

DISEASES AND PARASITES OF POULTRY

THE DISEASES OF POULTRY.

1. Treatment of Poultry Diseases.—The treatment of poultry diseases should seldom concern the farmer. If the healthiest and most vigorous breeding fowls are kept, the chickens reared under satisfactory conditions, fed on wholesome food and not overcrowded, and the buildings kept thoroughly clean and disinfected, there will rarely be disease among them. When disease does appear, it will usually be found more satisfactory to kill and bury the sick birds than to treat the disease.

The poultry houses should be thoroughly cleaned out and disinfected by the use of a good spray pump. A good spray mixture may be made from a 2 per cent solution of chloride of lime or creolin or carbolic acid. Spray every square inch of everything inside, roof, walls, roosts, nests, &c. Close up and allow the fumes to act a few hours, then open and ventilate.

The poultry yards, if situated so that they cannot be ploughed and cropped, should be treated with unslaked lime dust. Scrape the yards clean of manure and refuse, scatter the lime thick on the ground, then sprinkle the lime with water from the spray pump. This will slake the lime and cause it to destroy any germs of parasites in the soil.

2. Causes of Diseases of Poultry.—The most troublesome diseases of fowl, with their causes, may be summed up as follows :—

Roup.—Planted by 'only a neglected slight cold.'

Cholera.—Caused principally by overcrowding.

Diarrhœa.—Damp houses, filthy houses and runs, and bad feeding.

Canker.—Dampness and filth.

Diphtheria.—Roosting in draughts, damp houses.

Ulcerated Throat.—Ditto.

Consumption.—Neglected cold.

Apoplexy, Vertigo and Epilepsy.—Overfeeding.

Sore Eyes.—Damp houses

Costiveness and Constipation.—Improper food.

Soft and Swelled Crops, Indigestion and Dyspepsia.—Overfeeding.

Pip and Bronchitis.—Damp quarters.

Black Rot.—Result of indigestion.

Soft Eggs.—Overfeeding.

Gout, Rheumatism and Cramp.—Damp houses.

Leg Weakness.—Inbreeding and overfeeding.

Bumble Foot.—High perches.

Scaly Legs and Chicken Pox.—Filthy and damp quarters.

3. Gapes.—*Poultry*, of London, England, says: We have of late had many inquiries as to this ailment, so give our reply prominence. Gapes is a disease of youth, and attacks adults as seldom as the whooping cough attacks old people. It generally makes its appearances when the chickens are between four and eight weeks old, and rarely, if ever, has it been known to attack birds over four months old.

It is not a new disease, but one that has been known in connection with poultry, partridges, pheasants, and other birds for centuries. Opinions differ as to the actual origin of gapes, but there is no doubt as to the symptoms nor as to the exciting cause of the symptoms.