

stages as they approach maturity. The neck penciling appears with the first feathers in the Balmans, and they are distinguished by the leg feathering, which is on a particular point in denoting the purity of the breed. A brood of pure-bred Game chicks, when they attain the size of a full-grown quail, are very handsome, and may be counted on, as at this size they have escaped the dangers of all chicken diseases, and have become hardy. So also with all small breeds.

Thoroughbred chicks are generally so close bred that extra care is necessary to rear them, as they are tender from the shell, and are never so hardy as the mongrel; therefore, they are not so profitable for the amateur who is not prepared with suitable buildings and yards, which are at seasons indispensable. For market poultry it is better never to employ the choice small breeds, but substitute instead suitable crosses. Many crosses are desirable for egg production, where eggs are the desideratum, but where eggs and poultry are both to be combined or united in one, some thoroughbred should be chosen. For this purpose the Creve cœurs are well adapted, being large in body, maturing early, and are unexcelled for table use. Their eggs are large, white, and very rich. They are non-sitters, are great egg producers, will give in the course of a year perhaps as many eggs as any other one breed. The chicks are all over a dead rusty black with a crest and slate-colored legs. The chicks mature early and are plump, with short thick thighs, and full body. The Spanish are also good for both poultry and eggs but are difficult to raise on account of their liability to gapes.

No breed of poultry is handsome unless they are well cared for. If judicious care be exercised at first, there is little danger of the gapes. Indeed, the writer is of the belief that the gapes is a disease that all chicks go through with, and is seldom observable unless the worms, in their passage from the lungs, meet with some impediment that occasions a stoppage in their progress, which causes suffering, and almost always results in death. In strength and health, the worms pass out one by one and the bird does not suffer much. A sudden cold causes a stoppage, and the worms accumulate, and become entangled and knotty in the wind pipe. The chicks suffer from difficult and labored breathing; indeed it requires every exertion to keep the breath from ceasing. Respiration becomes more and more labored every day, until death puts an end to the suffering. The bird wastes gradually, and becomes thin and emaciated to an almost incredible degree. Over and long continued fatigue will also decrease the strength of the birds, and the important item is to keep up the strength and growing condition. Strong feed and reasonable exercise will accomplish much.

—C. B., in *Country Gentleman*.

## SICK FOWLS.

It does not follow that a fowl has not been diseased or out of condition for a long time, when we find it suddenly dead. The first thing that occurs to us is that some new and frightful disease has made its appearance, when the fact is, perhaps, the bird has been ailing for a long time. By far too many of us are inexperienced in the ailments of fowls, and do not understand the symptoms. A bird must gradually be diseased for a long time before death ensues. Oftentimes, no doubt, the seeds of disease are implanted in the system before birth, and a greater or lesser extent of time is required to develop it, according to its nature. Keeping has also considerable to do with it. Either too high or too low feeding is deleterious. Strong high-feeding often ripens the seeds which become fatal. A dangerous and difficult stage for the hens is when they first come into laying, and another when moulting.

There is nothing that serves us like our own observation; no receipts or widely published articles can avail us; we must know for ourselves the cause and nature of the disease before we can treat it; what might prove a healing medicine in one instance may be of no benefit in another. It is necessary to understand the nature of the bird, also the peculiarity, and in what manner affected, before endeavoring to perform a cure. The comb of a fowl is the pulse. When the bird is in health, the comb is firm, through flow of blood, and a bright scarlet in color. If the bird be diseased, the comb is limp, weak, soft and a pale pink at times; at others a purple. Diseases do not make their appearance in a moment, but creep on gradually under the cover of good appetite, mayhap, and egg-production in hens. The bird may be, and often is, found dead under the roost, and no suspicion of illness may ever have entered into the calculations of the owner.

There are certain parasites, known as roost lice, that are barely perceptible to the naked eye, but which torment the poor victim they have fastened upon, and worry out its life. For these there is no remedy so good as a thorough sprinkling of Persian Insect Powder. If applied in time it may effect a cure, but if allowed to run, the bird becomes so reduced that weakness causes death. These insidious parasites work slowly, drawing the life from their victim by degrees. They rob their prey of sleep, and so gaining day by day that their victim fades and wastes inch by inch until the end comes, and then the owner can assign no cause whatever, as there is nothing apparent but a wasted frame, empty crop and faded plumage. It is surprising what an amount flesh a bird carries on its bones, and yet not be fat. Excessive fat is a