

It goes without saying that for a pullet to do its best in winter it must be fed to the very best advantage. Only the best grain foods available should be provided, while the ration should include meat or meat-meal, preferably fed by itself. Where such forcing-foods are oversupplied in a mash, it will have the inevitable result of bringing on ovarian troubles, protrusion of the oviduct being a common phase. As is the case with all classes of poultry, green food should be provided in abundance, while grit, crushed oyster-shell, and clean water should be always in reach of the birds.

It will thus be seen that the management of the pullet with a view of securing winter eggs is a delicate matter, and that the poultry-keeper who gets them well deserves his reward.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This is becoming a common disease in poultry, and at no time is it more prevalent than just before or after the moulting-period. The disease affects old birds, though young stock are not immune, and is caused by a micro-organism known as tubercle bacillus. The chief source of the infection is through the digestive tract. The droppings of an affected bird contain enormous numbers of the deadly germs, and it will therefore be readily understood that the feed, &c., may become contaminated, and the disease spread at an alarming rate. Usually tuberculosis attacks flocks where the surrounding conditions are insanitary and the birds do not possess a vigorous constitution. The disease is very contagious, and if it once gets a good foothold there is no telling when it will be stamped out.

Tuberculosis is undoubtedly the worst disease the poultryman has to fear, chiefly because in its early stages there are no definite signs by which it can be detected. As the disease develops, many symptoms manifest themselves, which are apparent only to the experienced. A gradual loss of weight and an apparent shrinkage of the body is perhaps the first and plainest sign of the disease. Then the breast-bone stands out sharply, and the neck is devoid of flesh. Later the comb becomes dark, and the bird gets dull and listless and is not inclined to mix with other members of the flock. Sometimes at this stage diarrhoea accompanies the disease, and there is lameness in one leg. From this on the disease rapidly develops, the bird becomes more and more emaciated, and finally dies. When a diseased bird is opened up the liver is found to be greatly enlarged, and spotted with tubercle nodules. Sometimes the terms "spotted liver" and "going light" have been used to designate the conditions of a bird whose liver presents this appearance. It is, however, tuberculosis and nothing else.

For this disease there is absolutely no cure. The only way to fight it is to prevent it, and the first thing to do in this connection is to breed birds with the necessary constitution to resist the infection. Any bird showing symptoms similar to those described should be killed and burnt without delay. It often happens that the heaviest layers in the flock are the first to contract the disease, but no sentiment should be allowed to enter into the matter. Drastic methods of suppression are most necessary. The houses where the affected birds have been kept should be thoroughly cleaned and all sources of infection removed. This should be followed by a good spraying of strong sheep-dip or similar preparation.