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### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous

DEPLUMING MITES. One of my hens is losing the feathers on her head. There is a bare strip now about two inches wide just behind her comb. She seems in good condition otherwise. I think another hen is beginning in the same way, and fear the disease may spread.

PERPLEXED SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.-I am not just clear as to the condition of birds. There are three causes, and, I presume, one of the three is the proper one, for your chickens are feather-pulling, which is a vicious habit, due to a lack of exercise or lack of meat food. They may also be troubled with feather-eating vermin. This, I would be inclined to believe, is the cause in your particular case. The only thing that I know you could do would be to grease the bare spots with carbolized vaseline. You can procure this from any druggist at a moderate price. I would also suggest that you dust well with ordinary insect powder. The neck and the bare portions should be well greased. It might be caused by over-attention by the male, but this is doubtful.

#### BREEDING MARE-GEESE WANTED.

Mare, eight years old, has had four colts. The first was a good one; the next was stifled; the next was another good one: the last one is not right in the stille. They have all been from different horses. Would you recommend breeding her or not? She always had good luck other ways.

2. What is the best feed to make a mare milk? I am feeding a few turnips and a feed of boiled oats with bran at "The Farmer's Advocate" is a wonderful paper-better all the time.

3. Please have some of the readers of The Farmer's Advocate " adverti e the goose they call the Swan, as I would like to get one. A. S.

Ans.-1. The mare seems to transmit a congenital weakness in this part; but as she is a good breeder other ways, and any kind of a brood mare is at a premium now, it may be worth while taking chances, seeing she has raised two good colts.

2. The feed you are using is excellent. Though you do not say definitely, we take it for granted the grain ration is being fed two or three times a day, the evening feed being of boiled oats and bran. It is always better to give the grain in two or three feeds daily than in one.

3. Breeders of geese will find it in their interest to heed this inquiry.

### ROUP.

I had a number of young chickens last December that had swollen heads. One side of their head, when first noticed, would look inflamed, and would keep swelling on the one side until the was completely shut. They could not shut their mouth, but their other eye would be all right. They would go down in flesh, and in time it would break and run, but they all died, and when I saw one getting it, I would hanish it. I didn't see any more for about six weeks, when an old hen turkey got it. I have her away from the rest. The swelled part of her head has broken, and she seems to be getting better. I gave her castor oil inwardly, and rubbed goose oil on her head. G. G.

Ans.-I am inclined to think these hickens have roup. It is one of the forms of roup that is known as swelled head, or some call it one-eye swelling. It is due, undoubtedly, to a germ, but in many cases it is induced by the chickens being exposed to a draft. Under ordinary conditions, the best treatment is to kill the specimens. If it is desired to treat the birds, I would recommend the use of potassium permanganate, as mentioned in another answer, as a preventive, also the same quantity of potas ium used to one pint of water, immerse the bird's head in this, bathe with a weak solution of vinegar, which is frequently beneficial. My experience in this case is that the trouble of curing is worth more than the price of the bird, and unless the trouble becomes a regular epidenne, treatment is very unsatisfactory. In all such cases it is desirable to use salts for the entire flock as a means of W. R. GRAHAM

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