nine feeders were constantly engaged, and a special watchman each night. During the Show there were but tiro deaths among the poultry, one of which was roupy when sent, and not one among the pigeons.

Ulcerated Feet of Birds.-A writer says: I lave observed that bul:finches seem more aftlicted with this complaint than other lirds, but I have known canaries affectel with it. It
comes on with a sort of swelling, and soes on, if not stopped, till the foot suppurntes, and of drop the claws and sometimes the font. I foumd out a cure for it: In one-fourth of the solution of chloride of soda and three parts of boilml min water, with just the chill oft, jout into a little galley pot, and the linyl': feet put in twice or thrice a day. The same water will do for a day or so; but it must be kept corked up, is this solution is a solution of soda impregnated with chlorine gas, amd not, as many of the chemists will tell you, common salt. I have known this to cure birds alter one or two of the class had dropped oft.

## 

Vermen in Politriv Hocsis.- 1 Sulb. scriber writes:-I frequently see reccipts for destroying vermin, or shall 1 say lice, in poultry houses. I have a remedy as simple as it is effectual, which I have not yet seen published. Take grees boughs of cedar and place them in the roosting houses and coops, and they will utterly exterminate everything in the shape of vermin. I once had my poultry house so bat that the chickens were perfectly covered withinsect vermin, and were actually driven ont of it, and by this means I destroye? every one of the inserts. Let anyone who is tronbled with lice in their poultry houses just try this.

Matcmin: Fowis. - (Foung Brginme:) The cock has most influence on the fiuncy points, and the hen most upon the fonm and size. It is therefore better to breed from small cocks and large hens, than rice ressor. Large chickens may be raised from Brahma fowls of moderate size. The rapidity with which young Brahma chicks grow, is truly astonishing. In matching Light Brahmas for breeding, it is always heetter to have the hen with it darker hackle than the cock; by this means you will the more readily secure perfectly pencilled hackles in the chickens. The cream colour in the white of the Light Brahmas has its admirers as well as the pure white, but the former must not le confounded with the yellow patches of feathers so freguently seen in the Light Brahmas, and which are a deeided disqualification.

Vubte:ef Hocks is Fowls.-Amatour asks us "What are vulture hocks?" Take a Brahma or Cochin fowl-as it is only in these large breeds vulture hocks are to be found-and place it on the ground wilh the tail towarts you, examine its legs, and
if you see long feathers projecting straight outwards from the lower part of the thigh so that the hock of the bird may be seen, then this fowl is called vulture hocked, in contrit-distinction to one whose feathers curl softly round the hock and completely hide it from viev. Vulture hocks, arcording to the Standard of Excellence, are oljecetionable, lnat not a disqualification, yot at all the English poultry shows lately held, juiges disqualify hirds having vulturhocks.

Eici-EATinc: HExs.-(W. F. G., Torointo. ) - in reply to your question, we camot do better than give you the following answer, which we clip from the Journal of Horticulture:-"Ireak an egg and dust the contents nicely with fine Cayennpepper, afterwards turning the egg round so as to gret the pepper below the yolk, if possiole, and leave the egg in the offender"s nest; or, if he catehes her in the act of cating an eege, lit him drive her away ynictly and place pepper in the remaider of the eag, undeavouring, as stated before, to get the pepper miderneath. He will very soon see her running furionsly abont with distended beak. If one duse is not sufficient, administer another, a littlstronger; lut I think once will be cnough, for I saw the romedy tried, and it turned out to be A Perfecir Cubs."

Pins of Porima Housp:- $A$ Nal. srriber.) On prige $3 S$ will be found plan of a poultry house, which you would do well to study. The plan may be culargen to suit any number of fowls you choose to keep, and if built as directed will be quite warm enough for your poultry in the winter season, provided you keep them in the covered run during very severe weather. Large fowls not supplied with roosts shouh have a good clean bed of straw to sleep on, which should be well shaken up and the droppings taien away every moming.

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#### Abstract

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