

RED MITES.

The red mite, being a nocturnal insect, has more chance to cause trouble and a greater loss of money by stopping egg production than has the common hen-louse. These insects harbour in the cracks and crevices of the house, as also on the perches and nest-boxes during the daytime, where they can keep in the dark, waiting to prey on the stock at night. The writer has found several cases of these mites existent this year after the houses have been washed and sprayed thoroughly with a common disinfectant. The red mite's egg very much resembles a spot of lime, being white. These will be attached to any part of the house that is near where fowls roost. The mite itself when it has no food appears like a dark-grey insect, about the size of the head of a pin. Unless one has very keen eyes they will not detect this insect until it has spread so rapidly as to cause a great loss. The above point of kerosene or engine distillate mixed with crude carbolic acid will rid any poultry-house of this trouble in a very short time.

During the months of May, June, and July is the time that the red mite does the greatest amount of injury; therefore the poultryman can see the reason why an early summer spraying would do a great deal of good towards keeping out this trouble. It has been stated by some that crude oil would rid the poultry-house of this parasitical life, but the writer met with one instance this year where the red mites were alive and swarming through the crude oil.

SCALY-LEG MITE.

Scaly leg is caused by a very minute mite which bores in under the scales of the leg, and lives upon the serum of the leg. This mite does not seem to be as disastrous on the egg record as the red mite, but still causes an amount of trouble and injures the appearance of the bird.

The writer is of the opinion that the mites of these mites can be picked up by non-affected birds, on the perches or on the droppings-boards, as they may be shaken from the legs of affected birds. There are several preparations for use to rid stock of this trouble described in printed form. The following will give exceptional success. Birds affected should be treated separately in the following way: Secure a pail of good warm water and make some soap-suds from carbolic soap. If carbolic soap cannot be obtained, a tablespoonful of some patent disinfectant in 8 quarts of warm soap-suds may be used. Hold the fowl's legs in the pail for about a minute, then remove the bird; now take a sharp quill or toothpick, and pick out the mass of dead scale and accumulated material from in under the scales, being careful not to draw blood. After this is done, an ointment made up of white vaseline and blue ointment (equal parts) may be applied to the leg and rubbed in. A salve may be used in place of the ointment by mixing some zenoleum, lizal, or creoline, or other good disinfectant, together with white vaseline, to obtain the same results. Another remedy as prescribed by some is by dipping the legs in kerosene. When kerosene-oil is applied by dipping the legs, nose, or nostrils, one should be very careful that the same does not fall upon the feathers, for it acts as a blister and causes intense suffering.