

Origin of Domestic Poultry.

Henry Hales furnishes this interesting paper on domestic fowls to the *Rural New Yorker*: "Not much need be said of the ancient history of poultry; enough is well known to show that the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and all the ancient nations were acquainted with and kept poultry, even when their superstition or religion forbade the eating of them, as it is said of the ancient Britons. In early pictures of poultry, many of the peculiarities of our modern fowls are seen both as to colors, topknots, shapes and sizes.

"It is only within the last, comparatively few years that fowls have received a share of the attention that had for a long time previously been given to the improvement of other live stock. Since then, however, careful breeders have developed the original sports, or variations, into what are known as distinct breeds. The great change brought about within the memory of the present generation is enough to show that much more may have been done during past ages by food, climate, local in-breeding, or selection by the caprice of man.

"How often has the question been discussed concerning the plurality or singularity of the origin of our domestic animals, including poultry. Some say of the stately Dorking or Brahma, 'Is it possible that such monstrous birds can claim the same ancestry as the diminutive Bantam? Or, can the heavy, trousered Cochon claim the same parentage as the neat, clean, close-feathered Game, or as the Silky, with its odd covering and dark skin?' To answer this question, let us look a little further into the laws of nature, as we observe them. Every species of birds or animals has its own peculiar voice, song, call or cry, and that distinguishes it from all other species. There is no mingling or jumbling together of sounds. This is strikingly shown in the feathered kingdom. The voice of every little bird is wholly its own. Among the few small birds that visit both the American Continent and Europe from the far north, such as the Snow Bunting and Lesser Redpole, the rolling note of the former is precisely the same, whether heard in New Jersey, Scotland or Siberia.

"With poultry it is just the same. I have listened to the notes of fowls from India, China, Japan, Spain and Italy; all cluck just alike to their chicks; call them by one note; give the same notes of alarm, rate the same, and all give the same crowing crow. Although bred apart for so many ages that no one can even guess the time when they first sprung from a common source, yet their notes are precisely identical, varying only with the size of the fowls—the larger the bird, the longer and more sonorous the crow. There are some slight variations to the rule, as some breeds are more inclined to deeper notes than others, and active breeds are more noisy than the more sedate sorts. Yet size is the controlling rule—the larger the Asiatics are bred, the longer they crow, this, getting shorter till we come to the quick, shrill, crow of the Bantam. Some song birds have the power of imitation so as to change their songs; our canaries can be taught other bird's notes. Their natural 'cal,' however, is always the same. This would seem to show that all poultry have the same origin, all descending from one species. If thousands of years of separation, all kinds of climates, food and breeding, do not change their notes, does it not seem to point to such a single original source.

"Most naturalists in India settle on Gallus Bankiva as the parent of the Game fowls, and, perhaps, of all our domestic breeds, yet sufficient force is not given to the unerring voice in deciding this question. As I have before said, if one voice is the property of only one species, as we notice in other birds, then all fowls are descended from one origin."

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Feed.

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Sewing Machine took First Pre-

mium, at the late county Fair.

Text Book Uniformity.

RESULT WHERE BOOKS HAVE TO STAND ON THEIR OWN MERIT.

At a Convention of School Directors, of Centre County, held a Bellefonte, December 26, 1878, pursuant to the call of H. Meyer, Esq., County Superintendent, for the purpose of considering the propriety of taking measures to secure a uniformity of the text-books used in the schools of said county, the following action was taken, over fifty directors being present and nearly all the district in the county being represented:

COPY OF MINUTES.

Upon motion of C. P. Stonerod, of Snow Shoe township, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS: Great expense and waste are frequently incurred by the present and constantly changing variety of text-books used in the common schools of Centre county, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the representative directors here in session, that a system of text-books, suitable, complete and uniform, be adopted in accordance with the laws of the State, throughout the county.

Upon motion of J. C. P. Jones, the following plan was adopted with but one dissenting vote, to carry into effect the following preamble and resolutions:

First. The various publishing houses to send samples of their books to each school

board in the county for examination and to submit therewith the lowest exchange, introductory and wholesale prices, and the length of time they will guarantee to furnish them at said price.

Second. No agent of any publishing house to be permitted to do any work in the county, to be either general or local agent, beyond sending his books and terms as above stated. Any house or agent violating this understanding, their books to be counted out of the contest.

Third. The several school boards of the county, after examination of the various books which may have been submitted, to hold a meeting at which each director shall make out a list of the books which he prefers to have adopted in the county, and send it to Henry Meyer, Esq., County Superintendent, Rebersburg, Pa., prior to the first day of June, 1879, who shall make several statements so sent, and the books upon the various branches having the highest number of votes or preference shall be the series recommended for county uniformity.

The County Superintendent, after having made the above canvass as above, to send the result of the same to each of the papers in the county for publication.

W. C. HEINLE, Chairman.

The following is the result of the votes of the Directors of Centre county, Pa., on the uniformity of Text-books in said county, with the number of votes cast for each book, under the foregoing plan and resolutions:

READERS.	No. vote for each
New Graded.....	74
Independent.....	20
Appleton's.....	17
New American.....	12

SPELLERS.	No. vote
Swinton's.....	83
New American.....	6
Independent.....	23
Appleton's.....	1
Patterson's.....	1
Sander's Union.....	1
Raub's.....	1

GEOGRAPHIES.	No. vote
Swinton's.....	100
Colton's.....	14
Mitchell's.....	10
Independent.....	1
Monteith's.....	5

HISTORIES.	No. vote
Swinton's.....	63
Redpath's.....	5
Barnes' Brief.....	7
Butler's.....	1
Quackenbos'.....	1
Watson's.....	6

WRITTEN ARITHMETIC.	No. vote
Robinson's Shorter Course.....	57
Greenleaf's.....	14
Brook's.....	2
Gilne's.....	22
Boll's.....	12
Brook's Union.....	3
New American.....	4

MENTAL ARITHMETIC.	No. vote
Milne's.....	7
Greenleaf's.....	4

ALGEBRA.	No. vote
Robinson's.....	53
Greenleaf's.....	1

COPY BOOKS.	No. vote
Spencerian.....	65
Appleton's.....	30
Ellsworth's.....	10

GRAMMARS.	No. vote
Kerl's.....	72
Swinton's.....	17
Clark's Brief.....	15
Bullion's.....	1
Harvey's.....	20
Quackenbos'.....	3
Fewsmith's.....	1

LANGUAGE LESSONS.	No. vote
Kerl's.....	5
Clark's.....	5
Harvey's.....	1
Morton's.....	5

BOOK-KEEPING.	No. vote
Bryant & Stratton's.....	44
Folsom's.....	6
Smith's.....	1

CIVIL GOVERNMENT.	No. vote
Townsend's.....	1

BOTANY.	No. vote
Gray's.....	42
Steele's.....	1

GEOLOGY.	No. vote
Dana's.....	36

DRAWING.	No. vote
White's Industrial.....	48

PHYSIOLOGY.	No. vote
Steele's.....	9
Cutter's.....	1

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.	No. vote
Steele's.....	3

The attention of Directors is called to Section LXII of the School Laws, which requires every School Board in the State to adopt a series of Text-books every year, during vacation, which books, and no others, can be used during the ensuing school year. This is intended to fix a uniform course of study for the school of each district.

The undersigned having been appointed a Committee to count the vote on county uniformity of Text-books in Centre county, respectfully report that they have carefully performed such duty and that the foregoing is a correct canvass of the same.

SAMUEL FRANCK,
JARED HARPER,
W. C. HEINLE,

Committee appointed by the County Superintendent to canvass the votes BELLEFONTE, PA., June 23, 1879