

PRESERVING EGGS.

From the Feathered World.

Several correspondents have asked me lately how to preserve eggs for future use, now that they are getting plentiful. I give two recipes, of which I have had practical experience, but doubtless there are many other ways which have been found good, and perhaps readers would oblige by letting us know of them. The first recipe is more common in Ireland than on this side of the Channel, and "buttered eggs" are a recognized article of commerce therein the winter months. They stand in value considerably above the common or market egg, and somewhat under the new-laid egg. There may be a difficulty of disposing of them in England, but for home use they are well worthy of consideration. Any method of preservation to be effective must be applied when the eggs are quite fresh, and must aim at the exclusion of the air from the inside of the shell. The buttering process is very simple. A very small piece of good butter should be placed between the palms of the hands and rubbed well over the inner surface of both hands. When it is thoroughly melted the eggs to be buttered should be taken in the hands and thoroughly covered over with the melted butter. The thinner the covering the better, provided that the whole surface be covered. The buttered eggs should then be placed in a basket in some dry, cool place, and need not be moved until they are wanted for use. I have kept them for seven or eight months in this way, and have known them to be kept twelve months with success.

The other process of preservation is by putting them in lime water. A large earthenware vessel of some kind is most suitable for this purpose. There are several methods which vary in detail, but are all equally efficacious. The simplest plan is to half-fill the vessel intended to be used with water, and put in it a couple of good-sized pieces of unslaked lime. The exact quantity used is not of consequence, provided that there is enough to saturate the water. As evidence of this, there should always be a film of lime on the surface of the water. The lime at the bottom will do no harm, but rather good, as it will lessen the risk of any eggs being cracked when being put into the lime water. The vessel may be filled with eggs at once, or these may be added day by day. Care must be taken that the eggs are all covered with water,

and to prevent evaporation a cover to the vessel is of advantage. In case there is evaporation or leakage, water must be added from time to time, and if there be not a film on top, some fresh slaked lime should be added by sprinkling it on the water. Unless it is certain that all are fresh, every egg should be examined before being placed in the lime, as in this process one bad egg frequently leads to a lot being spoiled. Some salt is added to the lime by old hands.



DISEASES OF POULTRY.

What May Happen in the Oviduct.

W. F. ROTH, IN THE FANCIERS' JOURNAL.

EGG-BOUND.

This affection is a common one with most varieties, but especially of the laying breeds. None are exempt altogether. Its causes are two-fold and may depend upon a constrictive condition of the sphincter and expulsive musculature of the oviduct, or upon a paralytic non-contraction condition. In the former, the effort to expel the egg seems normal, there appears strength enough in the oviduct, only the constriction of the opening will not allow the egg to be expelled. In the latter, it is apparent that no force is at command, and whatever expulsive effort is made is not answered by any contractile reward. The bird will remain on the nest longer than ordinary, or will be going on and coming off continually, with distinct symptoms that she wants to accomplish her duty, yet for some reason cannot.

This condition may also depend upon the presence of a very large, abnormally sized egg, by which reason we have seen actual rupture take place. Under any circumstances relief should be given as soon as possible.

Treatment.—First, make certain upon what condition of the body the symptoms are dependent, if it is a constriction of the sphincter muscles only, and if this constriction is dependent upon any cause like a possible irritation by some foreign body, injury, or probable impaction of hard, constipated feces. Under these circumstances the treatment is purely local and can be speedily accomplished. Make a fluid composed of sweet oil, melted lard, or liquid cosmoline, of which take one ounce and to this add five drops of fluid extract of belladonna root, mix thoroughly and with a small syringe inject about a dram, exercising great care that no injury is

done to any of the vital parts, and especially the egg. The belladonna will remove the constriction at once, and the oil facilitates the easy expulsion of the egg. If no belladonna is at hand use the oil or lard alone; but then the trouble is apt to return. If possible inject a trifle of oil into the bowel to remove whatever foreign material is there. We would not advise assistance by cases of this kind until all other means fail of accomplishment.

The second cause of the impaction of the egg, as stated, is dependent upon a total or partial paralyzed condition of the expulsive muscles of the oviduct, and is of more consequence, especially to the bird. In a case of this kind there should be no immediate haste, though a careful watch be kept. The paralyzed tissues must have a few hours or days to acquire expulsive tonicity, and to this end internal treatment is essential, as well as the injection of the oil, say about six hours after the administration of internal medicines. Internally administer a pill composed of

Fl. extr. nux vomica, - - 10 drops.

Fl. extr. ergot, - - - 20 drops.

Tincture opium, - - - 15 drops.

Powdered licorice, - - - 1 dram.

Mix, and make into twenty pills, one every four hours. Give Douglass' Mixture in the water as a general tonic. A want of tonicity, or semi-paralyzed state, may also ensue from the presence of an extremely large egg. This is no diseased state, but simply a want of grip power to expel. Treatment as recommended in the first cause will usually suffice, though expulsion may be materially facilitated by very gentle and knowing manipulation with the hand. Don't assist, however, unless you know how without danger of breaking the egg. Under all circumstances, place the bird in distress away from the flock until her purpose is accomplished.

Impaction of the egg may also occur from inflammation of the oviduct. This is a rare circumstance, fortunately, and does not obtain unless as a result from injury or the presence of inflammation in the immediate vicinity of the expulsive pouch. In cases of this kind poulticing must be had resource to, and continued until the inflammation has subsided as well as the internal administration of aconit or belladonna. Indeed long continued impaction from either of the two first-named causes may end in inflammation, a feature that calls for relief as soon as possible. Poultices may be made