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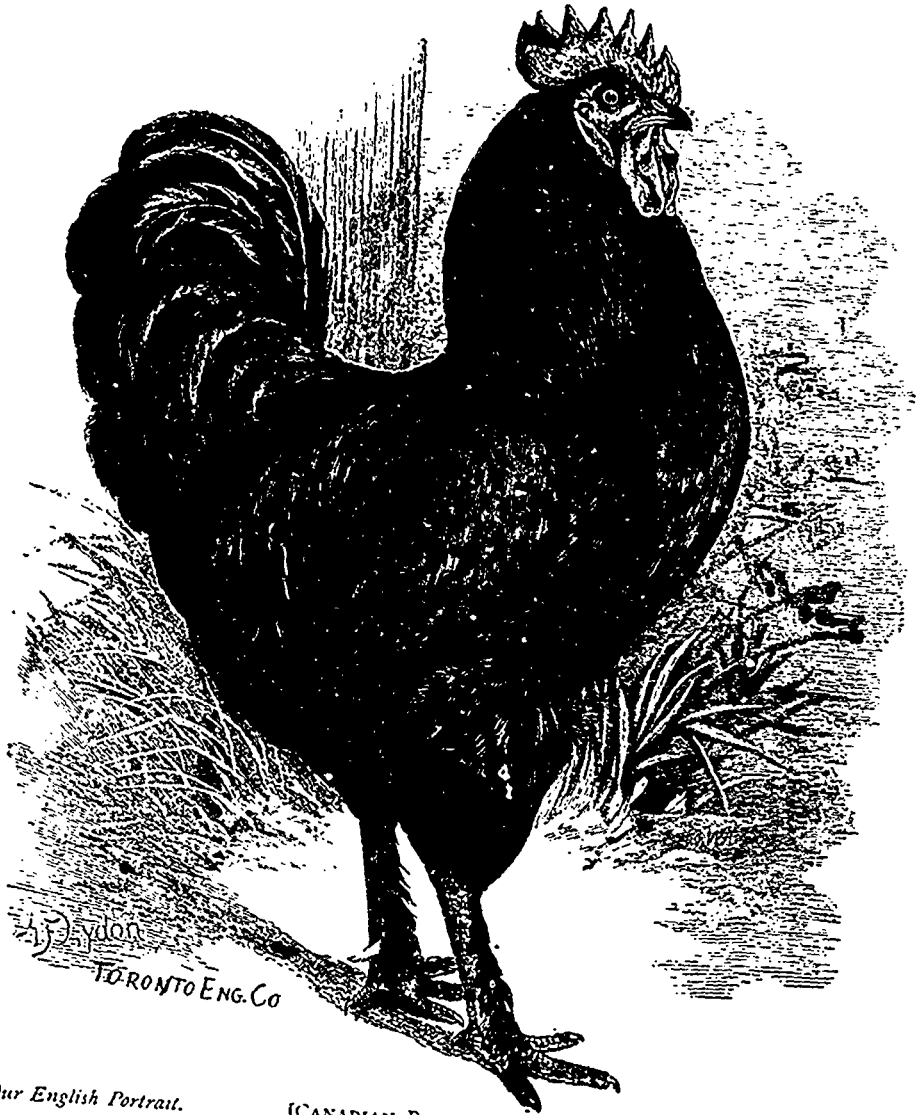
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*Our English Portrait.*

[CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW.]  
**CHAMPION LANGSHAN COCK.**  
A CUP WINNER AGAINST ALL VARIETIES.

*—Feathered World.*

# THE CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW

DEVOTED TO  
POULTRY, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

PUBLISHED BY H. B. DONOVAN.

VOL. XVI.

118 VICTORIA STREET, TORONTO, JUNE, 1893.

No. 6.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

MR. R. H. MARSHALL,

**H**AS secured a lucrative position as head miller at Galt, to which town he was to remove on June first.

THE PAGE WIRE FENCE CO

send free to all applicants a copy of the Coiled Spring Hustler a neat and interesting little sheet devoted to the sale of this company's manufacture. Any one who thinks of fence building should send for a copy.

MANY OF OUR READERS

are no doubt "aquatically" inclined. Such should correspond with Mr. W. L. Mitchell, of Painswick, a poultry breeder who is also a boat builder.

IMPORTATION OF EGGS.

From the *Fanciers' Gazette* of May 12th, we learn that Mr. Jno. Nunn has received from Messrs. Abbott Bros. nine sittings of eggs including white and black Minorcas, Andalusians, Redcaps, Malays, Spanish, etc.

MR. RICHARD OKE, LONDON,

under date of May 15th informs us that at that time he had some two hundred and fifty chickens out and doing well and they were still coming. This looks like business.

MR. J. D. ROBERTSON, GUELPH,

writes as below: "Don't you think it would be to the in-

terest of poultry if the Industrial Exhibition and the Ontario Poultry Association would give 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for the twelve largest eggs from one variety, turkeys, geese and ducks not to compete. The farmers around here all say 'why don't you poultry breeders make a show of the eggs that your fancy hens lay.' I think when the farmers see the difference in size they would try and improve their stock." We interviewed the Industrial Exhibition Association but found it too late to make any further change this year. Next year we have no doubt the matter will be favorably considered if brought to the notice of the Poultry Committee.

MR. J. E. BENNETT, TORONTO,

has sold to Mr. C. E. Stockwell, Danville, Que., the Plymouth Rock hen "Lady Bathurst," winner of first prize at the Industrial 1890 and second at the Ontario, 1891 as a pullet, first at the Industrial 1891 and first at the Ontario, 1892 as a hen. She has also several other first prizes to her credit. We congratulate her new owner and hope she may do as well for him.

MR. C. S. JACKSON, INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE,

who is now giving his whole time to the poultry interest writes us: "Many thanks for the trouble you took in seeing to the buff Leghorns being given a place in prize list. My buffs are grand and if spared will show a large number in that class. I have given up my business, sold out and rented my place and am busy building poultry houses. I am going to devote my whole time to poultry, dogs and pet stock. I am adding twenty new varieties including all the new buff and browns. My poultry business has steadily increased, and this year up to date I have made nearly \$200 more sales. Thanks to the REVIEW for the largest portion of my business. I shall use your paper more freely when I get all completed."

## IN AND IN BREEDING.

A correspondent writes as follows :

While visiting at a neighbor's I was shown the April number of the *Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal*. On page seventy-five was a quotation from the *Massachusetts Ploughman* headed "The Origin of the brown Leghorn Fowl" by Mr. F. J. Kinney of Worcester. My neighbor did not wish me to cut his paper or would have done so and sent the piece to you as I would like very much to have your opinion on it. If his theory is correct we need not send to a distance every year or two to get new blood to infuse in stock to keep them from deteriorating and to improve them. Would you kindly look the piece up and give your opinion of it, by so doing you would confer a great favor on one of your readers. The article reads, "I bought on board a ship in Boston harbor one brown Leghorn cockerel and two brown Leghorn pullets, forty-three years ago, and they were the first brown Leghorns ever seen in the United States, so far as I have ever been able to learn. I bought them of the sailor who brought them from Italy. Those fowls were the same color as I breed now, but their bodies were small, and their combs and wattles were very large. I bred them several years in Vermont, and by careful selection, early hatching, etc., succeeded in increasing the size of their bodies, and diminishing the size of their combs and wattles. When I moved to Massachusetts some thirty-five years ago, I brought some of the best that I had with me; then I had never seen a Game fowl. We had there the old-fashioned Dominique and other mongrel fowls. Those brown Leghorns had red faces and ear lobes. Some ten years later I discovered a pullet with whitish ear lobes, and I commenced breeding from her, and continued until I had the first white ear-lobed brown Leghorns in America. I bred them in large numbers for many years, winning many prizes and selling birds for fabulous prices in every country in the world, except China and Japan. My brown Leghorns had, and have still, all the good qualities of the first specimens, *i.e.*, were and are non-setters and wonderful layers, with the advantage of weighing twice as much. I have never exchanged a male or a female bird in the forty-three years that I have bred them, and no person can show a more hardy stock of fowls than mine are, or more profitable." We think this question of in-breeding is one which oftentimes forms a stumbling block to breeders. In our experience with various kinds of live stock in-breeding is not injurious (from a size and stamina standpoint) when the original stock was perfectly healthy. It stands to reason that the offspring of fowls and other stock of which the parents are not hardy and in the best of health and condition cannot themselves contain these essentials to well-being. Destroy every weak-

ly and puny chick, use none but the strongest and hardiest in the breeding pens and in-breeding will not result in the deterioration of the stock but the very opposite.

## MONTREAL EXPOSITION COMPANY.

The Third Provincial Exhibition will be held at Montreal, from Monday, 4th to Saturday, 9th September, 1893, inclusive.

## "THE MINORCA FOWL,"

by Mr. T. H. Harrison, and issued from the office of the *Fanciers Gazette*, London, England, is one of the best shillings-worth we have seen. Chapters are devoted to origin and history, qualities, points and characteristics, selection of stock, mating, breeding, hatching and rearing, exhibition and other kindred subjects. Not the least valuable parts are the engravings given of combs, what they should be, and what they should not be.

THE ENGLISH *Stock-Keeper*

of May 19th says: "We have, this week, to congratulate the Right Honorable the Countess of Aberdeen, of Haddo House, Aberdeen—one of the most enthusiastic breeders and exhibitors that we have among our titled families—on the honor that has been conferred upon her husband by Her Majesty approving of his appointment to be Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, in succession to the Earl of Derby. We have before us the catalogues of many of our leading exhibitions, and find that Lady Aberdeen supported them well, sending last autumn to Birmingham alone no less than twenty entries. We are quite sure that all our numerous readers will wish her ladyship every congratulation on this great honor which has been so worthily bestowed upon her husband." We hope to see the Right Honorable the Countess of Aberdeen an exhibitor at more than one of our Canadian shows during her ladyship's residence in Canada, which we sincerely wish may prove happy and pleasurable.

## AN ASSOCIATION IN PORT ARTHUR.

Mr. W. Fountain writes us: "We are going to try and form a Poultry Association here. There are several amateur fanciers here and in Fort William. I would like to obtain a copy of constitution and by-laws of the Association at Toronto, if you could procure one for me I would be very much obliged." Will the Secretary of the Toronto Association kindly oblige.

# POULTRY

## BRANTFORD POULTRY, PIGEON AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

THE regular monthly meeting of the above association was held in Temperance Hall, on Thursday May 18th. The president, Mr. Buck, being absent, R. F. Holterman was elected to the chair which he filled very creditably. After the necessary business was despatched including the reception of new members, several applying for membership, an interesting and very profitable programme was entered into.

A. McMeans, the Assistant-Secretary brought forward a pair of silver Sebright Bantams. After being scored judgment was duly pronounced on them. He then read a very interesting paper on white Cochins upon which a lengthy discussion followed. The best method of preserving eggs for future use, next receiving attention, W. Courtnage and others taking part, after which a very pleasant and profitable evening was brought to a close. The society although a young one is booming and is on the high road to success

A. McMEANS,  
*Ass't Sec.*

## LONDON POULTRY AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

THE regular meeting of the London Association for the month of May, was held in their room Albion Block on the evening of the 18th inst.

President McNeil in the chair with a fair attendance of members.

Minutes of our previous meeting were read and confirmed.

There were no fowls brought up for competition at this meeting, the members reports of the seasons hatch and condition of their stock taking up the greater part of the evening. The reports from most of the members were to the effect that a large number of chicks had been hatched (more than usual at this date) and still there are more to follow. The season in this district has not been very favorable to the rearing of chicks, but the "boys" seem to have been equal to the occasion, as they report chicks are coming along finely and growing fast.

Mr. McCormick reported having recently imported a very fine black Cochin cockerel from one of the best breeders

in England, and spoke of him as being a grand specimen of the breed, from which he expects to have something fine in chicks this fall.

It was decided that we adjourn, not to meet until our regular meeting night in August. Receipts \$5.00.

London, May 20th, 1893.

R. OKE,  
*Secretary.*

## MONTREAL POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

THE regular monthly meeting of the society was held on the 2nd of May, W. H. Ulley, Esq., President in the chair.

There was a large attendance of members.

Owing to the success of the last show the members were desirous that the next one should eclipse all previous efforts. The largest building available in the city will be secured and many new features of interest will be added. It is contemplated to have an artificial pond erected, and arrangements will be made with one of the largest breeders in the States for a supply of young ducks during the exhibition. It is also intended to build a Pheasantry, so that these magnificent birds may be exhibited to the best advantage.

More attention will be paid to the artificial hatching of birds, inducements will be made to large manufacturers of incubators to have machines in operation during the exhibition. It is intended that the new system of the decimal score card shall be in operation and to secure the efficient working of the same, Mr. I. K. Felch has been asked to judge the show which will be held in the last week of January 1894. In addition to the cups to be competed for which are now held by Messrs. Oldreive & Nicol of Kingston and A Thompson of Allan's Corners, additional cups will be offered and the society hopes to be able to offer money prizes for all varieties.

## DEFECTS IN BUFF PLUMAGE.

BY H. S. BABCOCK.

A BUFF fowl should be buff from head to tail. No other color should be allowed and the plumage be deemed perfect. The under color, though of a lighter shade, should hold the buff to the skin and even the quills of the feathers should be buff. To obtain all this may be difficult, but perfection is something not to be bought at a low price. Even in the best colored specimens defects

are to be expected. In all the buff fowls I have ever bred, and I have bred a great number, I never had more than two that I could pass as perfect, and one of these it was a doubtful matter to do so, as the shoulders of his wings were a little too near red in color.

The first defect that the breeder of buff fowls expects is unevenness in shade. It is almost impossible to obtain perfect evenness. The upper portion of the plumage being more exposed to the action of the sun's rays is apt to be of a deeper shade than the lower, especially in males. Hence we find an inclination in cocks to red shoulders and backs. The neck of the female is almost invariably of a little different shade than the back or shoulders. But the more common fault is a tendency to fading at the edge of the nibs of the feathers giving the fowl an almost mottled appearance, or more strictly speaking converting what should be a solid colored fowl into a laced one—two shades of buff, the lacing being the paler. In some cases this lacing is nearly or quite white.

The next defect that is nearly as common as unevenness in shade is the tendency to black, particularly in hackle, tail and wings. It is astonishing how persistent this tendency is, and especially in very richly colored specimens. The tips of the hackles, the feathers of the tail, the wing feathers, all these show it, and the wings are the very last place for it to wholly disappear. Not one bird in a hundred, perhaps not in a thousand, is entirely free from black in the wings. I do not mean the large flight feathers or the secondaries, but those little stiff feathers that grow close by and make the foundation of the bar in varieties that have bars on the wings.

A worse defect than this black is the tendency to white. This is found chiefly in the wings and tail, more rarely in the hackle. The main tail feathers, the primaries and secondaries of the wings, and the sickles of cocks are the most common places for its display. As this shows a tendency to weakness in color, I think it ought to be cut more severely in scoring than the black.

In birds excellent on the surface, a combination of both black and white is not infrequently found in the flights, giving these feathers a marbled appearance.

The underfluff fails in two ways—the more common being a tendency to white. This will be quite commonly found on birds of excellent exhibition color, while in those too deep in color the underfluff is usually admirable. The other defect is a dark underfluff, this dark underfluff is usually associated with a handsome surface color and a tendency to black in hackles, wings and tails. It would not be so undesirable as it is, if it were not for this tendency to black in the points mention-

ed. Birds having such an underfluff are useful breeders if mated to those that are very weak in color, but, unless for this purpose or unless they are otherwise remarkable specimens, they are best avoided in the selection of stock birds. The breeder has enough black, at the very best, to get rid of, without encouraging its propagation by using birds with a dark slaty underfluff.

If buff were not so beautiful and useful a color as it is—to my eye the most beautiful of solid colors and in my opinion the most useful—the numerous defects it has would deter many men from keeping buff fowls. But its excellencies are so supreme that one can endure some defects. And then, too, it is not to be forgotten that imperfection is written on all colors of plumage, and if all were to be critically examined it is doubtful that they would bear the test very much better than the exquisite buff. At any rate a good buff is a color that delights the eye and its imperfections, for the most part, are hidden beneath the surface.

#### THE EGG TRADE.

A correspondent kindly sends us the following clipping taken from a Montreal paper.

Now that the season is on for collecting and stocking eggs for export a caution is timely in regard to the operations of buyers and packers. This trade is in its infancy, and infants need great care or they sicken and die. There has been disappointment from the English demand being much less than was anticipated. That has not been owing to a restricted market, but from the articles we sent not being precisely what the market wanted. It cannot be too strongly insisted upon that in sending any agricultural products to the old land, we are dealing with an agricultural country, in which the people have for generations been used to the choicest supplies from the best farms in the world. Old country people of all others in this respect, "know a good thing when they see it." To send stale eggs to England is the height of folly, there is no market at all for this article. The eggs we supply are chiefly for culinary purposes, for mixing with food &c. that must be sweet and fresh, or be thrown away. Complaints are made that Canadian eggs are too small. This arises from poor breeds and starving the hens.

It is amazing how little knowledge there is in the art of raising eggs amongst farmers. A well to do farmer's wife recently expressed surprise at a young city bred clergyman having plenty of eggs all winter at the parsonage, as she had had not one during the winter. She stated that she never fed them, but just let them "pick round," even when snow was on the ground. Then she admitted that all her hens were in

their teens! Now every sensible hen wife knows that hens must be fed in the winter, if they are expected to lay, and that after their second year they are best utilized for food. Yet in a thriving farm district in Ontario, these elementary facts were not known to the hen keepers. No wonder then the Canadian egg trade is less profitable than expected, when so much ignorance exists. The farmers of Canada might with very small trouble, and trifling expense, double their receipts from selling eggs, if they would treat the hens and their mates rationally, and put their goods fresh on the market.

### WATER FOWLS.

BY F. M. CLEMANS, JR.

GOOSE culture has never taken any great hold on American poultry breeders, very few advertise the thoroughbreds and very few poultry farms make a specialty of market geese. The two breeds of geese which have been accorded a degree of popularity are the Embdens and Toulouse, both exceedingly valuable. It would be hard to determine which is the best there being little difference except in plumage and the fact that the Toulouse will attain the greatest weight in isolated specimens, but there is no proof that a flock of Toulouse will average larger than a flock of Embdens. The latter, I think, are the most desirable on account of their pure white plumage. Heavily fed show specimens of Toulouse have reached sixty pounds per pair, and Embdens fifty-four pounds per pair.

Goose eggs hatch in thirty days and may be set to advantage under large common hens or Asiatics, in fact some prefer setting them under hens for the reason that the goslings do better kept from the water (except drinking water) for two weeks. The goose is not so profitable a fowl as the duck for the reason that the latter is a prolific layer, producing as many or more eggs per annum as the average hen while the goose seldom lays more than a single clutch of eggs per season. The duck being so prolific is especially adapted to large-scale farming, the eggs hatching finely in incubators, and the ducklings being the hardiest and easiest reared of domestic fowls by the artificial process. At ten weeks from the shell a well-kept duckling will bring in more money for the feed expended than any domestic fowl. The great duck farms on Long Island and at other points easy of access to New York markets have proven beyond peradventure the fact that duck farming is the safest and most profitable branch of market poultry culture. The early incubator-hatched ducklings often bring \$3 per pair in June

and seldom run below fifteen cents per pound at any season of the year. The certainty with which ducks can be hatched and reared, their freedom from disease, their quick and healthy growth, the value of feathers from picking the market birds, the speed with which the duck farmer can turn over his capital, makes duck raising on a large scale very attractive. Many men are making not only a good living, but building up fortunes in the business.

Those who look upon poultry culture for market as a "peanut business" only think so because they "don't know."

### TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

COMMERCIAL BULLETIN, NO. 4.—FINANCE DEPARTMENT,  
OTTAWA.

POULTRY.

*Concluded.*

I would advise shippers to pack birds of different weights separately, as it greatly facilitates the disposal by salesmen. For instance, say 18 turkeys 10 lbs. each, 16 turkeys 13 lbs. each, and so on, stencil marked on package. The heavier they are the better for these markets. Birds under 8 lbs. weight should not be shipped here; they will realize more money in Canada. It will be to the interest of farmers to make birds as heavy as possible.

4. The localities in Great Britain which chiefly demand these products:—

"Turkeys are given as presents in England to a large extent at Christmas, and are considered chiefly as an annual luxury, and not as a common article of food.

"I have obtained the best prices in the following markets, viz: Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford, Leeds, Stafford, Sheffield, Crewe, Hull and Birmingham, where I had no difficulty in placing 150 tons this season. Liverpool is the best distributing point, in which locality there is a good demand, there being a population of about nine millions within a radius of thirty or forty miles.

"London and the South of England obtain supplies principally from the Eastern Counties, Ireland and the continent. I would not advise London as a market for Canadian turkeys. As before stated they require to be plucked and drawn for that market and this involves too much risk to the Canadian shipper.

"Scotland can take but a limited quantity. I made shipments this season to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leigh and Paisley. The best port for distribution is Glasgow, but Christmas is not kept in Scotland as in England, New Year's day being there observed as the general holiday and time of rejoicing. A prominent produce importer of Hull wrote to the High

Commissioner that he had received a consignment of Canadian poultry from Orillia, Ont., which arrived in good condition and met with a ready sale at good prices. The turkeys plucked did especially well, and he could have sold 1000 more of them if he had had them.

A Canadian dealer lately made a shipment of turkeys to England amounting to seventy six tons. He says that the price paid the farmer for all weights of birds was equal to the average price for the preceding five years. The fowls were delivered in Liverpool in such good form, that every bird was sold after careful examination by meat inspectors. The shipper realized a handsome profit on the transaction and expresses himself confident beyond a doubt that an unlimited, steady and profitable trade can be done with England in Canadian poultry."

### THE ROSE COMBED BLACK BANTAM.

BY E. HUTTON, IN THE ENGLISH *Fanciers Gazette*.

**I**N these, as in all the Bantam family, the best specimens are both difficult to breed and rear, unless great care is exercised in the selection of the breeding stock, delicacy of constitution following as a matter of course on in-and-in breeding, consequent on the extraordinary demand for "quality," which, in this case, is centered in smallness of size and profusion of feather. The latter point being of more importance than the former, is also a much greater drain on the constitution, such great development in any case being only attained at the expense of vitality; and I have often found the cocks of this variety, moulting most successfully, on getting into full and brilliant plumage die from sheer exhaustion, like a pigeon "going light." The drain being so great as to leave so little reserve of strength that it could not live.

The first step in breeding this bird, which is one of the most hardy and long lived when bred with due regard to the development of vital parts in the structure of the bird, such as a broad back, well rounded wing bows, full chest, and on these points rest the attainment of stamina in the offspring.

From the above remarks it may appear as if the birds so selected would lead to the development of size and this is so where a judicious selection of points to check these tendencies is not made, and these are a short beak slightly curved, short broad head, fineness of bone, daintiness of foot, combining shortness of toes and claws, and as far as possible the absence of spurs of any great thickness or development in the male birds.

The black as well as the white rose-combed Bantams should be the reverse of the Game Bantam in every point of shape or outline, width and profusion of feather, the graceful, undulating curves, starting at the end of the upper mandible, and ending unbroken or free from angles at the end of the long sickle and under beak, and ending at the base or under part of the tail. The legs, in all cases, should be set on well forward or midway of the body, and not backward like a Game fowl or Pouter pigeon; in fact, this is an important point, as the legs should appear to fairly balance the body.

The wing should be long and carried jauntily, but not so long as they project in the hens so far beyond the soft feathers at the base of the tail.

So much, then, for the general outlines of the bird, a description that embodies all the points required for the successful production of a high class of bird, and the points to be avoided in the breed are—long Game-like legs, tucked up wings, and whip or Game-like tails, and a squirrel tail is just a disqualification.

The cocks of about 20 oz. weight each are the best to breed from, and it is better in deviating from this size to incline to the larger rather than to the smaller kind of bird, and the hens especially can be too small for breeding from as where the size is excessively small it in most cases carries a deformity of the legs or thigh bones, which on examination will be found to be somewhat bent, or, in other words, they are bow-legged, a defect difficult to see unless the bird is placed breast high, and when the bird is on the ground the soft fluffy feathers of the under part covering the lower limbs within three-quarters of an inch of the ground; and at present my daughters have discarded all but the medium-sized birds to breed from, with one exception—viz, an old cock of twelve ounces, produced from a stock I sold in 1870, and which I look upon as quit equal to a clear cross of blood.

Indiscriminate selection of breeding-stock is a dangerous process, as it is also the introduction of a cross into a yard of birds that is known to be pure and reliable, unless the cross so introduced is well known to be pure in blood and well fitted to the strain on the other side, and care should be taken to fit the defects of one side with corrective points on the other in all cases. The original black rosecomb was a dull black, or in some cases of a metallic sheen or purple cast or shade; but this is now so far improved that many specimens, and especially one or two birds produced by Mr. Edwin Wright a season or two ago, and particularly two shown by Mr. Edwin Walton, during the last season, fairly vied with the black Hamburg for the palm in the beetle-green tone of plumage; but the process of improv-



ing the colour has been a very slow one indeed. Crosses of black Hamburg have been tried, but I do not know of a single winning specimen having come from such a cross.

Other have tried the cross of a brown-red Game Bantam, and by great care in selection some hens have been got of a high tone of colour, but these have in all cases ruined the production of the male birds, which after such a cross invariably come with golden hackles and backs, and most of the hens from this cross are tinged under the ears and on the wing ends with brown peppering, and all such crosses are to be avoided; in the first place, because all crosses of other varieties tend to encourage growth in size, and especially where on one side is of a large strain; and in the second place because, once introduced, it is never fully bred out, and may crop up and spoil a season's breeding when least expected.

Of late a great craze has set in for a very large ear-lobe in this breed, but I do not favor such excessive development of any point, and of ear-lobe especially, and for the following reasons, viz. :—Though all fowls show an inclination to produce the white ear-lobe in domestication, yet this is not a point found in the original fowl, and is distinctly the outcome of domestication, so that an excessive tendency to an abnormal development of ear-lobe especially, in all cases, leads to a deterioration of constitution, and those birds with medium-sized lobes are much more robust in constitution; and an ear lobe proportionate to the size of the bird is to my mind much more handsome than an excessive lobe on a small bird.

When these birds were first taken in hand with a view to their improvement—with which I process I was, perhaps, more closely connected than any other breeder—those black with heavy plumage were generally red in lobe, and those with white lobes were short or henny-feathered, and the difficulty was to combine the two points, and this was done by crossing the purest white rosecombed (which at that day were both profuse in feather and white in lobe) with both the varieties of blacks, white being the only corrective of colour in blacks of any breed, and by a careful selection and careful mating for several seasons, *i.e.*, from 1854 to 1860, a few good specimens in cocks were produced culminating a few years later in a pair of birds well known as the "Noah's Ark" of the variety, and which were so perfect that I had them put on canvas, and through which pair all I have had to do with were filtered and produced. This pair I ultimately sold to the late Dr. Morris for the then unheard-of price of £30 and a pair of Game Bantams, valued and worth £10, this being about thirty years ago, and whenever a bird is found combining all the properties of

the breed there also will be found, in some form or other, a trace of the white blood I have referred to, and which whites were produced by a pitman named Henry Firth (and shown by the late Alfred Handy, of the Prince of Wales Hotel, Horton, Bradford, at the Crystal Palace, in old times, when they were in first position).

The traces of white blood, to which I have referred, and which always prove a true guarantee of the freedom of the strain from red or golden strain of blood, are found in either a slight whiteness at the base of the lower mandible, a lightness of legs, a little white on the flights or a tendency to produce flecked birds at the first adult moult, and yet, such as these must not be discharged, as they are invaluable for breeding from with dark headed birds, as originally all pure black Rosecombs were dark or gipsy-faced, or like the Sebright had dark or leaden combs, and it was only by admixture of white blood that this defect was rectified, and it is still invaluable, as producing the desirable red face so much sought for, and a gipsy-faced bird paired to a bird with a slight white defect will generally produce a perfectly red-faced bird, and that in cocks especially, and as a guarantee of purity of freedom from red blood I should in all cases look for a slight tendency to white in some part of the wing flights, and in very old birds those with flecks of white on the tips of the soft feathers of the body are invaluable for breeding from.

It may be thought that this tendency to show the white cross would lead to white or semi-whiteness of leg, but this is not so; the birds producing white or grey-legged specimens, as a rule are those with a cross of red blood in them.

In colour of leg I am not as exacting as some are, and I would accept a dark slate leg in a chicken even quite as soon as a pure black one, because those also that carry a dense blackness of leg generally throw a percentage of red or lemon ticked birds, though I must admit that a black or very dark slate colored leg looks well on a chicken if it is only attained accompanying a good sound colored back had hackle.

I have not referred to the comb, but I favour a small, close-fitting comb, one which is in general keeping with the characteristic neatness of the bird, almost wedge-shaped from front to back, with the spike or leader not too long; great length in the later is a sure sign of coarseness in size bone, and feathers, and general appearance, and if the surface is level and finely filled with short sharp spikes, the bird will—as a rule—be found to be of a small neat variety.

One thing as to the management of the breeding stock and that is, on no account allow your breeding hens to run with cocks of other breeds, for so potent is the force of a

previous sire, or the mental impression left, that under such conditions there can be no dependence as to what will be the result; and further, I would not advise that any other variety of poultry should be within sight of the breeding-pen.

In hatching I prefer to place the eggs for half the time of incubation under hens; then selecting the fertile eggs, to put in a trustworthy incubator to be hatched out, as by these means the delicate little things, some of which are no larger than a common bumblebee, do not run the risk of being crushed when they come out of the shell; and if an artificial rearer is used very few will be lost, however small they may be.

On hatching, where only those of most value are cared for, all those that are clear black should be removed or destroyed or put in common runs, as they are generally red in hackle or wing when in feather; in fact, I do not know a single instance where the birds were pure black on hatching that were sound in colour when in feather.

On the other hand, those that are excessively marked with white on hatching may also be discarded, as these may carry too much white on the flights when full grown, a thing to be discouraged. The most valuable and most likely to produce the best show specimens are those that show a little white under the eyes and down the nostrils, the whole of the under part of throat, breast, and belly reaching to the vent pure white, with about four of the sprouting pinions, or primaries, white, all other parts being rich velvety black; not but that some of those most excessively marked with white may turn out good ones, and especially in the pullets, though they are not as much to be relied on as in the case referred to. When first out the chicks look very helpless and delicate, but they soon assume a sharp, lively appearance, strut about, and take food readily.

At first, a few bread crumbs soaked in milk that has been boiled, or in raw egg, squeezed dry, may be sprinkled over the birds, as they learn to pick these tit-bits better off each other's backs than from the ground, and this should be followed by plain food, such as rice boiled, and when almost cooked, chilled with a little cold water to separate it in the form of curry; and to this should be added a little oat or pea meal, or both, and after rubbing in well, a little very fine, sharp or blue flour to make it adhere, while so little moisture should be left that when finished it should form fine pellets like *grain*, and when squeezed and thrown on the ground it will fall open like grain.

Small wheat cannot be given too soon, with now and then a little canary-seed, as their little millstones cannot be set grinding too soon; in fact, I have had them well filled with wheat alone—and do well—before they were forty-eight


hours old; a little dari is a good change, and now and then, especially in wet weather a little dry rice is of service, and if these kinds of grain are given alternately, with the exception of the *wheat* forming *three-fourths* of the feeding, all the better.

Any spare eggs should be mixed with the soft food in place of water, but on no account should they be cooked, as they damage the lives in this state and cause chicken cholera.

Whether reared under hens, or artificially, must be determined by the breeder, but when over five weeks old, in either cases, they should be carefully watched, as no variety of fowls show the same pugnacity at about six weeks old, when this is generally a great source of loss, as they fight with the tenacity of Bull-dogs among themselves; and once an encounter, one or other has to die, and often both are ruined for show purposes, their heads (*i.e.*, the cockerels') being left more like a little pulp than anything—the only remedy that I have yet found for this being to rear one or two of some larger variety with each brood, when the little cockerels are overawed and kept quiet until they are older, when they appear to learn better manners; and after this crisis is over it is seldom they take up arms to each other, and they generally agree until next breeding season, when it is not wise to leave more than one cockerel with with one flock of hens, as at that time their fierceness of disposition returns. When in fighting they will hold on with great determination, until one or other is dead or both blinded.

The hens are very free layers, the weight of eggs produced being, as far as I have yet made out, far in excess of that of any breed, whether large or small, as compared with the smallness of the bird and the little weight of food consumed; and if properly housed and good warm-sheltered corners are at hand, there is no variety of soft-feathered birds that will lay as freely in winter. In fact, from this source alone, we have a continuous supply of eggs in winter; but, in consequence, it is not wise to feed them on fattening food, as if too fat and soft a great number succumb to inflammation of the oviduct, or egg passage, during the chilling east winds of spring.

#### TO SCORE OR NOT TO SCORE.

E note Mr. Scott's presentation of two score cards without argument except that the bird was in fine condition when shown four months after her purchase. Now she weighed over 6½ lbs. in October

and weighed six in February, so the cut lowered one point then. If she had been in same condition would she have weighed less. Would anything but the score card have developed the fact. Would Felch have been honest to have let it pass uncut.

Comb. In October just before laying she had a nice and almost perfect comb. Four months afterwards her comb had developed and become either damaged or crinkled. Would comparison have divulged that fact. The head may not be so easily accounted for, an additional defect to the original or may have developed. Neck, in the original the cut of one was made over the dotted lines which do not appear in your paper production of the card which indicated shape or color both defections. Now it was an easy matter in four months for the pullet to have mended in shape and get only the defect of color cut. Back in the Oct. card the cut was over the dotted lines showing both shape and color defects. In the show a little more care to cut each its quota may have led to cutting each  $\frac{1}{2}$ , while the total was the same.

Breast. Now in February this specimen, four months after she was in full condition and full weight, plumage two-thirds grown, comes into a show half a pound less in weight yet four months older, shrunken in breast as to shape, plumage grown longer thus disclosing under-color, or a faded surface color. Is it strange that she is cut in shape and color, both, when she had that defect, showing clearly she had changed. Would comparison have shown as clearly what that change was.

Body and Fluff  $\frac{1}{2}$ . It is safe to bet,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , if I made the figure was over the dotted lines, if clerk made them it may be he put it in color, but the fact disclosed that breast had lost its fulness, the specimen lost its weight that a natural sequel would be a loss in body and fluff.

Now tail in October, everything seemed to be in proportion, was fresh, and deemed all right, four months after was out of shape it may be by broken plumage, but more likely contracted a squirrel state of carriage, either carrying it too high or too low, that had become fully grown and developed bad color to the extent of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a point. Color of leg was the same in both cases. It could not be puny for it was a Plymouth Rock.

These very two cards have demonstrated the fact that the bird was not in the same condition, that she was a lighter weight bird in February than the October before. That she had changed, that any breeder ought to know that birds fit to win prizes in October seldom win in February and then the cards show the fact. It is folly for this man to pretend the bird had the same perfect comb it had when bought. It is folly to say a bird that weighs a  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. less

at nine months old than it did at five months old was in the same condition and unchanged, and these two score cards both alike, and made both by me, show beyond any discussion that the score card system shows the differences and the reason why. Does comparison either? that is the question. These two cards are stronger witnesses in favor of score cards than were the other three. To show that they differ, but makes the system all the more safe and sure for the exhibitor, as I sold the birds and pretend to know something about it. What would you have thought of me as a judge if I had scored her both times alike and gave her the prizes at Ottawa over the 1st prize bird of that show, which was fresh in color and young life. The cup went where it was honestly won, and that pullet scored the same at Ottawa as she did in Massachusetts when I scored her. And under similar circumstances as the two cards you have printed the fact demonstrated is the pullet changed, so changed her card.

FELCH.

#### METHODS OF EGG PRESERVING.

THE secret of success in the preservation of eggs is twofold. The eggs must be perfectly fresh at the time they are packed away, and they must be so packed as to exclude them from the action of the air. There are other points to be mentioned which are of importance, and it cannot be too strongly insisted upon that success is in direct proportion to the care bestowed upon details. There are several methods which may be depended upon to ensure good results, but much depends upon the number of eggs required and the length of time it is desired to keep them.

Let me first deal with the state of the egg before preserving. Those are most likely to succeed who keep poultry themselves, and so are not dependent upon others for the supply of eggs. It should be carefully noticed that the hens are healthy birds and well fed, that the nests are perfectly sweet and clean, and that the eggs are collected at least every day, and it would be better if collected at intervals twice or thrice in the day—in fact, for the third method named of preserving, the eggs should be collected as they are laid and preserved whilst still warm. It is also a point worthy of observation that eggs keep better when unfertilized, *i.e.*, when collected ten days or a fortnight after the removal of the male bird, as they are then not so liable to be affected by variations of temperature nor by the position in which they are placed when stowed away. Let me describe the method most generally used with success, and, while more generally practised by those who preserve great numbers, is equally suited to those desirous of preserving a few. Take

seven pounds of freshly burnt lime and slack it by covering with water in a bucket or other vessel. When the heat has subsided add a quarter of a pound of salt and one ounce of cream of tartar, stir and add sufficient water to make to the consistence of thin cream. The best way to test it is, when the whole is cool to place a new-laid egg in the mixture and make it so thin that an egg will only just float in it with the top visible just underneath. The quantity I have given is sufficient to preserve one hundred eggs. If a greater number are to be preserved more can be mixed in the same proportion. The best vessels to contain the mixture of lime are wide-mouthed earthenware jars. If a large number are to be preserved each vessel should hold one hundred at least. If only a small number they may be packed in vessels of a smaller size, as *e.g.*, a pickle or preserve jar capable of holding a dozen. The vessels should be numbered or dated, and used in the order in which preserved. The mixture must not be made too thick, and the lime must be quick, *i.e.*, not already fallen, otherwise the lime in the bottom of the vessel will be too thick and the eggs may be embedded so tightly in the mixture as not to be extracted without danger of breaking.

Eggs preserved in this way will keep well for six months or longer. A cellar is a good place to keep them in. If due care is taken, the eggs may be taken out with a spoon without the necessity of dipping in the hand, and they can readily be washed in a little warm water before being used for eating or cooking.

Another method, which has the advantage of being more cleanly, is to preserve them packed in salt. They may be stowed away in boxes of any convenient size, one of 14 in. square and 9 in. deep, holding about 100 egg. The salt should first be rubbed quite fine, and then either dried in the oven or on the kitchen range. Salt 2 in. deep should be laid in the bottom of the box and the first row of eggs placed therein. I always prefer packing them erect with small end bottom. When the first layer is completed, the fine salt should be packed in and pressed tightly but with care around the eggs, which should be kept at least an inch from the side of the box, and it is then ready for the next row. When the box is filled the lid should be tied on, and the box put away in a dry but cool place. If the eggs are perfectly fresh when packed away they will keep in first-class condition several months. It is much better to pack them in small boxes or other vessels, holding from one dozen to fifty, if a small number only are required, or if the box is made with a loose bottom as well as top, the eggs may be used from the bottom first. Bran or sawdust may be used instead of salt, and the bran especially is not a bad substitute if the place where the eggs are kept is quite dry. Saw-

dust is apt to give an unpleasant flavor to the eggs. The boxes in which the eggs are packed should be quite free from any strong odor, or the eggs are liable to be tainted (as egg shells are porous) by anything with which they come in contact.

A third method is, if anything, still more simple after the box to receive them has been prepared, which may be made of any size. It is most convenient when the box opens in front and is fitted with sliding trays like a gentleman's wardrobe, though an ordinary box laid on its side does equally well with strips of wood nailed at the side to receive the trays. By means of a brace and bit, holes should be pierced in the trays or shelves at a distance of about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. (a little more or less according to average size of eggs), a piece of wood 18 in. long and 10 in. wide thus having holes to contain thirty-two eggs, and the shelves need only be from  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. to 3 in. apart. Eggs to be preserved in these boxes should be taken from the nest when quite newly laid, and gently smeared with a little butter quite fresh and, if possible, while the egg is still warm.

The best method is to grease a bit of clean soft rag and rub over the egg. No butter should be left on the shell, or it may turn rancid. One ounce of butter is ample for 100 eggs. This closes the pores of the egg from the action of the air. If the egg is then placed on the tray with the thin end down, it may be stowed away in any cool and dry place, and will keep fresh for several months. Instead of boxes containing several shelves, they may be preserved on single trays, which should then be made either of thick wood, or have bars running across each end of the tray, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick, to keep the egg from touching the ground.

Either of the methods I have mentioned may be employed with success, if due care is only taken that the eggs are quite new-laid when preserved, and, for the two latter methods, that the place of storage is cool and dry.—*Forvis.*

#### SEASONABLE NOTES.

THE diseases of chickens, though not the most pleasant subject for consideration, are none the less necessary, and we should, one and all, know something of the nature of the ailments, and how to treat our little feathered pets promptly and effectively when suffering; for if not, while seeking the advice of others, or hunting through the bookshelves and old journals for something to aid us, the poor little birdies may die. But if the advice so frequently given about the management of poultry,

is acted upon, and well-ventilated houses, cleanliness, careful feeding, and avoidance of overcrowding are the rule, and not the exception, disease will rarely make its appearance, or when it does so, will be quickly overcome.

First, we will think of diarrhoea, as being the evil most likely to assail us at the present time. It is caused by drinking water that has been warmed by exposure to the sun, by having ill prepared soft food, or food that has become sour, or by the birds themselves being exposed to the noontide sun. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that chickens should always have available shelter, the drinking water cool and pure, and the soft food fresh made and sweet.

A sudden change in the weather, and cold also cause diarrhoea—two causes which are not so much under our control. Strong tincture of camphor given in the drinking water in the proportion of 10 to 15 drops in half a pint of water, according to the size of the chicken, and a diet chiefly of cooked rice well sprinkled with powdered chalk usually affords relief; but if this does not check the progress of the disease, one drop of chlorodyne, administered in a teaspoonful of water two or three times a day, has proved very efficacious.

After an attack of diarrhoea has passed off, the birds should be fed almost entirely on soft food for a few days and have only a small quantity of green food given to them.

Diarrhoea is not of an infectious nature, though it is well to isolate birds suffering from it for a few days.

Chicken cholera happily is not common in our poultry yards. It is of an epidemic nature, and highly contagious, also very swift in its course, the birds frequently succumbing after only a few hours' illness. The best plan is to instantly kill the sufferer, and burn the body; thoroughly disinfecting the house and ground where it has been, and giving in the drinking water 10 drops of camphor, or of fluid carbolate to every pint, as a preventive, to the rest of the chickens. If an attempt is made to cure a sufferer from cholera, it must of course be isolated, and dosed with chlorodyne as advised for diarrhoea, disinfecting powders being plentifully used about the cage.

The symptoms of chicken cholera are excessive thirst, accompanied by diarrhoea, the droppings it first being of a greenish colour, and afterwards thin and white. The bird rapidly becomes weak, emaciated, unable to stand, and often cramped, then dies. Except where the epidemic has been imported with the bird from another yard, an outbreak of cholera can generally be traced to an unsanitary condition of the ground and appliances in use.

Great mortality amongst chickens is caused by insect

pests: chicken lice and the gape worms. Want of cleanliness is again the cause of the former. A general brushing-out and disinfecting of the fowl-house once a year is no more sufficient for them than it would be for us, if, after the spring cleaning of our homes, dust, moths and spiders were allowed to accumulate and do their work of disfigurement and destruction until the next spring came round. We should very soon suffer in health and spirits, and it is not surprising that the chickens should also under similar treatment. Constant vigilance is, therefore, necessary on the part of the attendant, and nests, perches and floors should be thoroughly cleaned at least once a week.

When infested with lice, the chickens mope and droop their wings, frequently uttering a miserable "chirp, chirp," and often become quite bald on the top of the head. It is impossible for them to thrive in a filthy condition, and if not at once attended to, they become puny and stunted in growth, if they do not quickly succumb.

If the insects are found in newly-hatched chickens, a good dusting of Pyrethrum powder about the nest and over the chickens and some portions of the hen, will be found a safe and effectual measure. Some people prefer to anoint the chicks with a preparation composed of mercurial ointment and pure lard, each 1oz.; flour of sulphur and crude petroleum, each ½oz.; mix thoroughly together, and apply a little on the head, nape of the neck, and under the wings of the chickens. This rather spoils the appearance of the chickens, but it is an infallible remedy. If put in a covered jar in a cool place, the ointment will keep good for some time.

The subject of gapes will take up rather more space than we can devote to it this week, and must consequently be held over.—*E. H. E., in British Fancier.*

#### ARTIFICIALLY HATCHED CHICKS.

**G**RAIN—During the second week a little crushed grain should be given and less soft food, and this will strengthen the digestive organs. Give a little bruised grain with their last feed at night, and the internal heat will be maintained for a longer time. On a wet day, when the chickens are confined to the run or court, a little crushed barley or wheat should be mixed with the loose earth. This will give them employment, and the exercise will be productive of much good.

**THE GIZZARD AND GRIT**—Fowls are provided by Nature with an elaborate apparatus for grinding and softening their

grain and other food. It is a powerful grinding mill, and the food is subjected to the action of two thick muscles placed opposite each other like mill-stones, and by them reduced to a pulp. This mill is the gizzard. Grit assists in the work, and a supply must be provided if the fowls are to be kept in health. Grit is small rough stones, and the more irregular they are the longer will they be retained in the service of the gizzard. Flint is the best material to form grit. Broken earthenware is a capital substitute for it, and is procurable in every household. This should be a consoling thought to the thrifty housewife when a misfortune befalls some of her choicest ware. A little of this material should be mixed daily with the chickens' food, and we will be sure they will get it. People who live near the sea can generally procure large quantities of minute shells (sometimes called marl or shell sand). The chicken run and the poultry yard should never be without this if it can be obtained, as it not only assists digestion, but supplies the system with lime for the formation of bone. Bones and oystershells pulverised are beneficial either for the growing fowl or the laying hen.

**FOOD FOR THIRD WEEK**—When the chickens are two weeks old the oatmeal may be dispensed with, and buckwheat meal, and ground barley mixed with the maize and bread crumbs. To this should be added some grit, a little salt, once a week, on a dry morning, a pinch of sulphur to assist them in feathering. Mix dry, and add boiling water till the mass crumbles readily. Mix only one day's supply at a time. If the chickens have a grass run it will be unnecessary to chop any more green food for them, but a fresh supply must be suspended daily in the coop or run. And just here let us repeat, "Do not forget the animal food," as failure in feeding is often caused by an insufficiency of this article. We wish to emphasise this, as we are convinced of its great importance. A hen often hatches a large brood at a considerable distance from home, and their only support must be the insects and other animal food which the mother discovers for them until they are able to follow her to the poultry yard. Give it then in any form, but liberally, and if a little labour on their part be required, it will be relished all the more.

**ANTHILLS**.—Give them an ant hill occasionally, and they will pass a pleasant and profitable hour or two. Earth-worms are easily procured, and are easy of digestion. A large earth-worm will keep a whole brood in exercise and amusement for a long time. We find that chickens at this age derive great benefit if they are allowed into the kitchen garden. They are the gardener's friends, by feeding on worms and insects, which do harm to the growing crop. When they come to be a month old, however, they begin to damage, and should be replaced by a younger brood.

Chickens that have access to a manure heap obtain much good from the animal food they find there and from the exercise which the search for it entails.

**VARIETY OF FOOD**.—Chickens like a change of diet, and should not day after day have the same food. As they will eat almost any food there is no reason why a variety should not be given them, and we will find if we study their tastes a little, they will thrive all the better. To the above foods may be added rice, barley, potatoes, table scraps, and a little hempseed.

Rice contains a large proportion of starch, and is consequently less stimulating and nutritious than other grains, and should always be used mixed with milk. Uncooked rice should not be given to chickens, as after it is swallowed it swells and might be injurious. It is an excellent food for a change, and should always be given instead of the ordinary food if the brood is suffering from diarrhoea. It should be boiled with skim milk until all the moisture is absorbed and the grains are completely separated. Barley may be given for the evening meal, crushed or boiled with skim milk until dry. Potatoes that have been left over from the dinner should be mashed fine, and mixed with buckwheat meal or oatmeal. This is a food they often eat with avidity. Scraps of bread should be softened with boiling water, and a little of the meal mixed with it while it is hot. Oats is a good food for chickens, and is more nutritious than barley; but should not be given whole until the brood is a month old. Maize should only be given in the form of meal, and is too fattening to be used extensively. A little hempseed should be given during the cold months, as it is very warming, and acts as a stimulant. Chickens in good health should have empty crops in the morning, and if they fly about in all directions when they get their liberty you may be assured the rearing is a success. If at any time they do not feed greedily withhold the next meal entirely, and their appetites will be regained.—W. HAY, in *Poultry*.

### BLACK AND WHITE POULTRY.

BY REGINALD S. S. WOODGATE, IN THE *Stock-Keeper*, ENGLAND.

THERE have been from time to time inquiries made in the *Stock-Keeper* as to the difficulties, or otherwise, of breeding black and white poultry. In some of the other English journals as well as the American Press, enquiries have also been made on this subject, many admirers of the whole-coloured varieties and would be breeders and exhibitors of them being of the somewhat universal opinion that black and white poultry for exhibition can be produced

without any trouble. On attempting, however, to carry the idea into effect, those who have made the experiment have frequently failed to produce specimens up to the standard of the breed they were aiming at, and considerable surprise has, I believe, consequently been expressed at the failure.

I am of the opinion that there is a somewhat general inclination in many varieties—especially in a first cross—to throw wholly black or white offspring: those who have kept Andalusians, for example, will know to their cost what a number of chickens come black or white. Breeders for the table who have introduced a cross among their Plymouth Rocks will know that a great preponderance of the birds result in being nearly black. Those who have bred cuckoo Dorkings—of recent years—are aware how a goodly number, unfortunately, of the pullets, end in being of the same sombre colour; and before me, as I write, I have a letter from Colonel Annand, of The Firs, near Ash, in Surrey, saying that the result of introducing three white Dorking cockerels, a couple of years ago, into his flock of fowls which live at his home farm, has ended in his having a yard of almost pure white poultry. It is from such facts as these I think, that the idea is disseminated, that pure black and white poultry are so easily manufactured, but the error nevertheless, is a great one, anyhow as far as exhibition specimens are concerned.

For over a quarter of a century, I have been without two or three varieties of black or white fowls, Bantams or ducks, and during that time nearly every recognized breed in some way or other, has had a home—temporary or otherwise—in my runs. For that long period I have had, moreover, as fairly satisfactory a record to give of my black and white birds, in the breeding and exhibition pens, as have most fanciers. I venture, however, to affirm, after this somewhat extensive experience, that there is as much skill and knowledge required in breeding chickens of these colours, as ever there is to produce a buff Cochin cockerel, or a light Brahma pullet.

The only difficulty that is not experienced in breeding exhibition birds—black-and-white—is that separate pens to produce cockerels and pullets are not required, in the case of Brahmas, Hamburgs, and many other varieties, which surely is, to the amateur especially, a boon of great magnitude. Not only is this double-pen system most aggravating to beginners, who do not, naturally understand the proper mating of the birds, but for birds requiring this arrangement double space is, of course, required, since it virtually amounts to keeping two varieties, although one breed is only really exhibited. Not so, however, with blacks and whites, for from well-bred and properly-mated pens cockerels and

pullets of equal quality may confidently be looked for from the same breeding pen.

The prices, however, of these whole coloured breeds, run a great deal lower than, what I may term, birds of feather. I have never been able to properly account for this, but such, undoubtedly, is the case. On two or three occasions, at the great National Show, I have seen a white Cochin at the top of the prize-list, unclaimed at £15, and even at £20, when a buff or a partridge of the same quality would have been snapped up in almost the twinkling of an eye, and again to my own knowledge, the challenge cup white Dorking cockerels, at Sydenham, on two occasions have only realised a paltry £7 or £8 at the auction, when an unnoticed silver-grey or a coloured *confre* would be greedily bought at £15, £20, and £25 each. This, I confess, is not exhilarating. Nor does it tend to intensify the further spread and production of fowls of these colours. Yet I ask why should they be apparently snubbed? It is because the white birds are difficult to keep clean and require washing for successful exhibition? But do not buff Cochins, do not many varieties of the Leghorn, do not some Game fowls, and Polish, and Houdans, and Silver Hamburgs, and many others have to be tubbed? Is it because the black look dark and dingy in colour? Surely this is not the case with birds in good bloom and lustrous feather, which moreover have the advantage of looking well in confinement, when other varieties would be foul and discoloured. Is it because the white chickens when newly hatched are supposed to be delicate? I have bred hundreds and hundreds of the colour, and can at once scatter to the winds that familiar heresy, for I have ever found them to be strong and sturdy, save in most exceptional instances, as the youngsters of the colored varieties. Is it because black and white poultry look often smaller in a pen than they really are? (This, I suppose is an acknowledged fact, for put, say, a black or white Cochin alongside of a buff or a partridge of similar size and equal weight, and either of the two later would probably have the larger appearance.) This may be a possible reason, but, if so, it is a very lame one. I remember, however, Mr. Lewis Wright calling my attention to this very point a score of years ago at the National Show. Why, I ask, then, is the cause of the unpopularity, to a certain extent, of black and white poultry on the whole? I make reply, because I believe that they are supposed to be so easily bred that they are beneath the notice of those who call themselves high-class breeders, men of intelligence, fanciers of skill and research.

(To be Continued.)



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BY H. B. DONOVAN

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