

times spoken of as the winter disease. The symptoms are hoarse breathing, swelled eyes, discharge at the nostrils, and sometimes fetid breath. Treatment is not generally satisfactory. The affected birds should be removed, the houses cleansed and disinfected. Damp, foul air and cold drafts in the poultry houses should be carefully avoided whenever fowls are subject to roup. A decrease in the proportion of corn and an increase in the proportion of meat food in the daily ration is held by some to be highly beneficial in ward-off this disease.

In general, the treatment of the common diseases of fowls is not so satisfactory as preventive measures. Nowhere more than in the poultry business does that old adage apply, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

DRESSING AND SHIPPING.

A considerable proportion of the dressed poultry consigned to commission houses in large cities brings to the producer a much smaller profit than it would had the same poultry been dressed and packed for shipment with greater skill. It is of prime importance that the poultry products be placed on the market in a condition that will make them appear as inviting as possible. Proper feeding for two or three weeks before the fowls are slaughtered will improve their color materially.

In most of the American markets fat fowls with a yellow skin bring the highest price. This condition may be secured most cheaply by feeding a grain ration composed largely of corn for two or three weeks before the birds are slaughtered. Of the more common grain foods there is none that excels corn for this purpose.

The commission men and shippers, who study in detail dressing and packing, state that uniformly fine quality will soon acquire a reputation among buyers. The shipper should always be careful to have the product look as neat as possible. In some of the large cities ordinances prohibit the sale of dressed poultry with food in their crops. In a few instances the sale of live poultry in coops which contain food is also prohibited. In all cases it is best to withhold food from twelve to twenty-four hours before killing, but the fowls should have plenty of water during this time, that they may be able to digest and assimilate food already consumed. All fowls should be killed by cutting through the roof of the mouth and allowing them to bleed to death. In all operations of dressing avoid cutting or bruising the skin or breaking bones. Care is required in the case of the heavy fowls in picking and handling to prevent bruising the skin. In packing fowls use neat, clean, and as light packages as will carry safely. Boxes or barrels holding about two hundred pounds meet these requirements best; boxes are better

for turkeys and geese and barrels for chickens. Barrels may be used, however, for dry shipment as well as for hot weather shipment when the fowls are to be packed in ice.

In shipping live poultry the coop should be high enough to allow the fowls to stand upright without bending their legs. When large coops are used there should be partitions, so that if the coops are tipped all of the fowls are not thrown to one side. They should have plenty of room in the coop. If possible put only one kind in a coop or in one division of a coop.

ANCONAS.

THE illustration we give in this issue is from the English *Feathered World*, the premier fancy journal of the Old Country. The Ancona is little known on this side and since the death of Francis H. Mortimer of Pottsville, Pa., who for years was a regular contributor to the REVIEW, has lost rather than gained in popular favor. He was a strong advocate of the breed and always warm in its praise. The birds depicted in the picture are typical and the cock a winner in the largest shows. Mrs. Bourlay, in writing of them, says:

These birds, though rapidly gaining favor with the public, are still unknown to many who are interested in the different breeds that stock our poultry yards. A certain confusion concerning them has also arisen from the notice of Anconas in Mr. Wright's book, his description not tallying with the birds as now exhibited, but a recent correspondence in the pages of a contemporary has proved, beyond doubt, that the Anconas of the past were a manufactured breed, produced by crossing black and white Minorcas. Mr. W. Beard, of Tiverton, seems to have cultivated them largely, and they are described as resembling Scotch Greys with black and white mottled legs. Mr. Harwood, of Tiverton, distinctly remembers specimens being shown in 1874; they were common, he says, but little trouble was taken to breed them to one type, and consequently they did not attract any great amount of attention. It is these birds which are described by Mr. Wright, and they must be carefully distinguished from the Anconas of to-day, which are of an entirely different type.

To begin with, they really are "Anconas," having been imported from that town in North Italy by Captain Rowle, of the ship "Bugle," about twelve years ago. Their merits at that time were not recognized, but in 1887 they were again imported and obtained a certain amount of favor, and were often seen at shows. In June, 1894, Mr. E. Brown, F.L.S., saw the pens at Frankley, the result being a short but comprehensive article by him in the *Live Stock Journal*