

causing the birds to be in a draught, one which is giving splendid satisfaction being the style of open front house shown in the accompanying illustration.

Of all conditions having a detrimental effect upon poultry, dampness is the worst. A damp house forms a regular hot-bed for the development of the germs of bacterial diseases, such as roup and kindred ills. If your flock is to be healthy and profitable, avoid dampness.

Cleanliness means more than merely keeping things tidy and free from dust, it means also cleanliness from a bacteriological standpoint—disinfection.

To do a thing well, a person should start right at the beginning; hence we will start where the chick first sees the light of day—in the incubator. Here is quite a common source of infection that is too often neglected. Before the season's hatching commences, each machine should be gone over carefully, first with warm water and a scrub brush to remove all visible dirt and filth, and then sprayed with a solution of some good disinfectant to guard against bacterial contamination. This operation should be performed each time the machine is set. The brooders should be subjected to the same treatment before they are used.

The living quarters of the fowls both young and old should be whitewashed thoroughly at least once a year. For this purpose small spraying outfits are now being manufactured which, apart from the convenience of handling, make a much better job than the old-fashioned "brush and pail" method. A small quantity of salt or buttermilk added to the whitewash will increase its adhesive qualities. It is also good policy to add a small quantity—say one part to 30 parts whitewash—of crude carbolic acid, zenoleum, or some other good disinfectant.

The ground over which the birds range is a frequent source of infection. If the birds are housed in colony houses, the problem can easily be solved by moving the houses from place to place.

A rotation of crops can be practiced here to good advantage; for instance, you might have chickens one year, a hoed crop the next year, grain the next year, followed by poultry again the fourth year. However, if the chickens are confined in permanent houses the problem is more difficult. The best method to use in this case is to have several runs for each pen. In the early season close one-half of the runs, and after giving them a good coat of lime sow some quick growing green food, such as spring grain or rape. When this has reached a sufficient height, turn the fowls in upon it and plant the other runs similarly. A good crop to plant at this time is fall wheat, which provides both fall and spring feed. Poultry runs treated in this manner can be kept in a sweet and sanitary condition.

Great care should be exercised in the selection of food used. A great many ills are caused by feeding musty grain or table scraps which have become partly decayed.

One should also be careful in choosing the litter to be used in the poultry house. Must or mould on the litter is sure to have a detrimental effect upon the health of the birds.

The drinking dish is perhaps the most frequent source of infection among poultry. By this means, disease germs may be spread from an affected member of the flock to the healthy birds in a very short space of time. It is very important, therefore, that all drinking vessels should be kept perfectly clean. Potassium permanganate in the drinking water makes a splendid germicide. This is a dark