

action in the body cavity, the fatal end in the latter event being more rapid.

It will be noted that the accident is certainly fatal only when the ruptured egg occupies the oviduct from whence its removal is impracticable, but if the ovum has passed into the cloaca before being ruptured, the fragments may be extracted with little inconvenience to the victim and with a reasonable expectation of a successful result, as will be described later.

An egg may be ruptured while in the oviduct by the straining effort of a pullet to overcome the constriction of the duct, or through a disproportion between the size of the duct and the egg. Again, it may follow on sudden frightening off the nest, or other violence, and may even be caused by the male bird when the latter is of a breed too massive and heavy to run with pullet of a lighter variety.

The symptoms and treatment of constricted oviduct have been considered, and if carried out may prevent the rupture of the egg when likely to be caused by constriction. But if rupture has occurred the only thing to do is to kill the bird while it is still edible before inflammation has supervened to render it unfit for use, provided there is evidence that the broken egg occupies the oviduct and not the cloaca. This point may be easily ascertained by passing the finger, well oiled, into the common vent and exploring the cavity for broken pieces of shell or membrane. If these cannot be felt it may be concluded that the accident has taken place in the oviduct and the bird must be at once killed; but if present their removal is all that is necessary to effect a cure.

In whichever locality, rupture may be suspected by the appearance of a liquid discharge of yolk and white from the vent, or their admixture with the evacuations. Furthermore, if the result of constriction, the pullet which has been straining in evident distress on the nest, experiences a sudden relief as soon as the egg collapses, and may again rejoin its fellows in the run. When, in conjunction with this, no egg is found to have been laid in the nest and the yolk discharge appears from the vent, there can be no doubt that the rupture of the egg has been the cause of the cessation of pain. The relief, however, is but of short duration, and only lasts until the supervention of inflammation brings with it suffering of a more acute and deadly character.

THE COMMON VENT. — The abnormal conditions of the common vent or cloaca, so far as they may effect the passage of the egg, are but four in number and do not call for a lengthened consideration.

They are :—

1, Constriction.

2, Rupture of the egg in the common vent.

3, Prolapse of the common vent.

4, Constipation.

1.—The passage of the first egg with every pullet is always a process which is somewhat prolonged, but which seldom has other than a successful termination. Apart from this, however, an occasional and exceptionally large egg may pass successfully through the oviduct in its plastic state; but, on the shell becoming hardened in its short sojourn in the cloaca, it will encounter an outlet which, though of the normal size, is out of all proportion to the gigantic ovum to which it is expected to give passage. Or again, a somewhat similar condition arises when the egg is of the normal size, but the outlet unduly narrow. The hen, making frequent but futile visits to the nest, is in evident distress, crooning and standing up in its attempt to get rid of the egg. The end of the egg will be plainly visible as it advances and recedes with every effort of the bird. And now comes the opportunity for the application of the oiled feather. The oil should be carefully but freely applied about and inside the edge of the aperture. Vaseline, common sweet oil or salad oil will all do equally well. In addition hold the bird with the vent over the steam coming from a jug of boiling water, for five or ten minutes, or apply a hot sponge to the aperture with the object of relaxing it, and with the same intention administer five drops of antimony wine in a teaspoonful of warm water, returning the bird to the nest. If these measures fail to effect the expulsion of the egg within an hour, or if the bird appears near its end from exhaustion, there is still one resource left. Let an assistant, seated on a chair, hold the bird firmly on his knees on its back with the vent directed away from him. Seating yourself opposite, with the finger and thumb of the left hand outside the bird's body, push the egg firmly but carefully towards the vent until it is plainly visible, and keeping it in that position with a bradawl in the right hand puncture the eggshell, evacuate the contents of the egg with an egg-spoon, and afterwards with a pair of tweezers break down and take out the shell piece by piece until assured, by passing the finger into the vent, that the cloaca is empty. Special care must be taken to avoid injuring the bird with the point of the awl, and one's assistant must maintain a steady and firm hold on the fowl.

2. *Rupture of an egg in the cloaca* may be produced by precisely the same causes as originate the corresponding accident when occurring in the oviduct, which it to some extent resembles in its symptoms, but from which it may be distinguished by the details already enumerated when de-