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CRAMMING MACHINE.

In forcing fowl for the British market, some feeders in this country and many on the other side of the Atlantic use a cramming machine during the last nine or ten days of the feeding period. Birds cannot stand it much longer.

For the information of those who have not seen such a machine I submit the following cut and description of the one which we use :

The crammer consists of a food reservoir, to the bottom of which is attached a small force pump actuated by a lever and treadle worked by the foot of the operator.



Cramming Machine.

Communicating with the pump is a nozzle, through which the food passes to the bird. A is the food reservoir. B the pump. E the pump rod. O is the lever which, on being depressed at the lettered end, causes the pump rod E, to which it is attached, to move downwards and to eject the contents of the pump B out at the nozzle K. On relieving the pressure at O, the lever and the parts connected therewith are drawn up by the spring C, until a motion is arrested by a stop M, which serves to determine the quantity of food ejected at each depression of the treadle.

The charge may also be varied by arresting the pressure at any point in the downward thrust of the lever O.

The method of operating is as follows : Take the tube of the cramming machine in the right hand and the bird's head in the left, then with the assistance of the finger and thumb of the right hand, open the bird's mouth and slip the forefinger of the left hand into it and hold down the tongue,, quickly insert the end of the tube and push it down seven or eight inches, (according to the size of the bird), at this moment depress the right foot (which up to this time has been resting on the treadle) and force the contents of the cylinder into the bird's crop. If the crop be full enough the tube may now be withdrawn, taking care, however, to relieve the pressure on the treadle for a second or two before taking the tube out, otherwise a small quantity of food will continue to flow after the tube is removed. When not in use hang the nozzle over the edge of the food reservoir.

The advantages gained by using the cramming machine are :

(1) Birds can be made much fatter by the use of the crammer than by feeding in the ordinary way.