

LIMBER NECK IN POULTRY

What are the cause, symptoms and cure for what is known as limber neck among fowls? We have lost some the past summer and fall. It was hard to tell what was the cause. Some would mope around for some days, then die. Others would be all right seemingly one day, and the next day would not have the power to lift their heads any more than if there were no bone in their necks. They have had the run of the stable and stack yards all summer and fall; are in good condition, and have had milk and vegetables almost every day.—B. A. S.

Ans.—Limber neck is a condition, or disease, of poultry brought about usually from overfeeding, or the long continued feeding on some particular kind of grain, or other indigestible food. The symptoms have been very well depicted by you in your query. The reason the neck becomes so placid is the poisons resulting from indigestion are absorbed and produce paralysis of the brain, from which they seldom, if ever, recover. The treatment is rarely successful, but, as a preventative, they should have a change of grain, or mixed grains should be fed not too abundantly with fresh vegetables and plenty of clean pure water and exercise. In your case the cause may be found in feeding milk too freely. It is generally advisable to kill those affected, and change the feed of those not yet showing any symptoms. Isolate the sick birds from the healthy.

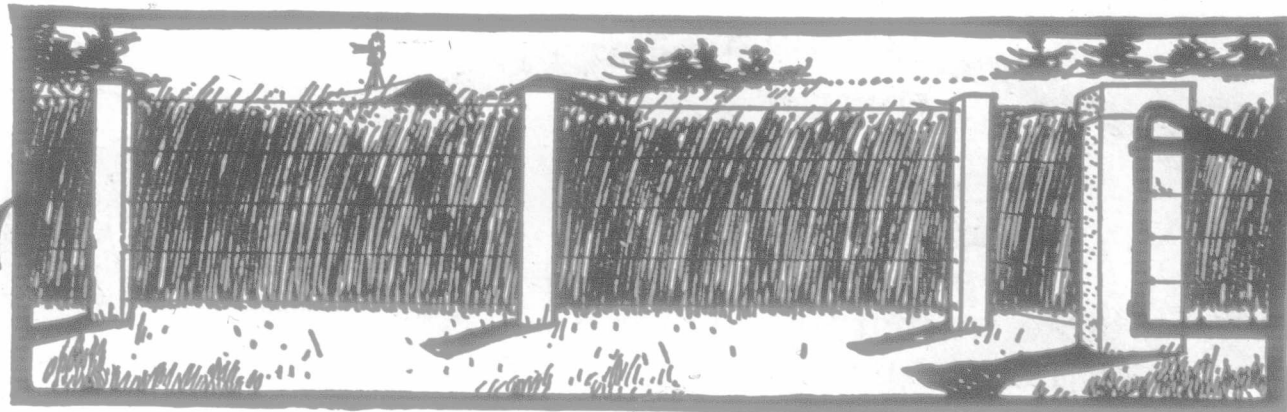
EGGS BOUGHT ON GRADE

In eastern America the authorities are worked up over the frequency with which bad eggs are supplied to the unsuspecting consumer. As usual, various means of putting an end to such imposition are suggested. At the National Poultry, Butter and Egg convention held in Chicago recently, practical means of eliminating the circulation of eggs unfit for food were discussed by Henry Brownell, as follows:

It is impossible for any man long to continue successful in supplying food for the people, unless that food be furnished in the best, purest and most wholesome form. This general statement applies with multiplied force to eggs. There is only one way to stop the circulation of eggs unfit for food and that is to fill up the markets with eggs that are fit for food. It is possible to so gather eggs and to so grade, pack and deliver them as to always deliver a perfectly good egg.

Let us consider for a moment what and where an egg is when first produced. Unlike some other articles of food, an egg is at its very best when it is first laid. Man has never discovered any way of improving an egg. The fresh laid egg is perfect. Eggs are laid in the country, frequently far from market. Many farmers produce eggs several miles from the nearest market. A peddling wagon may call once a week or the farmer may go to market with his eggs. It has been my experience that the worst carelessness in handling eggs is always that which comes first. More eggs are spoiled and more eggs are tainted in the hands of the farmers, the country storekeeper and the peddler than are ever spoiled or tainted after they are received by the shipper. All shippers should be prepared to keep their eggs cool, clean and dry, and if the shipper receives good eggs, it is not very difficult to get the eggs to market and to get them to the consumer while still good. The difficulty has been to keep the eggs good until they get into the hands of the shipper.

The producing of eggs is a business. Eggs are produced for profit. The only way to get the producer of eggs to take care of his eggs is to make it profitable for him to do so. We can educate the producer, we can tell him that a large percentage of his eggs are spoiled, but until we show him that it is money in his pocket to take care of his eggs,



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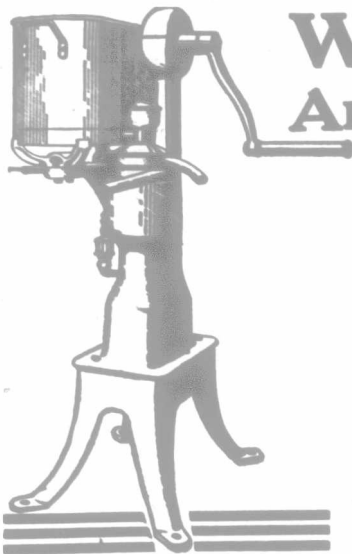
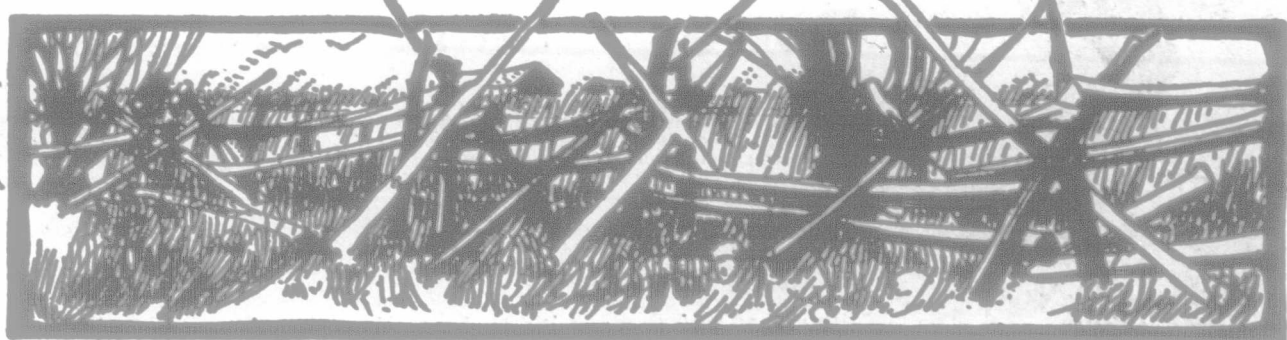
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