

POULTRY YARD

"White Diarrhoea" is not White Diarrhoea

Prof. F. C. Elford, Macdonald College

Most poultry men who run incubators have had chicks affected with what was said to be "White Diarrhoea." It usually attacks young chicks before they are two weeks old and is probably the worst epidemic that has ever struck the modern poultry raiser. We have been told that it was due to faulty incubation, and operators of incubators have tried in every way to run the machines so as to be free from it. But it seemed to come no matter how long or how high the temperature was kept, until many have almost determined to go back to the old hen and leave artificial incubation alone. Recent experiments have shown that the hen hatched chick is also troubled in the same way, but remains in the nest. Dr. Morse, in charge of Investigation in Diseases in Poultry, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, to come out with something new or something that at least seems practical. Dr. Morse has already written a bulletin on the subject and is looked upon as being on the right track by practical poultry men.

Those who read Dr. Morse's article in July issue of P. Journal, will feel grateful to the Doctor and will be glad to know that his efforts are being rewarded by something tangible. He can call the name a misnomer if he likes so long as he gives a remedy. He says: "It is not faulty incubation. It is not too high a temperature in the brooder, it is not too high a feeding or wrong diet, it is not unabsorbed yolk, it is not any one of these or all of them together that causes the white diarrhoea, associated with the plugged crop." According to Dr. Morse the only remedy is absolute cleanliness. He further says: "We must remember that, lacking full proof yet as to the infection of the

interior of the egg, the Coccidium reaches the chick through the mouth; it is taken in with the food and the eggs or dip them in 95 per cent alcohol or a four per cent solution of a good coal tar disinfectant; so that no infection from the hen's intestines lurking on the eggshell shall contaminate the egg or the nursery floor. That is why you throw the runs with lime and plow them up; that is why you go over the runs with a strong disinfectant like sulphuric acid, or if the houses will permit, sprinkle coal oil over the runs and set fire to them. Remember, fire is the best disinfectant but a terribly dangerous tool to fool with.

How shall we treat the sick chicks? As soon as any show signs of the disease remove them from the well chicks; give them a dose of Epsom salts in food, or water, estimating 10 to 20 chicks to the dose, according to age and size. One trouble is that they are not much inclined to eat at this time. If you have but a few you can poke the food down their throats. Most of the large pharmaceutical houses put up a tablet triturate containing camolene, one-fifth grain, opium one-tenth grain, and bicarbonate of soda, one grain. Find that one of these to a chick from three to six weeks of age acts very nicely; smaller doses for the younger.

Bichloride of mercury tablets containing each one thousandth of a grain, drug strength, are recommended by Dr. Woods. I have tried with excellent results. Ten such tablets dissolved in one quart of drinking water, allowing the other drink, is a good way to give the corrective sublimated treatment.

Ten grains of iron sulphate to the gallon of drinking water appears to have a good effect. Do not continue the iron sulphate (corrective) treatment too long without a laxative like Epsom salts, for it is constipating. I have apparently often had good results simply from the injection into the vent of one or two medicine dropperfuls of a one per cent. solution of carbolic acid. I have no hesitation in saying that while you are thus treating this disease you will be reaping to yourself "Prevention is better than cure." And if you try to carry this idea out, remember three things: Disinfect the intestinal tract of the adult stock; disinfect the premises; and, last, but not least, disinfect the eggs prior to incubation.

Dr. Cushing, of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, has been kind enough to examine scores of chicks for the conclusions he came to during and months ago are almost identical with those expressed by Dr. Morse. I shall endeavor to get Dr. Cushing to give us the benefit of his experiments in some future issue.

Hens that Eat Eggs

The Michigan "Poultry Breeder" says that at this period of the year some of the hens will be guilty of eating their eggs, and it is one of the most annoying vices that can exist in a flock. It is a habit that is acquired, one hen becoming addicted to it and teaching the others. Hens will never eat their eggs, however, unless induced to do so from some cause. If fresh shells are given them or an egg becomes broken, they learn that; they have a source of food, and take advantage of the opportunity.

The vice cannot be cured. That is, if the hens once begin to eat eggs they will always do so if they can. The best remedy, however, is to get rid of them; begin with a new flock. By arranging the nests egg-eaters may be sometimes prevented, but does not destroy the desire. Get a soap box and t-pot and compel the hen to go into the box for a nest at the end, so as

to compel her to walk in. The box should be just large enough for her to sit in, and not stand up comfortably. Fix the nest ten inches from the floor, or so she cannot stand on the floor and eat the egg out of the box. If she cannot stand in the box she will not attempt to eat the egg when on the nest.

Poultrymen at Guelph

(Continued from page 6)

men who will doubtless spend the rest of their lives in the same work.

The questions discussed at this meeting are not especially for publication. No paper was presented at the meetings. The idea was for those interested in the instruction to meet and discuss the various phases among themselves, where they could express their own opinions, criticize where they saw fit and know they would not be made public. However, there were a good many valuable lessons brought out at the various meetings. There were present men known throughout the poultry world for the work that they have done. While we mention such men as Dr. Pearl of Maine, Horace Atwood of West Virginia, A. G. Gilbert, Ottawa, D. J. Lambert, Rhode Island, Dr. Morrison, Washington, Professor Rice of Cornell, R. R. Slocum of Washington, F. H. Stansbourn of Connecticut, Professor Graham of Guelph, L. H. Baldwin and J. H. Robinson and others, it will be seen how representative the meeting was.

QUESTIONS DISCUSSED

Among the questions discussed at the meeting were modern methods of feeding, influence of age in determining the value of breeding stock, inheritance of color, the influence of fertility and hatching power of eggs, conditions affecting eggs for hatching, method in teaching of poultry husbandry, co-operative poultry associations and many other both of a theoretical and practical nature.

A very interesting demonstration of trussing was given by Miss Yates. Miss Yates is connected with the Ontario Department of the Farmer's Institute and does considerable lecturing throughout the Province. Her system of trussing and dressing fowl is very simple and she knows how to do it. She is a very interesting speaker and one cannot help but be interested in what she has to say.

According to Dr. Pearl's recent investigation some have come to the conclusion that the production of eggs is not hereditary. The Dr. proves most conclusively that it is and he is working to show the best method to obtain results. His work is very interesting and will be productive of very much good.

A complete report of all the questions decided upon cannot be given in

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one article but those present felt that the time was well spent and that they had received a great deal of information that they could put to practical use on their farms. Professor W. R. Graham, who has been the efficient President of this Association retired and Dr. Pearl of Maine University, Orono was elected.

On Friday evening those present were entertained by Pres. Greenman and Professor Graham to a luncheon on the lawn, after which they inspected the poultry department.

For all farmers, a most profitable branch of the poultry business is the production of eggs in the winter.

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