

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED."

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Poultry Yard.

Dorkings.

We very often receive enquiring letters regarding our opinion about stock, and some of them ask which are the best kind of fowls for a farmer to keep? To such questions we invariably answer the dorking. Poultry fanciers may make more money by selling fancy stock from some of the other varieties, but for eggs, flesh, size, hardiness and general utility, we give the preference to the above named stock. The grey or colored dorkings are preferable to the white.

Sulphur for Fowls.

There is no remedy which is so easily and cheaply obtained, so harmless to the fowls, or so satisfactory in its results, as sulphur. It being in

the system of animals to a small degree, there is a greater affinity for it than there otherwise would be. It can be administered to the fowl by having it in a small box, so that they can help themselves, or by mixing it with their feed once a week, or as often as there are indications of vermin. Penetrating, as it does, to every part of the system, the parasites are quickly and surely destroyed. Also gripes are said to be prevented in chickens. Fowls need it more than most animals, their feathers containing between four and five per cent. of sulphur. Their eggs, also, have a small quantity, which is noticed by the discoloring of a silver spoon when it comes in contact with a boiled egg. Applied externally to the fowls when on the nest, to the nest itself, or mixed with the soil in the dusting box, it is equally efficacious in destroying vermin. To be used as a fumigator of buildings, it is necessary to remove the fowls, close the room or house, mix a little saltpetre with the sulphur in an iron vessel, and

apply a match to the mixture. This should be done in the morning, and the doors and windows opened in the afternoon for a thorough ventilation. Lard mixed with sulphur in proper proportions, and applied as often as it is necessary to the feathers on the neck and back of young and old turkeys, is a very good safeguard against the ravages of foxes.—*Poultry World.*

Lameness in Poultry.

GOUT, MEGRIMS, CRAMP AND PARALYSIS—CAUSES AND CURE.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

SIR:—In answer to Mr. Sherlock, of Thamesford, asking for a remedy for the disease he complains his fowls are affected, I am afraid that gentleman has not sufficiently defined the symptoms, to form what the doctors call a proper *diagnosis*; however, I will give Mr. Sherlock, what from experience and observation and a respectable ac-

quaintance with writers on this subject will afford. Losing the use of the limbs of a fowl may rise from several causes. First, gout. This is generally found in old cocks, who have been highly fed and closely confined. It may be known by a hobbling gait, and a voracious appetite. Sulphur is highly recommended for this disease, but probably one of the surest remedies is to make soup, or serve him up in a stew.

Megrims.—This is a nervous affection, and causes contraction of the muscles of the legs, and would lead a person to believe it was simply cramp. However, there are other symptoms connected, which may easily distinguish it from mere cramp. The bird looks stupid, and walks in such an unsteady and staggering manner that you would imagine it was drunk. From the word *stagger* used by Mr. Sherlock, it is more than probable that this is what ails his fowls. Too full feeding and close confinement; in fact want of proper exercise

gravel, where they will have a free use of their limbs in sitting down, and correct the other causes in the same way; but in all cases give a strengthening diet, such as bread soaked in ale, or porter, some fresh meat, and oatmeal mixed with pepper corns pounded fine. Cayenne pepper and castor-oil are also great remedial agents, in case the birds are too much confined.

Paralysis may be another cause of lameness; it is more easily detected than from any other cause, and arises from this: At the extremity of the spine or back is a small gland, which, for the sake of brevity, we will call the rump gland. This often becomes inflamed and a tumor arises; and unless this matter gets vent, by being cut, it causes not only paralysis of the legs, but also of the spinal cord; or rather, the paralysis of the spinal cord, produces paralysis, or cramp in the legs.

The only cure for this is to cut the tumor and let out the glandular secretion, and the bird gets immediately well by a little care.

This is more sudden in its effects than *megrims*, although, some of the symptoms are similar—that is as far as dullness, stupidity and lameness are concerned, (in both cases the brain being affected,) but in the latter, not only are the legs disabled, but there is a drooping of the wings and curvature of the spine, caused by convulsions of the muscles.

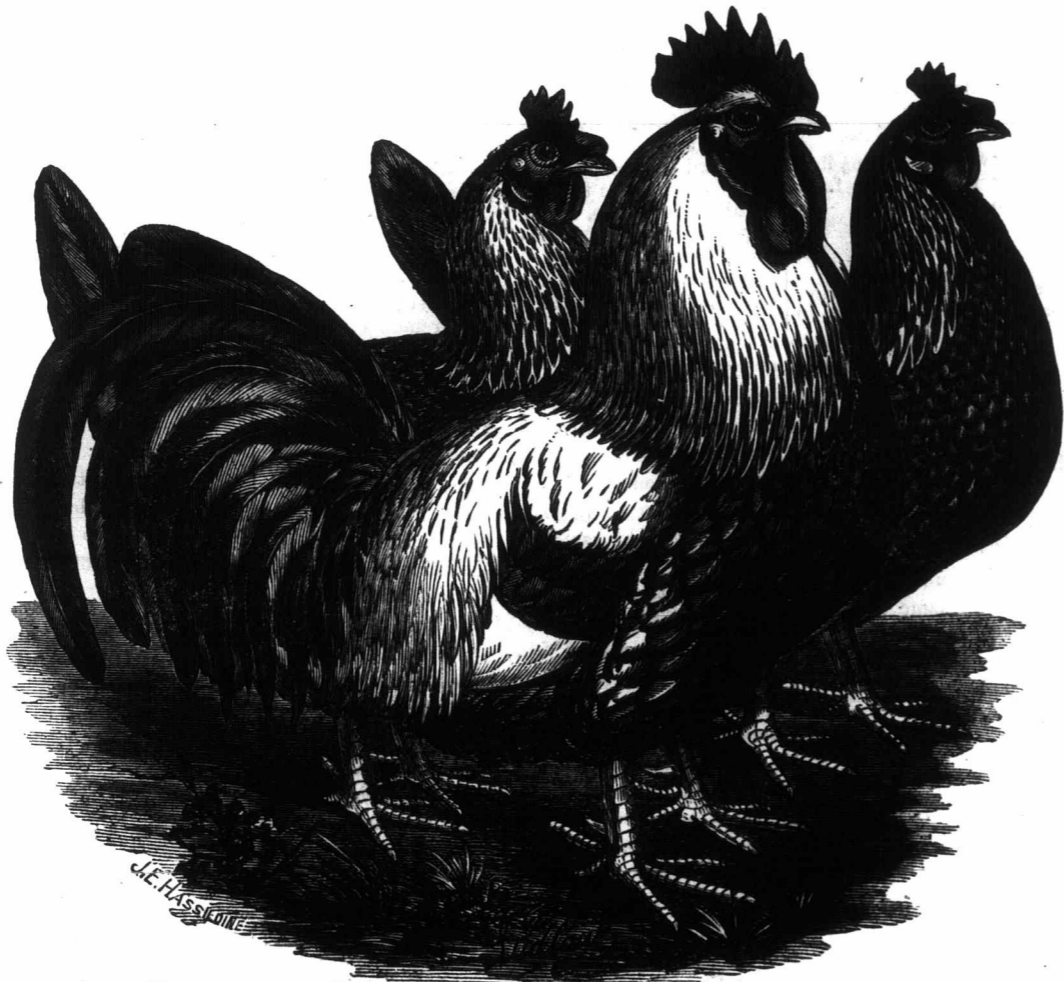
The bird sometimes dies almost instantaneously, being, apparently, quite well, showing no symptoms of lameness whatever, only a short twitch in walking. In other cases, they may linger for a number of days. However, one thing is sure, unless the obstruction spoken of is removed, no matter what medicine is given, death will ensue.

Hoping, if these remarks are worthy of your consideration, you will insert them in your valuable paper for the benefit of your readers,

I remain, yours truly,
Hyde Park, April 2nd, 1875. W. L. BROWN.

Medicine for Poultry.

In ordinary cases it will not pay to give medicine to sick fowls. The best course respecting poultry ailments is prevention. Try to secure such vigorous breeding stock and such complete sanitary conditions for all the birds at all ages, that illness will be rare. Then the strength of constitution will be such that any ordinary disease can be resisted without the use of medicine, if good nursing is given. What we mean by nursing is:—Place sick fowls in a dry, sunny place, out of the wind, and safe from disturbance. Then give them food easy of digestion, such as mush, potatoes and meat, every article cooked, and warm milk for drink. If, after all, they can't make out to live, say, "there are many birds, at any rate, not disease proof, that have been weeded out of my stock."



COLORED DORKINGS.

often causes this, but it is not the only one—breeding from relations is a predisposing cause. Flocks that are in-bred are more liable to all diseases than those which are perfectly crossed from strong, healthy birds. Castor-oil, either given directly, or mixed in soft food, is a good remedy, with warm, airy quarters. Sulphur in small pellets, or onions chopped fine in small quantities and mixed with the feed, is desirable; water in rusty vessels, producing a solution of iron, given to drink, will likewise aid in strengthening the blood.

Cramp in the Legs.—This resembles the last mentioned, as far as the use of the legs is concerned, without the silly look and staggering gait. This is mainly caused by cold and damp, poor feeding, sitting on stone or hard board floors, and, lastly, indigestion, caused by being too closely confined, or it may result from a combination of all these causes. If damp is the cause, remove them to dry, warm quarters. Should you have them on too hard a floor, put them on a floor of fine sand or