

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

(Live-stock Branch.)

KEEPING POULTRY FREE FROM LICE.

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POSSIBLY one of the most difficult and trying problems which the poultry-raiser has to contend with is that of keeping his houses and stock practically free from lice, mites, and other external parasites. There are several good dusting-powders, dips, and sprays put on the market to-day which are sold to the poultry-raiser with the intention that he may meet this end by their use and application. We have found from practical experience that most of these preparations are not strong enough to meet the desired end in bad cases, hence making them very costly for the poultry-breeder in the long run. Some of these preparations for sprays are made from a poor grade of carbolic acid diluted with crude oil.

It is with the idea of saving the poultry-breeder money, and also to help him to use a cheaper powder than many of the patent ones, that this circular is written.

These formulae are the only preparations that the writer feels free to attach his name to, that will give exceptional success, other than pyrethrum powder. The difficulty often found with pyrethrum powder seems to be that it cannot always be procured in its strongest state.

An instance came before the writer a short time ago where a certain resident of this Province sent to a seed firm in England and procured seed of the pyrethrum plant. He planted these seeds in his house-garden, and used the plants, after they were dried, in his nest-boxes with most exceptional success at a very small cost.

Tobacco, sulphur, poor grades of carbolic acid, and common crude oil do not have the effect that they are supposed to have in any extreme case of parasitical life. Professor Graham, of the Ontario Agricultural College, has recommended blue ointment. The writer has recommended equal parts of white vaseline and zinc ointment in severe cases, and it has been found to give great success. One must not use zinc ointment too freely, as it will cause great irritation and make the skin very raw.

To keep a poultry plant practically free from lice, mites, etc., we have two things to look to. Firstly, the birds themselves, which must be dusted or dipped in a liquid; and, secondly, the houses and all inside fixtures, including the perches, nest-boxes, etc. Naturally the best way to rid the birds from this sort of life is by using a good dusting-powder, and working the same into the feathers. One application of dusting-powder is not sufficient to rid the stock of all parasitical life, for when there are any lice present on a bird there must also be many mites