

to my wit's end, and must try something, as now the first three lots were fast dying, while the fourth, only out of the eggs a few days since, were as strong and well as possible. So I resolved that they should be put out in the shed at once; and I gave orders to my man to put them out. "Put out those young chicks in this weather as this, with the thermometer below freezing?" was his reply. "Yes, put them out." "Well, they will be dead to-morrow morning." "Never mind; we will try them."

And so we did. Those chicks are now six weeks old; and it would give any one pleasure to see how strong they are.

When I was looking at them to-day, two of the young fellows were having a stand-up fight on their own account. Since this lot were hatched I have had two other lots, and, as soon as ever they begin to peck, I put them out just under cover of a shed, free from draughts; and though the thermometer has run as low as 26° Fahr., they are as strong and as well as possible.

I have made Brahmas my study for many years; but it never occurred to me that they were such a hardy fowl as to stand the cold which these young chicks have done. I have now resolved that chicks shall not be left by me in a house after the first day, as they seem to be so much better outside; and as this bit of experience may be of some use to your readers, your finding it a corner in the FANCIER'S GAZETTE may induce a further correspondence on the subject. N. B.

CHICKEN CHOLERA.

Country Lady, in the "Country Gentleman," says she had, three years ago, 150 hens which began dying of the cholera, and she tried a great many recipes, but nothing did any good until a friend told her to feed, once a week, onions chopped fine and cayenne pepper, a sufficient quantity of each to make the dough taste quite strongly of it, mixed in corn meal dough. In about three weeks the disease abated, but it was several months before the chickens ceased dying; she lost no more fowls until the next winter, when she got out of onions, and neglected the treatment for two weeks, when several died. She immediately resumed the onion feed, and lost no more until last spring, when she again neglected it for three weeks, and lost two hens, since that time she has never failed to feed the onions and pepper every week, and has never lost a chicken.

W. Horne, V. S., says: I am afraid no one has a cure for the so called cholera in chickens or hogs. I have tried almost every thing, I keep some of the best fowls to be procured with money, and their death is a great loss to me, and of course prompts me to vigilance and care, I keep them clean, and vary the food, and yet I had a visitation of this in 1878. I have visited other places which were quite filthy, care being given beyond the fact of feeding and watering, with an occasional cleaning out, and yet they never had one chicken sick. I have observed similar neglect in other places, and found no animals sick. On the other hand I have paid visits to first class poultry yards, where all was in strict and proper order, apparently, and found many chickens sick and dying without a known cause: in almost every instance it was the cholera. I found all sorts of antidotes and remedies being used, with no apparent effect. Many persons come long distances to consult me professionally, and to look at my arrangements, and really it is quite disheartening to listen to their accounts of losses. I am inclined to believe that coal-tar around a hen roost is a good disinfectant for this disease, as it is in almost every infectious disease; at least I have found my poultry much hardier, and otherwise better, since I coated the houses with coal-tar paper board. I also place it under the perches, which are 2 by 4 scantling, flat side down, and I put it under and behind the nests. I am quite certain that the system of soft feeding produces conditions favorable to this

disease or any other, if it does not really cause disease. One of the best remedies I have ever used is tincture of nuxvomica 6 drops, alcohol 1 teaspoonful, water 1 teaspoonful. Give to each affected fowl twice a day. Should they seem to have a jerking motion, withhold it for a dose or two, then repeat until the symptoms are favorable, and gradually leave off. The best general food I find to be barley, with an occasional feed of corn and oats. Of course a little soft food will be good occasionally, say once a week, not more. Keep clean.

A short time ago our attention was called to what was at first supposed to be poison, which might have been given by mistake, and a couple of birds (a duck, and hen), were brought for examination. Thirteen hens and four ducks had died within twenty-four hours, making a serious loss to the owner, and at his request, C. Bruno, V. S., was requested to assist in a post mortem examination, to satisfy the party owning the birds, as we, having inquired carefully as to the symptoms shown by the birds before death, had diagnosed the cause to be chicken cholera. We give the result as follows:

Mouth and appendages normal, larynx and trachea filled with a semi fluid whitish mucus, the mucous membrane of the bronchial tubes very much injected, the lungs highly congested.

Pharynx, oesophagus, normal, crop, full of buckwheat, soft food, like meal half cooked, egg shells, pieces of anthracite coal, and dead grass or old straw, mucous membrane, very much inflamed, gall bladder, distended, peritoneum, very much inflamed, liver, enlarged, spongy, and soft, easily torn.

Gizzard impacted, with semi-digested food and pieces of anthracite coal, cecum and colon filled with semi-fluid and dark faeces emitting a very offensive odor, both coats of all the intestines very much inflamed oviduct, normal.

The duck was in the same condition, in every respect.

The blood in both birds presented a diseased appearance. It was darker in color than that of a healthy fowl, being almost black, was wanting in serum, or what is called the watery portion, showing imperfect circulation, in fact was more or less congested in all the organs, proving the diagnosis to be correct.

It is epidemic, characterized by diarrhea, as a rule, and very destructive to life. The disease is generally sudden in its development. Fowls will lay on one day, and the next day be carried off by the disease; still it is not always, or frequently, so rapid in its course. We had previously examined the premises where the birds had been kept through the winter, and found they were too crowded, twenty-five birds roosting in a space about six by seven feet, and four feet high, in one corner of a dark and badly ventilated stable, and believe the cause of the disease to have been virtually blood poisoning, induced by uncleanness, careless feeding, and close, unventilated quarters at night.

We shall in another paper take up the subject again, treating it more fully than our space will allow this month.

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