

disease of itself, and often produces death. Over-fat birds frequently drop soft eggs; so also do old birds. There is some disarrangement in the digestive organs. Each department has a certain amount of work to perform, and if one member be deficient or crippled, the whole suffers to a greater or less degree. A change of diet often brings about charming results.

As I have often found occasion to say before, a milk diet is highly advantageous for the heated season, and when mixed with good wheat bran, and plentifully provided, is entirely sufficient without other feed at this season. When a fowl is first discovered in a dumpy state, with head drawn in and eyes closed, and the whole aspect drooping, turn the first attention to lice, taking care not to frighten or exhaust the fowl in the process. Sore eyes and sore heads precede roup, and will generally cure themselves in chicks. In aquatic fowls the case is a little difficult to manage. In young birds the roup is not always occasioned by colds; close breeding has a good, if not all, to do with it. No fowls will bear so close breeding as our common hunghill birds. Turkeys are injured almost entirely by close breeding; so also are ducks; but if care be taken, certain breeds of our domestic birds can be bred very close.

—C. B., in *Country Gentleman*.

Lime

The old notion that hens needs nothing in the way of food, except corn, and what they can pick for themselves, is fast dying out, but even now many poultry breeders do not realize the importance of lime. The broad definition that food is anything taken into the body to preserve it in the exercise of its various functions, if closely read, shows that in speaking of the food of poultry that most essential thing for egg-production, lime, should be omitted. Domestic poultry as they have been altered in their egg-production faculties, by the constant cultivation of these special characteristics need more and more to be carefully supplied with an ample allowance of shell-producing material. The best way of feeding lime, is in the form of raw crushed bone or oyster shell.

At the season when the hens are laying abundantly, lime should be kept before them at all times or we shall be liable to the annoyance of soft-shelled eggs; which are not only useless for incubation but are often broken in the nest and a tempting to would-be egg-eaters. An ounce of prevention is always well applied in the form of lime for poultry.

—*Poultry Yard*.

Corn is principal stand-by for poultry food, but it should not be the only grain employd, or be fed whole, continuously.

Ferrets and Ferreting.

(CONTINUED.)

Young ferrets directly they can feed themselves should be removed from the mother, and feed three or four times a day on bread and milk.

The age to which ferrets will live is very uncertain, as they do so often meet with accidents, or are lost. I have some ferrets in my possession now about four years old, and as yet they show no signs of old age either by the loss of activity or teeth.

Their food should be bread and milk, with occasionally a bird, rabbit, rat, or whatever animal food comes handiest, as they are not particular.

If ferrets are neglected and their place of abode allowed to get dirty, they suffer from foot-rot. Sores appear on their feet and nails, dirt clings to the discharging sores, and if left alone the poor brutes would soon die. The sores ought carefully to be removed with a blunt knife, and gas tar applied with a small brush or feather. Carbolic acid freely diluted with water or glycerine is also a good remedy and should be applied in the same way as the tar; or a better mode of treatment is to soak or bathe the feet, in warm water, and, after drying, dress with the following ointment: Levigated red precipitate, 1 drachm, very finely powdered blue stone (pure sulphate of copper), 4 drachms, compound tar ointment, enough to make 2 oz. It is well to muzzle the ferrets while the ointment is on, as it is poisonous, and the smarting may cause him to nibble it. The patients should be placed in a clean place with plenty of clean straw, and allowed to run about the field or lawn every day, for a short time, and with care they will recover. Ferrets also suffer from distemper, their heads swelling up and their eyes being closed with a discharge of offensive matter. Though in rare cases I have saved them by a complete change of diet, this disease is generally fatal. For distemper the ferrets should be gently handled and the eyes and nostrils carefully cleared from all discharged matter by bathing with warm milk and water, and afterwards anoint with pure olive oil, and as medicine give two grains chlorate of potash and four or five drops of sweet spirit, of nitre in a little milk or cream three times a day. Change of hutch or box is very needful; the ailing ferret should be kept in a warm but airy place, and tempted to eat with variety of food. The box of hutch where the disease first appeared must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before returning the ferrets to it.

There are three ways of using ferrets: with a line unmuzzled, without a line muzzled. A line can only be used where the holes do not extend to any great distance, and are tolerably free from