

type to the old stock—from both utility and breed viewpoints—have not that desired, but difficult to attain, brilliancy of white in the colour of the male birds. The stock of the White Rocks is the best of the progeny from the imported blood. In utility points, breed characters, and trueness of colour they are excellent. They have the absolutely true build of a Rock, not the close resemblance to the Wyandotte form which characterizes so many White Rocks in this country. The Rock form is absolutely distinct from that of the Wyandotte, or even the Orpington, having the oblong tapering body with the main development where it should be, quite distinct from the more blocky low-set type of the latter breeds. The White Leghorns have thrown very satisfactory stock, exhibiting splendid utility qualities combined with good breed points, and fair size of body. It was unfortunate that the male bird of the Redfern trio failed to become properly acclimatized, which affected fertility and limited the number of stock produced. The Minorca stock is the type of the breed I have long desired to see established on the plants—the original utility bird, having the necessary breed characters without extreme fancy points. It resembles very much the noted strain of utility Minorcas being bred at the Ruakura Farm of Instruction. While only females of the White Wyandotte breed were imported, these have nicked well with the Department's strain, and the progeny is of a satisfactory standard. Unfortunately, fully 75 per cent. of the progeny of the imported birds are males.

A decided change is noticeable in the requirements of patrons of the poultry plants. Formerly birds displaying utility characters alone were asked for; now a bird combining both breed and utility points is desired. No doubt this gratifying view has been largely brought about by the wise decision of poultry-show societies to include classes for utility stock in their exhibitions. While the Department aims at producing stock which possesses utility characters as the first essential, it takes every care to maintain desirable breed points. Unfortunately, many people expect the ideal breed and utility types in the one animal—almost a freak in nature. The Department cannot undertake to meet this demand. Its object is to provide profitable purebred stock for the producer, and, as the highest price charged for a bird is 10s., it cannot undertake to furnish exceptional animals suitable for the show-pen.

Owing to the greatly increased demand for sittings last year many orders could not be executed with the desired promptitude, while a good number of orders could not be fulfilled at all. In view of this fact, and in anticipation of a still greater demand this season, breeding-pens have been largely extended, and all the best forward pullets are being retained to strengthen the breeding-stock. Under the circumstances only a very limited number of pullets will be available for sale until the breeding-pens are finally made up. Cockerels of all breeds