

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY.

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DISEASE.

DAIRY-farmers should be careful not to feed skim-milk which has not been pasteurized to their poultry. Just as tuberculosis can be passed on to pigs through the pooled skim-milk of the factory, so it can be transmitted to poultry. There is no curing of this dread trouble. The only way to fight it is to prevent it. Once it gains a foothold in the flock the best course is to kill the birds off, and do not put fresh stock into the houses and yards until these have been thoroughly disinfected. The houses should be well sprayed with a strong solution of sheep-dip, the floor dug up and limed, while the runs should also be turned up and heavily limed.

Tuberculosis can also be passed on to poultry through the excrement of affected cattle, a strong reason why poultry on the farm should be confined in proper quarters. Too often farm poultry are allowed to roam at will and pick up their food as best they may. This system is inimical to the best results. More so than in other branches of farming, rule-of-thumb methods must give way to systematic procedure, based on the most approved principles. There is no art or special skill required in managing poultry to advantage. The first essential is cleanliness, for prevention of dirt-accumulation and the appearance of vermin are the only means of preventing disease making its appearance, and if this be contagious there is no curing it. Clean quarters and surroundings must go hand in hand with good feeding—a plentiful supply of plain nourishing food. Fresh air in the sleeping-quarters is also important if disease is to be warded off, and in this connection the fact should be emphasized that airy sleeping-quarters does not imply a draughty building: as a matter of fact, the latter is the most undesirable feature in the old order of things. Better far to allow the birds to roost in trees than permit them to shelter in a so-called fowlhouse with the wind whistling through innumerable chinks. The evil is all the greater when the building is constructed on the old wretched principle, when it was considered that no ventilation at all was required in the sleeping-quarters of fowls. Windows would cost too much, and the only opening was the trap-door through which the fowls gained an entrance. With the foetid air in such quarters, perches constructed on the old step-ladder fashion, and the manure being allowed