

which have been carefully recorded, concludes, "that from a judicious pairing of cross-bred animals it is practicable to establish a new breed." On the continent the history of several crossed races of cattle and of other animals has been well ascertained. To give one instance: the King of Wurtemberg, after twenty-five years' careful breeding, that is, after six or seven generations, made a new breed of cattle from a cross between a Dutch and a Swiss breed, combined with other breeds.²⁵ The Sebright bantam, which breeds as true as any other kind of fowl, was formed about sixty years ago by a complicated cross.²⁶ Dark Brahmas, which are believed by some fanciers to constitute a distinct species, were undoubtedly formed²⁷ in the United States, within a recent period, by a cross between Chittagongs and Cochins. With plants there is little doubt that the Swede-turnip originated from a cross; and the history of a variety of wheat, raised from two very distinct varieties, and which after six years' culture presented an even sample, has been recorded on good authority.²⁸

Until lately, cautious and experienced breeders, though not averse to a single infusion of foreign blood, were almost universally convinced that the attempt to establish a new race, intermediate between two widely distinct races, was hopeless: "they clung with superstitious tenacity to the doctrine of purity of blood, believing it to be the ark in which alone true safety could be found."²⁹ Nor was this conviction unreasonable: when two distinct races are crossed, the offspring of the first generation are generally nearly uniform in character; but even this sometimes fails to be the case, especially with crossed dogs and fowls, the young of which from the first are sometimes much diversified. As cross-bred animals are generally of large size and vigorous, they have been raised in great numbers for immediate consumption. But for breeding they are found utterly useless;

²⁵ 'Bulletin de la Soc. d'Acclimat.,' 1862, tom. ix. p. 463. See also, for other cases, MM. Moll and Gayot, 'Du Bœuf,' 1860, p. xxxii.

²⁶ 'Poultry Chronicle,' vol. ii., 1854, p. 36.

²⁷ 'The Poultry Book,' by W. B. Tegetmeier, 1866, p. 58.

²⁸ 'Gardener's Chronicle,' 1852, p. 765.

²⁹ Spooner, in 'Journal Royal Agric. Soc.,' vol. xx., part ii.