

Indigestion in Chicks.—When a chick is hatched it has in its body the yolk of the egg, which serves to keep it alive for several days. In fact chicks have lived for ten days without any food whatever. It is therefore plain that until sufficient time has elapsed for this yolk to become absorbed it is unwise to feed the chick. The cause of so many chicks dying in the early stages of rearing is that they have been fed too soon after hatching. They have taken food into their crops that they cannot digest. Young wild birds of the poultry kind are not troubled in this way because they do not get their food until they are able to leave the nest and then they are fed little and often. The only treatment for this trouble is its prevention.

Other digestive troubles are not of much consequence in this province; but there are troubles other than indigestion which are directly traceable to the feeding.

Cholera.—All classes of fowl are subject to this disease which is a contagious and deadly form of diarrhoea. It may be distinguished by the yellow droppings in the early stage and a green color as the disease advances.

It is useless to attempt a cure. Birds showing symptoms of the disease should be killed and their bodies burned. Eradication may be accomplished by fumigating and disinfecting.

PARASITES

The same conditions that induce disease are most favorable for lice and mites. They thrive in filth and gain a greater foothold as the body of the bird becomes weakened. Although some lice may be found on most flocks, yet with clean, light, healthy surroundings they are in such small numbers as to be scarcely worth consideration. To be on the safe side it is necessary to exercise some precautionary measures which vary for the particular case.

Body Lice.—There are several varieties of lice which trouble poultry, as anyone may easily see if he examines birds at the head, below the vent, and the quills of the wings. Besides those which are peculiar to different parts of the bird there are two varieties of wandering lice, which may be found on any part of the birds or on the roosts. A good dust bath is of first importance for the treatment of lice and this should consist of light, friable earth. The fowl's should be dusted with a powder containing a high percentage of finely ground tobacco or any one of the preparations on the market for killing lice. To dust a bird effectively it should be suspended by the feet with one hand and the powder sprinkled on while the feathers are thus open.

Roost Lice.—The roost lice feed on the birds at night, returning to the crevices of the roosts and walls during the day. Dust baths do not reach them and they can only be reached by treating their hiding places with solutions. An effective solution for the roosts, walls and other fixtures is kerosene emulsion, or any of the spraying solutions mentioned in this bulletin, or a solution of carbolic acid.