

six to ten cents a pound. Everyone is familiar with the objects that are on view at many poultry dealers' stands during the holidays—a couple of pounds of chicken at one end and a great bunch of putrifying grain at the other, enough to disgust one with poultry. A gentleman who for many years had dealt largely in dressed poultry informs us that when fowls are killed with full crops the flavor of the meat is affected inside of twenty-four hours, and that after forty-eight hours they are unfit for human food. There is no hardship in this by-law, as all that is necessary is to deprive the fowls of food for twelve hours before killing.

Feather Eating.

No other habit that fowls acquire is so provoking to the fancier as that of feather-eating, and when once acquired no other is so difficult to cure. What fancier of a few years standing has not experienced the annoyance of having the looks of his best cock bird temporarily spoiled by his hackle being plucked out by his mates. There are many reasons given why fowls acquire this habit, but we think the true one is want of employment. The fact of hens very frequently contracting this habit in a few days while confined in the show pen, would point to this as being a fruitful cause. Fowls at liberty never acquire the habit in summer. When large numbers of birds are cooped in limited quarters, with little chance for exercise, the habit is most prevalent; and in many cases where a flock that has for some time been deprived of exercise and had become addicted to the habit, has been cured by compelling them to exercise in order to procure their food. If fowls in confinement are fed on corn or other large grain, with which they can fill their crops in a few moments, they will have a great deal of time in which to acquire bad habits, and their leisure will be used for no other purpose.

In summer the fowls spend a great part of the day in scratching for food in the runs, and are thus kept out of mischief. The fancier should endeavor as nearly as possible to keep up this state of things during the winter months, when the fowls are confined to their pens, and if he succeeds in keeping them busy most of the time the habit of feather-eating will not be acquired. To do this it is only necessary to cover the floors with a thick bed of dry leaves, cut straw, chaff, or better than either, finely cut clover hay, and among this every morning scatter small grain, gravel, etc. To make this effectual give no more than a half feed in the trough in the morning, and scatter the mid-day meal entirely. The evening meal should always be a full one, and should be given just before dark, so that as soon as taken the birds will go to roost

for the night. A bundle of corn-stalks or sheaf of oats tied securely in one corner will also be found to supply lots of employment.

When a hen has become such a confirmed feather-eater that this treatment will not break the habit, she should be killed if not a very valuable one, as others will soon learn from her, for fowls are very observant of the acts of each other. If a very valuable bird she should be separated from the others, and when exhibited a partition through the show pen should make it impossible for her to mutilate the cock.

Chicken Cholera Vaccination.

Several experiments have been made during the past five years by different parties for the purpose of preventing the spread of chicken cholera by inoculation or vaccination. We have during the past two years vaccinated the fowls in 19 different yards where the cholera was prevailing badly, and in each yard we left some common fowls not vaccinated and they all died. But of the 2,000 vaccinated only 11 died, although they were in the same yard with those that were dying daily by the scores. We have every reason to believe that this chicken vaccination is as effective in preventing cholera among chickens as vaccination is in preventing small-pox among the human family. Vaccinate a hen and in eight days her system will be thoroughly inoculated. At this time her blood should be secured and poured thinly over paper to dry. When dry it forms the vaccine. A small square of the vaccine will inoculate one fowl, while that taken from one chicken will vaccinate a large flock. To vaccinate, scarify the thigh of a chicken with a pin or sharp pointed knife until the blood comes; to the scarification apply a small piece or moistened vaccine paper. It will adhere to the wound, and you need have no fear of chicken cholera. As the result of my many experiments I have now vaccine enough to inoculate 10,000 fowls, for which I have no use. If any of your readers are enough interested in poultry to try this preventive, by writing to me I will send them, free of any charge, enough vaccine to start with. All I ask is that they send immediately, before the vaccine loses its strength.

W. H. GRIFFITH.

Zanesville, Ohio, Nov. 6th, 1882.

In-Breeding.

Editor Review,

It often happens that in our search after the "true inwardness" of poultry breeding we are groping in the dark. We are told by the best authorities that nothing but failure results from in-breeding. Now, sir, an accident has proved to me