

A good method of ridding fowls of lice is to treat them with mercurial ointment U. S. P., made with a lard base. On each fowl rub three small pieces of ointment, each piece about the size of a pea, one beneath the vent and one under each wing. Rub the ointment on thoroughly and the fowls should be practically free of lice.

VICES

There are two vices, egg eating and feather pulling, which flocks often contract, particularly among confined flocks kept under unsanitary conditions. When once started either of these vices usually spreads rapidly; therefore, every effort should be made to keep the flocks under the most sanitary conditions and to provide means for the birds taking plenty of exercise.

To prevent the egg eating vice from developing provide dark nests. Feed the scratch grain in the litter which should be six or eight inches deep. The mash mixture should contain meat food of some kind, such as beef or fish scraps. Feed plenty of green food and keep oyster shells or some other source of lime supply before the birds at all times. If sour milk or buttermilk is available provide it regularly. As soon as the vice is commenced remove the worst offenders and improve the conditions of feeding and management.

The vice of feather pulling can be prevented by keeping birds in sanitary conditions, providing plenty of exercise, green food, an abundant supply of meat food in the mash mixtures, and sour milk or buttermilk as drink.

DISEASES

When purchasing birds always procure them from uninfected flocks. Keep the new birds isolated from the flock for a few days to make sure they are not diseased. Frequently during shipment birds catch colds and if introduced to the flock immediately upon arrival may cause the spread of colds throughout the entire flock.

Immediately separate from the flock any bird that shows symptoms of disease. When it is desired to determine the nature of the disease ship by express live affected birds to the Biological Laboratory, Ottawa, Canada.