

## POULTRY AILMENTS.

DISEASES OF THE EGG  
ORGANS.

## SOME SICK ROCKS.

MAY be a little too late for September issue, but if I am October issue will do. What I wish to write you about is a disease that my hens are subject to and one that I cannot master. I have done nearly everything, and up to the present, I have not succeeded in accomplishing a cure. I wrote you re this matter some time ago, and did as you requested, but it does not seem to have the desired effect. They act in this way: Get dumpy, will not eat, will sit about, while in this position they will shut their eyes, working their mouth; comb turning pale.

I would like to hear from some of my Plymouth Rock friends if they are ever troubled in this way, if so, what's their cure. Thanking you, I remain,

Yours truly,  
F. B. CARLING,

Exeter, Ont.

Will some of our Plymouth Rock breeders reply? It looks to us like a disease of the liver.—Ep.

BY W. M. FREEMAN, M. P. S.

VERY few persons who have tried their hand at poultry keeping have escaped without some experience of the ailments affecting the egg organs of hens; and there is probably no matter more difficult to deal with than a case of this kind as far as the average amateur is concerned. In this article I want to make as clear as I possibly can the principal ailments which are likely to occur, and how they can be distinguished, and how they should be dealt with.

Without resorting more than we are obliged to technical references, we may note that there are really three stages in the production of an egg. First of all the yolk commences to develop in what is known as the ovary. If a hen be killed and opened the ovary will be found to contain a large bunch of eggs in their first stage of development, looking very much like a bunch of grapes, except that some are much larger than others, being more fully developed. One by one these yolks, which it must be borne in mind are not encircled by any white or albumen, leave the ovary and enter what is called the oviduct. This is a long tube, and from the glands in its internal lining deposits the albumen, and further on also deposits the lime which forms the shell. So that the yolk being fully developed leaves the ovary, and passing through the oviduct receives its complement of albumen and its covering of shell, thus completing the egg. Thence it passes what is called the cloaca, where it remains until it is expelled by the action of the muscles.

Now it is obvious that so delicate

a thing as an egg might come to grief during several different stages. All may go well, for example, until it reaches the oviduct, when an accidental breaking of it would set up what is known as inflammation of the oviduct or egg passage, a very serious trouble indeed, and one which, as a rule, terminates fatally; or supposing the egg to be abnormally large, it may pass through the oviduct safely, but on account of the hardness of the shell, which it has received in passing through the oviduct, it may not be able to force its way to the outer air, having lost the elasticity which it possessed in some degree in the earlier stage. In that case the pressure of the muscles of the cloaca will probably cause it to burst and the contents will get away, the shell remaining undischarged.

Perhaps we can best classify the various troubles which arise in these matters under three headings—1, the laying of imperfect eggs (commonly called soft-shelled eggs); 2, inflammation of the oviduct; 3, inability to pass eggs (known commonly as egg-bound).

Soft-shelled Eggs.—In the first of these ailments which I have enumerated we have one of two causes at work. Either the bird is producing eggs too rapidly, a condition of things which may be due to over-stimulating food, or very often undoubtedly it is due to no other cause than the extreme fecundity of the bird affected, either of which two things may cause the eggs to be passed on too rapidly to admit of proper completion in the oviduct: or the laying of soft-shelled eggs may be due to the absence of a sufficient supply of lime-forming substance, such as often happens when birds are kept confined in small runs. The obvious remedies therefore for

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SEAFORTH, ONT., Oct., 6th., 1886.

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