

sation matings" and the like with no explanations whatever as to their meaning. To be sure the experienced fancier into whose hands this literature comes needs no explanation; such technicalities are a part of his stock in trade, but if you please, there are others—beginners and fanciers in a small way—people who love the beautiful and are naturally drawn to the fancy but who have had no technical training whatever in that greatest of all schools of poultry culture—that of "Dame Experience."

For such, the best training school in observation is the average poultry show, where may be seen occasionally some particularly nice specimen of the Banded Rock, Brown Leghorn, Golden Dotted or Rhode Island Red, and if he has tried his hand at breeding any of the particolored varieties, he will doubtless wonder why he has not been able to produce such a beautiful even color, and if he has been practicing single mating, he may rest assured that he never will be able to do so, for a male and female, both of exhibition color, will not produce the best exhibition color in their progeny.

Take the Brown Leghorn, for instance. An exhibition cockerel with brilliant red surface-color on hackle and saddle, with rich black stripe, is produced from mating a female two or three shades darker brown than the exhibition color, with a standard colored cockerel, and such a union is technically called a cockerel mating. Again, mate a cock bird of standard color to pullets two shades darker brown, and we have a standard mating. The cockerels of either of these matings should be of good exhibition color, hence the term cockerel mating. The pullets from such matings will be off color and unfit for exhibition purposes.

Take females of standard color and mate them to males very much lighter in color than the females, and the pullets produced by such matings should show the beautifully penciled soft brown on backs and wings so much sought after by breeders of the "Browns," and such a mating is termed a pullet mating because it should produce standard colored pullets. It will thus be seen that in order to produce cockerels of the requisite color one mating is required and that to produce pullets of standard color, another mating is required,

or two matings to produce one male and one female of standard color, hence the term double mating.

Double mating, however, is not confined to breeders of particolored birds. English fanciers of solid colored birds and some Eastern breeders of white birds are practicing it, especially of White Wyandottes and White Leghorns, claiming that excellence in head points, such as comb and ear-lobes, and general contour can only be produced in perfection by such matings. The fact that many of the Madison Square winners were produced by single matings would seem to refute this theory, but in the particolored class, it is doubtful if there has been a winner of recent years that was produced by single mating. If one is breeding for utility, it will readily be seen that double matings are useless. They are therefore of the fancy and for the fancy only, the sole object being to produce certain results in color and contour. The practice, too, is quite expensive, as it requires double the room necessary to carry on single matings, besides the great waste entailed in discarded pullets and cockerels that are unfit for exhibition, but that may be used as breeders in future matings.

To breeders of particolored birds who desire to have as evenly colored a flock as possible from a single mating it is suggested that they will arrive at the best result from following the female line, that is, in following line-breeding, take a standard colored female and mark her eggs, and later on, each of her chicks. For the 2nd year's mating, select the best of her cockerels to mate with her. Mark and see her eggs and again mark the chicks and the 3rd year mate the best cockerel from the last hatch to the original hen, and again the 4th year, when the work may be started over again. The theory is that color is less likely to vary in the female line than in that of the male.

In selecting the breeders for making up a breeding pen, we naturally select those nearest the standard in type, then in color and finally in minor points. If our best male is not so full and rounding in breast or body as he should be, but excellent otherwise, and we find in the flock certain females that are over developed, for example, in breast curves, but not so good in other points, by mating her to the thin breasted male we would

hope to overcome his defect in the progeny, and such a mating we call a compensation mating. It is to compensate the lack of one by what is over developed in the other. In theory it is apparently all right, but in practice by those experienced, it is generally conceded to be all wrong, for while a certain defect may be thus obliterated, others just as serious or more so, are sure to crop out from such a mating. Compensation matings are now generally considered a thing of the past.

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