THE BLACK BANTAMS WITH COLOURED LEGS AT THE DARLINGTON SHOW.

Having noticed in the last Number of your valuable Journal a letter from "Justitia," in which she inculcates that the pens of Black Bantams which she exhibited at the last Crystal Palace Summer-Show, and which were claimed, were not shown in their natural state, but with coloured legs, I feel it my duty, in justice to myself and the arbitrators of that Exhibition, to state publicly, which I now do without the least hesitation, that not the least particle of colouring matter, or any kind of stain whatever, was laid on, or came in contact with the legs of the birds referred to by either myself or any other person previous to their being dispensed to that Show. As to the position the highly commended pen held being an inducement to their present owner to purchase the birds, they were in the catalogue at £23, while my first-price pen was only £2; and the gentlemen were prepared to being present and claiming them himself, and he a well-known judge of poultry; attending most of all our principal exhibitions, you will agree with me that he could not have been expected to purchase birds of any description, without first consulting his own judgment in the matter.

If a matured development of the birds have produced the change in the colour of the legs, surely there is no reason to blame me in the matter, does it appear to be naturally acquired, good dark colour, and fit to pass muster at any exhibition before the most exact and scrutinising judge, at the time that I sent them to that Show.

Your correspondent "Wiltshire Rector," says in his "Plea for Bantams," that he has had Black Bantams laying at the age of twenty weeks and three days. Allow me to state in support of him, that two out of the four-pullets sent to the Crystal Palace Show were laying when a few days from their seventeenth weeks, and at the end of nineteen weeks I had a sitting of eggs from them under a hen. When hatched the chickens were weaklings and did not live many days.

In conclusion, I cannot refrain from saying, that if parties writing to your Journal were compelled to give their proper names instead of being allowed to shield themselves behind fictitious appellations, it would be much more easy for your readers to discern the true love of justice from those who write only from personal animosity. — E. Hutton, Padstow.

[We have the real name and address of "Justitia." If he intended any reflection on Mr. Hutton, he was not justified in so doing; but we do not think he did. The owner of the Bantams when exhibited at Darlington has not denied that he knew their legs were coloured, and until he does so there is but one conclusion, and no one else ought to be suspected.—Eds.]

BEES AND BEE-HIVES IN THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

(Concluded from page 686.)

FRANCE.—In this department we found some very well-made common straw hives, and some straw-stirrers, which did not appear one step in advance of those used by the Comtesse de Bourdonnaye in the last century, and described by Willis. They are nearly identical with his own. M. Haeter's exhibition was called observatory-hive, which is, however, very inferior to those of English make.

We cannot find any reference to French hives in the official catalogues, but on going to the court we accidentally discovered an octagonal hive, a beehive of a diamond form, a beehive in the shape of square and round ; and a square stirrer by M. Gaillard. We are nothing to remark in the two former, but may refer to the latter in some future opportunity.

AUSTRIA.—Kolle, J. B., Maria Elephantina, Tower Hives, No. 599, circular hive, made of straw and of rushes, and of both combined; also square straw—lager-hives of various descriptions. There are two machines, one for making round hives, and the other forming the sides, floors, etc., of square hives. The principle of these being the same, we engrave the latter, as being most readily understood. It will be perceived that the straw is subjected to pressure by means of a lever, and confined by means of iron pins passing through holes in the uprights. The binding or stitching is applied before these pins are removed, and the result is a straw fabric, of great firmness and solidity. The extreme cold of German winters is provided against by these straw hives being 2 inches thick.

MIRCHIN, Dr. L., Vienna, No. 601.—A movable-comb hive of wood covered with traced straw, affording, we should think,