

to the bird sleeping with its head thereunder. When birds show any of these symptoms they should be isolated at once as a prevention against the trouble spreading. The next step should be to find the cause and remove it, and for this purpose it is a good plan to visit the house by night. It may be found that the ventilation is insufficient, or that there are cracks in the back or side of walls whereby the birds are sleeping in a draught, which undoubtedly causes more outbreaks of cold than anything else. Usually when colds make their appearance the poultry-keeper resorts to one of the many cures recommended for this trouble, and quite overlooks the great essential of first discovering and removing the cause. Obviously, if the cause is not removed the trouble is apt to recur at any time. As to a cure, or rather a means of checking the spread of colds, it is a good plan to place some Condy's crystals in the drinking-water, sufficient to give it a pink colour. For well-developed colds dip the bird's beak into pure kerosene sufficiently deep to cover the nostrils, and hold the bird in this position until it inhales, repeating this treatment on alternate days. This will usually effect a cure, but, as mentioned, if the cause is not found and removed the trouble is likely to recur.

Food Quality and the Ration.

Particularly at this season of the year, when the egg-yield may be regarded as more or less artificially produced, the poultry-keeper should make sure that the food supplied is of the best possible quality, quite irrespective of cost. With any class of poultry it is always poor economy to feed damaged or musty food because it is cheap. Especially is this the case with pullets which are being looked to to produce dear-season eggs. They will simply refuse to eat such food (unless, of course, forced to by hunger), and obviously a declining egg-yield will result. At the present ruling price of eggs it will pay to feed nothing but the best, and as much of it as the birds can consume. There is no danger of overfeeding the laying bird with food of the right quality, provided she is given ample opportunity for exercise.

The morning mash may consist of one part of finely ground good-quality wheatmeal to two parts of bran. This should be made as appetizing as possible by moistening it with meat, soup, skim-milk, &c. When these liquids are not available boiling water should be used. A mash moistened with the latter will be much better relished by the birds than when cold water is used. Feed only what the birds will pick up in, say, twenty minutes. If mash is left before them at all times they will eat this and fail to take the necessary exercise by scratching for the grain ration in the litter, in which there should be odd grains for the birds to fossick for. In the evening, and well before dark, give a full meal of grains, such as equal parts by measure of wheat, maize, and oats. It is always a good plan to give more at this meal than the birds require, as what is left will induce them to scratch and keep busy. If it is observed that one of the grain foods mentioned is being left it should be fed in a reduced quantity. In order to secure a high winter egg-yield a forcing element must also be included in the ration. This denotes highly nitrogenous substances such as meat, meat-meal, milk, &c. If, however, it is observed that ovarian troubles are making their appearance, and that many shell-less or double-yolked eggs are being produced, the forcing diet should be reduced accordingly, as these troubles indicate that the birds are eating more of the forcing-food than is good for them. It goes without saying that if the birds are to do their best sharp gravel grit, crushed oyster-shell, clean water, and a liberal supply of green food should also be provided.

Finally, I would emphasize the great importance of doing everything possible to prevent the pullets bred to lay in winter going into a false moult. This is usually due to insufficient or inferior food, and to