

resorted to in a few of the breeds, is the cause of this weakness. The commonest form of ear disease is when there is a hardening of the wax of the ear. This usually results from improper food, which either causes an undue amount of the humours being secreted in this direction, or from the wax being harder and drier. Unless attended to, there is every probability of a cankerous sore resulting from the accumulation of the wax. When a rabbit is seen to be continually scratching the ear it should be examined, and if there is an accumulation of wax the ear should first be washed out with warm milk and water, a spoonful of olive oil being afterwards poured in, the object of which is to soften the secretion. When soft, as much of the wax as can be should be removed by the means of a stiff feather or a pair of tweezers, the ear being then dressed daily with some sweet oil in which is mixed flowers of sulphur. A more serious form of ear trouble is when there is canker or an offensive discharge from the ear. This is very difficult, indeed, of cure, but fortunately, there are not so many cases to be met with. The ear should first be cleaned out by means of a soft piece of rag or sponge soaked in warm water, and when dry a lotion applied of one part of Goulard's extract of lead to five parts of olive oil, to be repeated twice a day. After washing out the head should be held on one side and the lotion gently dropped in. A syringe is sometimes useful to clean out the ear. Food must be good and nutritious to maintain the strength. — *Fanciers' Gazette.*



**FEATHER-EATING BY PARROTS AND CAGE-BIRDS.**

The bird-keeper of every denomination is more or less troubled by his birds eating the feathers off their mates,

or, when alone, off themselves. Parrots especially are given to this sort of thing, especially that of pulling their own feathers, for usually one bird plucks the other. The cause is very difficult to discover, but it seems to be undoubted that it is due to the want of something which the birds obtain for themselves when at liberty, and which is not obtained when in confinement. Whether the feathers supply this lack, or merely temporarily satisfy an unnatural craving, it is impossible at present to determine. It may be that in a few cases pure mischief or the want of something better to do will account for this disgusting habit; but we regard these as the exceptions rather than the rule. How to cure feather-eating has puzzled the minds of many who have studied bird management, but we have not yet heard of a certain cure. One that is permanent and complete. Of course, in the case of pairs a stop can be put to the business by removing the culprit. But that is prevention, not cure, and in this case cannot be deemed the better of the two. It is desirable to note that in a few cases insects amongst the feathers is an exciting cause, for the irritation set up by these pests makes the victim glad to be plucked. If that be so, of course the insects must be got rid of. As a rule we believe the best cure is to put a bird given to feather-eating into an outdoor aviary, and keep it there for a few weeks, supplying all that can be needed in the way of green food, &c., and placing branches of trees, so that the bird can exercise its beak thereon. We believe parrots are often induced to commence feather-eating by being fed upon meat, as this stimulates an unnatural appetite. The food should, therefore, be cooling, and not of a stimulating nature.

When young Canaries are six weeks old take them from the old ones and place in large, roomy "flight" cages, in lots of 10 or 12.



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