

Lice on Young Chicks; Look for them.—When your young chicks are two or three days old, examine their heads for head-lice. They are big, brown fellows and will be found anterior downwards, getting a living out of the head of their prey. If your chicks are 'hen-hatched' you will almost be sure to find them; if incubator-hatched, less likely so. Lard rubbed well on the top of the head will soon kill all the lice there and will also prevent their appearance. At the same time dust well the mother hen and if this is done and runs kept clean, you will not be bothered with lice, but it will be well to examine the chicks at least once a week to see that all is right.

5. Rheumatism and Cramps.—Rheumatism is an inflammation of the joints accompanied by swelling, stiffness and pain when walking is attempted. Hook joints are usually hot and swollen. Bird squats in out of the way places, does not eat and mopes, apparently suffering great pain. The disease is more frequent in damp locations. It is probably hereditary and the result of breeding from debilitated stock.

Cramps in chicks are probably a form of rheumatism, affecting young chicks and due to similar causes. Among the predisposing causes are over-heating in the brooders, brooding on a smooth board floor, lack of sufficient ventilation, exposure to dampness and all conditions of bad hygiene.

Treatment.—Feed an abundance of succulent food, a small amount of animal food or meat, and all the meal in the form of dry grain. In the drinking water use 6 to 12 granules Rhus Tox 3x in each pint of drinking water.

6. Diarrhoea in Small Chicks.—Diarrhoea in small chicks or pasting up behind may result from many causes. It is often due to breeding from debilitated stock or to errors in incubation. It may be caused by chilling, over-heating or improper feeding. Half a dozen tablets of mercuric bichloride 3x or nux vomica and sulphur comp. 2x mixed in a pint of drinking water and feeding a little charcoal with daily food will usually remedy the trouble. Change the method of feeding. Try feeding Johnny-cake. Find the cause of the trouble and remove it if possible.

7. Indigestion.—Indigestion is a disorder affecting the entire digestive system, the crop and intestines. It may result from general debility, but it is usually caused by improper feeding or over-feeding or feeding condition powders and condiments in excess. Lack of grit, feeding too much soft food, insufficient variety and lack of green food are all causes. Any part or the whole of the digestive system may be affected.

Symptoms.—The more common form is a disorder of the crop, known as soft or sour crop. The crop is distended and full of food and a thick fluid which has a foul odor. The stringy food falls from the bird's mouth whenever the head is lowered to pick up bits of grain. The bird drinks frequently, has very little appetite and is inclined to be dumpish. Other common symptoms of indigestion are lack of appetite, diarrhoea one day, constipation the next and a tendency to loaf about the poultry house in a corner or on the roost, instead of scratching in the litter for grain.

Treatment.—When the bird gets in this condition (which should not be permitted, as it can usually be avoided by giving them good care), the poultry house should be cleaned up, the litter renewed with fresh material; all food should be dry, hard grain fed in the litter. Mash and other wet messes should not be given. A limited amount of fresh, green food may be fed, the grit box should be kept full of good grit and shell. In the drinking water use twelve tablets of nux vomica and sulphur comp. 2x to each pint of drinking water. Continue the treatment until the fowls are in good condition.

8. Limber-neck.—This is due to disorder of the nervous system. The bird's neck appears limber and hangs downward, the bird is unable to raise its head, the neck may be turned back upon the body. It is usually the result of reflexes caused by disturbances of the digestive organs from severe attacks of indigestion or from worm parasites.