## ORNAMENTAL POULTRY.

**Silver Duckwing Game Bantams and White Crested Polish Fowls.**

Among the many varieties of thoroughbred poultry generally recognized as worthy of propagation and admitted to the American standard of perfection are quite a number which may be classed as ornamental. Some of these feathered beauties are, it is true, also profitable to the poultry keeper, but nevertheless it is not a misnomer to call them "fancy" poultry. Take the subject of this illustration of a White Crested Black Polish cock and his companion in the cut, a Silver Duckwing Game Bantam. In their case, says a writer in The Farmers' Monthly, it is emphatically the fine feathers that make the fine bird to the eye of a fancier. A White Crested Black Polish fowl must be first of all pure white in the crest and the rest of the plumage jet black or it is small of value. Likewise the Duckwing Bantam must be a genuine little aristocrat or it, too, ranks low, for, though on account of their intrinsic value as producers of eggs and the market qualities we may well keep hundreds or thousands of Leghorns, Wyandottes, Brahmas, etc., not of extraordinary quality, when we come to the more ornamental breeds we demand first of all beauty.

SILVER DUCKWING GAME BANTAM AND WHITE CRESTED BLACK POLISH.

White Crested Black Polish when well bred are strikingly handsome fowls. They invariably command the admiration of visitors to poultry shows who may indifferently pass by the more common breeds and wonder what it is to pure bred fowls that so many people profess to fancy. The Polish, or Polands, as they used to be called, have been bred pure for many years, as they are one of our oldest members of the standard family. But old as the breed is, thoroughly good specimens are none too plenty. Fanciers who delight in breeding for fine points, and who prefer a fowl that when they do succeed in getting it up to a high standard will be something they may well be proud of, often find much recreation and genuine pleasure in a yard of White Crested Black Polish.

A game without good shape is nothing. In no other breed of fowls does shape count for so much as in the game. Perfection in the Silver Duckwing Game Bantam means, so far as shape is concerned, a long slender neck, broad shoulders, small, low carried tail and long legs. Duckwing Games are housed at small expense, as they take up but little space, and their food costs comparatively little. They lay well, and for the diminutive size of the fowls the eggs are large, very palatable and nourishing. The chickens are plump and have delicious flesh. Of course, when profit alone is the object, larger breeds of fowls must be kept.

**Some Points About Spraying.**

In addressing the Massachusetts Horticultural society on fungous diseases and their remedies Professor James E. Humphreys said that lime prevents injury from bordeaux mixture if otherwise too strong; it also makes enough of the mixture stick to serve the purpose. Clogging of the nozzle is a serious difficulty, and partly for that reason bordeaux mixture is going out of use and ammoniacal carbonate of copper is being substituted for it as simpler and better. Simple sulphate is not so effective as ammoniacal carbonate of copper, concerning which the testimony thus far is decidedly in its favor as most effective. Where there is not too much ground to go over knapsack spraying is convenient and generally satisfactory. Almost everything depends upon the nozzle, and it should throw a fine spray. To cleanse it sometimes remove it. The Vermorel nozzle is the best. It requires a good stout man to carry a knapsack sprayer of the usual size.

"What is the great advantage of the fine spray?" is a question often heard. Professor Humphreys explained it to be that, in the first place, a fine spray is more economical; next, it forms a thin film upon the surface and dries much more quickly, which increases its durability, as in case of a shower soon after its application it will not so readily wash off. It is true that with a fine spray nozzle the mixture is not thrown so far, but when the foliage is close the fine spray permeates it better instead of beating it down by drenching it. In case of large trees use coarser spray.

**The Grindstone.**

A good grindstone that runs true, says American Agriculturist, is a necessity on every farm. Place it under shelter and wear it out as soon as possible by keeping all edged tools, usually sharpened with it, in a good workmanlike condition. When mowing or reaping the knives often become dull are it is time to turn out; if you have a piece of coarse whetstone in the machine box they are soon made quite sharp, or at least the cutting edge roughened up as well as sharpened. A sharp file answers a similar purpose, but if carried in the machine box should be wrapped in cloth to prevent gumming or useless wear against other iron tools. Teach the boys to keep all edged tools in good condition, and never allow the hired man to go to the field with a dull ax, hoe, scythe or other edged tool, and insist upon the tools being ground at a uniform level. Remember that sharp tools mean less time and labor for man or beast.

**An Odd Way of Saving the Hair.**

Among the Sakkaras the women twist their hair into flat braids, which are literally covered with cowry shells or beads, and the ends are then gathered above the head, forming a sort of bonnet. The whole is drenched liberally with palm oil and sprinkled with red powder. At night the women go to sleep with their necks resting in a concavity that has been dug out of a small log for keeping their headwear from touching anything and thereby being disarranged. Sometimes this uncomfortable pillow is hollowed out, the top of it being a lid, which when lifted off discloses a receptacle in which are kept the hairpins and other objects of the toilet.—New York Sun.

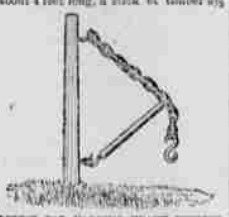
**Keeping Cider Sweet.**

The way to have cider in its natural condition is to make it from clean, sound apples as late in the season as practicable, and then keep it in a cool place. Filtering cider through clean sand as soon as it is made aids in keeping it sweet by taking out the fine particles of pomace which cause fermentation. Scalding cider when in its first stage of fermentation is another method for keeping it sweet, but the process changes its flavor somewhat. Occasionally some use sulphite of lime to prevent souring. One-eighth of an ounce of sulphite (not sulphate) is added after fermentation has proceeded until the cider has acquired the acid taste desired. This is first mixed in a quart or so of the liquid and then poured into the barrel and thoroughly shaken. Care must be taken not to add too much, as it will impart a sulphurous taste to the cider. Barrels containing cider should be kept tightly bunged unless fermentation is so strong as to make it necessary to give them vent. The cider sold under the name of champagne cider is filtered and racked off while sweet, charged with carbonic acid gas and bottled same as champagne, with corks wired on.

**A Handy Homemade Fixture.**

Our cut depicts a handy device for hanging heavy kettles over an open fire or furnace, which Ohio Farmer describes as follows:

The material required is an old chain about 4 feet long, a stick of timber 3½



DEVICE FOR HANGING HEAVY KETTLES.

feet long and 2 or 3 inches thick, a pair of hinges of ½-inch rods, or small gate hinges, and a hook. Fasten to a post or tree or any convenient stationary object. If fastened to a fencepost the kettle can swing around out of the way when not in use.

**New Combination for Ensilage.**

The following has been credited to Professor Robertson, of Canada: "I have been successful in devising a new combination of forage crops for ensilage which I believe will prove of very great service to the dairymen of the Dominion. I have no doubt that it will enable the stockmen of Canada to save millions of dollars a year in the annual cost of feeding their cattle. If the dairymen in the northwestern part of Ontario will give the 'Robertson Combination' a trial next summer, I am sure they will be delighted with its capability of service. Sixteen pounds of Indian corn and sixteen pounds of English horse beans planted together per acre, mixed with the heads from half an acre of the mammoth Russian sunflower, will give a most desirable, nutritious and economical ration."

**Agricultural Brevities.**

All animals in confinement require a variety of food.

Have all the roosts, nests, etc., in the poultry house movable, so as to make cleaning them an easy matter.

Good, bright straw with grain makes a good fodder.

A lady writes to The Farm Institute that the best way to clean a milk strainer is to put a teaspoonful of salt on it and rub first one side and then the other. It is worth trying at least. But the strainer needs a thorough scalding in any event.

Beekeepers will be pleased to know that enough interest in apiculture has been taken by the department of agriculture to send an expert to the late beekeepers' convention in Chicago.

A cure for lumpy jaw, says Secretary Hoch, is bottle of potassium.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