

## GENERAL TREATMENT OF POULTRY, INCLUDING DISEASES, INJURIES, &c.

Diseases often come from the poor constitution of the birds, but oftener yet from the unclean and damp state of the poultry houses and of the unsanitary condition of the soil, deficient ventilation of the buildings and the crowding of the birds.

### PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

(1) *Site of the Poultry House.*—Poultry houses should have a southerly exposure so that the birds may have the full benefit of the sunlight, for disease is seldom seen where the sun shines. Poultry houses should also be placed where they are sheltered from north winds, which are always injurious.

(2) *Green Vegetation.*—Fowls when perched during the summer should always have an abundant supply of green food.

(3) *Shade.*—Shrubs, and also trees, should be planted in poultry runs so as to give sufficient shade to the birds during the very hot days of summer. Fowls should go to the poultry house only to lay and to roost.

(4) *Cleanliness.*—At least twice a year roosts and walls should be whitewashed; this is the best means to destroy the parasites, which in spite of all cleanings are apt to infest the stock and building.

The soil in the runs should also be turned over from time to time to bury the excrement deposited on it.

**EGG BOUND.**—This trouble is frequently the result of too much crowding, or of feeding grain exclusively, which causes an inflammation of the oviduct. The lack of lime in the food may also result in the breaking of the eggs in the oviduct; the preventive measures are of very easy application.

*Symptoms.*—The bird is distressed, has a capricious appetite, curves its back and remains standing or lying on its belly, which soon swells; diarrhoea sets in; finally after four or five days the bird dies; it is found on its back, the feathers of the abdomen and of the rump ruffled. Already before death, it may be seen that the skin of the belly and around the anus is red, swollen, distended and sore; sometimes even by inserting a finger in the anus the stopped egg or eggs may be felt.

*Treatment.*—In the first place give the bird a teaspoonful of castor oil, and, if there is no passage of the egg, give through the anus an injection of sweet oil, followed, if need be, by an application of belladonna ointment. The diet must be very cooling, composed of herbs, lettuce and dampened bran; the bird should be kept quiet in a small enclosure.

**FRESHLY LAID EGGS WITH STALE TASTE.**—This trouble occurs sometimes with excessively fat hens; when the egg cannot pass freely through the oviduct, which is almost obstructed with fat, it is retained in this organ sometimes for two or three days, and, if it is fertilized, the animal heat is sufficient to start decomposition. At that stage only the yolk is formed; then, when the yolk becomes surrounded with white and later with the shell, and is finally laid, though freshly laid, it has a stale taste.

As a preventive treatment, lessen the ration and remove the male bird from the layers.

**HERNIA OF THE OVIDUCT.**—Another affliction, which has the same causes as that of egg bound; is a hernia of the oviduct due to catarrh: the abdomen becomes swollen and hard posteriorly. The skin of the belly is stretched, hot and shining. A mucous discharge which spreads and dries up around the rump, is an accompaniment of this disease; the irritation is strong enough to bring about the falling of the feathers.