

of Tuberculosis were found to be present. The subsequent inoculation of guinea-pigs with material from these eggs produced a generalized tuberculous infection, from which typical avian cultures were procured.

PREVALENCE.

The prevalence of Avian Tuberculosis throughout Canada is every year becoming more apparent. This is evidenced by the fact that inquiries from widely-separated sources are from time to time received at the laboratory concerning this affection. These inquiries usually come from individuals extensively engaged in poultry production, while a few are received from farmers. There appears, however, to be a striking apathy on the part of the latter in regard to the diseases of poultry, due in no small measure to the false impression that the fowls are of small economic importance as compared with other species of the live stock. In the fall of 1913, while on an official inspection trip, a locality was visited where large numbers of poultry were being lost. On making inquiries it was found that the farmers in the vicinity had been losing immense numbers of fowls for which no cause could be assigned. Autopsies on several hens revealed the affection to be Tuberculosis and, on one farm, a clinical observation showed several to be suffering from lameness which was apparently tubercular in nature.

SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE.

The causative organism or germ of Tuberculosis gains entrance to the system usually with the food, and, finding a favourable location, grows and extends to the various tissues. This growth of the germ induces symptoms of unthriftiness which is followed sooner or later by death. The detection of Tuberculosis from the symptoms alone is not always easy. Some fowls may be observed to be *going light* yet they are seen to be good feeders. If picked up it is found that the flesh has almost entirely disappeared from the breast bone, and this should make one suspicious that something is wrong. A yellow or greenish diarrhoea is frequently present in affected birds, and where this is present the type of the disease is most dangerous to the remainder of the flock, as the germs are to be found in immense numbers in the droppings.

One of the most frequent symptoms seen early in the course of the disease is lameness, a result of the infection involving a joint of the leg. Lameness is mentioned by persons forwarding fowls for diagnosis more frequently than any other symptom where our subsequent examinations have proven the trouble to be due to Tuberculosis. So frequently is lameness the principal symptom observed that we are at once suspicious of Tuberculosis whenever the symptom is mentioned.

COURSE OF THE DISEASE.

Fowls affected with Tuberculosis may die in a few days from the first appearance of symptoms, or they may linger for weeks, gradually becoming more emaciated as the disease progresses until they die from exhaustion. The progress is largely dependent on the strength of the invading germ and the natural resistance of the bird. Some outbreaks of the disease follow a more rapid course than others; usually, however, the course in an individual extends over weeks, and sometimes months may intervene before death takes place.

DIAGNOSIS, OR RECOGNITION OF THE DISEASE.

The diagnosis of Tuberculosis in the living fowl presents many difficulties. No symptom or group of symptoms can be considered as particularly characteristic of the disease, and although suspicions may be aroused, it is only positively identified after death.

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