

KNOWLEDGE OF "FOWL HEALTH" IS NECESSARY TO SUCCESS

How to Detect the Sick Bird and Diagnose Its Complaint.

Common Maladies and Their Causes Which Respond to Simple Treatments.

By ROBERT ARMSTRONG, Expert Poultryman and Writer.

There are perplexities and obstacles in every enterprise. In growing livestock, whether it be cattle, swine, sheep or poultry, diseases are likely to appear, which will work havoc with the flocks unless they are promptly checked. Practical poultrymen are ever on the alert for the first signs of trouble, that they may put an end to it before serious outbreaks occur. Also, they are watchful of unfavorable conditions and tendencies which might foster disease, believing in that old maxim—an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Every poultry grower must have some idea of "fowl health." No matter how careful we may be in the care of our birds, sickness is likely to present itself. As with the human species, fowls are subject to a great many ailments. Fortunately, most of them are more or less trifling, providing they are taken in time, and will respond quickly to simple treatment. The point is for the poultryman to be able to detect the sick bird at a glance, diagnose the ailment, and prescribe for it accordingly.

The diagnosis may be made from external symptoms, or it may necessitate killing the bird and performing an autopsy. The examination may reveal some slight irregularity which can be attributed to mismanagement in feeding or housing, in which case the error should be corrected, or it may show that some of the more violent diseases have gained a foothold, and something must be done, and done quickly, to safeguard the rest of the flock. Do not be afraid to sacrifice a bird or two in order to ascertain the cause of a malady, or to prevent the spread of contagion. Drastic steps are sometimes necessary for the safety of the rest of the flock, which is the chief consideration.

Indications of Sickness.

Experienced poultrymen make it a practice to note the condition of every bird every day. Where fowls are raised in large numbers this sounds like a gigantic task, but it is not so difficult as it seems. Any one accustomed to feeding chickens can readily distinguish at a glance the fowl that is out of sorts.

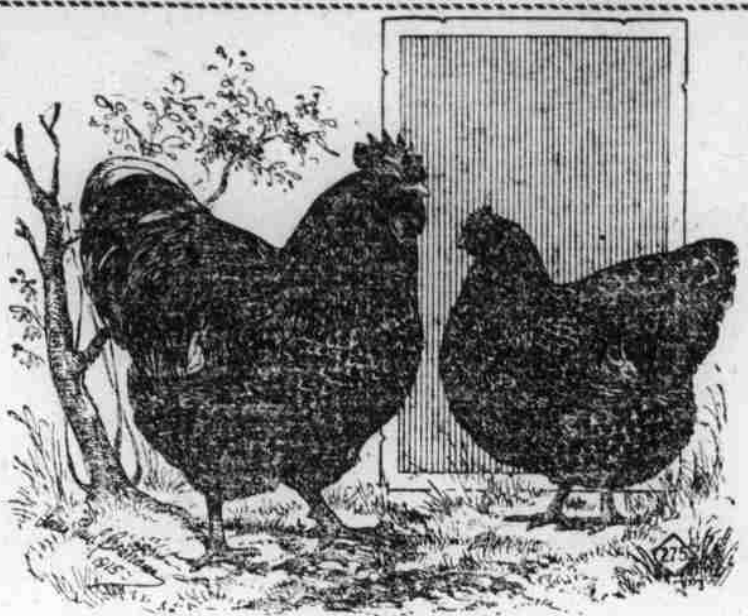
In the early morning, at feeding times and when the birds go to roost it is a simple matter to detect the fowl that is out of order. If a bird remains on the perch in the morning, after all the other birds have left, or if it fails to return to the roost at night, and instead stands in some corner of the building, there is something wrong with it. If it is disinterested in food, if it mopes around with ruffled feathers and head drawn close to its body, if it is sluggish in any respect, especially if it moves away slowly when approached, it is not in normal health. A fowl in good condition is anxious to leave the perch in the morning, alert and active, keen for its food and moves about with a free gait. Its movements and conduct are in such sharp contrast to the sick bird, that the latter is almost always conspicuous.

It should be borne in mind, however, that while the foregoing indications are indications of illness, they do not necessarily explain the nature of the complaint. To ascertain the exact nature of the trouble the bird must be caught and closely examined. Hence the advice—to isolate the sick bird at once.

Illments Told at a Glance.

In this article we will take up some of the ills that can be told at a glance. No attempt will be made to furnish a technical description of them, necessarily to outline the general symptoms, their causes, and simple treatment.

Bumble foot is one of the minor ailments, and a common one where hard floors are used. A callous or corn forms on the bottom of the foot and



SINGLE COMB DIAMOND JUBILEE ORPINGTONS

Odd but handsome is the coloration of this variety of general purpose fowl, originated in England in 1897, and named in honor of Queen Victoria's jubilee. The ground or body color is reddish buff, each feather ending in a black bar tipped with a large white spangle. In the males some of the sickles are solid black, some solid red, some solid white, and often a single sickle or light feather may contain all three colors.

When fully grown the males weigh 8 1/2 to 10 pounds and the females 7 to 8 pounds. They are fully breasted and plump from broiler size to maturity, so that they may be killed and dressed profitably at any age. The hens are good layers of large tinted eggs, and will become broody, sit and hatch and rear the chicks. The chicks are hardy and make rapid, vigorous growth. The fowls do well in confinement and make an ideal back-yard flock—being good looking and profitable.

In many sections of America Orpingtons are as popular as American breeds, such as Plymouth Rocks or Rhode Island Reds. They are shown in large numbers at the leading winter shows, and competition among them is so keen that American fanciers have sent thousands of dollars to England to import fine specimens.

The Diamond Jubilee Orpingtons are not so popular as other varieties of the same breed. These mites. The trouble can be cured by rubbing the shanks with an ointment containing a little sulphur or kerosene. Gas tar is excellent, also a mixture of one-third carbolic acid and two-thirds glycerin. The trouble is harmful in that it is very disconcerting to the fowls. It is easily spread by fowls coming in contact with the parasites on the perches. No careful poultryman will tolerate this condition. There is no excuse for its existence, though it is frequently seen, especially in farm flocks.

Favus or White Comb.

This is a contagious disease caused by the growth of a fungus, the filaments or roots of which do not penetrate deeply into the skin, but remain very near the surface, consequently the general health of the victim is not seriously impaired in the early stages. The trouble usually breaks out on the comb first, then the wattles and earlobes, and finally the neck and other parts of the body are affected.

When limited to the comb and wattles, the trouble responds very nicely to treatment, and may even disappear of its own accord. If it has invaded the feathered portions of the body, it is extremely obstinate, and in very severe cases the "hatchet and block" is the safest and most satisfactory remedy.

First, wash the affected parts with warm water containing a mild disinfectant, at the same time removing any scabs that can be rubbed off without bleeding, and then apply a sulphur ointment or carbolated vaseline. Good results have been obtained by painting the spots with tincture of iodine. Some breeders recommend an ointment of red oxide of mercury 1 part and vaseline 8 parts.

Bogging down is a term given to a condition wherein the posterior parts of a fowl hang down and even drag along the ground. It is not a disease, but the result of improper feeding and lack of exercise, an overfat condition. It is very hard to correct, and such specimens are better off killed for table. They are not sick birds, remember.

Mange, sometimes spoken of as scabies, is caused by mites which live at the base of the feathers, where they bite the skin and cause intense itching. It is quickly spread throughout the flock, and while the general health of the birds does not suffer acutely, still the trouble is disconcerting, and if allowed to continue the birds will lose flesh and become unproductive. As the mites spread, the plumage is destroyed, until the birds are almost naked.

Apply the affected parts and for some distance around them an ointment made by mixing 1 part flowers of sulphur with 4 parts of vaseline or lard. Carbolated vaseline may be used, too, and if it is mixed at home, use 1 part carbolic acid to 50 parts of vaseline. It is sometimes beneficial to wash the irritated surfaces with a solution of creolin or some other disinfectant.

Next week's article covers suggestions for preparing and marketing holiday poultry. Too many poultrymen overlook the fact that quality and appearance are the factors that command high prices at all times, but especially during the holiday season.

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HOGS VALUABLE IN WINNING WAR

Next To Human Beings, the American Hog Is Greatest Asset—Need 'Keep-a-Pig' Movement, Says Hoover

Washington, Nov. 26.—Next to human beings, the great American hog is the country's most important living factor in winning the war. Food Administrator Hoover declared today.

"Every hog," said Hoover in a prepared and signed statement, "is of greater value to the winning of this war than a shell. And every pound of fat is as sure of service as every bullet."

Advocating the immediate and enormous increase of hog herds by the American farmer, and strongly urging that every owner of a yard, either rural or urban become a "keep-a-pig patriot," Hoover said:

"Pork products have an influence in this present world situation wider than one would ordinarily attribute to them. We are slaughtering, consuming at home and exporting more pork products than we are producing. We have increased our pork consumption despite high prices. The human body must have a certain amount of fat daily. Either animal, vegetable or dairy. We can make an increase in pork fats more rapidly than in vegetable or dairy fats. We must concentrate on an increased production of hogs if we are to answer the world's craving for fats. We can do this this year.

"In addition to exports and normal domestic consumption, we have this year about one billion bushels of food more than last. That is a 25 per cent increase. We have no corresponding number of animals to feed it to, unless we begin to increase them at once.

"If farmers are to find markets for feed, it must be through an increase in animals. Let that increase be hogs. It is to every farmer's vital advantage to do so.

"We need a 'keep-a-pig' movement in this country. If every suburbanite took one and fed it on the house garbage he would increase our fat supply and leave our feed surplus for the increase in other animals.

"A properly cared for pig is no more insanitary than a dog. In Germany, 4,000,000 hogs are supported in this manner. The national welfare would be secured ample for the necessary changes in our village and urban ordinances to permit this."

SPRING PLOWING CAN BE DONE IN EARLY WINTER

Agricultural Extension Service Gives Some Important Advice to Farmers

Raleigh, Dec. 1.—One important piece of the spring work which can often be gotten out of the way in the fall and early winter to good advantage is a part at least of the plowing. Officials of the agricultural extension service of the North Carolina agricultural college give the following arguments in its favor:

1. There is more time in fall than in spring and every day saved can be used for preparing and planting when the spring rush comes.

2. Hired help can be kept employed at this and other winter work instead of being turned off and lost.

3. Teams are harder and in better working condition in fall, and the weather is cooler for the heavy work.

4. Land is generally in good condition to turn in fall, which may be too wet early or too dry later if left until spring.

5. Stiff, "bakey" soils may be crumbled and improved in condition and come plant-food freed by exposure to freezing and thawing.

6. Tough soils will not more quickly if fall plowed, and can be disked up into a better seed-bed with less labor.

7. Fall plowed land, left rough, will absorb more water and melting snow.

8. Wire worms, white grubs and other insect pests, as well as shallow-rooted weeds, such as garlic and weedy grasses, are injured and often killed by turning up and freezing.

Light soils subject to washing should not be plowed in the fall. There is little danger of difficulty in working fall plowed land up loose and mellow if a disk harrow is used when moisture conditions are right.

STOCK GROWERS OPEN 'FOOD TRAINING CAMP'

Chicago, Dec. 1.—America's "food training camp" opened yesterday. That is the title applied this year to the International Livestock exposition, because of its importance in educating farmers and stock growers in more extensive and economical production of meat animals.

The exposition this year is the biggest in its history—so big it has outgrown its usual quarters and overflowed from the main amphitheater at the Union stockyards into Dexter Park pavilion.

Nearly 5,000 pure-bred cattle, hogs and sheep are on exhibition. They come from every state in the union and from many parts of Canada. Illinois and Iowa head the entry list. There are no European exhibits this year, because of the submarine menace.

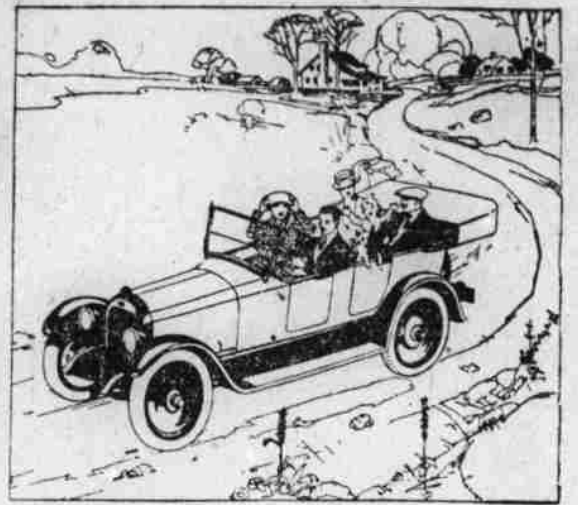
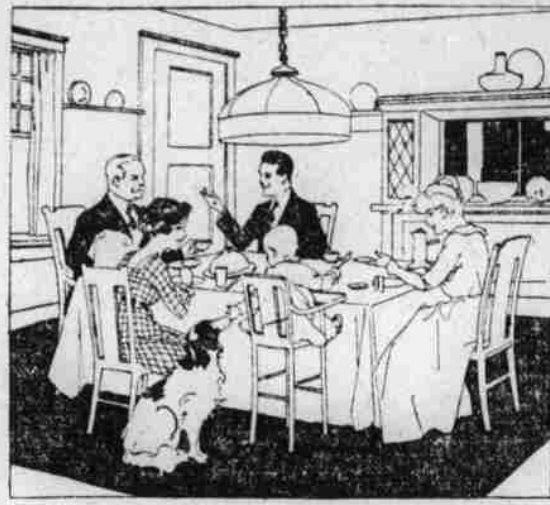
The exposition this year comes at a time when the government, through the food administration, is seeking to encourage farmers to greater meat production by assuring them a fair minimum hog price, based on the market value of their feed corn.

No small factor in this increased production will be the employment of pure-bred animals, together with

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expert knowledge in the care and breeding of these. The exposition will furnish a course in this, commensurate with the education of army officers in military training camps.

Food administration officials, packers, commission agents and producers will get together informally at this big meeting and give each other the benefits of their combined knowledge of meat conditions.

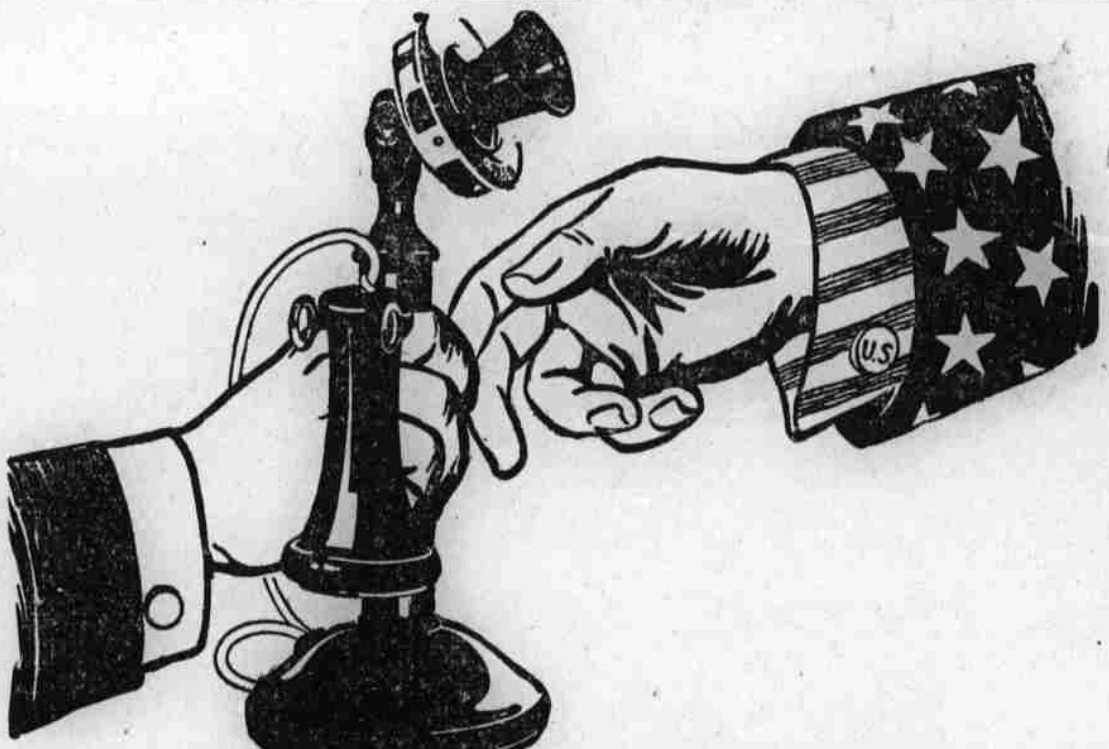
The exposition will close Dec. 8.

Evolution of the Almond.

One would scarcely suspect the almond of ever being anything else than a nut. Outside the shell is a thin coating of green, leathery pulp, too bitter to eat and not much more inviting than the husk of a hazelnut. Yet, within historical times, selection and cultivation have modified the almond into a luscious fruit—the peach.

Sensitive Plant.

The sensitiveness of some plants has been a matter of deep study by botanists. The sensitive plant and all the mimosas, and the sundew and others are so susceptible to disturbance that a footstep nearby causes flowers and leaves to curl up and droop. After the jarring has ceased they slowly regain their upright positions.



War Orders Rushed

The magnitude of the great war in which we are now engaged, has necessitated unusual preparation. Mighty forces are marshaling, great stores of food and munitions are being gathered, and the energies of the nation are focused on problems intricate to the war.

At the very beginning of the war, the whole Bell System was placed at the disposal of the Government. No nation has entered the war with such a comprehensive and efficient telephone service.

As our military establishment grows, the demands of the Government upon the Bell System are bound to increase and always they must take precedence over all others.

Increased activity in commerce and industry as the result of larger demands for food and munitions from our allies and for our own use, means more need of telephone service by private business.

But private business must always be subordinated to the Government service.

Each individual American will co-operate in this patriotic service, and submit cheerfully to inconvenience or delay in his telephone service, when he understands how vital it is that Government service shall take precedence over all else.

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Servant Girls, Please Read.

A servant girl who was kind and polite to a guest at the home where she was employed has been left an estate of \$200,000, which is a story with a moral so obvious as to need no comment.—San Antonio Light.