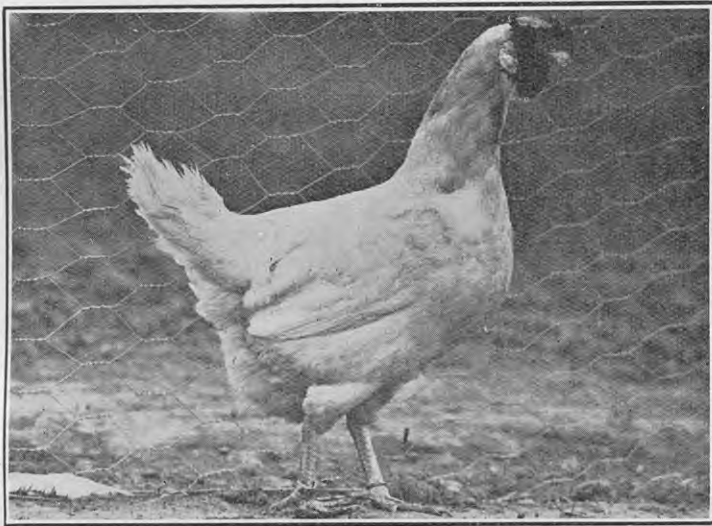


least of birds that are fair specimens of the breed they represent. It is true that crossbred fowls which have no special type or points indicative of purity of breed will at times give a good egg-yield. There are exceptions to every rule, but this does not disprove that a definite type should be aimed at. The chief objection to breeding from a crossbred bird is that this invariably destroys fixity of type, and opens the door to reversion and the appearance of latent undesirable characteristics.

Having purebred stock, the next consideration should be given to constitutional vigour, as, no matter how good the type or pedigree of performance possessed, desirable progeny will not be produced if there is the slightest constitutional taint in the parent stock. Especially should the male be strong in points indicating



WHITE LEGHORN, LATE MOULTER, OF GOOD BREEDING-TYPE.

Photo taken towards end of a heavy-laying season, this accounting for general shabby appearance of bird.

stamina. The head affords a good guide in this respect. Generally a bird of either sex with a short broad head, a stout well-curved beak, bright clear prominent eyes, and face free from feathers and wrinkles has a good constitution. These points should be combined with a well-developed crop (indicating heart and lung capacity), tight feathering, short shanks set wide apart, and an active, alert, businesslike appearance. The shape of the hen denotes whether she is of a heavy-producing type or a meat-maker. The qualifications to be looked for in a good breeding-hen are indicated by an oblong body, well-developed crop, deep and full abdomen of fine texture, the bird thus tapering from thighs to head and forming a wedge-shaped appearance.