

this fungus. In some localities the disease is more destructive than in others. Season and soil also greatly influence its virulence.

TREATMENT.—Shot hole fungus is a difficult disease to control. As it is likely to appear any time during the season, and as new leaves are being formed on the plum throughout the summer, it is necessary to begin spraying early, and protect the new foliage by later applications. Bordeaux mixture applied before the buds open and once or twice after the fruit has set, and then the weak copper sulphate or copper carbonate of ammonia solution shortly before the fruit ripens, the same as is advised for the control of brown rot, is probably the best treatment that can be recommended. This treatment will hold one of these diseases in check will also suffice for the other.—V. R. Gardner, Macdonald College, Que.

POULTRY YARD

Care of the Flock in February

J. B. GALLANDER, PETERBOROUGH COUNTY, ONT.
All the early pullets should be laying. If they are not there ought to be a change in the care of feed. The early hatchings of eggs are usually set in February and March, and every week that is passed over now without some eggs being set is that much lost time. It takes a whole season's work and planning to be ready for this season of the year, so that you will not be caught behindhand as, perhaps you have been before. If you are not ready now, start to work at once to make preparations for the season of 1909. Readiness consists in having the hen laying strongly through January and February. That means that the pullets have been hatched out early the spring before. If the pullets are not laying, then get them at it as quickly as possible. First, see that the quarters are dry and comfortable. This does not necessarily mean steaming warm houses. They should be airy, light, and have plenty of loose bedding for the birds to keep them busy scratching in for their grain. A house may be cold, and yet the flock may be healthy and happy, but they must be given lots of work to do to keep the blood circulating, and digestion properly performed.

THE QUESTION OF FEED

With quarters properly arranged, the question of feed comes into importance. A ration that has been used with the best results, is about as follows—it can be varied to suit whatever grains are easiest to procure in any particular neighborhood.—In the morning a mash can be fed either with cut clover salad and made tasty by the

admixture of a little chop or boiled vegetables of any kind, instead of the clover. This given to them a little warm makes a good start towards a comfortable day. Shortly after breakfast scatter a little small grain in deep chaff, so that it will take the birds a long time to find it. This will keep them busy till noon, when a feed of cut bone, about two ounces per head can be given, and more small grain be scattered in the scratching material. At night a full feed of any kind of whole grain may be given.

If the careful feeder is specially anxious to get eggs, it will pay to put the night feed of grain in the oven for a few minutes to warm before giving it to the hens. They will then go to roost with a crop full of something that will warm them up instead of with a lump of ice cold grain that takes an hour or so to get the chill off it, and delays that much the night's comfort of the fowl. Always have plenty of good grit handy.

I have taken a flock of pullets in January that had not laid a single egg up to that time, and in ten days had them shelling out eggs as if they were working by the job instead of by the day.

When the eggs begin to come lively, it will not be long if the hens are one of the American, or general purpose classes, before you will have some broody hens, and can get them to work incubating the eggs that are to produce the pullets for next winter's layers.

Many may think it too early to hatch chickens in February, but, in these days of incubators and brooders, raising as many chickens in winter as you want is only a question of care. Our plan last winter, with between 60 and 100 chicks out, was to let the hen have them for about a week after they were hatched, and then to put them in a brooder that had been running for some days, and that had been tested thoroughly. The result was a healthy and vigorous flock, always ready for their feed, and clamoring noisily for it although the brooder was covered with snow and ice, and the thermometer showed the usual temperature of our Canadian winter.

Much to Learn About Incubators

W. H. Graham, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.
There is really little known about the running of incubators. Some people succeed in hatching a large percentage of eggs, while others, under exactly the same circumstances, fail. The exact reason we do not know. This much, however, can be said: the machine should not be placed in a direct draught, nor yet in a building where there is a lack of ventilation.

Fresh air is one of the most important things in an incubator room. I have known machines to hatch in well-ventilated cellars, kitchens and dining rooms, and bed rooms. Hardly two people agree as to which is the best place to operate the machine. As a general rule it is wise to follow the manufacturers' directions. I find that different makes of incubators require different treatment, both as to temperature, and otherwise, and we generally get the best results when running closely to the directions.

Where possible, the temperature in the room should vary but little; for if it varies from 30 to 40 degrees in 24 hours, it is hard to keep an even temperature in the machine; and it is absurd to expect that the machine will not vary with such changes in the surrounding temperatures.

Danger of Roup

My hens seem sick, and do not eat well. They sneeze and have a discharge from the nostril. Some are so bad their eyes are swollen shut. I suppose it is some kind of cold, but I do not know what to do for them, and would be thankful for some advice on the subject.—Mrs. H. L. Leeks, Co. Ont.

Your hens have a bad cold that will quickly develop into roup if they are not treated at once. Get a package of Hess Panacea, and mix some of it to stiff paste or dough with lard. Knead, with the fingers, a pill about as large as the end joint of your first finger, and push one down each nostril, one on each side of the bill well. After that mix some of the Panacea in the proportion of two tablespoonsful for 30 fowls, in the morning mash, putting the powder in the dry grain before wetting it. If only a part of the flock is affected, remove the sick ones to a pen away from the others, as all—fowls that are allowed to drink from the same vessel.

Damp Houses

My hen houses are warm, and the water does not freeze, but there is always a lot of dampness on the walls, and the bedding, or scratching material seems wet. What would you advise to remedy this? My house faces the south. It has large windows, nearly the whole south side being glass. The walls are doubly boarded, with building paper between, and the floor is of earth, except under the roost where it is boarded, and raised about six inches.—W. M. Middlesex Co. Ont.

Your house requires only ventilation to make it an ideal place for good results with a flock of poultry. You can supply this by removing the glass from the top row or two of the panes in the window, and covering the opening thus made with simple factory cotton. Do not oil or paint the cotton, but let it on just as you buy it. If you have not tried this way of ventilating your house, you will be surprised at the results.

Another way to supply ventilation is to put a pipe from within a few inches of the floor, up through the roof. This causes a suction of air from the floor up through the pipe, taking the dampness out somewhat, though not so satisfactorily as by the curtain front style. Still another way is to have a small loft above the fowls' quarters, filled with loose straw, and in both ends a small opening, causing a draft above the straw, and thus effectively carrying off the dampness from the room below.

Dividing The Flock

My flock consists of purchased Barred Plymouth Rocks, of which I have 100 hens and pullets. Running with them are about six male birds. Will I have as good results from the eggs from this flock, as I would from a single flock, with one male bird? I have a splendid big yard that I could use for a separate flock, if I wished to divide them.—A. R. Prince Edward Co.

You could get much better results from a single pen, than from the large flock, if the eggs are used for hatching purposes. It enables you to select your best birds to breed from, and thus improve the standard of your flock, and you can also breed from the hens that show themselves to be the best layers, thus strengthening the laying propensity in your flock, a rather desirable feature. In the matter of improving the standard of your stock by careful selection

of the breeders, you cannot be too careful as it will not make the bird any less marketable if the feathering is correct, and besides you will have the satisfaction of having a uniform flock, and something that pleases the eye. Then, also, you will have the chance of selling a few to others for breeders, at a little better price than you can secure on the market, a consideration that is worth taking into account.

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