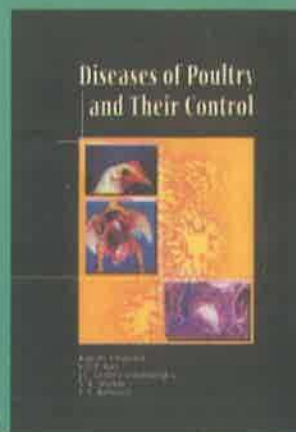


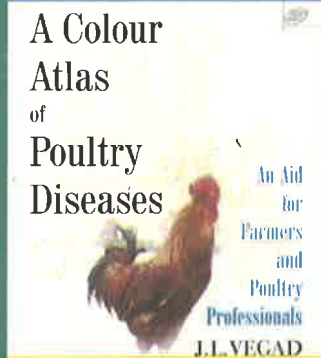
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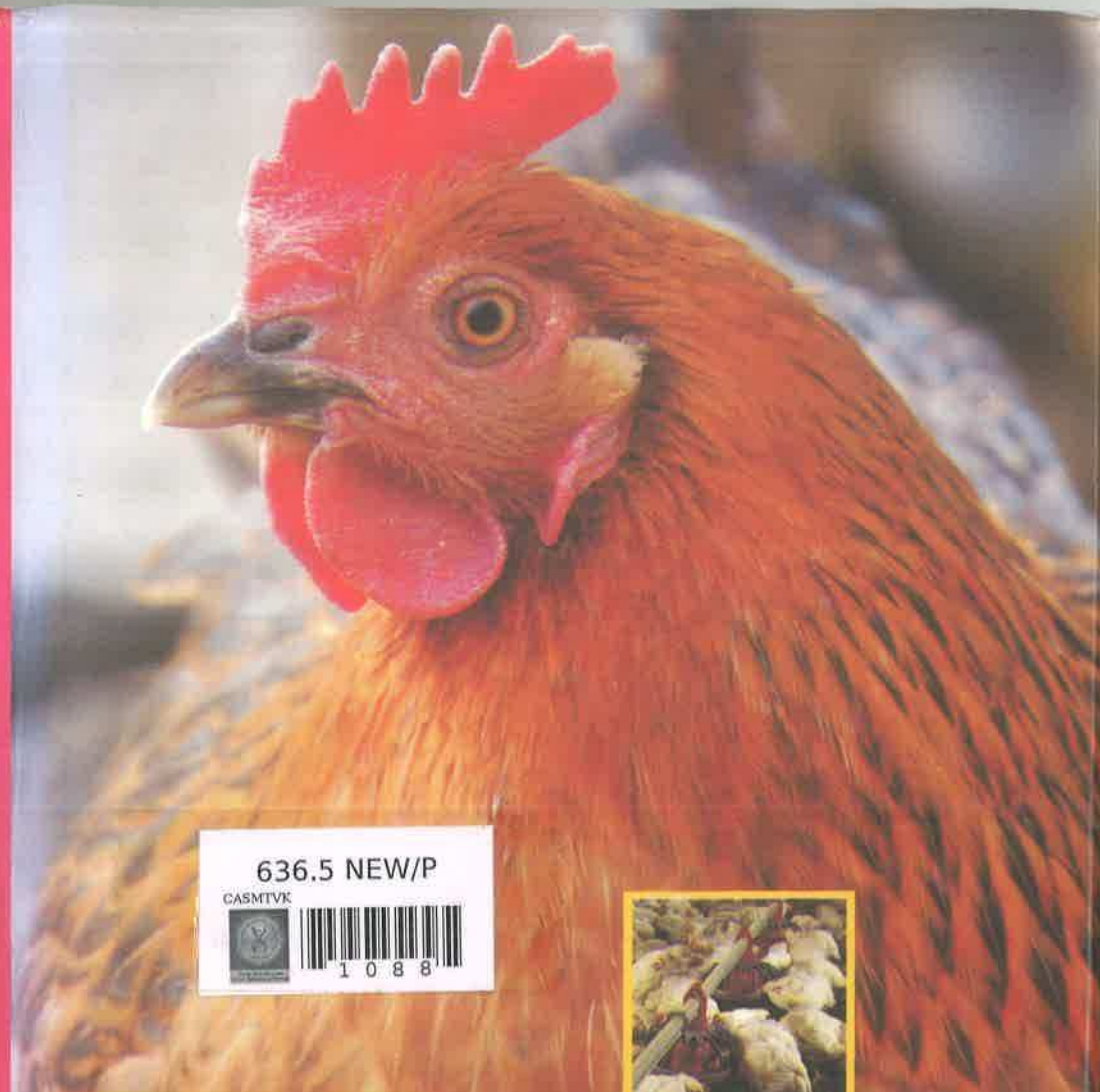
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE AUTHOR DESIRES to acknowledge his indebtedness to the works of Professor Punnett, "Heredity in Poultry" and "Mendelism," and to Sir Edward Brown's "Races of Domestic Poultry"; to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories for some of the photographs in connection with disease, and to Mr. L. G. Robinson for the valuable assistance given with the photographs.

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CHAPTER I

ORIGIN OF FOWL

DARWIN, IN 1868, EXPRESSED the opinion that all domestic fowls were descended from the Red Jungle Fowl, *Gallus Bankiva* or *ferrugineus*.

The close resemblance of the Jungle Fowl to our domestic breeds, and the fact that they breed freely together, probably led him to this conclusion.

These wild fowl, of which there are four subspecies:—

- (1) *Gallus Bankiva* or *ferrugineus*, the Red Jungle Fowl,
- (2) *Gallus Lafayetti*, the Ceylon Jungle Fowl,
- (3) *Gallus Sonnerati*, the Grey Jungle Fowl,
- (4) *Gallus Varius*, the Java Jungle Fowl,

are only to be found in Asia. Some doubts have been expressed as to the correctness of Darwin's conclusion. Tegetmeier was of opinion that the Brahma, Cochin, and Langshan were descended from a readily domesticated short-winged species that may have originated from the ancestral stock that originally gave rise to the four subspecies. Punnett has suggested the possibility of the Java Jungle Fowl being one of the ancestors of some of our domestic breeds.

BRITISH RACES OF FOWLS

The Dorking

It is generally accepted that the Dorking is descended from birds introduced into this country during the Roman domination of Southern England. Columella, a Roman writer who lived during the first century of the Christian era, described a breed which was in most