

CHICKEN CHOLERA.

During the summer and fall of last year several of our American poultry breeders lost many fowls by a disease called by them "chicken cholera," owing, it is said, to the similarity of the attacking symptoms to those of cholera as known to the human race. The losses in some cases were heavy, whole flocks having in a short time been swept away, and an instance is mentioned where the loss to one breeder is estimated at over \$750. The descriptions given by breeders of this disease are very vague and undefined, and leads to the belief that it is as yet but imperfectly understood, and the source from which it arises buried in obscurity. Some writers represent it as very contagious, others, that it is not; one describes the diseased bird as "drooping, with little inclination to eat, drowsiness and weakness prevailing;" another that the liver and lungs are affected; but all agree that the disease is most virulent, and its attacks fatal. The best description we have seen of the symptoms of the disease is given by an intelligent writer in the *Country Gentleman*, who signs himself "Fairfax County," and runs thus: "The symptoms of the chicken cholera of Virginia are such as its name implies; the most striking are copious purging and excessive thirst. The comb becomes pale, the wings droop, and the fowls look sick. There is sometimes, perhaps always, great heat at the throat. The disease is very rapid, generally running its course in a few hours."

The remedies prescribed are as varied in their medicinal properties as the writers who recommend them are diversified in opinion, as to what is the real nature of the disease. One writer states that he checked it by using assafoetida; another by the use of alum; while a third emphatically asserts that "perhaps alum does good, and perhaps

assafoetida does; but I think there is as great weight of evidence in favor of melon seeds and sunflower seeds as in favor of any other medicine." "Fairfax County" tried Cayenne pepper, but without any good result, he then tried soda, with no better effect. Finally he used extensively pulverized charcoal, and the "cholera disappeared," and he asks the question "did the charcoal do the work?" and in a subsequent enquiry he answers his own question by saying "the charcoal did not do the work," and mournfully adds that he had lost at the time of writing nearly two hundred hens and pullets, and that all the remedies tried had the same effect, "to wit: none at all."

For the benefit of such of our readers who may have faith in them, and who may be so unfortunate as to be visited next season with the disease, we give in full some of the curative remedies prescribed. One is "1 oz. of assafoetida, two tablespoonfuls of Cayenne pepper, pulverized, 1 peck of wheat bran, 1 handful of salt; mix it all together like thick mush; prepare the night before; put it into the trough every morning, if bad; repeat the dose every day until a final cure." Another gives the following remedy: "Give the diseased fowl as soon as noticed three or four teaspoonfuls of strong alum water, and repeat next day; also mix the feed with strong alum water, feeding twice a day for two or three days; afterwards once a week. A third says: "Take, say, two eggs, a tablespoonful of finely pulverized alum, and a sufficient quantity of flour to make a thin paste, and force the chicken or turkey to swallow a portion of the mixture, and there are two chances to one it will recover. A fourth writer states: "I used the pulverized Jamaica ginger and rolled on fat meat, or other soft substance. I made tea of a herb called Gold Thread (*Coptis trifolia*), just as you use a pinch or two