

est. We must, therefore, approach the question on other grounds.

It is generally believed by those who have studied this subject, that the use of maize has been injurious, chiefly by lining the intestines with yellow fat, which, congesting the various organs, induces disease and death. During the last four years I have delivered upwards of 700 lectures in all parts of Britain, and, knowing the extent to which Indian corn is used in rural districts, I usually speak very strongly against its use as a regular article of food for fowls, showing, however, that a proportion, not exceeding one-sixth, may be useful in very cold weather. Only once within that period have my remarks been contradicted, and this was among the Cumberland mountains, where, by reason of the altitude, rather more than the quantity named might be employed. In hundreds of instances I found that people have lost birds, without any apparent reason, but when it was mentioned that the masses of yellow fat referred to were the result of maize feeding, they at once saw that they had been to blame. The manager of a co-operative store in the north of England told me that at one time he sold two or three sacks of maize every week to poultry keepers, but as a result of a lecture in the village, he did not dispose of a sack per month. Such testimony is very satisfactory, and I should be glad if others were as ready to learn. Maize may be useful in very cold districts, and when birds are in a semi-wild state, but not under domestication.

SOFT versus HARD FOOD—The question is frequently asked, "Why is it better to give soft food in the morning and hard food in the evening?" and it may be helpful if the reasons for this recommendation are clearly given. Sometimes poultry keepers imagine that it does not matter when either is fed, so long as the birds receive both each day; while others think the soft food unnecessary, and give grain all the time. Now for the why and wherefore of the thing:

After the long fast of the night, we find that the crop and gizzard of a fowl are practically empty, and the bowels contain only a small quantity, that eaten the night before having been by this time largely assimilated. The system cries for more. This is hunger. If we give grain—hard grain—it has first to be softened in the crop, then ground in the gizzard, and consequently it is a long time ere the stomach has its desires satisfied; whereas if we give soft food, which needs no softening or grinding, it rapidly passes through crop and gizzard, and the stomach has its needs supplied within a very few minutes.

On the other hand, if we give soft food at night, it is quickly digested, and the birds are hungry long before meal time comes; whereas if grain is fed then, this has to go through the process already described, and more slowly, by reason of the fact that the bird is at rest. So that it has a sufficient store of food to serve it until the morning. If any of us have ever awakened during the night with an intense sense of hunger, perhaps unable to secure anything to eat, we can realize something of what is the result for fowls when fed other than as here suggested.—Stephen Beale in *Country Gentleman*.

INJURY FROM A BAND.

Editor Review:

I ENCLOSE you a sample of one of the most dangerous leg bands ever offered to the public. Some time ago through an ad. in REVIEW we purchased ten black Minorcas from Mr. Henderson, Toronto, and shortly after arrival one of the best went lame. We caught her and could only see that the leg above hock joint was swollen and with watery blisters. In a few days on closer examination I found a Bicknell band imbedded in the flesh to the bone, all the cords and muscles cut clean and the hen's leg is limp and useless. This is the second case I know of. Some hens or nearly all don't care for anything on the leg, and I suppose in their efforts to get this kind of band off it slides above the joint with the above results.

Respectfully yours,

S. M. CLEMO.



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