

★ POULTRY AND BEES ★

SEPTEMBER WORK IN THE POULTRY YARD.

By Prof. J. S. Jeffrey.

IF NOT ALREADY done, the house cleaning should be attended to at once. There is more time for this now than at any other season and it is needed after the hot weather.

The sand on the floor should be removed and fresh put in its place. Use fine sand if possible, as it makes a better dust bath for the hens.

The house should be sprayed with kerosene emulsion to kill any mites that may be in it. Whitewashing should follow the emulsion in a week. A cupful of zenoleum to a bucket of whitewash adds greatly to its effectiveness.

The crop that is to supply green feed for the poultry during the winter should be planted as soon as possible so that it will get a good start before the cold weather comes.

Rye, oats, wheat, rape, turnips all make good green crops for poultry. Crimson clover sown with the grains improves the grazing and costs very little extra.

The pullets that are to be kept for layers next winter should not be crowded. Close culling will pay, as fewer pullets with more room and better attention will likely give better profits than a larger number not as well cared for.

Cockerels should not run with the

pullets, and all that will not be needed for breeders should be fattened and marketed as soon as possible.

Remember that coops that were plenty large enough two months ago will not give room enough for the same number of chicks now that they are larger. If you do not thin them, nature is apt to do it for you.

Pullets of the lighter breeds hatched in February and March should be laying now and those of the general-purpose varieties should be showing signs of approaching maturity. These should be in permanent quarters before laying starts. Moving them after laying has started is apt to cause a break in egg production.

Any stock that is to be exhibited at the fairs should have special attention. All broken or damaged feathers should be pulled so that perfect ones will have time to grow before show time. If legs are scaly, anoint them with a mixture of lard and sulphur.

Often chicks with black, buff or red plumage will be found to have some white in wing feathers. This is in many cases simply the result of the chick being a little out of condition when these feathers grew. If they are pulled they will, if the stock is bred right, generally come in sound in color if the stock is kept in good health and free from insects.

HOW TO TREAT SOREHEAD.

Messrs. Editors: Sorehead is not necessarily a fatal disease, but it is one that needs attention, or the chicken affected by it will likely die of starvation. It is a disease that one might call "fall dwindling," for it causes the birds that take it to become thin and scrawny and to waste away; and it usually comes in the fall of the year,—about the time when mosquitoes are the worst.

Sorehead is first made manifest by little red lumps about the comb, gills and eyes. These bumps, or pimples enlarge and others appear, and they fill with a fetid matter, until, unless the disease is checked, the head becomes a mass of putrid sores,—the eyes closing in many instances from the scabs about them. This is sorehead in its worst form.

Now, there is a cure, and the treatment is simple, if taken in time. The best remedy I know of is a mixture of lard and coal oil, in the proportion of two parts of lard to one of oil, and a few drops of carbolic acid additional. It should all be very thoroughly mixed until it fully emulsifies and becomes white and soap-like. Then, at the first appearance of the malady, rub the head in general with the mixture, applying it with a soft rag. Do this two or three times a week. When this is done the red bumps turn black, dry up and fall off and the surface heals over nicely.

H. B. GREER.

BEE KEEPING FOR FARMERS.

XXII.—Late Swarming.

Indeed, this has been a remarkable bee year in more ways than one. Our little workers not only had a poor chance to make honey, but also little opportunity to swarm and make increase during the spring season when this work naturally comes. And now here at the last of the summer unnatural swarms are coming out.

On August 25 my helper found a swarm on a little apple tree near the bee yard. It was very small, and though I could not hope for much from it, we decided to put it in a new home all right. So a good moveable-frame hive, with plenty of old comb, was brought out and the little people were set up to house-keeping in almost no time.

This happened about 8 o'clock in the morning, and I suspect the little swarm had been hanging out there all night. However, we moved it to its new place in the bee yard and I intend to put an Alexander feeder under the rear of the new home at nightfall and give the new occupants a good supper of melted sugar.

But judge of my surprise along in the afternoon when my assistant came in and said that the little swarm had come out again and was hanging on another apple tree. Again we went and gently placed them in the new home. This was very easily done, for in each case they clustered very near the ground. The last time I didn't put on either veil or gloves.

When these bees came out the third time, I gave up hopes of doing anything with them, and in a day or two they had disappeared. Whether they had a crazy queen or what was the matter, I can not certainly tell. I learn that a neighboring bee keeper has lately had a similar experience. Swarming depends largely upon

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