

This is one of the most serious pests with which the gardener has to deal, and the so-called remedies are of little avail. The most satisfactory thing we have found is to prevent the maggots getting at the roots by placing around the plants when they are set out, a pad of tar paper about four inches square, with a slit cut from the side to the centre which allows it to be closely fitted around the plant.

The best way to avoid injury from the turnip flea-beetle is make the turnips grow so fast that they are out of danger of an attack. This may be accomplished by having the ground in extra fine tilth, and sowing good fresh seed in a moist seed bed, after a shower if possible. Where the young plants are badly infested the best remedy is to spray with Paris green (4 ozs. to 40 gals). It is always well to use a gallon or two of milk of lime along with this amount of Paris green to prevent injury to the foliage.

Feeding Ducks ; Lice on Chickens.

Questions 2 and 3 are answered by W. R. Graham, Poultry Manager O.A.C., Guelph, as follows:

(1) A good food for young growing ducks would be composed of equal parts by measure of bran, middlings, and fine ground corn. Occasionally oats might be used in the place of the middlings. These grains should be mixed dry and then moistened with skim milk. If milk cannot be used it would be advisable to add about 5 per cent. of animal meal to the food and moisten with boiling water. Great care should be taken that the ducks have a plentiful supply of grit ; also have a shelter from the sun and rain. It is also essential that they have plenty green food.

Ducks require a more bulky food than chickens. When you wish to get them onto the market at an early age they require as fine food as chickens, but for breeding purposes it is advisable not to allow them to get too fat. Feed breeding ducks nearly one-half bran after they are eight to ten weeks old, and allow them to have a free range if possible. Try to develop bone and muscle rather than fat.

(2) The symptoms given would indicate that the chicks are covered with lice. Sometimes when chicks are very much troubled with lice they will gape and the scratching about the head is a sure indication of lice. They have become weak and are almost exhausted. If they were troubled with gapes a large number would die very quickly. I would suggest that your subscriber anoint the head of each chicken with a few drops of lard or sweet oil ; too much grease is dangerous. Clean out the roosting place and keep the feed trough and watering pans clean. Use coal oil freely about the roosting coop once or twice a week. Gapes or lice are caused from filth.

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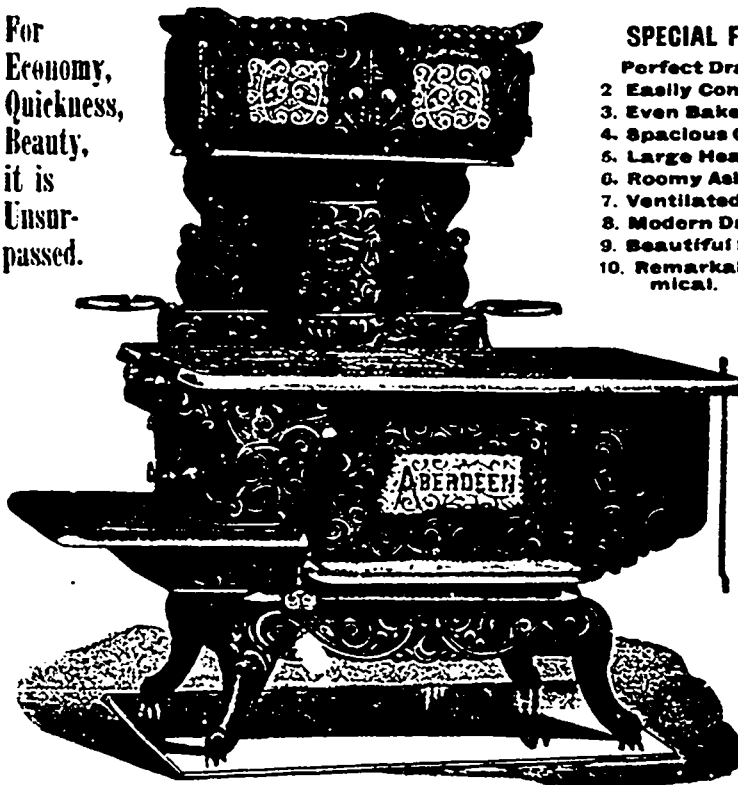
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