

POULTRY

ROUP.

ITS CAUSES AND CURES.

THE OPINIONS OF A NUMBER OF CANADA'S PROMINENT FANCIERS.

Feeling the importance of the above subject, we sent out some fifty circulars asking for an expression of opinion on "ROUP, ITS CAUSES AND CURES," and received the following replies:—

FROM W. MCNEIL, LONDON.

The best cure I ever found for roup is to take two ounces of the best vinegar, one tablespoonful of pulverized alum, one tablespoonful of sugar of lead; put all into one bottle. Bathe the birds' heads and nostrils well, night and morning. This will cure the worst case of roup.

FROM STANLEY SPILLET, NANTYE.

Cause of roup is cold contracted not from constant exposure but by occasional exposure to draughts and the cold being contracted by a pampered coddled animal soon intensifies into a disease which is not only virulent but contagious. I do not think that in any case would the cold which occasioned roup or croup in a thoroughbred fowl cause any such disease in fowls which are more hardy or less pampered, which are therefore less constitutionally strong. As I have never had a case of virulent roup I cannot speak authoritatively on a cure. In the first stages of a cold, I have found alum blown into throat through a tube useful; also removal to a warm place and a dose of gooseoil or castor oil, but be cautious in pouring oil down the throat, as it may go into the lungs and kill the bird. For roup, the axe.

FROM W. LUSCOMBE, SARNIA.

Most prevalent cause of roup is cold, damp sunless pens and wet clay yards and is contagious through drinking out of the same vessel.

Overcrowding, bad air and neglected fowl house that is not cleaned regularly is another cause. Could take up a lot of space in giving details.

Treatment, if light attack: Teaspoonful of castor oil, bathe the head and face and eyes with warm water, dry and bathe with vinegar and salt. Two doses of oil and two or three applications are generally sufficient.

For more serious attacks I use kerosene and camphorated oil with the above and mix cayenne pepper, saffron, chlorate of potash, powdered rhubarb and tincture of iron, and make pills the size of a large corn and give two or three a day for a few days, and you will generally be successful. I have sometimes used the knife and taken out the cheesy matter, and bathed with the vinegar and salt. Young birds, if only half grown and very bad, knock in the head and burn: you will be money ahead, as they never turn out to be much good, I know,—I have been there myself,—in fact, I have some now. I did not practise what I have preached in some of the above. I cured them but they are no good, and spoil the looks of the others.

FROM F. WIXSON, INGERSOLL.

My opinion of causes of roup, is cold wet weather, too much draught, damp roosting places, and filth. A damp, dirty house, with direct draughts, is sure to breed it. Some varieties are more susceptible to it than others. I find late hatched chicks the first to show up with this and other diseases.

My treatment is, isolate ones affected when they first begin to "snuff," put in a warm place and feed a light warm soft feed for 48 hours, and they are usually all right. I don't believe in dosing them with medicine, as I believe more birds are killed than cured by improper doctoring. Use similar remedies as for a heavy cold in a person; feed light and keep warm. Once it develops into canker, chop off the head and bury the carcass deep.

MR. W. SANDERSON, STRATFORD.

Roup is caused by bad ventilation and dirty quarters, damp weather and exposure to cold winds. If valuable birds I remove to warm quarters, cleanse the nostrils with soapsuds, thoroughly syringing until perfectly free of matter, then syringing again with sweet oil, containing a few drops of carbolic acid, or with coal oil. I do not use the oil oftener than every three days. I give soft feed containing a little cayenne pepper and I put a little dissolved copperas in the drinking water. If taken in time a bird should be better in a week, but it sometimes takes longer. Should the bird not be of particular value, better use the hatchet at once as the infection is sure to spread if the fowls are not in robust health.

Perhaps a few tonics or roup pills might be added to above with advantage.

FROM J. MCLELLAND, PETERBORO.

The most prevalent causes of Roup:—1st. Damp, ill-ventilated quarters. Bad ventilation in any case. 2nd. Want of cleanliness, &c., &c.

Symptoms.—Loss of appetite, moping, swelling of the head, frothy secretion in the inner corner of the eye, followed by an offensive discharge from the nostrils. The mucus membrane becomes stopped and takes the form of catarrh, the first stage of which may be treated by removing those affected to a warm, dry place, disinfected by sprinkling carbolic acid, washing the head of the bird with a piece of fine cotton dipped in a solution of vinegar, 1 to 3 of warm water, and fed on soft feed seasoned with cayenne pepper. In any advanced stage I would say cut off the head, unless the bird is something extra. And begin again by washing your house with lime-wash (to a pail of wash put a large cup full of salt and add say, 3 oz. carbolic acid.) I have not had a case of roup in the last twenty-five years, as I believe prevention better than cure.