

THE CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW

DEVOTED TO POULTRY, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

For the FANCIER, the FARMER, and the SMALL BREEDER.

VOL. XXI.

124 VICTORIA STREET, TORONTO, JUNE, 1898.

No. 6

ROUP AND INFLUENZA.

BY J. S. NIVEN, B.A., M.B., T.C.D., I.R.C.S.I. L.M.,
CONSULTING SURGEON LONDON GENERAL
HOSPITAL, LONDON, ONT.

I FEEL that I am stepping on 'hallowed ground' by the heading of this article, so much has been written about it. So little is known of the etiology of it, and every poultry keeper knows all about it, that it appears like sacrilege for such an inexperienced member of the fraternity as I am to take up the subject, but I will do so carefully and with the hope that some good may come of my effort.

At the very outset I wish to put myself on record as altogether disagreeing with the most of poultry-keepers, who, if they see a fowl droopy, with some swelling and discharge from the eyes and the nostrils, pronounce it a case of roup.

I have carefully studied the affections of fowls, and I am led to believe that there are either two forms of roup or that one is roup and the other something else; and I think that for the better understanding of this subject, we should consider two totally different diseases, which should have different names and very different treatment. The first I will describe, which I think is by far the most common. At the outset, the first symptom is looking droopy, feathers rough, slight discharge from the eyes and nose, and in a few days the face may swell and the discharge become offensive. If the mouth and throat are examined they will be found red and inflamed. The microscope shows that this discharge is full of micrococci and staphylococci, which give rise to the offensive smell. This is a highly contagious disease, spreads very quickly, and runs a course of about ten days, under suitable treatment. From the symptoms, as

above described, I would put it down to catarrhal fever or influenza. The treatment of this complaint is where all the nostrils that are put on the market as sure Roup cures, have their market harvest.

What is needed is to relieve the fever with aperients, Epsom salts about the best, and to wash off the head, eyes and throat with some astringent which will act on the inflamed mucus membrane and clean off the exudations. The commonest is wine, vinegar and water, kerosine (coal-oil), and keep the fowl in warm, dry air, feed with non-stimulating food. The season of the year when this complaint is most common is in the fall when the weather gets damp and nights cold. It is also very common after the winter shows, where the birds are kept cooped up in a warm room or express car for six or seven days and then returned to their much cooler quarters. If proper attention is paid to the disease, the mortality need not be great.

I now come to another form of disease which by poultry-men is technically called 'roup' or 'canker.' This is by far the most dangerous disease to cope with, and, so far as I have learned, no specific has yet been found that will cure to a certainty, till the discovery by my friend Dr. Hugh Stevenson, who has carefully worked it out.

The symptoms of this, which I will call True or Diphtheritic roup, are as follows: It is not like the disease which I have just described, in which the symptoms are immediate, if I may say so. A fowl may have this complaint for several days before anything is noticed wrong with them except that they may be a bit dumpy and not so eager for their food; there is very little discharge at the eyes and nose for some days, and often none at all; but a person who knows his chicks will soon notice that they are not just as they should be. If they will take them up and open their beaks and examine their mouth, throat,