

in other respects, such as exposure to wet and cold, or by allowing the birds to sleep in a draughty house, &c.

The most common symptoms of colds are sneezing, eyes watering, and a discharge from the nostrils, to which dirt and dust adhere. In severe cases the discharge will usually be found on the feathers under the wing, by reason of the bird sleeping with its head thereunder. When once the trouble has reached this stage the bird rapidly loses weight, and its general appearance presents an unthrifty and feverish condition. For the latter reason it will drink to excess, and will show little inclination for food or exercise.

Colds are the forerunner of roup, and should therefore be checked at the earliest possible moment, for if roup once gets a good foothold there is no telling when it will be stamped out. The first essential is to find the cause and remove it, for, like most troubles affecting poultry, it is next to useless trying to cure the trouble if the cause is not first removed. During the early stages of colds a little Condy's fluid or crystals put into the drinking-water, sufficient to give it a rich pink colour, will generally prove effective in checking the trouble. In cases, however, where the cold is well developed a good plan is to dip the bird's beak into pure kerosene sufficiently deep only to cover the nostrils, holding the bird in this position until it breathes. This will have the effect of drawing the kerosene to the seat of the trouble. This treatment should be repeated on alternate days until a cure is effected. The beak should be wiped with a dry cloth after each operation. This will prevent the kerosene from getting on the face, &c., which might have an injurious effect.

A correspondent, acting on my advice, tried this cure with several birds which were badly affected with cold—in fact, bordering on roup. Later he advised me that it had the desired effect, but it also burnt the face and combs of the birds as well as took the feathers off from the head and neck. On making inquiries I learned that he did not read carefully the advice as to applying the cure, for instead of dipping only the bird's beak into the kerosene he plunged the head right in. It is little wonder that the birds suffered as a consequence, and a greater wonder that they survived such treatment.

THE POOR LAYERS.

This is not the time of year to cull the poor layers; it should have been done in the autumn. These birds have been probably eating their heads off during the past few months and the poultry-keeper is getting tired of them. The natural laying season for bird-life is approaching, however, and it will be a very inferior bird that will not give a profit over the cost of her keep until just before the next moult comes on. Of course, the better the feeding and the management a bird receives the sooner will she come into profit.

LEG-BANDS.

A correspondent who has experienced considerable trouble through the bands, used as a means of age-determination, coming off the legs of his fowls, asks what kind of band I would recommend for this purpose. There are many different styles of rings and bands on the market specially made for marking fowls, but in most cases these are