

THE POULTRY YARD.

SEPTEMBER WORK IN THE POULTRY YARD.

By Prof. J. S. Jeffrey.

IF NOT ALREADY done, the house cleaning should be attended to at once. There is more time for this now than at any other season and it is needed after the hot weather.

The sand on the floor should be removed and fresh put in its place. Use fine sand if possible, as it makes a better dust bath for the hens.

The house should be sprayed with kerosene emulsion to kill any mites that may be in it. Whitewashing should follow the emulsion in a week. A cupful of zenoleum to a bucket of whitewash adds greatly to its effectiveness.

The crop that is to supply green feed for the poultry during the winter should be planted as soon as possible so that it will get a good start before the cold weather comes.

Rye, oats, wheat, rape, turnips all make good green crops for poultry. Crimson clover sown with the grains improves the grazing and costs very little extra.

The pullets that are to be kept for layers next winter should not be crowded. Close culling will pay, as fewer pullets with more room and better attention will likely give better profits than a larger number not as well cared for.

Cockerels should not run with the pullets, and all that will not be needed for breeders should be fattened and marketed as soon as possible.

Remember that coops that were plenty large enough two months ago will not give room enough for the same number of chicks now that they are larger. If you do not thin them, nature is apt to do it for you.

Pullets of the lighter breeds hatched in February and March should be laying now and those of the general-purpose varieties should be showing signs of approaching maturity. These should be in permanent quarters before laying starts. Moving them after laying has started is apt to cause a break in egg production.

Any stock that is to be exhibited at the fairs should have special attention. All broken or damaged feathers should be pulled so that perfect ones will have time to grow before show time. If legs are scaly, anoint them with a mixture of lard and sulphur.

Often chicks with black, buff or red plumage will be found to have some white in wing feathers. This is in many cases simply the result of the chick being a little out of condition when these feathers grew. If they are pulled they will, if the stock is bred right, generally come in sound in color if the stock is kept in good health and free from insects.

CHICKENPOX AND ROUP.

At this time of year I am besieged with letters like the following:

I.

"Two of my hens have developed bunches like pimples on eyelids and comb. These are yellow in color. Hens are dumpy; sit around most of the time. No discharge from the lumps. Nothing else wrong about the birds.—Mrs. J. D. S."

Probably chickenpox, but may result from the bite of some insect. If chickenpox, there will be new cases in ten to fifteen days. Carbolated vaseline on the sores as the bunches open, with one grain calcium sulphide to each bird three times a day is good treatment. A mixture of tar and lard, or sulphur and lard is also recommended.

II.

"I have several chickens about eight weeks old that have warts on comb and wattles. Some of my hens, apart from the chicks, have the same thing. These 'warts' vary in size from a pin head to a pea. My poultry is kept clean, well fed, with a grass range. The ground is new, the land has never had poultry on it before.—T. C. A."

Yes, it looks to me like chickenpox. Most cases start with wart-like growths on the wattles, eyelids and comb, more straw-color than black. Matter gathers under the scab, the "wart" is often rubbed off, leaving a sore that is little more than skin deep. Chickenpox cases that contract head colds in addition to the pox become very ill and many of them die, or recover stunted in every way. Calcium sulphide internally, and carbolated vaseline to the ulcers is the approved line of medication. Clean out the disease, learn its methods of attack, and in future prevent its appearance.

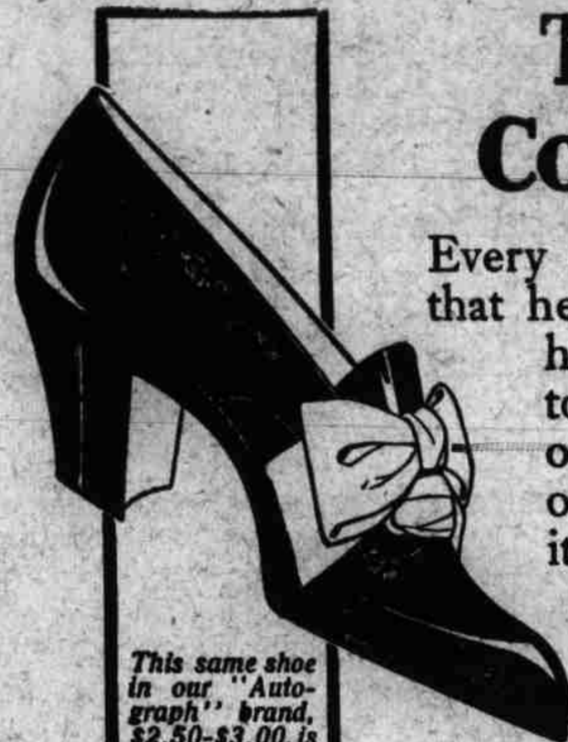
III.

"How can a case of roup be distinguished from ordinary cold at its commencement, with certainty? I causes combined. Many cases of fall had one half-grown chick that began to mope, and had one eye closed, both watery, sneezed at night, scattering watery drops; diarrhea, and no appetite. Some little stickiness around bill and later closed eye became swollen. No noticeable odor. Could this be roup? I killed it for fear it might be.—H. E. P."

You cannot tell roup from a cold at the start. Many neglected cases of "cold" become roup. I have long thought a cold, plus filth germs, was all that was needed to produce roup. More cases of colds and roup are caused by foul air than by all other

colds start from prolonged exposure to damp winds. A few chicks may be shut out of the house or coop in a storm. They become chilled and their nostrils are closed in a few days. Catarrh appears. They drink with the well birds and the catarrhal discharge from ill birds soon causes new cases to appear in the others. What was a few simple cases now becomes a general outbreak. If you shut these ill birds in close quarters leaving the filth to collect on the floor, you are likely to have cases of "swelled head" to deal with.

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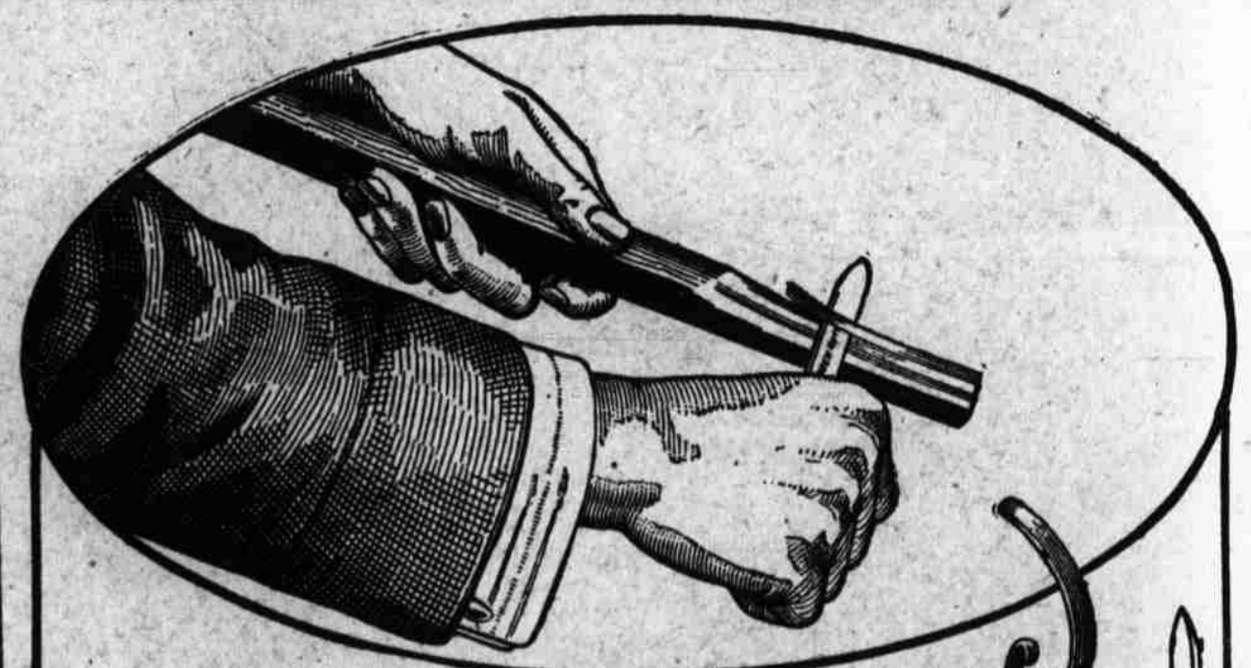
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