

constant watchfulness and careful feeding play the most important part in the every day life of the prominent breeder. So much time is given therefore to prevention that it is considered a waste of time to doctor when disease appears. Let us look closely into the list of so called diseases. A few years ago an ailing bird was supposed to have the pip. In fact it became a by word when I was a boy that all sick fowls had the pip. Chickens were afflicted generally with pip or gapes and either was considered hopeless. Roup and cholera the two worst scourges of the poultry yard were scarcely known. To-day we have so many diseases exclusively belonging to the poultry yard that one is led to believe that if a man were to read the whole list before starting into the business of raising poultry he would certainly change his mind and take up something else. Perhaps it is a fortunate thing that as a rule this list is not usually read by the beginner until he gets well started in pursuit of his object of raising hens. With the exception of roup and cholera, two-thirds of all the hens troubles come from over feeding, of course there are local ailments which are erroneously called diseases, such as bumblefoot, scaly legs, etc., etc. It is therefore more important that the farmer or amateur should turn his attention to prevention before commencing treating diseases. It is at this very time of year that the trouble begins. After seeing that your houses are put in perfect order, by which I mean limewashed, thoroughly cleaned, roofs tight and everything in such shape that your fowls can be housed free from vermin and draughts. You must look to care and feeding. Ventilation is a most important consideration. I do not believe in the so-called ventilators of any kinds, the small slides at upper ends of buildings, the top ventilation, by building an excrescence on the roof with slides inside to be opened or shut, and the pipe reaching to within six inches of the floor, all do more harm than good and cause a great percentage of sickness, starting with colds in the head. Night, when fowls are roosting, is the time most dreaded by poultry men. Then it is that the house should be tight in every sense of the word. Some even go so far as to have enclosed roosts and curtains in front to be let down in extreme weather. This is not a bad idea, but sometimes frost will form aided by the heat of the fowl and this will cause dampness. When the morning comes the windows should all be

opened, especially if the air is dry, no matter how the thermometer may be. This is true ventilation and of the very best kind. The fresh air will dry out the house and the foul odors will escape. The hens being kept constantly busy as they should be will not feel the keen air too much. If the sun shines, even though it may not be so warm as in the early spring months it will put new life into them, and they will thrive amazingly. After night feeding, close everything up tight again before the evening chill comes on. This mode of ventilation will in a great measure ward off symptoms of roup, cleanliness comes next.

Every day the dropping boards should be raked off and fresh land plaster, coal ashes sifted, sand or land, or air slaked lime sprinkled over them. Ventilation would be of little use if filth is allowed to accumulate. Extreme care in feeding is probably the most important consideration. Water constantly withing reach is not quite so necessary in winter as in summer. Many of the most prominent breeders give it hot in the morning. The feed of the morning should be a warm mash of a variety of ingredients to supply as nearly as possible their natural wants, but care should be taken not to feed the heavy birds too hearty a meal, else they will get lazy and indolent and soon become over-fed, thus paving the way for a sequence of diseases.

Green vegetables of all available kinds, sound grain, with plenty of shells and sharp grit, constitute about all the requirements of our feathered friends. Last but by no means the least factor in keeping the fowls in good health is exercise, constant exercise from morning until roosting time is absolutely necessary. If you can so regulate your daily work that you can keep your flock in dry, clean houses free from lice, fed judiciously and compelling to exercise for all they eat, you need not trouble yourself very much about disease, but if it comes treat if you will symptoms and ailments, but do not waste time trying to bring back to life a doomed fowl.

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#### FEED AND ITS PRODUCTS.

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All farmers feed corn and wheat to fowls that are to be fattened for market. It is well understood that in order to make fat on a carcass the use of what are called "carbonaceous" foods must be used. For laying hens the food is nitrogenous;