

INFLAMMATION OF THE INTESTINES.—This inflammation is usually associated with diarrhoea or dysentery and usually affects full grown birds.

Symptoms.—The bird is moping, scarcely eats, the feathers are ruffled, and the wings droop; the fœces emit an unpleasant odour.

Treatment.—Taken early, the disease is treated with laxative drinks, healthy and cooling food. Milk in which is dissolved a small quantity of Epsom salts (sulphate of magnesia) a teaspoonful to a pint of water, a little bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) mixed in the same proportion may be given twice or three times a day. The sick birds should be isolated.

EGG EATING.—The chief causes are the want of limy matter in the food, close confinement, lack of exercise, and nests too much exposed to light. This habit is also sometimes induced when eggs are laid without shell or with very thin shells and broken in the nests.

Treatment.—Give the layers plenty of exercise, fresh air and food proper for egg-making, see also that they have dark nests.

MOULT.—This critical period when the feathers are renewed is generally in July and August. Some hens lose their feathers very slowly, taking several weeks, others moult in four or five days. The latter are to be specially watched. This crisis is sometimes checked by certain conditions of cold and damp weather, in such instances the new feathers remain for a longer or shorter time within their cases, giving the birds a very odd and stunted appearance. Excellent results are obtained by the use of stimulating food, such as a few hemp seeds, meat scraps, crushed green bones or animal food mixed with bran. The birds must be kept in warm and dry quarters.

OPHTHALMIA.—Inflammation of the eyes; filthy and damp poultry houses are generally the causes of this disease. It is often complicated with diphtheria. It is then contagious.

Symptoms.—The bird carries its head low, ruffles its feathers and loses its appetite, the mucous membrane of the eye is red and swollen; the eyes water more or less.

Treatment.—A cure may be effected in the beginning by simply bathing the eyes of the affected bird with a solution of five parts of sulphate of copper (bluestone) in a hundred parts of water. The food must be warm mash, milk and vegetable in plenty.

IMPACTION OF THE CROP.—This trouble often occurs in hens too voracious or when the diet is changed and the birds eat too freely of it.

Symptoms.—The food accumulates in the crop, forming a hard mass which distends its membranous walls.

Treatment.—A dessert-spoonful of olive oil often brings back a normal state of things. When the obstruction is more obstinate the bird is made to swallow a small quantity of moderately warm milk; then an effort is made by working the crop to bring up the mass of food. Half a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda is administered dissolved in about a tablespoonful of water which often succeeds in causing the food to be thrown up. If these remedies fail resource may be had to surgical treatment. In that case the food is extracted by means of an incision in the crop, the feathers on the upper right hand side of the crop must be first plucked off. An incision about an inch in length is then made through the skin and membrane of the crop, this makes it very easy to remove all the food, a suture is then made, preferably with silk thread, from inside outward, and the seam is smeared with a little lard. The wound heals in eight or ten days, during which mash should be fed in small quantities.