

of boiled meat, meat-meal, or skim-milk added to the ration will tend to promote heavy egg-production. Of course, when providing a highly forcing ration there is always the risk that ovarian disorder will follow, such as protrusion of the oviduct. If trouble is experienced in this direction the forcing diet should be reduced by degrees until the trouble ceases. This is not to say that the whole flock should be kept back because the forcing diet has had an injurious effect on an odd bird or two. Poultry-keepers should use their own judgment in this respect.

There is, however, another, though more uncommon, cause of this part of the bird's anatomy becoming affected. It is frequently due to one or more birds in the flock acquiring the cannibal habit of picking at and puncturing the oviduct just when their mate is in the act of expelling her egg. As a result hæmorrhage sets in, and once this makes its external appearance after the bird leaves the nest it is soon attacked by its mates, with the result that the victim is caused a most cruel death. Indeed, due to both the causes referred to it is not uncommon to find dead birds in a house, where the other members of the flock have pulled out and eaten the greater part of the oviduct and intestines. On one plant where my advice was sought in regard to birds being found dead or bleeding from the vent, the owner informed me that he had lost four hundred pullets in a few months. He further informed me that from the commencement of the trouble all forcing foods had been eliminated from the ration. It was obvious to me, in view of past experience, that one or more members of the flock had acquired the cannibal habit referred to. Acting on my advice the owner immediately made the fronts of the nests deeper. The nests were also darkened by pieces of sacking tacked on to the front. In short, the nests were arranged in such a way that the culprit was unable to carry out its cannibal inclination. The owner has now advised me that from the time when he adopted preventive measures several months ago not a single bird has been lost from this cause.

#### CLEAN GROUND ESSENTIAL.

I cannot urge too strongly the importance of turning over every run possible, and sowing it down with a suitable green crop before the season becomes too late. This will not only have the effect of sweetening the soil and lessening the risk of disease and parasitic infection, but in addition the food thus grown will prove a valuable asset during the off season of the year. Moreover, such a run will make an ideal place for next season's young stock after they leave the brooder. The efficient poultry-keeper sees to it that his growing stock are always provided with a piece of clean ground to run on, and fully realizes that he is amply rewarded in the long-run for his trouble.

#### MORTALITY AMONG ARTIFICIALLY REARED CHICKENS.

Of late I have received many reports of heavy losses among chickens that were being artificially reared. In some cases the losses have been put down to some mysterious disease, while in others the particular make of brooder or brooders being used has been held responsible. It is true that the most experienced men in the business of poultry-keeping have much to learn in regard to artificial rearing, and it is only to be expected that the layman, or even the person with