

The chicken mite bites the fowl and sucks the blood, and when a poultry house becomes infested with this worst of all pests, such a thing as a good healthy fowl soon becomes impossible. The chicken mite leaves the body of the hen before the fowl leaves the roost; as soon as the fowl begins to move it makes off. It lives during the day in crevices and under the roosts; cleats, loose boards, cracks, knot-holes, etc., make admirable hiding places. At dusk they come forth in search of the fowls. They are very prolific.

The itch mite produces scales on the legs and, as mentioned above, it also attacks the comb. The first appearance on the comb is little white points or scales, and the comb skin is not pure red but brown. The disease sometimes seems to stand still for perhaps a month, but all of this time the mite is at work. The base of the comb becomes swelled and is full of little burrows. The feathers of the head stand straight out and die, then curling up they imbed themselves in the flesh and result in the swelling called the itch. On the feet and legs this mite is also very active. The scales drop off or form in knots; a crust forms beneath the scales and the feet and claws smell badly. "Scaly leg" is nothing more nor less than an excessive state of the work of the "itch mite."

Remedies.

Isolate the affected birds. Then treat by using a solution of 5 per cent. creolin and bathe the affected parts, applying it about every two weeks.

CLEANLINESS OF HEN HOUSES.

I emphasise this point, and the individual who aims for success must insist upon it. A good system is to wash the hen houses with boiling water about three times a year—spring, midsummer and fall. Then whitewash with hot lime and 5 per cent. carbolic acid. Dry the house by fumigating well with sulphur. Put coal oil in the cracks and on the roosts. Lee's Insect Killer is good, as is also Persian Insect Powder.

To kill the vermin it is necessary to smother them. They breathe through tubes in their sides. Dust or a strong odour will close these tubes and hence effect their death. So, then, it will be understood that the fowls must always have access to a dust-bath, and the place in which they roost should smell strongly of some tar extract.

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