

## In the Poultry Yard

### Poultry Wrinkles

During the hot weather the fowls require special care. They should have a variety of food and access to clean water at all times. Salt should be given them in small quantities every day. The hen house should be kept clean and well ventilated. Dirt breeds vermin.

When the chickens commence to droop their wings it is high time to examine them. If any lice are found on them some flower of sulphur should be well rubbed under their wings. Sulphur is death to lice.

In order to make the hen house an uncomfortable abode for lice, spray the interior once a week liberally with cold water fresh from the pump. It is cheaper and safer than kerosene oil.

Last week a number of our hens were broody. I didn't ill-use them by dipping them in water, but I just bundled them all into an old high box sleigh and covered it over so they couldn't get out. I gave them plenty of food and water. At the expiration of three days I let them out. They were all cured.

Hens that lay while moulting are the profitable ones to keep. The best hens moult early. All the old, lazy, good-for-nothing hens should be fattened and killed. They won't pay their board.

A. R.

### How to Clean a Brooder

Besides the daily scraping out and freshening up which a brooder should receive, a thorough cleansing every week or two is necessary, if the chickens are to keep in perfect health. Small brooders can easily be lifted out of the coops, and washed and dried in the sun, but the large foster-mothers with wooden floors require rather different treatment. A warm, sunny day should be chosen on which to give these a thorough "spring" cleaning, when the chickens which are over a week old will be out of the brooder most of the day. The lamp should be removed and put out, the hover, etc., removed, and the door of the brooder shut. Then all the litter should be brushed up, and all the dirt possible removed, using a stiff brush and shovel for the purpose. The litter, if it contains remains of food, may be thrown into the fowls' pen. Now a bucket or two of water should be thrown into the brooder and allowed to soak in for half-an-hour. Then a stiff brush should be taken, one which will go into the corners, some soft soap and sand or grit, and the floor of the brooder and sides, if they require it, well scrubbed. The dirty water resulting should be either washed out through the door, followed by two buckets of clean water, or mopped up and the floor washed over with clean water afterwards. A little Jeyes' fluid, say a tablespoonful, dissolved in the last water, will be an improvement. The hover, etc., should be well washed, also the windows, if there are any. The lids of the brooder should be left wide open, and the lamp lighted and replaced. In an hour's time, or when the brooder is dry, fresh litter may be put in, the lids shut down, hover, etc., replaced, and the door opened. It will be noticed how much the chicks appreciate their clean quarters, and the trouble involved is well repaid by the continued good health and vigor of the birds.—Mrs. L. M. Furneaux.

### Poultry Farming

There are many reasons why a great number of people who keep fowls fail to make their pay. In the first place, poultry keeping is a business, and those who follow it need to serve their apprenticeship to learn it thoroughly. This they frequently neglect to do, and then blame the business and not themselves. Of course, anyone may keep a few hens and be successful in a small way, but we are speaking of it as a means of gaining a living. Then, poultry keeping often does not pay as it ought, because of the indifferent choice of the first stock. Fine, well bred fowls produce quite as many, if not more, eggs, than mongrels, and the eggs sell for much more money for sitting purposes in spring when ordinary eggs are cheap, whilst the marketable chickens command better prices, either for stock or for the market. Much has been published by breeders to show how wonderfully prolific some varieties they have to sell are.—Smith's Weekly.

### A Simple Cure for Gapes

Cure your chicks of gapes or "pip," as we call it in the country in Ireland, by this easy remedy. Place your chicken in a basket to keep them from getting any harm from the hot heater. Turn an empty box over them. Place a heater hot, but not red, under the box; any bit of iron will do if a heater is not at hand. Pour some carbolic acid on the heater. Shut the box as quickly as possible, to prevent the fumes escaping. In a few minutes the chicks will begin to cough, when they may be removed. Repeat the process if necessary, but one application ought to effect a complete cure.—M. A. Hadden, in Feathered Life.

### Cramp in Ducks

This may or may not be a very serious ailment. A great deal must depend on the kind of so-called cramp. If it is only paralysis of the loins, induced by fear, or it is rheumatism, caused by cold, it will readily suc-

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cumb to treatment. Sometimes the "Cramp" is weakness and want of circulation, which is caused by breeding from debilitated stock. For this kind there is no hope, and it is a waste of time to attempt any remedy. On the inside of the leg there is a large vein, which may be easily seen as it crosses the joint and spreads over the foot. In cases of severe cramp this vein will be seen to be full of stagnant blood. The blood will be in heads. If this vein is rubbed the blood will circulate for a few seconds. Soon after the rubbing ceases the blood will once more become stagnant. If the duck is headed with a sharp axe, there will be little or no flow of blood from the neck. As the cure for all kinds of cramp is the same, it is always worth while to try it, for in many instances the duck will never be subject to cramp again. If the case is obstinate, it may be argued that it is wasting time, and that the duck will never live again. As soon as a duckling is observed to be suffering from cramp, a fat tin should be filled with hot water and then covered over with hay to temper the heat. The duck should be placed on this and an old sack or flannel should be made very hot and laid across its back. All food and water should be given very warm and the duck kept as warm as possible. Very often after a half an hour of this treatment the duck will be perfectly recovered, but it is well worth while to exercise a little patience, as it is very seldom that the treatment has to be repeated twice after recovery. Ganges, B.C.

OCTAVIA ALLEN.

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